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For Dillon S. Myer (NBC)  
October 30, 1943

MR. ANNOUNCER: This afternoon I have the pleasure of presenting Mr. Dillon S. Myer, National Director of the War Relocation Authority. Mr. Myer is on a routine inspection of West Coast projects and offices of WRA.....Mr. Myer.....

MR. MYER: Thank you, Mr. \_\_\_\_\_

MR. ANNOUNCER: Mr. MYER will you tell us briefly about the segregation of Japanese at the Tule Lake Center?

MR. MYER: Gladly, Mr. \_\_\_\_\_. To determine the pro-Japanese from 110,000 people required a very extensive investigation and constant observation. Had it been a simple matter it would no doubt have been done when the military first moved the Japanese into assembly centers. Individual records were established by the staff at each of the ten centers and all the information was pieced together and thoroughly analyzed. Information secured from intelligence agencies, family background, schooling, affiliations, deportment and many other things were considered plus such information as could be gained by personal interviews. The work of classification began months ago and was completed just prior to the actual segregation. Tule Lake was designated as the Segregee Center and the segregation is nearly complete.

ANNOUNCER: Are the Japanese segregated in the Tule Lake Center eligible for relocation, Mr. Myer?

MR. MYER: No, except upon the recommendation of a special appeal board. Some of them are repatriates and expatriates who wish to return to Japan in exchange for Americans living in that country. Most of those segregated have either expressed preference for Japan or have refrained from declaring allegiance to the United States, excepting, of course, in the case of American born children, wives and other members of their family who were allowed to transfer so as not to break up families.



ANNOUNCER: Now that the pro-Japanese are removed from the nine other centers can you tell us what effect this has had on the people of those other centers?

MR. MYER: Morale in the other centers has improved and the spirit of cooperation is excellent.

ANNOUNCER: What is the program of relocating Japanese from the nine other centers, Mr. Myer?

MR. MYER: It must be understood that Relocation Centers were originally established as temporary sanctuaries for people who had been charged with no crime; nearly 2/3 of whom are American citizens; who for military reasons were removed from the West Coast. It has always been the intent of the Government to relocate these people in non-restricted areas as rapidly as possible. There is no sound moral or legal right to do otherwise than provide a leave opportunity to those who merit consideration. There is no sound reason for the taxpayers to be required to pay the bill for retaining them in Centers when they are capable of earning their livelihood outside and besides the urgent need for man-power must be recognised.

ANNOUNCER: How many people from the centers have been relocated?

MR. MYER: Approximately 23,000 have left the centers, either on seasonal or indefinite leave and are contributing to the war effort of the Nation.

ANNOUNCER: Have any cases of subversive activity on the part of any of those people on leave been reported to you?

MR. MYER: Not one case.

ANNOUNCER: Is it true there are some Japanese-Americans in the Army?

MR. MYER: There are several thousand in the Army and recent reports from the Italian theatre of action spoke very highly of the conduct of a Japanese-American battalion in action against the Germans. These American soldiers of Japanese ancestry are merely enjoying a privilege that belongs to every American citizen, the privilege of fighting, and if necessary dying for their country.



ANNOUNCER: Thank you, Mr. Myer. Now, will you tell us, is there an Americanism program in the centers?

MR. MYER: Yes, indeed, there is - we have schools for the children, there are Boy Scout, and Camp Fire girls organizations and various other activities of like nature, and of course the churches which carry on in the American way.

Conceivably the success of any Americanism program can not be as great within a barbed wire enclosure as it would be in the normal American community.

ANNOUNCER: Are the people in the centers required to work?

MR. MYER: Each center has a work program. Farming is done rather extensively; vegetables, swine, poultry and cattle are grown, then there have been projects more directly connected with the war effort such as the manufacture of millions of yards of camouflage nets and the construction of enemy ship models in some centers which are used in the services of the Army and Navy to teach men how to identify enemy craft.

ANNOUNCER: Were there Japanese in the United States who were never in relocation centers?

MR. MYER: Yes, there are approximately 20,000 Japanese and Japanese-Americans in the United States who lived outside of the evacuated military area and who naturally were never evacuated.

ANNOUNCER: Are most of the people being given leave farm workers?

MR. MYER: A large proportion of them are farm workers, but other vocations and professions are included, for instance several hundred girls who learned to be nurses aides in the hospitals of the Relocation Centers are now working as nurses aides in hospitals throughout the country. Many of the girls learned typing and shorthand in the centers and are now doing that kind of work on the outside. Doctors, dentists, lawyers and people of other professions are among those relocated. A young Japanese girl who had studied law was admitted to the Bar in Idaho recently.



ANNOUNCER: One more question, Mr. Myer, are you going to allow the Japanese to return to the Pacific Coast?

MR. MYER: That is purely a matter for the military and one in which we have no jurisdiction whatever.

ANNOUNCER: ...Thank you, Mr. Dillon S. Myer, for your very interesting discussion of the Japanese situation.



## A TENTH OF A MILLION PEOPLE

An address by Dillon S. Myer, Director of the War Relocation Authority, before the Des Moines Adult Education Forum, Des Moines, Iowa, Thursday evening, October 26, 1944.

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As we approach the end of the third year of war -- the longest and hardest war this Nation has had since 1865 -- it becomes a little easier to put some of the home-front events of the past three years into proper perspective. Actions that rushed by almost unnoticed or were greatly misunderstood a year or two ago can now be carefully evaluated and their long-range significance appraised. The time has come, it seems to me, when we should take careful stock of the way this democratic Nation has reacted to the shock of total war and see what lessons can be derived as a guide to our course of action in the exceedingly crucial period that lies ahead.

Tonight I want to examine with you one of the most badly misunderstood and strongly controversial programs we have had on the home front during the current war -- the program for handling our people of Japanese descent who formerly lived along the Pacific Coast. It has been a unique program -- and one which I fervently hope this Nation will never have to repeat. But it has raised issues which lie extremely close to the heart of our democratic faith and has brought out in bold relief some of the dangers we may face in the post-war period.

Just before the attack at Pearl Harbor there were approximately 112,000 people of Japanese extraction living in the three coastal States of Washington, Oregon, and California. Roughly one third of them were natives of Japan who came to this country 25, 30, and even 40 years ago in search of greater economic opportunity. Under our laws they were never able to gain American citizenship -- except for a few hundred who served with the American Army in the first World War -- but many acquired properties, built up businesses, and established families on American soil. Most of those who remained here at the end of 1941 had long since abandoned all thought of ever returning to Japan. Chiefly because of language difficulties and economic discriminations, they had shown some tendency to congregate in compact little communities more or less apart from the general population. But at the same time they had established a widespread reputation as hard-working, law-abiding, and thoroughly substantial people.

The children and grandchildren of these immigrants made up the other two-thirds of the Japanese-American population in the coastal States. Unlike their elders, these youngsters were American citizens by right of birth. The vast majority of them had been educated in American public schools and colleges, had mingled more freely than their parents with Americans of other extraction, and had shown a decided preference for the American culture of their schoolmates over the Oriental culture of their forebears. Seventy-two percent of them had never even been to Japan for a summer visit, and only a few thousand had taken any substantial part of their education in the Orient. In all really important respects, they were as American as apple pie and a living proof of the strength and vitality of American educational institutions.

U.S. Department of the Interior  
War Relocation Authority  
Washington, D. C.



When war broke out between the United States and Japan, this whole segment of our population was badly shaken and confused. In the weeks immediately following Pearl Harbor several hundred of the alien Japanese suspected of having strong ties with the Japanese homeland were picked up by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and sent to detention stations or internment camps. For a short period the property of aliens was frozen, and their economic life temporarily came almost to a standstill. Somewhat later the American citizen Japanese working for the State of California were all suspended without individual hearing simply on the basis of their ancestry. Meanwhile, in the press and over the radio of the coastal States, there was a steadily mounting drumfire of villification and hatred directed toward all people of Japanese descent. Completely baseless rumors of widespread sabotage by resident Japanese in Honolulu on December 7 were accepted without question and published as unimpeachable fact. People who had always regarded the immigrant Japanese as harmless gardeners and vegetable merchants began to see them suddenly through the eyes of fear, as cunning and ruthless agents of Tokyo. Every protestation of loyalty by the American-born Japanese was interpreted in some quarters as simply a mask for subversive activity and un-American intentions. As the Japanese armed forces extended their area of conquest through the early months of 1942, this campaign of fear and hatred grew to fever pitch. From the standpoint of the Japanese-American residents, the climax came in early March when the Army decided that all of them -- citizens and aliens alike -- would have to be moved from an area about 200 miles wide running the entire length of the Pacific Coast and into southern Arizona.

This was a drastic step, completely unprecedented in our history. It meant uprooting a tenth of a million of our people, tearing them loose from their economic and social moorings along the Pacific Coast and setting them down somehow in other sections of the country. In time of peace -- if such a step were conceivable in time of peace -- the whole movement could have been carefully explained to the American public and planned out in scrupulous detail far in advance of operations. But in the first months of a global war which was shaking our civilization to its foundations, the evacuation was actually carried out under great pressure and in an almost incredible haze of public confusion and uncertainty. It is important to bear this constantly in mind in evaluating the events that have subsequently taken place.

The Army's first step was to encourage the people of Japanese descent to leave the prohibited coastal zone with their own funds and on their own initiative. Knowing that they would be compelled to leave eventually in any case, several thousand packed up their belongings and began the move eastward. But these pioneers soon ran into difficulties. Inland communities saw them arrive with mounting feelings of doubt and apprehension. The mere fact that the migrants were of Japanese racial stock and that they had been ordered off the Pacific Coast was enough -- in the absence of authoritative information -- to brand the whole group as dangerous and thoroughly undesirable individuals. Furthermore, the evacuees themselves had to resettle, in many cases, on a rather haphazard basis. They had no certain way of knowing where they could fit most expeditiously into the local economy, where they would be most readily accepted as decent, law-abiding people, where jobs and housing would be easiest to find. More often than not, they actually moved to communities which were most ill



*Army*

## RELOCATION PROBLEMS AND POLICIES

An address delivered by Director D. S. Myer of the War Relocation Authority before the Tuesday Evening Club at Pasadena, California, March 14, 1944.

Two years ago next Saturday -- on the 18th day of March, 1942 -- the War Relocation Authority was created by an executive order of the President of the United States. This new agency was confronted with a problem of unusual complexity in a field of human relations where misconceptions, confusion, and emotions stirred by the impact of the war were destined to produce wide and vigorous discussion. Many facts essential to a competent understanding of the problem have been obscured by misrepresentation and insufficient public information. I want to review some of them for you, in order to define the background of the policies which have guided the development of the WRA program during the two years since it came into existence.

The evacuation of 112,000 men, women, and children of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast in the spring of 1942 was an undertaking without parallel in our national history. On February 19, the President issued an executive order authorizing the Secretary of War, or military commanders designated by him, to prescribe military areas from which any or all persons might be excluded, or in which their movements might be restricted. Though the order made no specific mention of any group that might be evacuated, it was immediately and correctly interpreted as a forerunner to the exclusion orders that were issued by the military a few weeks later. As a result, many people of Japanese descent began to move voluntarily away from the West Coast area. This movement was accelerated on March 2 by a proclamation of the Commanding General of the Western Defense Command, designating two military zones in the states of Oregon, Washington, California, and Arizona from which certain persons might be excluded. Altogether, about 8,000 individuals of Japanese descent left the designated areas voluntarily and tried to establish new homes on their own initiative.

I want to emphasize that neither the President, in his orders authorizing the designation of exclusion areas and creating the War Relocation Authority, nor the Commanding General of the Western Defense Command in any military proclamation, ever ordered or suggested that the people to be evacuated should be confined or restricted in their movements outside the exclusion areas on the Pacific Coast. It was soon apparent, however, that 110,000 people could not be ordered to leave the coastal area and migrate inland without some kind of assistance and supervision. In various communities eastward from the exclusion areas, the appearance of the voluntary evacuees caused unfriendly tension and misunderstanding. Many families needed assistance in finding and traveling to new locations where they could support themselves and establish new homes.

These conditions became so acute that, on March 29, the Commanding



General of the Western Defense Command issued a proclamation prohibiting further voluntary relocation. Thereafter, the evacuation was accomplished under Army orders, according to a definite schedule. The people were moved, first, into 15 temporary assembly centers where they remained under Army supervision until the relocation centers, operated by the War Relocation Authority, were ready to receive them.

These WRA centers were intended only as way-stations where the evacuees could reside while arrangements were made for them to relocate in normal communities outside the exclusion zones. About two-thirds of the evacuees were American citizens by birth, as you are probably aware.

The responsibility of the War Relocation Authority for the evacuees began with their arrival at the relocation centers. Ten centers were built to receive them. These centers, constructed by the Army, are large cantonments of barrack-type buildings, usually covered with tar paper and lined with wall-board. Each building used to house the evacuees is 100 feet long and 20 feet wide, and originally divided into four, five, or six one-room apartments, allowing about 100 square feet of floor space for each person. The standard equipment for each apartment included a heating stove and a broom, plus a cot, mattress, and two Army blankets for each individual. All other furniture and equipment had to be supplied by the evacuees themselves.

There is no plumbing in the buildings where the people reside. The wash rooms, latrines, and laundry rooms are housed separately, each unit serving about 250 people living in 12 barracks. Meals are served in mess halls, cafeteria style.

Since March, 1943, the War Relocation Authority has been registered with the Office of Price Administration as an "institutional user" of foods, and has abided by all OPA restrictions on institutional consumers. In fact, WRA was adhering voluntarily to the quotas suggested by OPA even before rationing became mandatory. Every center observes two meatless days each week.

The maximum food cost permitted in a center is 45 cents per person per day or 15 cents per meal. This food is purchased through the Army Quartermaster Corps, or grown on the farmlands that surround the centers. Evacuee farm crews grow and harvest a considerable part of the vegetables served in the mess halls, and nearly all the centers also produce poultry, eggs, and pork. A few produce beef and dairy products.

In addition to supplying the evacuees with housing and food, the War Relocation Authority provides two other services: medical care and schooling for the children through high school. The medical program is operated largely by evacuee doctors, and the school curriculum is planned to stress Americanization activities.

The first nine months after the creation of WRA, on March 18, 1942, were chiefly devoted to the difficult job of establishing the necessities of



of community life in the ten new wartime cities. Transfer of the evacuees from the assembly centers to the relocation centers continued from early May until November of 1942, and the WRA staff had its hands full getting them housed, arranging to feed them, providing sanitation and safeguarding against the outbreak of epidemics, establishing police and fire protection, and attending to numerous urgent details. Every day we faced new emergencies.

Even then, however, in the midst of the transfer operations, we started a seasonal leave program, permitting workers to depart from the centers as a means of relieving the manpower shortage in western agricultural areas. In 1942 nearly 10,000 evacuee workers were given leaves from the centers to participate in harvest operations. Last year an approximately equal number left the centers on seasonal leave.

In connection with this seasonal work, I want to read an extract from a letter, written by the President of the Chamber of Commerce in Twin Falls, Idaho, describing the service the evacuees gave to this one community. He wrote:

"The citizens of the Hunt Relocation Center have performed a most patriotic service to the farmers of southern Idaho to the war effort, since their evacuation here less than fifteen months ago. Approximately 2,500 Japanese Americans have helped to harvest our bumper crops the past two falls, and helped to cultivate them the past summer. Without their help thousands of acres and tens of thousands of tons of foodstuffs would have rotted in the field each year."

Meanwhile we began in the late summer of 1942 to gear up a program for relocating the evacuees in year-round employment and in normal communities outside the evacuated area. One problem that had to be given major consideration in our planning from the start was the necessity of taking adequate precautions to safeguard the national security. Despite the rumors you may have heard and the changes that have been made, we have recognized all along that some of the evacuees have stronger ties with Japan than with the United States.

But in the beginning we had no records by which we could identify those strongly pro-Japanese individuals. We knew that immediately after the declaration of war against Japan, on December 7, 1941, and before the War Relocation Authority came into existence, the Federal Bureau of Investigation had acted to apprehend all aliens believed to be potentially dangerous to the national security. We knew that these individuals had been sent to internment camps and were not part of the population received at relocation centers. Nevertheless, we started almost immediately building up records on the relocation center population.

The most important step in this process was taken in February, 1943. In collaboration with the Army, the War Relocation Authority conducted a mass registration of all persons in the centers above 17 years of age. Both men and women, citizens and aliens, were required to fill out questionnaires



calling for information on such matters as education, previous employment, relatives in Japan, knowledge of the Japanese language, investments in Japan, organizational and religious affiliations, and other pertinent matters. In addition, the citizen evacuees were asked to pledge allegiance to the United States, and the aliens were asked to promise that they would abide by the Nation's laws and not interfere with the war effort. The information obtained from these questionnaires has been extremely useful in identifying strongly pro-Japanese or potentially dangerous individuals who are denied the privilege of leave under our regulations. In addition, we have gathered extensive information from other sources pertaining to the backgrounds and attitudes of the individual evacuees. In many cases information has been sought from former employers, former neighbors, municipal officials, and others in the communities where the evacuees lived before the evacuation. We have consulted the files of federal intelligence agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, for any information available there on the people in the centers whose eligibility for leave was receiving our attention. We have made full use of our own records at the centers, including internal security and employment records, to obtain information regarding the conduct of individual evacuees since they came under the supervision of the War Relocation Authority. Many of our dockets of information on individual evacuees run to ten and twenty pages and all this information is considered in determining the eligibility of evacuees for indefinite leave. Within the past several months we have taken steps to segregate those who are ineligible for leave from the bulk of the evacuee population, and we have quartered such individuals at the Tule Lake Center.

I want to say just a few words, here, about the population at Tule Lake. Most of the adult people detained there have indicated either by word or action that they prefer to consider themselves Japanese rather than American. There are, among them, a considerable number of agitators and trouble-makers who have revealed definite inclinations to hinder the American war effort and to interfere with the orderly administration of the center. On the other hand, another and much larger element is composed of elderly aliens who have simply given up the struggle to adjust themselves to circumstances brought on by the war, and who want nothing more than to live out the rest of their days in the land of their birth. Still another group, larger than either of the previous two, is composed of children and young people whose records contain no evidence of disloyalty but who are living at Tule Lake simply because of family ties.

Several months ago, as I'm sure you'll recall, a group of troublemakers at the center precipitated disorders which culminated in the calling in of the Army, by the Project Director, to administer the center until order could be restored. The trouble was the outgrowth of a strike, incited by agitators, which brought about a complete stoppage of work in harvesting vegetables grown on the farmlands connected with the center.

The impression has been widely created in this State and in other sections of the country that the summoning of troops into the Tule Lake Center indicated a complete and permanent breakdown of the WRA administration. I want to emphasize that we have always had a division of labor with the Army



at WRA centers. Under the terms of our agreement with the War Department, we are responsible for all phases of internal administration at the centers, while the Army provides external guarding and checks the passes of people moving in and out. However, the agreement also provides that whenever violence is imminent and a show of force is needed, we can call in the troops stationed immediately outside the center for the purpose of restoring order.

Now that the segregation process is virtually completed, we are redoubling our efforts to restore the people living at the other nine centers to private life at the earliest opportunity. Those who oppose this program and advocate keeping all evacuees confined for the duration of the war are overlooking some rather fundamental provisions of the American constitution.

Virtually all legal authorities who have studied the matter, including the Attorney General of the United States, have expressed grave doubt that the Federal Constitution could be interpreted to permit a mass detention program in which American citizens were involved. The Supreme Court has never ruled on the issue, but a significant statement was made by Mr. Justice Murphy in connection with the Hirabayashi case wherein the Court upheld the validity of the curfew orders applied by the West Coast military authorities prior to the evacuation. In his concurring opinion, Mr. Justice Murphy said, "This (meaning the curfew) goes to the very brink of constitutional power."

Last July, the District Court of Northern California gave a decision which related more closely to the issue. Miss Mitsuye Endo, a resident of the Tule Lake Center (before it became a segregation center) had applied for a writ of habeas corpus to gain her release. This application was denied by the court solely on the grounds that WRA has a relocation program under which she could have applied for leave without calling on the court.

We now have in nine centers, excluding Tule Lake, about 70,000 men, women, and children who are eligible for relocation in normal communities, and approximately 19,000 others have already been relocated in communities scattered across the country from the Sierra Nevada Mountains to the Atlantic Coast. I have outlined the investigation that we make of each adult evacuee before granting leave clearance, and now I want to mention briefly another important procedure in our program. In connection with relocation, we have made it a practice all along to check community sentiment in areas where the evacuees are relocating. There has never been any serious question about relocating them in the larger cities, such as Chicago, New York, and Cleveland. But in smaller cities and towns we seek reasonable assurance from responsible public officials or citizens that the evacuees will be accepted. Before granting indefinite leave permits, we also make sure that evacuees have some means of support, and we require that they keep us informed of any change of address.

Our biggest problem today is to find ways and means of relocating thousands of families which include children and young people whose alien parents desire to remain in America. There are nearly 22,000 children under



19 years of age among the 74,000 people now living in the centers, not including Tule Lake. Those 22,000 children were born in this country. Those who are old enough to go to school have gone to American schools, and they are still going to American schools, where they have been taught the principles of liberty, justice, and equality for which our country stands.

The War Relocation Authority is firmly committed to the principle that American children should not be penalized for accidents of ancestry. The people of America, loyal to the traditions that have made our country great, will never agree that the solution of the problem is to deport these children to a strange land that many of them have never known. They will never agree that the solution is to keep them confined behind barbed wire fences.

Our job is to get them away from the relocation centers, into normal communities where they can develop into normal men and women. This relocation process cannot be accomplished, however, until we have opened the door for their parents to regain the means of self-support that they lost when they were evacuated. There are many fathers and mothers among them who speak the English language with difficulty, and who are fearful of what the future holds for them outside the centers. The problem of relocating them is not a simple one.

There are many other children, of course, who have grown beyond school age, and thousands of the young men are now fighting, or training to fight for the same principles and ideals that other American boys are fighting to defend on battlefields around the world. Many of these American soldiers of Japanese ancestry have parents who are still living in relocation centers. Let me read you a portion of a letter written by an alien father to his son in the service.

He wrote: "Think not too cheaply of your life; live it as you can in the service of your country -- for what good is a lifeless soldier? Be ever careful, cautious, but never begrudge your life for your country -- be ever willing to die for her if need be. Then, and then only you have given your all, done your best, can I say that my son lived well."

Several thousand young American volunteers of Japanese descent, recruited from the American mainland and Hawaii, are now undergoing vigorous training to prepare them for battle against our Axis enemies. The officers who command them have repeatedly praised them for earnest and intelligent devotion to duty. In Italy, in the battle for Cassino and elsewhere, the fighting men of the 100th Infantry Battalion, composed of Americans of Japanese descent, have won the praise of their commanders for their valor in battle. Casualty lists, reported by the War Department, reveal that the battalion has suffered losses, in dead, wounded, and missing in action, exceeding 40 per cent of the entire personnel. The Secretary of War has commended the unit for achieving "a creditable record of fighting efficiency."

Recently I read an editorial in a western newspaper which attacked the loyalty of all Americans of Japanese ancestry, while admitting that the nisei



soldiers were making "a superficial showing of loyalty." It might be an enlightening experience for the writer of that editorial to visit some of the hospitals in the East and Middle-West where American boys of Japanese descent are recuperating from wounds received in Italy while fighting for the country that gives him the freedom to express his views. He might try to explain just what he meant by "superficial loyalty" to Yosh Omiya who lost his eyes when the American Fifth Army was fighting its way across the Volturno River. Yosh would not be able to read the editorial. Yosh will never see again.

I want to quote from a letter written by an American Army officer who was sent home among the wounded after seeing action with our Japanese American soldiers in Italy. You may have read it in the February 14 issue of Time magazine. This officer wrote in part:

"There are a lot of people in these United States who have nothing but a one-track mind. In some of the articles of your Letters to the Editors (Time, Jan. 17) I saw some of these people in a true light.

"I just came from Italy where I was assigned to the Japanese 100th Infantry Battalion. I never in my life saw any more of a true American than they are....

"Ask anyone who has seen them in action against the Jerry (to) tell you about them. They'll tell you when they have them on their flanks they are sure of security in that section..."

There have been many other letters in the same vein from American officers and men who have fought side by side with our American soldiers of Japanese ancestry.

Many citations for service beyond the call of duty have been awarded to the nisei fighters. For example, Staff Sergeant Kasuo Kozaki, a noncommissioned officer of Japanese descent, has won the Silver Star for gallantry in action. On December 28, the War Department announced awards of the Purple Heart to 58 members of the 100th Infantry Battalion. There will be many more citations and awards won by these boys when they come home again.

I know that many of you are familiar with the record of Sergeant Ben Kuroki who has twice been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, in addition to the Air Medal with four oak-leaf clusters, for his fighting exploits in the air over Nazi territory. In speaking before the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco, on February 4, Sergeant Kuroki had this to say: "In my own case, I have almost won the battle against intolerance; I have many close friends, in the Army now -- my best friends, as I am theirs -- where two years ago I had none. But I have by no means completely won that battle. Especially now, after the widespread publicity given the recent atrocity stories, I find prejudice once again directed against me, and neither my uniform nor the medals which are visible proof of what I have been through, have been able to stop it. I don't know for sure that it is safe for me to walk the streets of my own country."



It makes me sad to think that conditions could be found in America to prompt such a statement from a man who has participated in thirty bombing missions over Germany. I wonder what attitude the professional critics of all Japanese Americans will take toward Mr. and Mrs. Shirmizu of the Colorado River Relocation Center whose son, Sergeant James Shirmizu, died from wounds received in Italy a few weeks ago. Sergeant Shirmizu also left a young wife and a two-year-old son who are living in the center. I cannot believe that many real Americans would advocate deporting this family after the close of the war. Most of these boys I have been mentioning are volunteers. For nearly two years after Pearl Harbor, Americans of Japanese descent were not inducted through Selective Service until January 21, of this year, when the War Department announced that plans had been completed to receive them through the general Selective Service System. In explaining the order, the War Department said that "the excellent showing" made by the Japanese American combat team now in training, and "the outstanding record" achieved by the 100th Infantry Battalion in Italy were major factors for taking greater numbers of nisei into the armed forces.

Our records show that, up to the fourth of March, 107 boys have been accepted for Army service from the relocation centers. These inductees are credited, for the most part, to the Selective Service boards in the West Coast communities where they were living before the evacuation.

Despite the record of patriotic devotion achieved by nisei soldiers in the American Army, there are still a great many people in this section of the country and elsewhere who persist in believing that all persons of Japanese ancestry are basically disloyal to the United States. Because of the emotions aroused by the Pearl Harbor attack and the Pacific war, it has become extremely easy--and, unfortunately, quite popular in some areas--to attack all Japanese-Americans indiscriminately. The nisei boys and girls, along with their alien parents and their third-generation children, have become fair game for special interest groups who would like to deprive them permanently of their rightful place in our national life. The extremists participating in this campaign go so far as to advocate wholesale deportation; the more "moderate" element will apparently be satisfied if all people of Japanese descent are kept out of the Pacific coastal area.

We in the War Relocation Authority are fully aware that the forces advocating deportation or permanent exclusion of this minority group are energetic and resourceful. We know that many of the participants are tightly organized and that they have ample funds at their disposal. They have already made it quite clear that they will seize every opportunity to stir up popular fears and resentments against the entire group of Japanese descent in this country.

Much of the campaign is centered around attacks on the War Relocation Authority. The Hearst press, for example, has used almost every conceivable device to create the impression that WRA is incompetent, lax in its administration, and excessively sympathetic toward the evacuees. Naturally we cannot agree with these charges. In the last analysis, I sincerely doubt



whether the Hearst press and the other opposition forces are much concerned about our comparatively small organization. The real target, in my judgment, is the evacuees. Attacks aimed at WRA are merely an indirect method of fomenting antagonisms against the people in relocation centers.

One of the most popular lines of attack is the charge that people in relocation centers are being provided with luxurious foods and that they are eating at government expense far better than the average American family. In these days, when all of us are tightening our belts just a little and going without some of our favorite peacetime dishes, such an allegation obviously has tremendous emotional possibilities. It hits the average citizen in a highly vulnerable spot and has stimulated many people who are normally quite mild-mannered into almost incoherent hatred and anger. The only trouble with this charge is that it is completely without foundation. Gradually, as a result of eye-witness news stories coming out of relocation centers, more and more people are coming to realize this fact, and the charge is losing much of its former potency. But I feel sure we in WRA have not heard the last of it yet, much as we should like to.

Another line of approach is to disseminate the idea that WRA's leave procedures are lax and inadequate, and that we are deliberately or heedlessly turning potential spies and saboteurs loose upon the Nation. This is one of the most deadly of all the opposition charges since it appeals to one of the most elemental of human emotions--the emotion of fear. But like the food charge, it is utterly untrue. Actually, as I indicated earlier, we have gone to great lengths in our efforts to safeguard the national security and we have taken every feasible precaution in granting leave permits under the relocation program.

Still another charge is perhaps the most popular of all. This is the allegation that WRA is pampering and coddling the people at relocation centers. Now, those are extremely vague terms, and I don't suppose we ever will be completely successful in nailing down this charge. As long as disgruntled former employees of WRA who were discharged for incompetence continue to pour out their resentments publicly, the accusation of "social-mindedness" will probably go on appearing with monotonous regularity in the public prints. It is interesting to note, however, that a member of the Japanese Diet was recently quoted in a propaganda broadcast as complaining that American internees in the Far East are being treated "too generously."

There is still another assertion of the race baiters that needs some attention--the assertion that Japanese-Americans returning to the West Coast, when the military necessity for exclusion has ended, will be mobbed and forced to leave. The District Attorney of Los Angeles County, for example, is reported to have said that he has received letters from three organizations informing him that the members have "pledged to kill any Japanese who comes to California now or after the war." If we have come to the point where threats of murder against some of our own citizens are made as a means of discouraging their freedom of movement, then I think it is time we re-examine our national conscience.



Fundamentally, the campaign against Americans of Japanese ancestry is a campaign of hate. The forces leading this drive have deliberately set out to foster mass hatred, and in many parts of this State they have already reaped a bumper crop. One of their favorite devices is to identify the people in relocation centers as closely as possible with our real enemies across the Pacific. Basically, this strategy is a denial of the potency of American institutions. It assumes that merely because an individual is of Japanese extraction, he is somehow immune to the effect of our public school system and of all the other Americanizing influences that operate in a normal American community. Let me say emphatically that I have more faith than that in the strength of our American institutions. And I feel positive that they have been far more influential in molding the minds of the nisei than the transplanted institutions of Japan.

Now I want to read a quotation that may possibly have a familiar ring to a California audience:

"This organization places itself squarely on record as being absolutely opposed to the release of any Japanese, either alien or American born. We urge our Senators and Congressmen to use their influence with the national administration and the War Relocation Authority to discontinue this dangerous practice immediately, and forthwith to recall any and all Japanese who have heretofore been released for any purpose from the relocation centers... We strongly urge that all Japanese, both alien and American born, be kept in relocation centers in the interior of the United States, under the supervision and control of the Army, instead of civilian authorities, for the duration of the war."

This resolution, with not a word changed, has been endorsed by one West Coast organization after another. Not only does it ignore the constitutional questions involved in the measures advocated by it; if it were adopted into national policy, it would mean the return to civilian life and imprisonment of thousands of Japanese American boys who are fighting for democracy. It would mean the detention of many American citizens who are engaged on government assignments to gather information regarding our enemy across the Pacific. It would mean the loss of thousands of workers who are helping to produce food and materials for our fighting men.

Resolutions of a closely similar nature have been passed by many other organizations; Chambers of Commerce, posts of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, local unions of the American Federation of Labor. Almost without exception, they wholly disregard the legality of their proposals and the purposes for which the War Relocation Authority was created.

The stimulators of racial fanaticism in this section of the country have sometimes hampered the program of the War Relocation Authority, but we have always proceeded firm in the belief that the great majority of the



American people still cherish, undiminished, the principles of Justice and freedom that inspired the founding of our Nation. Our concern reaches far beyond protecting the rights of the people of Japanese ancestry. The rights of other minorities are equally at stake in what we do with these people. We cannot allow one minority to be sacrificed on the altar of wartime emotionalism without jeopardizing the rights of other minorities. The danger lies in setting a precedent that might later be extended to the denial of rights for other racial groups, religious minorities, and even political minorities. Our failure to meet the responsibility that has been placed upon us would go far toward destroying the constitutional safeguards that guarantee equal protection to all of us who live on American soil.

We are also deeply concerned about the welfare of thousands of Americans who are now prisoners of war in Japan. The quick attempt of the Japanese propagandists to offset the revelation of atrocities in the Philippines by charging us with mistreatment of Japanese aliens in America should be evidence enough that they are watching us. We dare not provide them with incidents which would assist them in justifying their brutality before the civilized world.

The most immediate concern for all of us is, of course, to win the war. We need to direct every ounce of our energy into fighting and conquering the evil forces in Japan and Germany that forced the war upon us. I do not hesitate to say that any newspaper, any organization, any individual that undertakes to deflect our attention away from the real enemies that threaten the future of our nation, by fomenting false issues and creating dissension among us, is un-American in spirit and in deed. These elements striving to identify American citizens with the Japanese enemy simply on the basis of a common racial origin are fomenting a false issue; they are creating dissension as regrettable as it is unnecessary.

When people in foreign lands read or hear about the utterances of some of our citizens and the resolutions passed by some of our prominent organizations on the Japanese minority question, one can scarcely blame them for wondering if we really mean what we say about the strength and integrity of our democracy. Make no mistake about it. Our conduct in such matters as treatment of the Japanese American minority is being watched in all parts of the globe. And we are seriously weakening our position on the battle front when we give voice to ill-advised utterances that make a mockery of our proudest traditions.

The War Relocation Authority in the execution of its responsibilities is working to preserve the principles of justice and equality guaranteed in the Constitution of our country. We are working to uphold the principles of human decency that distinguish civilization from barbarism. There are some people among us, more especially here in California and other parts of the West, whose main criticism of the War Relocation Authority is that we are striving to provide humane treatment for the people in our relocation centers, while Americans imprisoned by Japan are tortured, starved and reviled. They



accuse us of pampering and coddling because we have not allowed the brutality of the Japanese enemy to influence our policies and program. I say to them: No, we have not taken Japan as a model--thank God!

We are working to the best of our ability to avoid conditions and incidents that might encourage the Japanese enemy to inflict more suffering on Americans imprisoned by them. We are looking to the future with an earnest hope that our efforts may greatly minimize the postwar problem of readjusting our Japanese American population into normal living. There is no need for the problem to be difficult if it is handled with intelligence and courage.

I have no apologies to make for the program of the War Relocation Authority. I believe it is a sound program and that we are conducting our operations in accord with the best principles of our American heritage. Despite the opposition, we have every intention of continuing on that basis.



WEST COAST SPEECH EXCERPTS  
(January 1945)

...The departure of loyal Issei and Nisei from the relocation centers will be a steady and continuing process. Those returning to the formerly restricted area will come back gradually and not en masse, both because of the personal circumstances of evacuee families and individuals which will slow their return, and because of the pull of other economic opportunities which will induce many to turn eastward.....

...Loyal evacuees are free to return to the West Coast under revocation of the mass exclusion order by the Western Defense Command, and indeed to go anywhere they wish in keeping with the recent Supreme Court decision in the Endo case. This action of the Army and the decision of the highest tribunal in the land will of course be readily understood and complied with by all law-abiding Americans.

Stating its conclusion in the Endo case the Court said: "We conclude that, whatever power the War Relocation Authority may have to detain other classes of citizens, it has no authority to subject citizens who are concededly loyal to its leave procedures."

For the WRA, the military action and the court decision brings to an end the leave procedures applied at the relocation centers. Within six to twelve months the WRA centers will be closed. Those leaving the centers, if relocating under a WRA approved relocation plan, and whether returning to the West Coast or moving eastward, will be aided in the same general way that relocating evacuees have been assisted by us in the past.

The satisfactory experience thousands of evacuees have had in relocating to the Middle West, East, New England and Southeast indicates that many will leave the centers for these areas. In these regions they have found new economic opportunities, new neighbors and friendly communities. In turn, the citizens of their new home towns have found the Nisei and Issei industrious and law-abiding residents, people who like themselves have had sons killed and wounded in action overseas, people who buy war bonds, donate blood to the Red Cross, and support the home front war effort to the utmost.

Among the newspapers most vigorous in defense of the evacuees are those published in the cities, towns and areas where relocation has been most active. These newspapers have come to know and like the new neighbors. They have expressed first bewilderment and then anger over the racist campaign directed against them.....

...The American people expect and have a right to expect that their return will take place naturally and quietly, just as other citizens and law-abiding aliens have been able to move about the country without incident. Most of the residents of California, Washington, Oregon and the evacuated section of Arizona, including responsible public officials, bitterly resent the attempt by anyone to talk and act as if the West Coast is not a part of the United States, but an old-fashioned, comic-opera Balkan kingdom requiring special passports for those who would enter, and restricting the rights of those who enter and remain.

Most West Coast residents fully realize that their states are in every way a part of this indivisible Union, and that all Americans live under a single Constitution. They know, as the racists do not, that the Bill of Rights must be in force in all the states and that it is meant to protect the liberties of all persons, no matter what their race, creed or color.....

...There are still a few on the West Coast who would like to devise some means to exclude those of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast, and in effect nullify the recent action of the War Department and the decision of the Supreme Court. These exclusionists, because they raise false issues and in a limited way create some public confusion about the evacuees, at times have become an administrative problem of the WRA.



When I view them in a more detached manner, however, I am overcome with the desire to classify them. My classification places them in four general groups. It might be called a classification by motive, by what moves the members of each group to support exclusion.

First, there is the group which opposes the Japanese Americans for what might be termed ancient and political reasons. This group is led by those who believe they can make political capital and newspaper circulation out of loud abuse of the Nisei and Issei. They openly foster anti-Japanese agitation as they once openly led anti-Chinese agitation. They preach nativism and special codes of self-superiority, a "we-settled-here-first-and-own-everything" philosophy.

These people, the Native Sons of the Golden West, certain segments of the West Coast press, some Grange officials and some American Legion posts, Dr. John Lechner and Jess Eddington, ~~VIII~~ Commander at Hood River all peddle unAmerican racism in a package labelled "old fashioned Americanism."

Everyone admires the heroic frontiersmen and would like to establish some kinship with them, if not by descent then by mental association. The nativists turn this to their advantage. It is as if they said to the gullible: "Support our cause and we will make you a frontiersman for a fee." Such ersatz frontiersmen, I believe, would have been offensive to the original pioneers who fought for and practiced democracy in its truest sense, who weighed a man's worth by what he could do and not by his appearance. For the frontiersman did not open the West to create a new kind of aristocracy, but to escape from an old one.

Second, there is the group made up of well intentioned but misled persons who do not really want to harm anyone, the evacuees or any other group. Just learning to hate, they believe that there is something different about those of Japanese ancestry that makes it impossible for them to be loyal Americans. They imagine therefore that all evacuees are a menace to national security, particularly on the West Coast. The kindlier of them say the Issei and Nisei, even for their own good, would be better off away from the Coast or perhaps out of the country. Fed on the fables kept alive by the other groups, the misled need to be taken off that dangerous diet and given the truth. They need to know the facts about the great majority of America's loyal Japanese, the splendid fighting record of Nisei in the American army, and the manner in which most of the country condemns discrimination against the evacuees or against any minority. If the misled could be informed of the motives of the exclusionists and race baiters, they would see that they are being led down a treacherous road of racial antagonism and disunity. They would see that after being conditioned to hate one minority, they can be more readily taught to hate other and larger minorities, both racial and religious, then to hate different economic classes of people, and finally, in anger and confusion, to follow demagogues blindly wherever they choose to lead. The tragic experience of Europe has not taught them that it takes hate to make a Hitler.

The third group of exclusionists are stirred to action by economic motives. The fear of lost profits moves them. Here we find some fruit and vegetable growers and distributors working with such organizations or the Remeber Pearl Harbor League. These producers did not like the competition of Japanese Americans in agriculture before evacuation and they would like to eliminate that competition forever. Nothing personal about their hatred of the evacuees, you understand. They would take some pains, although by different methods, to squeeze out any racial or economic group that threatened their interests.

No one has made a more revealing statement about the California shipper-growers active in the racist campaign, than one of their own representatives, Mr. Austin Anson, who was sent to Washington after Pearl Harbor by the Shipper-Grower Association of Salinas to lobby for mass evacuation.

He said, and I quote:

"We're charged with wanting to get rid of the Japs for selfish reasons. We might as well be honest. We do. It's a question of whether the white man lives on the Pacific Coast or the brown men. They came into this valley to work, and they stayed to take over."



Tokyo could hunt for a year and not find better material than Mr. Anson's quotation to broadcast all over Asia in an attempt to prove that we are fighting in the Pacific and Asia not against Japanese fascism and imperialism, but against Asiatic "brown men."

The fourth and last group are those best described as the red-faced patriots. These are the individuals who took advantage of evacuation to forget that some of them owe money to the evacuees, to damage or destroy their property, to panic them into selling their holdings and equipment in forced sales at ridiculously low prices, to break leases with Issei and Nisei tenants before evacuation, and in other ways to trick and trim them. These artists of sharp practice have guilty consciences, or should have. The red-faced patriots do not want to be confronted by returning evacuees they have wronged, they do not dare to look them in the eye, and so they too support exclusion by one means or another.....

...At this time, there is no need to go into great detail concerning the astounding combat record made by American soldiers of Japanese ancestry. The West Coast press, similar to the press in other parts of the country, has carried stories about the rescue of the lost battalion in France by the 442nd regimental combat team, about Nisei acts of heroism, about casualties they have suffered along with other Yanks wherever the American army fights. Secretary Stimson, in his statement announcing revocation of the mass exclusion order, and the Western Defense Command in its simultaneous announcement, paid tribute to the fighting Nisei.

Nearly 2500 young Japanese Americans have gone from the centers into Army service. Like other Americans, these soldiers and their families have paid a price for the nationwide respect now paid to the Nisei battle record. There are Gold Star mothers at every relocation center and among the other Issei mothers who have relocated. More than 100 Japanese Americans have been killed in action, 320 wounded and 12 reported missing. These 432 casualties are not merely statistics. They mean War Department telegrams bringing the same sudden tragedy and anxiety to Issei fathers and mothers, to Nisei wives, sisters and brothers. that comes to many other parents and kinsmen throughout the land.

...I would like to call attention to something you undoubtedly have noted, that most West Coast residents and the country as whole have condemned as outrageous the acts of discrimination against Japanese American soldiers which took place at Hood River, Oregon; Gardena, California, and Parker, Arizona. The widespread indignation over these incidents reached a climax when Secretary Stimson praised the fighting record of the Nisei and publicly condemned such prejudice. He stated it was "wholly incongruous" that these loyal servicemen should be subjected to "unworthy discrimination."

The average American soldier, no matter what his ancestry, is even more outspoken than most civilians in his resentment of racial prejudice. His conception of what we are fighting for, and what we are not fighting against, is clear and forthright. He gives the lie to the false claims of a minority of noisy racist civilians, who presuming to speak for GI Joe, say that he hates all Japanese faces, whether they belong to loyal Americans or not. These self-appointed and safe civilians, claim returning soldiers will resent the presence of loyal Issei and Nisei and may even do them violence.

This is malicious bunk. I could disprove it by quoting from letters of support sent by soldiers to Pvt. Matsuda, who was ejected from that barber shop in Arizona, or by referring you to praise of Nisei combat groups carried at length in such publications as "YANK", the Infantry Journal, and CBI Roundup, the China-Burma-India theater Army newspaper. However, I think one of the clearest statements of how our boys in uniform feel about their Nisei comrades, how they react to racism, and how confident they are that Americans will defeat racism at home as well as on the battlefield, was recently set forth in the Midpacifican, the armed forces newspaper published in Honolulu. In its editorial, the Midpacifican spoke for GIs in Pacific battle areas. I think it sums up the way in which most American soldiers and fair-minded civilians resent racial prejudice.



There could be no better conclusion than to read this editorial to you. The headline declares: "G.I.'s Hit at Those Who Parrot Racial Ideas of the Enemy."

The Midpacifican editorial states, and I quote:

"Three dispatches just came in from Army News Service. Two will make you proud. One will make you angry.

The first, datelined Washington, reveals that a single A.J.A. division in Italy was awarded 1,000 Purple Hearts. The second, datelined France, reports how the "lost battalion" in the Saint Dies area was rescued by American soldiers of Japanese ancestry who fought their way through to the trapped men.

The third, datelined Poston, Arizona, tells how a crippled A.J.A. was ejected from a barbershop because the proprietor didn't like his ancestry. The G. I. was Pvt. Raymond Matsuda, 29, from Hawaii. He had served two years with the 442nd combat team in Italy. He wears seven campaign ribbons and decorations, including the Purple Heart.

The action of one ignorant American brings shame to all of us. His ignorance is dangerous. It stabs at the heart of the things for which we fight.

G.I.s who kill Japanese on Pacific battlefronts can tell you why they feel friendship for the A.J.A.s fighting in Italy. They're brother Americans.

G.I.s who kill Nazis know they continue to like and respect German-Americans now fighting at their side in Europe. They're Americans and buddies.

We don't make war on people because of the color of their skin, or hair, or the shape of their faces or the nationality of their fathers and mothers.

We fight for an idea. And we fight against an idea. We kill fascists because it's our idea that people from every race and of every tongue should keep on living in our country as good neighbors.

We kill fascists because they think their race or blood makes them better than other people.

We fight for our idea because it is the cement that holds democracy together. We fight against the fascist idea because it is the poison that holds our enemies together.

G.I.s know that the only difference between our enemies and our friends is what goes on in their minds.

The ignorant American from Poston, Ariz., is one of a few rotten apples in the big barrel of America. His thinking does not reflect the way America thinks.

He probably doesn't even realize he thinks like our enemies. But he does. Misguided people, such as he, parrot the racial ideas of the Nazis and the Japs. As long as they do, they constitute a menace to our country.

It would be foolish for any G. I. to feel that fascism will be wiped out with the defeat of Germany and Japan.

The job will not be done until all Americans are educated to think and act like Americans.

That's our job, too.



COLORADO RIVER RELOCATION CENTER  
Poston, Arizona

Full Text of Dillon S. Myer's Speech to the People of Poston on March 6, 1945, at Block 4 Stage.

I am indeed delighted to have an opportunity to visit Poston again. Poston always does things in a bigger and better way than any other relocation center; and you certainly are doing it this afternoon, for this is the biggest crowd I have faced yet. First, I want to express my appreciation for this very beautiful bouquet of flowers, which I understand is Poston grown. That also is something which has never happened to me at any other center. I do appreciate it and the spirit in which they are presented..

I have an idea that you folks are going to be very much surprised to what I have to say this afternoon. I don't suppose you have read any of my speeches in any of the other newspapers; at least I don't dare take a chance and I assume that you have read something about it if you have read the papers from Manzanar, Granada, Rowher, etc. So, if you have been reading the Heart Mountain Sentinel and etc., that's your fault and not mine.

I think the last time I was here was the 27th of January, 1944. I brought a certain gentleman down to introduce him to you--Mr. Duncan Mills. I hope you haven't found him too hard to live with in the last year. I am sorry I couldn't come oftener, but we just get around to relocation centers every so often because they are a little hard to get to.

I think perhaps it may be well to review a little of the history in order to have the perspective and the background in which we may view the present policies and present situations. I think that most of you remember that three years ago, about four days ago, three years ago, on March 2, if history is properly written, that the first exclusion order was written and announced in which the first folks were asked to move back from areas along the coast to other parts of the country. In a little over a week or ten days ago, it will be three years since the War Relocation Authority officially came into existence under Executive Order No. 9102. At that time I wasn't a member of the official family of the WRA, but I was keeping in touch because I was working with Eisenhower and I knew something of what was going on. I rode to work every morning with him. Little did I dream that in the middle of June, 1942, that I would become the Director of this Authority.

I think you remember something about the chaos and confusion that existed back in 1942 as you moved out from your homes, moved into assembly centers, or moved into Eastern California, if that was the case. Later you moved from assembly centers to Poston, Gila, and other centers. Many people moved before the barracks were completed, before the dust was settled. Poston does not look today as it did when I made my first visit in July, 1942, on a nice warm day with the thermometer standing about a 120° in the shade. 1942 was devoted pretty largely to movement from here to there, getting acquainted with the new staff that the WRA was bringing into existence. It was devoted to the formation of different policies which some of you didn't like. It was November when the last of the assembly center residents moved into Jerome Relocation Center.

Some of us anticipated along about July of that year that our problem was of public relations, to get the rest of the country to understand who you people were, to become acquainted with you, and to lay the ground work for the relocation program which followed. To our great surprise, we found out there was one group we overlooked before we had really gotten started, a certain group of people who had been well organized for years, very vocal, and seemingly well financed. That little group of people that had been fighting you folks for years on and started to fight the WRA and the WRA relocation program. I couldn't understand it for a time. I didn't know my history well enough then, but, we soon began to find out that that group of people,--there weren't many of them,--yet they were represented by groups such as the Native Sons of the Golden West, and many other groups that you know about were hoping that we would maintain relocation centers in the hopes that they might stir up the people to get



legislation passed in United States Congress to exclude everybody of Japanese ancestry from the United States. They started on a campaign which would help to stir up the emotions of the country. It took us a little time to understand it. I want to come back to that later because it's an important fact to you and me. So, 1942 ended up in probably the toughest month that I had in WRA.

You had a little celebration down here in November of 1942. I didn't quite understand it. I am sure you didn't understand it, and then they had a little celebration in Manzanar which got into the headlines and got nation-wide publicity. I know some of you folks are feeling pretty insecure now. I know how you feel because I felt insecure in December of 1942. I wondered whether or not we were going to be able to learn to live and work together. I probably spent more sleepless nights and more worry in that month of 1942 than at any other time. So, 1942 was a pretty chaotic year. I was worrying because there was some misunderstanding and some bitterness, but it was understandable. I am surprised as I look back, we got through together as easily as we did. Well, so much for 1942.

I want to look ahead. The year 1943 was an entirely a different kind of year. It was a peculiar mixture of good and bad. Early in the year of 1943, on January 4, we established our first key relocation office in Chicago. Then we had one in Salt Lake City, Denver, Cleveland, and so on across the country. Before the year was over, 17,000 people had relocated out of relocation centers.

On the 28th day of January, 1943, Secretary Stimson made an important announcement which was that he had made plans for the organization of the voluntary combat team which is now known as the 442nd Regimental Combat Team that is known throughout the United States Army, and all over the world, as a famous fighting unit. I am proud of those boys, and I am sure that you are proud of those boys, and I want to talk a little more about them later. Almost immediately after the time of the announcement by Secretary Stimson, we had that famous Registration of February and March, which was a rather emotional period, and something which wasn't too well understood. Later in the Summer and Fall, we carried out the segregation movement in which lots of people moved out of Tule and moved into Tule Lake. Along about November and December, our stock went down following the famous Tule Lake incident which was blown up in the newspapers, most of which was untrue. Nevertheless, it had enough truth to lay the basis for the group of people who had been fighting to whip up the emotions in a lot of people. So, as I see it, as we closed the year, chances are that our public relations were about at the lowest level, particularly along the Coast.

I always forget until the last when I think about the year 1943 that we were also the most investigated agency in the country in that year, you and me. The Military Affairs Committee started out in January with the investigation about the WRA program which was carried out around the introduction of the bill which provided that the WRA be turned over to the United States Army. Before Senator Chandler could make an investigation, Mr. Dies and his playboys decided they weren't doing a good enough job, so Mr. Costello and his investigators moved out to Los Angeles and conducted investigations for several weeks through the press which Poston heard a great deal about because Poston took somewhat of a beating in connection with that investigation. I said "investigation", but it wasn't an investigation. It was one of the worst smear campaigns ever conducted. Mr. Gelvin, who is here today, remembers that, I am sure, very well because he was one of the early witnesses. There were more misinformation, lies, and untruths spread across the country in two months' time than I have ever felt any group could spread in such a short period of time. The people, for a time, were completely confused. Finally, along in the early part of July, we had a chance to sit down before that committee and tell our story. At that time all that was going on I resented somewhat. As a matter of fact, I resented it very strongly because I had a feeling that perhaps here was a lot of damage which couldn't be repaired in a short period of time. I was mistaken about that. However, as I look back now, I am very happy that we had had a Chandler Investigation and Dies Investigation, so called. For this reasons; the job they did was so bad, the lies and untruths by them were so easy to accept that the first thing



we knew, we had friends all over the United States who were asking for the correct facts, and when they got them, they got so mad, they rolled up their sleeves and went to work to see that the country had the facts about you people, about the WRA, and all that went behind that, that lying behind the investigations were that little group of people who had been fighting you for the last forty years, and most of it was the same old bunk, played over and over to the same old tune. Now, that was important to you, and it was important to me, because, as I said, while I found a good many people ill will, emotion, and misled will go to almost any end to stir up the emotions, there were in this country thousands of people who wanted to know the facts, and once they had the facts, they went to work to see that those facts were properly distributed and that you folks, and some of the rest of us, got a fair break.

Consequently, things began to change. Around the turn of 1944 was an entirely different year when my telephone didn't ring nearly so often at night and day. On January 20, to be exact, Secretary Stimson made another announcement. It was the follow up of the Selective Service problem which was being re-established for the people of Japanese ancestry. That was the announcement I had been fighting for a long time, and the reason I had was because I believe that all citizens should have equal rights; that it had to be, in order that we could start from there and step by step wipe out other restrictions and other discriminations which had been in effect for some time. I think we have already proven that that is happening. 1944 generally was marked by two major things; the news that kept rolling in month after month, week after week, from the 100th Infantry Battalion first, later, after June of that year, from your boys in the 442nd, and the boys from other centers the mainland, and Hawaii, who were building a record that will go down in history.

The other thing that was happening was the relocation program that was going ahead step by step. Lots of other things were also happening. There were a lot of good people in this country to see to it that the people would continue to get the facts so that by the end of the year, and of the last year, 1944, the situation had changed so drastically from that year previously that the military folks on the West Coast decided that military necessity no longer existed for maintaining exclusion orders, and I want to say to you that there has never been a time in history, in my judgment, when the people of Japanese ancestry, living in this country are as well accepted today throughout the United States, including the people of California, Oregon, and Washington, as well as the rest of the country as they have been ever before. I say that in spite of the fact that there are still a comparatively small group of people, most of whom who have an economic interest in continuing to run your farms, businesses, or to live in the houses you used to operate, are now putting on the biggest bluffing campaign that I have seen in a long time. They are now talking about boycotts, passing resolutions, they are writing letters, some of them honestly saying that now isn't the time to come back. I say, in spite of all that, that there has never been a time in my judgment when you folks and other folks in the relocation centers are as well accepted as you are today.

Now, I want to try to tell you why I think so. In the first place, the one group are the 13,000 American boys who have been inducted into the U. S. Army either through volunteering or through the Selective Service, half of whom or more than half of whom who have been on the battle lines and made a record that nobody in the world can challenge. They have made it in Italy, Saipan, France, Leyte, and all over the world and are still making it and a lot of that story hasn't yet been told.

I have picked up the L.A. Times and found a column in which a newspaper correspondent ran into a boy from Hollywood by the name of Hirai. Where? In Leyte. He wrote a story about him. There haven't been many of the stories coming out, but they are coming out now. I say it again, and I will probably say it several times, that those boys who have gone out from here and races from many lands had two battles to fight. One of them was for the country in which they had been born and reared, and willing to fight for, and the other one was for you and your future, and they have already won the battle, providing that we continue to do our job at this end as well as they are doing at their end. They have done



the major part of that job. They are going to keep on doing it, and the boys in the American Army know more about that than a lot of civilians do. A lot of people who have been misled are willing to help, who are ashamed, and who are willing now to roll up their sleeves and help.

The other reason I believe, in addition to those boys, are the 35,000 or more people who have relocated from Gila, Manzanar, Granada, etc., and who have gone out to almost every state in the Union. They have made plans for every state. They have been working in homes and warplants, hospitals, in garages, on farms, all the way up and down the land. That was important to us. It had to be. I knew it had to be, from the time of evacuation, for this reason:---

The rest of the country listened pretty much what that group of experts along the Pacific Coast had to say about you people, and unfortunately, many of them believed, it, in which they tried to tell the world that you ruined all the land on which you worked, and in another 100 year's time, there wouldn't be any other face but Japanese because you bred like rabbits. That is what they say. And so on and so on. Those stories have been rolling on ever since 1900 or 1905. I have sat beside people and they have raised questions about those things. They don't believe that. They know the stories about the 442nd Infantry. They also know from the hundreds of people who have come out from here that you people are just like anybody else, with the same kind of emotions, and the same kind of economic interests, that some of you are better than other; and none of you aren't nearly as bad as they thought you were. They have been misled. People are afraid of the people and things that they don't know. We get over worrying about the unknown. So, the United States knows the people of Japanese ancestry better than they have known them in history.

There is one other point why I believe that there is better acceptance now. Following the lifting of the evacuation orders, Governor Warren issued a statement. Had I been able to write it myself, I couldn't have made it any better. I have never always agreed with Governor Warren, but he has been a man who has done everything in his power to help protect you and your interests. Since December 17, he sent out a wire to every mayor and sheriff and every Legion Post, asking their cooperation in maintaining law and order. Some counties have added deputies to their staffs to patrol areas to eliminate the happenings that had occurred here and there to say that somebody did something about it. I want to pay tribute to him for that. He isn't the only one.

When I was in Los Angeles on January 13, I found that the Police force were already busy doing a very constructive job. They were visiting schools and asking that school people assist them so that the youngsters understood that the exclusion orders were lifted, and asked them their cooperation. They asked the school folks to help arrange for the meeting and they invited some of our WRA officials to make a talk, and the man in uniform has sponsored the meetings and did the introducing. Frankly, a year ago, I didn't think that could happen. They had additional deputy sheriffs where they could afford it. I don't think those things ever happened in history. Maybe you know about it but I don't. That causes a better campaign in spite of the economic interests that still exist, so that are some of the reasons why I say things are better today. We are in a better situation than we have ever been.

Now I want to tell you very briefly why the WRA has announced some of the policy so there will be no misunderstanding about it. I want to say first that I realize that a good many people in Poston have been very happy here. That is only natural. Some of you have friends here that you haven't had before. People are afraid that if they do go out they will run into hostilities. The adjustment isn't going to be easy. It won't ever be easy. It won't be any easier that it will be in the next ten months. I never moved in my life that I didn't hate to move; and I never liked to leave my community and my friends. Many of you made your home here for a time. There are many of you older folks, in particular, who have it easier here when you did where you lived. I recognize all that. It is our job to work with you to try to assist you in getting adjusted now in normal communities, and we are going to do everything in our power to assist you.



I have had the question asked a good many times why we are closing the center by next January 2nd. By the way, we are going to close the center by January 2, if anybody hasn't told you. These are the reasons:

1. There are still in relocation centers somewhere between 18 and 20,000 youngsters who were born in this country, who are going to continue to live in this country, who are going to the relocation schools. We have been reasonably proud of the schools in relocation centers, and we think under the conditions, we have done a good job. I admire you and the WRA folks because it takes everybody to make up a good school. However, these youngsters are not going to school, I hope, with the idea of learning how to live in relocation centers all their lives. They are going to school in preparation for life ahead of them and they have a whole life ahead. The school process of learning from books, from laboratory, is only a part of the educational program for life in relocation centers. I haven't heard much of that recently, but I heard a great deal of that in 1942 and 1943, and rightly so. We have been eating in messhalls where we didn't have the family tables. We did not have that opportunity for youngsters to enter into the daily life in assisting in preparation of meals, to do little chores that we normally do in the home, on the farm, or in business. Now, these youngsters have been going to school for three full years and for their sake, for your sake, for everybody's sake, it is important to them that they get back in normal communities and normal homes as quickly as possible. They are going to adjust pretty easily but it is going to be harder the longer they stay here. I emphasize them particularly, and I want to repeat that because they have a longer life to live than any of the rest of us. They deserve the opportunity to live under normal conditions as quickly as possible. I didn't think these reasons up yesterday, or December 17; I thought these reasons up way back there in February or early March of 1943, two years or more ago, about the time you were signing the registration blanks, about the time I really began to learn what an abnormal life in relocation centers could do to people and all the inconveniences and all the problems, and I put it down in a letter that is on record. It is still a confidential letter, but sometime you will see it, I hope, along with other records----but let me say that 18 to 20,000 youngsters in relocation centers come first with me and I think they do with you. I think they deserve a chance to go back and begin living a normal life as quickly as possible.

Secondly, we have a demand today for manpower that is such that anybody that is able to work at all, either with their heads or hands, or both, can make a living and a good one. Wages and salaries are high. People are able to reestablish themselves in farming or in business and can make good money under conditions we have existing now. I think it is important that people who have an opportunity to move back into a normal situation, while they can make that adjustment, can make a good living and not have to compete with the reconversion program which will start immediately after the Armistice is signed. No, it is possible that we won't have too much unemployment for some time to come but I don't see how we can help but have some maladjustment during that period immediately after the war. I think the people deserve the opportunity to get re-established while they can.

Number three is one that I learned only last year. I have studied it in detail. There is one group of agency that is not as busy during wartime as in normal time. That is the welfare group with whom we are planning to work. The reason is that they are not as busy because everybody else is busy making money. They have more time to help us now than they will ever have again. They are interested in maintaining their staff because they are going to have a bigger load later. We have found out in relocation program in Chicago, New York, Cleveland, and other places that they are willing to help us on difficult problems---problems that we couldn't do otherwise. Unfortunately, there will be some people, I presume, in Poston and other centers who will need assistance----who are poor, who are old, who are ill, or for other unfortunate reasons are going to need help. We think it is important that plans be provided for giving that help and also think it is important that some of these agencies learn, while we still have the opportunity, to help those people particularly in need of assistance so that they can be sympathetic and have somebody they can go to after the WRA goes out of existence. Now, all the procedure that we have sum-



med up may not work out 100 per cent; but, we will work out adjustments. And, if it doesn't, we will have to set a program similar to that of the welfare agency, not just because we want to dodge a difficult task, but because we felt that many people of good will have had services to offer us and to be helpful to us so we could get the job done and better services will be rendered, not now but later on. We found that out. That is reason three.

Number four is that very practical reason which we all have to face. We secure our money from the United States Congress. Congress has asked me on every occasion when I have appeared before them to ask for money, how long it would be necessary for relocation centers to continue. My answers have been invariably the same. It will be necessary just so long as the mass of the folks cannot return to the coast. But after the order is lifted, the centers can be closed within a reasonable time and there might be some question again as to what is a reasonable time, but I believe a year was reasonable; I still believe so. Evidently, some people feel that that is too long because Congressman Devorshek introduced a bill to close the centers by July 1, 1945. Now, I don't think the bill will pass; as a matter of fact, it will not pass because of the program outline which we have made available to Congress and to the country with good reasons behind it. I think there is a possibility that this bill might have passed had we not made an announcement and presented good reasons.

The fifth reason is my last one, but one which I think is almost as important as number one. I left it to the last because I want to give it emphasis. You remember I stated in the early part of my speech that that group of people who had been your enemies have been fighting us tooth and toe nail especially during 1942 and 1943, and occasionally, you see a good scrapper sticking his neck out. I noticed in the L. A. Examiner of March 6 that Leland Ford is again calling me names. I feel complimented. Leland Ford was beaten for Congress. My judgment was that part of the people out in his district couldn't put up with the type of thing he had to say about you people and a lot of others. But he is typical of a certain small group of people that I talked about who would like to keep the relocation centers. Now if that little group of people could do it they would like to get legislation passed to have you moved out of the country. Just so long as we keep relocation centers, they will remain as targets for that group to shoot at. Now, I tell you very frankly that I think the backbone of this opposition is cracking. In the next few months, it can be completely broken. If you and I could do our part with the help of those good people that I have told you about. So my fifth reason is that. I don't think that you and I could afford to play squarely into the hands of our enemies. Those are honest reasons.

I hope you believe them and I think you do believe them, and whether you agree with me or not on all the policies and procedures that WRA established, I think you know that some of these things, at least, that I have said this afternoon are true. I am not going to keep you much longer but there are a few things I would like to say.

The people of Japanese ancestry of this country have been considered by those people who know them, including those of us in WRA who have learned to know you, as being a people with pride, who have self-reliance, who have been thrifty, who have quietly gone about your business and gotten your job done in spite of things that may have been said by other groups of people and while you all haven't been saints, you have had a history of the type that I have just mentioned and I want to compliment you for it. But, at the same time, I want to say to you that I don't think that all that pride and self-reliance has been lost and I am sure it has not. We want to do our best to assist you in re-establishing yourselves on a high plane. I think you know that the WRA have been carrying their program out on the basis of certain principles that we laid way back there in the beginning. If you don't find them any place else, you will find them in the record of the Dies Committee presented in July, 1943, if not earlier. I will tell you a few of them, not many.



One of the reasons was that we have assumed that at least the majority of the folks of Japanese ancestry want to continue to live in this country and we have started from there and if that was the case, we have had to fight our battles on those grounds. We believe that, and we still do. That being the case, it was fighting for the principles for which this Constitution stands, that every citizen should have the rights of every other citizen, even if they didn't have at that time; and that every law-abiding alien should have the same rights as other aliens. We have believed that loyalty grows in an atmosphere of friendliness and understanding, not where there are discriminations and restrictions. We have tried to practice that as honestly as we could. We are still fighting along that line, and we expect to continue.

I want to summarize by saying that there are hundreds of people scattered throughout the country who are helping us and friends of yours along the West Coast, as well as the rest of the country who now understand that a lot of the poison that they have been fed for years and years was pure bunk, and some of them are feeling a little ashamed about it. They haven't gotten together, yet, but they are getting together. Of course, the reason is that you understand that because those boys of yours and others have given more dramatic evidence and tangible evidence that kids who have grown up in this United States are willing to fight for it and are showing it. The people are proud of it; so those are the facts and basic reasons that underlie the policies. The policy is definitely established, and there is no turning back. We must go ahead. It is going to be difficult for some of us. It is always difficult to take the first step.

You have been in Poston for  $2\frac{1}{2}$  or  $2\frac{3}{4}$  years. You have been somewhat isolated from what is going on in the country. And, some of you are afraid, and you will never get over being afraid staying in Poston. It doesn't matter whether you go out three years from now. You still will be afraid because you won't know until you try it. The way you get over being afraid is by beginning to make plans for your first step. It is just like learning to walk after being ill for some time. The first day, it is a little hard, but the next day, it is a little easier, and by the end of the week, you will find that you will be able to walk as before. That is what is beginning to happen now. We haven't made any plans to work any hardship on you people. We are not mad at you folks and I think you know that. We are mad at some of your enemies, and we have been for sometime. But your job and my job are the same, and that is to carry out a relocation program during the next few months to be established as quickly as possible in normal communities.

We think we have set up a procedure that will work, and if we find that we need to put a little oil on the squeaks, we will. We want to help you. We will help you. Now, I'm going to stop by saying that I probably won't get back to Poston real soon. I don't know how soon, but I hope to get here reasonably soon; if I don't get here before you are gone, I'll see you in Los Angeles, or Brawley. Yes, I said Brawley; it isn't very far from here or Fresno, Parlier, or Cleveland, Washington, Oregon, Kansas City, Des Moines, or New Orleans, or some other place and if you happen to see me first and if I don't see you, I want you to come to me and say hello, and say the last time I saw you was in Poston. I want to assure you that before I sit down that we haven't taken off our fighting clothes and we aren't going to take it off and we are going to keep them on to finish, and I hope if you had that you would put them back on again. And, we will get this job done together and we will be happier. Thank you very much.

I am happy to be back again in the Arizona sunshine and such a friendly atmosphere.



# MR. MYER'S TALK TO W. R. A.

FRIDAY, December 14, 1945, in Los Angeles, California  
To Southern California Area and District Staffs

(A digest of the most important parts of his address)

We have to tackle one phase of our problem at a time. Now only Tule Lake is left; all the other centers, as you know, are closed. If the Justice Department can finish their job of interviewing, we will be through at Tule Lake by February 1 (1946).

Some people thought that when all the centers were empty, we would be through with our job. But WRA has never thought that.

Now the centers are closed a month sooner than expected, because we couldn't wait and face the problem of holiday-season transportation.

But there is still five months' work ahead in the important area offices. I think there will be jobs enough for those of our staff who wish to stay on until then. The smaller offices in the east will close, are starting to close now in some cases. However, most of our area offices will probably be open until April first, and in a few cases such as in California, longer than that.

The Justice Department has announced another boat soon to leave with voluntary deportees for Japan from Tule Lake. We won't have the exact figure for another week, but it will be about 4,000. All are voluntary repatriates. They have also announced that anyone in a detention status who has requested a hearing will have an individual hearing, after which determination will be made by the Justice Department as to whether they go to Japan or stay in the U.S. This job will be completed before we complete our job.

I am very delighted that we have moved far enough to finish the job without any loose ends. There are still problems and details to be worked out, but committees especially of young veterans can be called in to cooperate now and take over when WRA finishes.

No large number will come to this area (So. Calif.) from Tule Lake, but in a couple of weeks we shall know pretty definitely.

We still have a few "friendly enemies", such as those who predicted we couldn't do the job....but I am "not mad at anyone!" Some thought there should be a few centers kept open for the old people who wish to remain, but we felt otherwise, although sympathetic to their suggestions.



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Generally, a great deal of progress has been made in the past 3 or 4 months. The national restrictions set up in 1942 have been abolished. For instance, civil service will now accept Nisei for almost all jobs. Restrictions on travel and contraband affecting aliens have just been done away with, as you know. The parole status has been changed also. So step by step everything has been taken care of that was standing in the way of free movement of the relocatees on a national level. There are still some state restrictions, on which we are working.

There has been considerable discussion about claims for losses incurred during evacuation. We have had in mind that something should be done on that, but it shouldn't be mixed up with relocation, and so nothing should have been started until the war ended. Now almost immediately after V-J Day I asked the Solicitor's office to start drafting proposals for a bill in Congress which we thought could take care of this. It would allow filing of individual claims which might be properly supported and so receive due consideration by some kind of governmental commission. Just before I left Washington, Secretary Ickes raised the question, and I told him we had been working on this. By the time I get back, I hope we shall have at least a draft of a proposal. It will probably be presented to Congress as a departmental bill, and perhaps it can be passed in a reasonable time. It is not the kind of thing that requires a lot of money. So we believe that job should be done and we are so going to recommend and promote a program of that type.

I personally have believed for a long time that anyone fit to live in this country ought to have the opportunity to become an American citizen. Since 1790 we have had a law on the statutes which for a long time permitted only free whites to become citizens. It was changed in the Civil War with the 14th Amendment. Then there were no changes until 1940; then we found that there were a lot of American Indians who didn't have the opportunity to become American citizens, and the law was revised to include "people of North America". And then recently it was changed to allow the Chinese to come in under quota and obtain citizenship. I think there is a bill relating to Hindus that has passed one of the houses of Congress, and there is a Filipino bill under consideration in committee also. I won't be quite happy until ALL the rest of the group is included. We are going to try to get that job done before we go out of existence. A group of young veterans can help here. I think you know by this time I don't consider anything impossible. If you can find people with a lot of intelligence, "savvy" and guts, they can take the lead on this. I think the time is ripe, even though you will find some people amazed to discover we are so sanguine on this problem.

I think more than anything else that one item stands in the way of complete relocation. That would clear up the alien fishing act and other restrictions of this kind. Citizenship would be the solution to many other problems.



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There is still some public relations work to be done, both national and local, but I think that is pretty much of a case-work job. The general program of public relations is pretty much passed. I think we reached the peak last Saturday, a week ago tomorrow, with the presentation of the D.S.C. to Mary Masuda by Gen. Stilwell and the rally that afternoon at Santa Ana.

From here on we can try to break down individual doors such as labor unions that resist relocatees as members, employment, and other such unfinished jobs -- on a job-to-job basis. That will be about it, other than the reports and news we have to get out.

We still have a report job on a national level, and I am going to start on mine soon. I hope you will start on yours so I can refer to your reports and have mine in shape within the next six months!

Mr. Lee and I have been to Seattle, Portland, Tule Lake and northern California, and now we have been here (in Los Angeles) since Sunday (Dec. 9.) In the northwest the housing problem is solved because of closing of the shipyards. And there is no discrimination against relocatees in such housing. Everyone who wants an apartment or a house can get it, up there, even though it may be a little far out. Of course everyone wants to live back within about two or three blocks of where he lived before -- that is part of the problem we have. I was in San Pedro, and it seems everyone has moved back there.

There are still some spots where employment hasn't opened up as it should. And there are problems of finding lands, for leasing, especially lands with houses on them. Yes, there are still real problems like these, but they are minor. Where we didn't have a group to work with last spring in the way of committees, we are just that much late in getting things opened up, but we are not too late, because things are opening up very rapidly now.

Now as to your local problems. I am perfectly delighted with the job that has been done to date, including Southern California. Yes, I can find some things to criticize -- so can you. We have just gone through the phase of having hundreds of people move in. The problem is entirely different today than it was last month and the month before. Our problem now will require a complete re-inventory -- not only the general job, but each individual family and each individual.

I expect that before we're through, the area supervisor can present a statement on each individual to show that nothing has been overlooked, that every service possible has been taken care of, or else put in the hands of private and public agencies that can and will complete them after WRA goes out of the picture. But there won't be anything we can't finish ourselves, except for those cases that necessarily require much time to work out.



- 4 -

So the first step is to take this inventory, and we should start with the problems that are most evident today. As I understand it, there has been a program laid out in the Los Angeles district, and I hope the same will be true in the other districts. We can therefore by January 10, not later, know just what kind of a problem we have in each individual case that is in temporary housing, in the six housing projects, and how many are employable and what kind of employment, both as to what they want and are suited for -- and whether or not they are welfare cases, and so on.

We don't want too much detail, but we must have the necessary information so that when I ask Mr. Robertson how many families and how many people, and whether they should go into agricultural work or stay in Los Angeles, he will know, and also know what individual is responsible -- and that the job will be done.

So we must get the facts together. First we should reinventory the housing projects, especially those that came in last, for those we know least about. Then, the same process on the hostels. Then, the third step, those that are still maladjusted and are crowded into other people's homes, and who have problems getting into labor unions, and so on. With that approach I think the problems will break down pretty rapidly.

We will make reassignments of everybody who wants to work, and who thinks he is qualified to do a job, so we can put them where we think they can do the best job. There may be some questions, but once those are decided, there should not be any question about it -- and if there is, it should be discussed only with the district and area supervisors, not with outsiders. We have had in the past cases where WRA people didn't seem to realize they should keep some of our problems inside the family!

I think we can line up our program so that other agencies can do their job, so we can work with them, and they can take what's left to be done after we are finished.

There is no "apostrophe"-"t" on the end of the word CAN!

I think people realize that because we had a plan, and had faith, and had a group of workers, and had intelligent supervision amongst the centers, leadership that realized the job had to be done -- it was done.

We are going to need the help of every agency that can assist, for the more responsibility they take now, the more they will take after we leave the program.

And we want to be sure we do the jobs that will be assigned to us. After we have taken this inventory, we will all know what our assignment is, and we can get the job done without doing anyone any injustice.



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For the most part, the last group of relocatees to leave the centers are the ones who will normally need the most help in getting housed, employed, and so on. For they are the least aggressive and have been the most maladjusted people always. We should find opportunities for them and kindly but firmly see that they accept those opportunities.

The most unkind thing we could do would be to reinstitute "secondary housing projects" like relocation centers. We have gotten 105,000 people out of the centers, relocated to date on an "indefinite leave" basis, and there are about 7,500 at Tule Lake -- some of whom will go to Japan, and some of whom will locate outside, mostly on the coast, probably joining relatives already relocated. But we are not going to establish relocation centers here -- we don't dare do it. We must get them out of barracks!

I have no question but what we have the intelligence, the ingenuity, the working ability, and the time to do this job. I have no question also but what we have the loyalty to get this job done, and the understanding.

It isn't my job to go further into detail. I am going to leave that to Mr. Lee and Mr. Robertson.

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IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS:

Q. How about loans to help finance relocatees who are broke?

A. I do not believe this is a good idea, nor is it a major problem. If the people get out and work they can get by OK financially, without need of such loans.

Q. How about the residual tasks left after WRA finishes?

A. I hope and expect there will be committees of young veterans, and others, to devote part or full time assistance to helping people who have difficulties. I am not recommending the continuation of WRA (beyond the fiscal year, July 1, 1946) for this work. People will have to stand on their own feet again.

Q. How about the relocation of the WRA staff itself?

A. I advise filing Form 57s if you haven't already, as soon as possible, as WRA is actively working to place its people with other government agencies.

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Johnson  
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JAP RELOCATION HEAD DEFENDS COURSE OF W. R. A. AND REVEALS ITS HISTORY

(Dillon Myer Flatly Denies Charges Evacuees are Pampered;  
Believes Tests and Records as to Loyalty Adequate)

"When the evacuation of people of Japanese ancestry was first announced--in early March, 1942--the real point was that their presence complicated the problems of defense in a sensitive and threatened military zone.

----On March 27, the Commanding General of the Western Defense Command issued the so-called 'freeze' order, and two days later voluntary migration came abruptly to an end.

----Relocation centers were never intended as concentration camps or prisons. They were established primarily as an expedient--to provide communities where the evacuated people could live while long-range relocation plans were being developed.

----Before the 1942 harvest season ended, nearly 10,000 evacuees, recruited from centers for seasonal work under a group leave program, had harvested enough beets to provide a year's sugar ration for nearly 10,000,000 people.

----By mid-summer of 1942, four centers were in operation, housing nearly one-third of the evacuee population, but already evidence was beginning to accumulate that relocation centers could never be developed into normal communities.

----The War Relocation Authority adopted a policy making it possible for American citizen evacuees who had never lived or studied in Japan to leave the relocation centers indefinitely, after investigation, in order that they might take full-time jobs and establish residence in normal communities. Later on, toward the end of September, that policy was broadened so that any resident of a relocation center--citizen or alien--might apply for indefinite leave, outside of the evacuated areas.

----We have been bending over backwards in the precautions we have taken. The federal government has more information concerning the people in relocation centers than it has on any other group.

----If there is any evidence from any source that the evacuee might endanger the national safety or interfere with the war effort, permission for indefinite leave is denied.

----The names of nearly 90 percent of the adult evacuees have now been checked through FBI and the job should be completed in the next few weeks.

----If popular opinion seems to run strongly against the acceptance of any person of Japanese descent, the evacuee is so advised and is urged not to relocate in that particular area.

----Ever since the present leave program was adopted last September, we have been trying to convince the evacuated people that relocation in normal communities is the best course.

----The evacuees read the same newspapers as the rest of us and listen to the same radio programs. Many are reluctant to leave the centers to face a public that seems predominantly hostile.

----At the present time, there are almost 35,000 people of Japanese descent outside relocation centers, yet in all these months of war, not one case of sabotage on the part of any person of Japanese descent has been reported from any reliable source.

----The argument that the people of Japanese descent must be kept in confinement for their own protection is remarkably similar to the justification the Nazi regime has sometimes advanced for its treatment of the Jews.

----The stories about evacuees enjoying a better diet than the average civilian are not true. Cost of feeding over the past several months has ranged from 34 to 42 cents per person per day. All rationing restrictions applicable to the civilian population are strictly followed.



----Evacuee residents live in plain frame barracks partitioned into family-size apartments. A family of six or seven people will ordinarily occupy a room about 20 by 25 feet. In the barracks there is no running water, no cooking facilities, no baths or toilets. However, each block of 12 or 14 barracks--accommodating between 250 and 300 people--is provided with a mess hall and a bath and laundry building.

----Education is provided through the high school level.

----All evacuees at relocation centers have been provided with medical care and hospitalization when needed and these services are supplied largely by evacuee doctors and nurses.

----In operating the centers, we have always made maximum use of evacuee manpower.

----The exterior boundaries of each project area are guarded by military police.

----We have had our most serious problems at the four oldest centers, established by early summer, 1942, before the W.R.A. had really worked out many of its most fundamental policies.

----Following the Manzanar incident, we took steps to strengthen our internal security system at the centers and established a special isolation center for persistent and incorrigible trouble-makers.

----Alien evacuees who incite trouble are certified to the Department of Justice and transferred to internment camps.

----It has taken time to develop individual records on all the evacuees at the centers, but we are now in a position where we can make a reasonable determination of loyalties on every adult individual.

----During February and early March an army recruitment program was carried out. The W.R.A. with Army collaboration, carried out a vast registration program of all evacuees at centers over 17 years of age.

----Each adult evacuee was required to fill out a form that would provide extensive data on his background, attitudes, and organizational affiliations. One question on that form that has come in for widespread public attention is the so-called 'loyalty question' No. 28.

----Aliens were asked to swear that they would abide by the laws of the United States and not interfere with the war effort. But citizen evacuees were asked to make a definite declaration of loyalty.

----Eighty-eight percent of those who registered answered "yea" to question 28 without qualification. Seventy-four percent of citizen males who registered answered 'yes' as did 85 percent of the citizen females who registered, and 97 percent of the aliens who registered.

----We are going to separate those evacuees who have indicated--either by expressed opinion or persistent action--that their loyalty lies with Japan in the current hostilities and maintain them in a center by themselves. The first group to be segregated will be those who have requested repatriation or expatriation to Japan and who have not withdrawn their applications prior to July 1, 1942.

----End product of this segregation program will be one center composed entirely of evacuees who have indicated in effect they want to be Japanese. They will receive fair, decent treatment; they will be adequately guarded, and will not be generally eligible for leave.

----There will be nine other centers of evacuees whose records and statements indicate they want to be Americans. All these people will be eligible for leave from centers outside designated military areas.

----My own experience convinces me the great bulk of the Nisei (second-generation group) are wholeheartedly American in all their fundamental attitudes and loyalties.



----We have been aware our program is being watched by the Japanese government and that it might provide a pattern for treatment of American nationals--both soldiers and civilians--in Japanese hands. We have also borne in mind reactions in other parts of the Orient--in China, India, and other countries whose collaboration we need in the fight against the Tokyo end of the Axis.

----We have assumed that the great majority of the people of Japanese ancestry now in this country will remain here after the war and continue to be good citizens or law-abiding aliens.

----We believe it is possible to distinguish between the loyal and the disloyal people of Japanese ancestry to a degree that will safeguard the national security. We believe that loyalty grows and sustains itself only when it is given a chance.

----If these assumptions are accepted, it becomes extremely difficult to justify the wholesale detention of all persons of Japanese descent in relocation centers.

----If the leave program is successful, a large number of the evacuees will re-establish themselves in other parts of the country, where they can be absorbed readily.

----It is hard to understand why residents or officials of California or other west coast states would oppose rather than support a program of relocation and dispersion which provides the only sensible answer to one of the most pressing social problems the West Coast and the Nation has faced."



been necessary to have a procedure whereby we could satisfy military authorities and Department of Justice officials that the internal security of the country is not jeopardized by release of persons of Japanese ancestry. Leave Clearance is extremely valuable in reassuring the public that those Japanese they saw on the streets were safe Japanese. This is invaluable in allaying distrust and fear, which were the primary emotions behind the evacuation. The slowness with which this is accomplished was a detriment and led to discouragement and further frustration, but it is such a tremendous job that it couldn't be done as fast as advisable.

Registration--about which you know more than I. The main objects of the registration are to restore the rights of citizens to serve their country and to speed the process of leave clearance by immediate registration of all rather than longer voluntary "applications for leave clearance."

Organization of the Relocation Offices. The new set up represents a change from the original small Employment Division staff attached to the old Regional Offices since the increase in emphasis on Relocation. The original plan of organization was partly held up by a "Freeze Order." There are five Regional Territory Relocation Offices, with a total personnel of 150,90 officers. These are located in Denver, Salt Lake City, Kansas City, Chicago and Cleveland. Each of the main Relocation Offices spreads out through its territory, and has from 8 to 11 outside or field offices



which are in charge of a Relocation Officer and an assistant. They are the eyes and ears and the muscles of the Outside Relocation Program.

The functions of the Territorial or Regional Relocation Office are to coordinate and direct activities of the Relocation Officers in the Field Stations. Another function is the liaison work between the Regional and Field Relocation Offices and the War Manpower Commission and USES, the U. S. Department of Agriculture, large employers, state governments, and the projects. They have a general responsibility for public relations and publicity through the area.

Determinations are made, on the basis of reports from Field Relocation Officers, of unfavorable communities and to furnish this information to the Project Directors.

Records are maintained of all evacuees in the territory and their employment status.

The employment opportunities in the area are analyzed and this basic data is furnished to the Vocational Retraining Committee at Washington for their guidance.

Assistance is given to the field office in instances where it is advisable--as where incidents develop or where political flare-ups occur.

Some of the functions of the Field Officers are to investigate employment offers in order to maintain fair standards of housing accommodations, wages, and working conditions. Investigation is made to ascertain local community



sentiment and, where advisable, public relations work is done by means of educational talks, publicity, individual discussions to develop a favorable attitude toward the relocation program among church groups, the press, farmers organizations, business men, and public officials in his district. He also aids in maintaining good labor relations and in mediating disputes between employers and evacuees. He aids the evacuees in keeping employed, and in their social adjustment to the problems of relocation.

Activities and prospects in field of employment. In the Salt Lake and Denver territories the opportunities are heavily agricultural. There are not so many opportunities for industrial and professional placement. We need to shift people already here to higher class occupations.

In Kansas City, Chicago and Cleveland there are many more opportunities for technically trained persons. There are about 4,000 persons out now on indefinite leave and in permanent employment now. It is hoped that there will be many times that number in the next six months. In the Denver area--since I don't know the picture elsewhere--there are too many domestics and unskilled workers. There are cases of mis-placement where technical men and secretaries are working as domestics and hotel workers. We are working to develop higher types of employment both for those here and those still on the projects. We are



having difficulties over the housing situation in Denver and in northern Colorado.

I believe that dispersal is the solution to the minority problems. If we can give Coloradans and New Mexicans and others a chance to know what the nisei are like by the close contacts of working with them, eating with them, going to church or school or theaters with them, much of the prejudice will disappear.

Concretely, what sort of employment is available? What may become available in the future? Here is what we find in Denver: 2 chemists at a railroad company and plastic manufacturer; 1 accountant at Farm Security Administration; 8 stock clerks at OEM and private jobs; 4 photographers, retouchers and kindred employment; 2 receptionists-secretaries in dentists' office; 2 beauty operators; 2 wholesale clothiers; 1 hardware clerk; 5 secretaries, 6 stenographers; 3 mechanics--auto--15 assemblers of cases at Robbins Incubator Company; 8 assemblers at Ace Box Co.; 6 engineering assistants; 8 secretaries and stenographers in federal agencies; 15 stenographers and translators and radio speakers at OWI; 100 language instructors at the Navy Language School in Boulder; 5 pressers and spotters; 12 florists and nursery workers; 1 florist designers; 3 power machine operators;--manufacturing flags etc.

We have many requests now for workers of these skills, particularly high class auto and tractor



mechanics. All of the skills required in the cleaning industry are very much in demand and several establishments are willing to use our people. Dental technicians are also requested.

It is believed that opportunities can be developed for doctors, dentists, beauticians, hair stylists, machinists, registered nurses, laboratory technicians and possibly draftsmen, electricians, as well as additional jobs similar to those already occupied by evacuees.

I am extremely glad that this conference is being held because I now have an opportunity to bring to your attention certain problems that have appeared in the projects. These are problems which you as educators are in an excellent position to solve and by their solution to aid the Relocation Program tremendously.

The attitudes of the evacuees to relocation are as follows: Indecision in accepting satisfactory outside employment; fear of adverse public sentiment; impatience with the delays of leave clearance which turns into discouragement; lack of courage to leave the comparative security of the project; the sheer inertia that apparently comes to people when there is paternal governmental care; loss of self-reliance and the independent, self-confident attitude of mind most had previous to evacuation; development of what has become known as the WPA attitude--characterized by loss of initiative; loss of confidence in



American ideals of fair treatment, equal opportunity, civil rights; loss of faith in governmental promises because too many were loosely given during and after the evacuation process; irresponsible attitude toward employers; petty chiseling and bargaining.

Mr. John Embree has brought out many of these attitudes and the reasons therefore far better than I can in his Second Community Analysis Report #2 issued in February.

The other day I asked some of our Relocation Officers to give me their impression of what was wrong with the attitude of evacuees--what things were holding up their acceptance of outside employment--things which the Educational System might be able to correct. I will read a few of these ideas:

It is apparent that many Japanese do not wish to leave the Projects for security reasons. They hesitate to take outside employment because they are afraid of losing their jobs, or not being able to get along on the pay they will receive. Some are afraid of the treatment they will receive.

Despite the fact that they have been advised they may return to the camp when they are without jobs, many seem to feel they will not be able to return. Most of them have an exaggerated idea of the cost of living. For example, one girl told me a single girl couldn't live on less than \$160 a month. When I told her that many girls in Government Service were supporting themselves and dependent



on less, she was surprised, but seemed to accept my explanation. Someone at the Relocation Centers should explain these things to the evacuees and school officials and teachers seem eminently fitted for this job. It is my impression that many of the Japanese are content to remain in the camps. There seems to be great danger of their losing their ambition.

They should be encouraged to speak the English language at all times. Unfortunately, many of the teachers of English are Japanese and speak with an accent. American speech, customs, and manners should be adopted. Young women seem to be farther advanced than young men along these lines.

American forms of recreation should be encouraged.

Every effort should be made to keep alive the patriotism of loyal American Japanese. This could be done in the school rooms, and through patriotic celebrations.

The attitude that the Government owes the Japanese a living since the uprooting of the people from their jobs has various manifestations; such as use of the "center" as a "crutch" to which they turn at evidence of feeling against them outside the center; refusal to accept indefinite leave because of the "safety" the camp offers; the desire to retain rights to hospitalization and educational facilities for the evacuee himself or



for members of the family.

There is of course much reason for bitterness and discouragement on the part of evacuees. If the Education Section does nothing more than to neutralize this bitterness and stimulate their courage and faith that they still have a future here in America it will be a great contribution. Let them realize that they have many friends here and throughout the states--friends who believe in them and their loyalty and the contribution they can make to this country. Don't let them lose their faith; if they have already lost it, build it up again by any means possible. Here is an unexcelled opportunity for you to use educational techniques and educational psychology to change these present attitudes to attitudes of mind that will enable evacuees to proceed to outside employment and resume normal life with a real chance to make a success of relocation.

Pre-release counseling with individuals can be very helpful. Development of a normal approach to the problems they will face is important. Just as everyone on the outside is making adjustment to wartime problems, so do they. The difference is not so great in degree as evacuees think--it is one of kind rather than degree.

There are two phases of this relocation program: One is working with the outside public, including the employer; the other advising the evacuees who are coming



out somewhat apprehensively to meet and live with that public.

Our job in the Relocation Office is to gauge the temper of that public and do our best to develop understanding, tolerance and goodwill or at least fair play toward evacuees.

Your job can be tremendously valuable in conditioning the evacuees to an understanding of outside problems and public attitudes and a willingness--even better, a desire to go forth and meet outside life wisely, tolerantly, courageously. Only thus will they solve the problem for themselves and their children and the future of those of Japanese descent in America.

This may be accomplished by reading assignments in the schools; by forums and discussion groups and the dissemination of information on the work of the Relocation Offices.

Now there is developing another place where the Education Section can perform a vital service in connection with the Relocation Program. I am referring to the development of the Vocational Retraining Program. As I see it, the success of this program is a joint responsibility of the Education Section of Community Services and the Employment Division of which these Relocation Offices are a part.

I think we are finding many people on the projects who are eager to get out--or at least would go outside if they felt they had a chance--but whose occupations are now



closed to them; whose education or training was cut short by evacuation; or whose skills have grown rusty with disuse, requiring brush-up courses.

For these people Vocational Re-training is vital. It is the first essential step in their rehabilitation to take an active part in normal life and to utilize their abilities productively for their own good, and for the benefit of their country.

Now I'm very practical about re-training. I do not believe it is successful or has its greatest meaning unless it leads directly to job placement. To me it means nothing unless it helps an evacuee to secure employment for which he is fitted by background or native skills. This is what an effective, well-planned Vocational Re-training program can and should accomplish. I believe unless we are reasonably sure we can place people in a given trade, it is wasted effort to train them in that occupation. And the effect on a trainee's morale will be terrific if you don't get him a job.

Our two divisions need to and must work together on this re-training program. Let me give an example. Because of the shortage of sheet-metal workers, it was considered that there should be a good opportunity for training of evacuees to become metal-workers. Mr. Samler, Supervisor of the Vocational Retraining Program, came to Denver recently and had a conference with this Relocation Office to see if the opportunities really were there. We advised him to the



contrary, and he got a similar advice from the War Manpower Commission and business men. Later he found by similar inquiry elsewhere that this was nationally true. If he had proceeded on the theory of the need without checking with the Relocation Office and other agencies in the field, a serious mistake might have been made. We might have had 500 welders or other metal workers with nothing to do--except cuss the Re-training program.

We in these field offices will make analyses of employment opportunities to the best of our ability, and will send this data to the committee in Washington. We hope you will interpret and make good use of those figures which the Washington Committee send out, as they will be made up from reports from Relocation Supervisors in the field.

This data will be sent you to give you as accurate a picture as we can paint of employment opportunities for evacuees. It will aid you in setting up training courses by giving you a good clue as to what opening the Labor Market may furnish.

From this you can see how heavily we must count on you people in the Education Division. This Vocational Retraining Program is a co-operative venture and we need your support and your suggestions, and we will give you ours wholeheartedly.



In closing I would like to ask you for suggestions:  
How can the Employment Division and the Education Section  
work more closely on Relocation problems and on Vocational  
Re-training for the greater benefit of evacuees?



## A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

The lifting of the blanket exclusion orders by the Western Defense Command is undoubtedly the most significant event since evacuation both in the lives of the evacuated people and in the program of the War Relocation Authority. To the great majority of the evacuees, it means full restoration of the freedom of movement which is enjoyed by all other loyal citizens and law-abiding aliens in the United States. To the War Relocation Authority, it signifies the beginning of the final phase of the relocation program.

Our prime objective in WRA, as always, is to restore the people residing in relocation centers to private life in normal communities. The lifting of the exclusion orders makes it possible to broaden the scope of this program and put it for the first time on a completely nationwide basis. Within the next few weeks WRA will establish field relocation offices at key points in the evacuated area and will extend assistance to those who have good reason to return. At the same time, we shall also continue our relocation offices and assistance for those who wish to locate in other parts of the country.

Although the WRA is now entering the final phase of its program, the relocation centers will not be closed immediately. All of them will remain in operation for several months so that all the residents will have reasonable and adequate time and opportunity for the development of sound relocation plans.

During the period ahead, many of the facilities at the centers will have to be sharply curtailed as the population declines. Schools, however, will be continued through the current school year. This will enable families with school-age children sufficient time to plan their relocation so that the pupils may reenter school in their new communities at the beginning of the fall term. All the really essential services at the centers, including mess operations, housing, and medical care, will of course be provided until the time each center actually closes.

The re-opening of the evacuated area and the broadening of the relocation program come at a fortunate time for the evacuated people. Largely as a result of the splendid record which your sons, brothers, and husbands have achieved in the armed services, the American public has come increasingly to a recognition of the essential good faith and loyalty that characterize the great majority of people of Japanese descent. Today the evacuees as a group have more friends and supporters throughout the Nation than at any previous time. They are being accepted in hundreds of communities as fellow-workers, friends, and neighbors. The removal of the restrictions that formerly applied in the West Coast area underscores this growing public acceptance and should help to bring about even more widespread recognition of the fact that the great majority of the evacuees are loyal and law-abiding people.

It is fortunate, too, that the WRA program enters its final phase at a time when there is a good demand for workers in war plants, in civilian goods production, in service occupations, and on the farms. Both from the standpoint of the national welfare and the evacuees' long-range economic security, it is highly important that the people now residing at the relocation centers make the transition back to private life at a time when employment opportunities are still plentiful.



Recognizing that there are a number of people in the relocation centers who have not been able to relocate previously because they are incapable of self-support, the War Relocation Authority is now making intensive efforts to meet this problem by mobilizing facilities and resources that are available for public assistance in normal communities throughout the Nation. Special funds have been provided by Congress through the Federal Security Agency for the assistance of needy people who have been displaced from their homes by restrictive governmental action. All evacuees -- both citizens and aliens -- who are in need of such assistance are eligible to apply for it under the terms of this Federal law. In addition, old age assistance and grants to certain other types of handicapped people are available to both citizen and alien evacuees as they are to all persons who can qualify under the regular programs of the Federal Security Agency. In the development of individual or family relocation plans at the centers, the Welfare Section will give special attention to those who may need some form of public assistance after relocation. In all cases of this kind, the specific needs of the family or individual will be presented in advance of relocation through the WRA field office to the appropriate agency in the community of proposed resettlement. Wherever individuals or families find themselves in need of public assistance after relocation, the WRA field offices will help to facilitate arrangements with the appropriate state or local agency. In view of the funds that are available and the arrangements that are being made, the War Relocation Authority feels wholly confident that no evacuee will be deprived of adequate means of subsistence by reason of the closing of the centers.

It is possible that some evacuees who have relocated outside the evacuated area will now wish to avail themselves of the opportunity of returning to their former homes. The final decision as to whether this is the best thing to do rests with the individual relocatee. Many have homes, business connections, or close personal friends in the evacuated area and will be anxious to get back to them. On the other hand, many relocatees have found new friends and much greater opportunities, both social and economic, than they enjoyed prior to evacuation. There is every indication that these greater opportunities will continue for most persons. The WRA believes that all relocatees should carefully consider all factors before breaking their present connections and moving back to their old home communities. It should be remembered that the entire West Coast area has undergone a tremendous change since evacuation. Hundreds of thousands of war workers have moved into the area. Housing is difficult to obtain and living conditions are extremely complex and expensive. Many relocatees will find that it will be much easier and more advantageous to have Center family members join them in their present location than to dislocate themselves again to return to something new and untried.

If after careful consideration and investigation the relocatee decides to return to his former home he should see his local relocation officer. The Authority will furnish the usual types of relocation assistance to such people provided they have a sound plan for resettlement in the evacuated area and provided that certain other requirements, such as those of the War Manpower Commission, are met. This assistance will be available for the duration of the relocation program and there will be no need to make hasty decisions in order to qualify for it. It will be available only in the field and cannot be obtained if the evacuee returns to a relocation center or the evacuated area without the approval of the relocation officer.

Those relocated evacuees who have close family relatives still residing at the centers and who need to consult with these family members in the development



of relocation plans may apply at the nearest WRA field office for permission to visit the center. However, in view of the War Manpower Commission regulations governing job transfers and the congested transportation facilities in the vicinity of the centers, it is exceedingly important that all relocated evacuees desiring to return to the centers at this time actually obtain such advance approval. Those who attempt to come back without it may be denied admission to the center and may become ineligible for all future relocation assistance.

More detailed information on the policies and procedures which the War Relocation Authority will follow in the final phase of its program, insofar as these have now been determined, is contained in the attached bulletin. As additional policy decisions are made and procedures further clarified, every effort will be made to provide the essential information both to the people at the relocation centers and to those who have relocated.

In conveying this message to you, I want to express my sincere appreciation of the fine, cooperative attitude which has been displayed by the overwhelming majority of the evacuated people over the past two and one-half years under the most trying of circumstances. All of you who have already left the relocation centers or who will be leaving in the next several months have my very best wishes for a successful and satisfying life in the communities where you choose to make your homes.

*D. J. Myer*  
Director



## SUMMARY OF WRA POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE FINAL PHASE OF THE RELOCATION PROGRAM.

Now that the blanket exclusion orders have been lifted, the War Relocation Authority has made a number of basic policy decisions covering the immediate future of its program. These decisions are:

- (1) WRA assistance will now be made available for relocation in the evacuated area on the same basis as elsewhere.
- (2) All relocation centers will be closed within a period of six months to one year after the revocation of the exclusion orders. No center, however, will be closed without three month's advance notice to the residents.
- (3) Essential services at the relocation centers -- food, housing, and medical care -- will be provided until the centers close. Schools will be maintained at the centers through the end of the present school year.
- (4) Relocation in areas outside the evacuated zone will continue.
- (5) WRA assistance will be extended, within certain prescribed limits, to evacuees who have previously relocated and who now wish to return to the evacuated area.
- (6) There will be no further processing of evacuees for leave clearance and leave permits will no longer be necessary for relocation. Relocation assistance, however, will be made available only to those whose relocation plans are approved by WRA.
- (7) Arrangements will be made with appropriate state and local agencies to provide public assistance throughout the country for those evacuees who are incapable of self-support.

### RELOCATION ASSISTANCE

*Relocation offices* will be established in the immediate future at key points throughout the evacuated area. These offices, like those already functioning in other sections of the country, will assist relocating evacuees in a wide variety of ways to become satisfactorily established in the communities where they decide to make their homes. In this effort the field offices of WRA will call on the resources and facilities of a great many public and private agencies which have indicated their willingness to cooperate in the relocation program. Relocation offices, both in the evacuated area and elsewhere, will be maintained for a period of not more than two months after all relocation centers have been closed.

*Travel grants* will hereafter be made available to all evacuees whose relocation plans are approved by the War Relocation Authority. This will apply both to those who are leaving the centers for the first time for relocation to any part of the country and those previously relocated who have an approved plan for resettling in the evacuated area.

*Relocation grants* and subsistence while en route will be provided to center residents, as previously, only upon application and on the basis of actual need.



*Leave permits* will no longer be required of evacuees wishing to leave the relocation centers for purposes of relocation. However, those who leave without having their relocation plans approved by the WRA, will not be eligible either for relocation assistance or for re-entry to the center. Seasonal leave and trial indefinite leave will no longer be available. Short-term leave will be retained in its present form. Travel for the purpose of investigating relocation opportunities in the evacuated area, however, will be at the evacuees's own expense.

*Visits to relocation centers*, either by relocated evacuees or by residents of other centers, for the development of family relocation plans must be approved in advance by the Project Director of the center where the visiting evacuee resides or (in the case of relocated evacuees) by the nearest WRA field office. Those who undertake trips of this kind without obtaining such approval may be denied admission to the center and may become ineligible for all future relocation assistance.

*Re-induction* for residence at the centers will no longer be possible once an evacuee has left for the purpose of relocation.

#### PROPERTY ASSISTANCE

*Transportation of household goods and personal effects*, like travel assistance, will hereafter be available to all relocating evacuees whose relocation plans are approved by WRA. This will include transportation (1) from a WRA warehouse in the evacuated area to a point of relocation anywhere in the United States (except that those relocating within a reasonable trucking distance of the warehouse will be expected to provide their own delivery service), (2) from a relocation center to a point of relocation anywhere in the United States, (3) from a railhead in any community outside the evacuated area to a point of approved relocation within the evacuated area, and (4) from a railhead in the evacuated area (in cases where properties are now in private storage) to a point of approved relocation anywhere in the United States. As previously, the WRA will provide assistance and materials for the crating of such property both at the WRA warehouses in the evacuated area and at the relocation centers. However, those evacuees whose goods are being moved from a point of private storage within the evacuated area or from a point of previous relocation outside the evacuated area will provide their own crating facilities and deliver the property at the nearest railhead. At the receiving end, properties of relocating evacuees will be delivered at the railhead nearest the point of relocation.

*WRA warehouses* in the evacuated area will be maintained for a period of not more than three months after the closing of all relocation centers. Evacuees who have property in storage at these warehouses and who return to the evacuated area will be required to remove their goods from the warehouses within a period of 60 days after their return.

*Other types of property assistance* will continue to be available through the Evacuee Property Offices and the Assistant Solicitor's office in the evacuated area as well as through the Evacuee Property Officers and the Project Attorneys at the relocation centers. Such service will be maintained within the evacuated area for a period of not more than three months after all relocation centers are closed. However, when an evacuee returns to an area in



which his property is located, assistance will not be given beyond a 60-day period.

*Contraband property*, such as cameras and radios, previously surrendered by citizen evacuees to the United States Government may now be returned to the owners. Citizen evacuees should make application to the War Relocation Authority on prescribed forms (WRA-156 and WRA-260) supplying whatever identifying information or receipts they may have. Contraband property surrendered by alien evacuees cannot be recovered at the present time.

### WELFARE ASSISTANCE TO RELOCATEES

The War Relocation Authority will make every effort to see that adequate assistance is provided outside the relocation centers through the appropriate public welfare agencies for evacuees who are incapable of self-support or who are in need of financial aid in an emergency situation. Special funds, appropriated by Congress to provide such assistance for people who have been affected by government restrictions, are available to needy evacuees from state and local welfare agencies. Such assistance is available to both citizen and alien evacuees alike.

*Public assistance* is available under this program to evacuees who need medical care, money for rent or groceries, or money for emergency living expenses. Those needing such assistance should consult the nearest public welfare office or the nearest field office of the War Relocation Authority. They should be prepared to describe their financial resources in some detail. Depending on the individual situation, the welfare office may provide personal help in solving the problem or may furnish cash resources for the purchase of the needed goods or services. Cash grants of this kind are available on the basis of actual need even though the applicant may not be a resident of the community where he is making application, even though he may be employed, and even though he may have property which is not in expendable form.

*Special aid for the aged, the blind, and needy children* is available to relocating evacuees, as it is to all other persons in these categories, under Federal programs which are administered by state agencies. For more detailed information on these types of assistance, evacuees should consult the nearest public welfare office or the nearest field office of the WRA.

*Assistance for dependents of servicemen* is now being extended under the Dependency Allowance and Allotment Act. Relocated evacuees desiring detailed information about such assistance should consult the nearest office of the American Red Cross.

*Social insurance* may now be obtained by evacuees over 65 years of age whose employers withheld part of their salary for this purpose prior to evacuation. Those who believe themselves eligible for such insurance should consult the nearest field relocation office or the welfare section at the center for the name and address of the nearest field office of the Bureau of Old Age and Survivors Insurance of the Social Security Board. Full particulars may be obtained by writing or visiting the latter office. The applicant should furnish the Social Security Board office with his Social Security number and with essential information about his pre-evacuation employment.



## CENTER OPERATIONS

*Essential services* -- food, housing, and medical care -- will be provided for the residents of each center until the date when that center actually closes. In some cases, it may be necessary, because of shortage of trained personnel, to close the hospital at the center before the center is completely de-populated. If this should happen at any center, WRA will make arrangements for providing necessary medical service at some outside hospital.

*Schools* will be maintained at the centers at least through the end of the present school year in June, 1945. If summer sessions are found to be necessary at any of the centers, the schools may be kept open beyond that date but in any case not later than August 31, 1945.

*Business Enterprises*, including all types of cooperative stores and services, will be encouraged to continue operations as long as possible, taking into consideration the time required for orderly liquidation.

*Farm operations* at the centers will be sharply curtailed. Both vegetable and feed crops planted during the fall of 1944 will be harvested at all centers. No crops will be planted during 1945 except at Gila River and Poston. At those two centers, the vegetable crop program previously planned, with some modifications for declining population, will be carried out. Hog feeding will be continued based on anticipated declining population so that all hogs can be slaughtered and consumed before the closing of the center. No more feeder cattle will be purchased and any cattle remaining on hand at the time of center closing will be sold. No additional chickens will be purchased and both meat birds and laying hens will be slaughtered and consumed well in advance of the closing date for the center.

## MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

*Travel permits* must be obtained by all alien evacuees before the travel is actually undertaken. Aliens at the relocation centers going out on relocation either to the West Coast or elsewhere may obtain permits covering travel to the original point of destination by applying to the relocation office at the center. All those outside the centers desiring to travel either back to the centers or to another community should apply for a permit at the office of the United States Attorney for the district in which they are currently residing. Within five days after reaching the point of destination on any type of travel, alien evacuees must report their new address to the Alien Registration Division, Immigration and Naturalization Service at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and to the Federal Bureau of Investigation field office mentioned in the alien's certificate of registration. If there is any further change of address, the same requirements apply.

*Travel to Hawaii and Alaska* is controlled by the War Department. Evacuees wishing to go to either of these territories should apply to the Office of the Provost Marshal General, War Department, Washington, D. C.

*Frozen funds* are not affected by the lifting of the exclusion orders. Alien evacuees eligible for relocation throughout the United States whose assets have been frozen and who now wish to regain possession of them should



consult the nearest office of WRA. In justifiable cases, arrangements will be made for taking the matter up with the Foreign Funds Control Division of the Treasury Department.

*Legal residence* of evacuees in the states from which they were evacuated has not been affected by reason of their having lived in a relocation center. Those who have relocated and who have acquired legal residence in other states, however, can regain legal residence in the states of the evacuated area only in accordance with the provisions of the state law.

*Voluntary evacuees* who have never resided in relocation centers and who have an approved plan for returning to the evacuated area are eligible for relocation assistance (if they request it) on the same basis as persons who have been relocated from WRA centers. For this purpose, a voluntary evacuee is defined as a person of Japanese ancestry who left the evacuated area in response to government urging between February 16, 1942 and the date when voluntary movement from that area was prohibited by military order (March 29, 1942 in the case of Military Area No. 1; June 2, 1942, for the remainder of California) or who later departed by special permission of the Western Defense Command. Application should be made at the nearest field office of WRA.

*Deportees and parolees* now residing at relocation centers may relocate under sponsorship arrangements approved by the Department of Justice, and are eligible for relocation assistance on the same basis as other evacuees. Full particulars may be obtained from the relocation office at the center.

*Government property* at the relocation centers which is surplus to the needs of center operations will be disposed of through the regular established procedures of the Treasury Department. WRA has no authority to make such property available to evacuees either through sale or any other arrangement.

*Gate control* will be maintained at all relocation centers even though leave permits are no longer required of those going out on relocation. All evacuees leaving or entering the centers will be expected to report at the gate.

*Address cards* will be furnished, as previously, to all relocating evacuees in order that they may report arrival at their destinations and subsequent changes of address. There are many situations where the WRA will wish to communicate promptly with evacuees regarding restoration of personal property and similar matters, or where the Authority will be called upon to furnish the address of a relocated evacuee to friends, relatives, and business associates. It is highly advisable, therefore, for all evacuees to keep the WRA constantly informed of changes of address as long as the field relocation offices remain in operation.