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RELOCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 15, 1943 2:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM, LEAVE SECTION

The first meeting of the Relocation Advisory Council was held on June 15 at 2:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Leave Section. All members of the Council were present. These included ^{Mr.}Chimata Sumida, ^{Mr.}Shikuma Mori, ^{Mr.}Paul Sato, and ^{Mr.}Kenichi Saito; ^{Miss}van Dusseldorp, ^{Mr.}Abbott, and ^{Mr.}Smith. ^{Mr.}Ray D. Johnston, Project Director, and ^{Mr.}E. B. Moulton, Chief of Employment Division, also attended in an advisory capacity.

Although not technically a member of the Council, Mr. Moulton was elected chairman for the time being, and Mr. Smith was elected (as) secretary.

Mr. Moulton gave a summary of relocation at the present time and explained that the purpose of the council was to determine just where relocation stood now and to attempt to meet the problems that would arise in the future. It was explained that recommendations of the Council would first be referred to the Project Director and if he thought wise, some of them would be sent to the Washington office for its consideration. It was agreed that the size of the Council should vary according to need.

The consensus was that relocation was gradually declining and that it would finally end altogether unless some changes in policy were made. It was suggested that possibly the Field Offices devoted too much time to accumulating a mass of job offers and too little time to obtaining the type of employment opportunities that are especially suitable for residents of the center. It was also suggested that the operation of the Field Offices might be benefited by an advisory council of relocated evacuees who were working within the vicinity of the offices. Another suggestion was that it might be helpful for each office to have at least one person on the staff who had lived for some time in one of the relocation centers.

The first part of the general discussion was devoted largely to the problem of relocating the farming group. It was generally agreed that the chief obstacles in relocating this group was (1) lack of proper land, (2) lack of equipment, (3) lack of financing, (4) lack of experience under unfamiliar farming conditions. With reference to the center population in general, it was agreed that relocation

was hindered by uncertainty concerning the following: (1) the draft, (2) return to California, (3) segregation, (4) living conditions.

The following suggestions were made toward the solution of the problems just mentioned:

A. That both land and equipment might be acquired from large insurance companies who had extensive holdings in farm land. It was thought that it might be possible to find instances in which the insurance companies not only had land but also equipment which might be available. Another suggestion was that land might be acquired possibly in the State of Michigan with the help of the Farm Security Administration.

B. It was suggested that the Farm Security Administration or the Production Credit Association might finance farmers who wish to leave the center. However, it was pointed out that little could be done in this respect until next year. It was also suggested that it would be necessary for the Washington office of the WRA and the financing agencies to have an understanding before a successful financing program could be developed. This understanding would be similar to the one arrived at between the WRA and the Social Security Board.

C. The only solution offered to the problem of lack of experience was that prospective farmers might go out and work for several months in order to become acquainted with farming conditions in an unfamiliar territory in order to determine what the possibility of success might be. One of the evacuee members of the Council who had had extensive farming experience was of the opinion that if it could be arranged for large farm operators to leave the center, with adequate financial backing, and if they could be established, that many of the farm workers who had formerly been connected with them would go with them. In this way, by relocating one fairly large operator, possibly a dozen or two dozen families might also be relocated. It was pointed out that this had already occurred in cases where large farmers had left the restricted area before evacuation and had become established in some new territory.

With reference to questions that caused uncertainty on the part of the center residents, it was pointed out that a farmer who depended upon his sons for help hesitated to

leave the center and start farming operations because he did not know whether his sons would be drafted into the Army. It was also agreed that many people were postponing relocation in the hope that they might be allowed to return to California. There was similar doubt because of segregation since many of the people did not know whether some of the centers would be closed or not and whether they would be shifted to another center. Because of this there is some hesitation to relocation since the shift from one center to another might be a determining factor in deciding whether a particular area was suitable for relocation.

It was pointed out that many of the non-farm group had limited capital to invest in some new business but they hesitated to do this because of uncertainty over conditions on the outside and because many of them thought it might be possible to return to their homes in California within a reasonable length of time. In this event they did not wish to invest their capital in some temporary business and then shift again back to California.

The Council agreed that many of the problems which confronted the center residents had no immediate solution but that it did seem that there at least could be a definite and prompt answer with reference to the possibility of the draft, the possibility of return to California, and the time and manner of segregation. If answers to these three questions could be given promptly, it was thought that it would be of material aid to relocation.

The Council adjourned at 4:30 p.m. with the agreement that the next meeting would be held on June 22 at 2 p.m.

AS:ri
6-18-43

ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER

MEMORANDUM

June 23, 1943

To:

From: Austin Smith, Jr.

Subject: Relocation Advisory Council meeting

This is to remind you that the Relocation Advisory Council will meet this afternoon at 2:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Leave Section. We hope that it will be convenient for you to attend this meeting.

Austin Smith, Jr.
Secretary

RELOCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 23, 1943 2:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM, LEAVE SECTION

The second meeting of the Relocation Advisory Council was held on June 23 at 2:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Leave Section. The following members of the Council were present: Mr. Chimata Sumida, Mr. Shikuma Mori, Mr. Paul Sato, Mr. Kenichi Saito, Miss van Dusseldorp, and Mr. Abbott. In addition, Masamori Kojima, recently returned from Haverford, Pennsylvania, was invited to sit in to express his viewpoint as to relocation on the East coast. A guest of the Council was Mr. Donald Sabin, Assistant Chief of the Division of Employment in Washington and a specialist on agricultural relocation. Mr. E. B. Moulton, Senior Employment Officer, acted as chairman and secretary.

After being introduced by Mr. Moulton, Mr. Sabin discussed various points in regard to the relocation of farmers which had been raised at the first Council meeting. He stated that large insurance companies were rapidly liquidating their holdings and there was little likelihood that relocation leasing and financing could be arranged through them. He mentioned two tentative proposals which are being explored in Nebraska by the relocation officers at the present time. One plan would be to take over a 1500-acre plot which is under irrigation and upon which there are 39 houses. If arrangements can be made for the land, it would be possible to relocate 39 families in one community. The other particular possibility he mentioned was the proposal of a man at Lincoln, Nebraska, to purchase land and equipment and lease the property to an evacuee family. Mr. Sabin indicated that neither of the two above described plans have attained definite form but are typical of the efforts being made by WRA to expedite agricultural resettlement.

The WRA has been exploring FSA as a financial resource but due to the present finance restrictions being placed on the FSA appropriations, no large scale financing through that agency appears possible. Mr. Sabin pointed out that isolated local resources for financing did exist through Production Credit Associations, the WLB, etc.

Mr. Sabin emphasized very strongly the desirability of the head of the farm family relocating on a temporary basis in order to try out himself under new farming conditions. He pointed out that this experimentation would benefit both the person relocating and the community in which he would go to live. He emphasized also the merit in evacuee farmers trying to learn

about something besides vegetable or fruit culture and suggested particularly that experience in stock raising could be very beneficial to persons relocating in their future careers.

He mentioned the fact that the Eastern Defense Command is opening up steadily and that there are farming opportunities, particularly in the States of New York and Pennsylvania. He suggested that the evacuee farmers look to the north and east rather than to the west.

Mr. Sumida discussed at length the necessity for educating Japanese American farmers in order to prove to them that a living can be made on one crop a year and that it is not necessary to raise two or three crops. After all, there are thousands upon thousands of farmers in this country who have made a living on one crop a year.

Mr. Mori asked as to the possibilities of a vocational training program in order to fit the younger persons for positions other than unskilled labor. Mr. Moulton explained that the Vocational Re-training Committee is working on that very point and that the present handicaps are lack of training facilities, both in persons and things.

At the request of Mr. Smith, Mr. Moulton asked the Council members for suggestions as to the distribution of the educational material now being received from the Washington office. It was agreed that one set should be placed in the library, one set be placed in the relocation waiting room, and one set be turned over to Mr. Sumida for use in his adult classes. Where there is a sufficient number of copies, it was agreed that one or more should be placed in each block office in order to establish in each of the 33 blocks a relocation reading shelf. This plan should be laid before the Council of Block Managers and should be given publicity through the center newspaper.

Mr. Sabin announced that the Washington office was planning to subscribe for each center to at least one Sunday newspaper in each of the large cities. These Sunday papers would be placed in the library and would provide information as to labor conditions, community sentiments, and types of help wanted.

Mr. Sumida stated that in his opinion from 80 to 85% of the center population is not prepared to relocate and that only the development of unusual job offers will reduce that percentage.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m., to meet again Wednesday, June 30, at 2:00 p.m.

ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER

MEMORANDUM

June 29, 1943

To:

From: Austin Smith, Jr.

Subject: Relocation Advisory Council meeting

This is to remind you that the Relocation Advisory Council will meet Wednesday, June 30, at 2:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Leave Section.

We hope that it will be convenient for you to attend this meeting.

AUSTIN SMITH, Jr.
Secretary

RELOCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 30, 1943 2:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM, LEAVE SECTION

The weekly meeting of the Relocation Advisory Council was held on June 30 at 2:00 p.m. in the relocation conference room. The following members of the Council were present: Mr. Chimata Sumida, Mr. Shikuma Mori, Mr. Paul Sato, Mr. Kenichi Saito, Miss van Dusseldorp, and Mr. Abbott. In addition, Mr. Harry Miyake, chairman of the block managers from Gila River Relocation Center, and Mr. Charles Uehara, returned from Cincinnati, were invited to sit with the Council. Mr. E. B. Moulton, Senior Employment Officer, acted as chairman and secretary.

Mr. Moulton opened the meeting by requesting Mr. Uehara to outline conditions as he has found them in Cincinnati. Mr. Uehara emphasized in his opening remarks the feeling of freedom which comes with relocation and the fine treatment which evacuees are receiving in Ohio. He pointed out that those who are relocating are fitting very rapidly into the normal life of the communities.

Mr. Uehara is here primarily to explain to the people the proposition advanced by the Cincinnati City Farmers Club. This Club, composed of approximately 110 business men, controls 54,000 acres of farm land within a radius of 25 miles of the city. The Club is offering employment to farm families, with wages from \$75.00 to \$125.00 per month with adequate housing. After working for wages for a year or two, it is proposed that the families begin farming operation on a bonus, share crop, or rental basis. In the latter event, the Club members would provide equipment and financing in addition to the land. It has also been proposed that those accepting the proposition will be given special instruction by extension courses in order to acquaint them with the peculiar farming conditions of the locality. They will also be assisted in the execution of experiments to determine the various possibilities of a wider variety of truck crops.

Mr. Miyake explained that he has been making an extended trip to relocation offices and relocation centers in order to determine attitudes toward relocation and in order to explain his feelings in regard to relocation. He stated that in his opinion there are three big questions which confuse the issue of resettlement. In the first

place, families with younger children who resettle in isolated places are wondering how their children can be married. In the second place, families with sons of draft age are afraid of agricultural relocation with the possibility that the sons will be drafted, leaving the other members of the family stranded. In the third place, those persons who have been operators are hesitant to resettle as wage earners.

Mr. Uehara recommended that WRA propose to Selective Service that all Japanese Americans relocating on farms be deferred at least for one year. He argued that such a decision would encourage relocation and would result in an increase in farming activities. The Council approved the motion and asked that it be submitted immediately through the Project Director to the Washington Office.

The general discussion turned to the question of education for those who are to some degree opposed to relocation. Mr. Miyake suggested that a special group be established to counsel those going out on relocation. He pointed out that it is very important that anyone relocating be prepared to start at the bottom, be prepared to do anything. He pointed out that many of those who have gone out with the idea of starting at the top have changed jobs frequently and have placed the Japanese American group in a bad light as lacking dependability. He stated as his opinion that it is better to relocate on a hostel invitation or under Mr. Myer's memorandum of May 8. Under these plans the individual is placed in a position of picking his own job on the spot and being satisfied with working conditions before he starts work.

Mr. Sato repeated what he has stated many times, that the leaders must be relocated first. He suggested that the choice of leaders be determined by conference with the block managers. He recommended that some of these leaders should be sent out by WRA with expenses paid in order to look over communities, working conditions, and particular job offers. If possible, he felt that the inspectors should go by twos--one Issei and one Nisei. It was pointed out that the financing of such inspection trips by WRA would be problematical and that it might be a better plan for the relocation supervisors to develop private funds for this purpose.

Mr. Miyake emphasized the importance of moving pictures as an educational medium. He suggested that the Washington office, working through the relocation supervisors, might collect films on various localities or about various industries. These films could be routed to all ten centers on a rotation basis. Mr. Moulton suggested that the WRA, through its own photographers, might take moving pictures of evacuees who have been relocated. This suggestion was received with acclaim by the Council, and it was moved and passed that this proposal be submitted through the Project Director to the Washington office.

Mr. Sumida moved that the chairman of the City Council be invited to the next Relocation Advisory Council meeting. The Council approved the motion, and the secretary is instructed to extend the invitation. Mr. Sato suggested that it would be advisable if the City Council set up a subcommittee on relocation.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. to meet again Wednesday, July 7, 1943, at 2:00 p.m.

EBM:ri

RELOCATION BRANCH
McGEHEE, ARKANSAS

July 6, 1943

Mr. S. Tamaki
Chairman, Rohwer Council
Rohwer Relocation Center

Dear Mr. Tamaki:

The next regular meeting of the Relocation Advisory Council will be held July 7 in the relocation conference room at 2:00 p.m. The Advisory Council will be very glad to have you and another member of the community council attend this meeting so that we may have the benefit of your advice and suggestions. The other member of the council to accompany you will be left to your judgment.

Sincerely,

AUSTIN SMITH, Jr.
Secretary

AS:ri

ROHWER RELOCATION CENTER

MEMORANDUM

July 6, 1943

To:

From: Austin Smith, Jr.

Subject: Relocation Advisory Council meeting

This is to remind you that the Relocation Advisory Council will meet Wednesday, July 7, at 2:00 p.m. in the relocation conference room.

We hope that it will be convenient for you to attend the meeting.

AUSTIN SMITH, Jr.
Secretary

RELOCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 7, 1943 2:00 P.M.
RELOCATION CONFERENCE ROOM

The fourth meeting of the Relocation Advisory Council was held July 7 at 2:00 p.m. in the relocation conference room. The following members were present: Mr. Mori, Mr. Saito, Mr. Sumida, Mr. Abbott, Mr. Moulton, Miss van Dusseldorp, and Mr. Smith. In addition to these, the following also attended the meeting: Mr. Miyake, chairman of block managers at Gila River; Mr. Tamaki, chairman of the Community Council at this center; Mr. Yasuda, secretary of the Council; and Mr. Kojima.

Mr. Tamaki advised the committee that the Community Council had appointed a relocation committee composed of seven persons. These were:

S. Kobayashi
C. Sumida
Sam Minami
Saburo Muraoka
Katsuto Nagai
M. Nakamura
T. Ito

It was agreed that the two committees should have a joint meeting in the near future and that the chairman of the Council committee would contact Mr. Moulton and make plans for this joint meeting.

Mr. Moulton stated that there was a recent release from Washington concerning the preparation of a technicolor picture on relocation but that it was to be used outside the centers. Mr. Moulton also advised that other pictures giving information concerning those that have already been resettled were being prepared for use within relocation centers and that a library of educational films was already being developed.

Mr. Miyake was of the opinion that farm family offers should contain more detailed information with reference to what would be furnished workers in addition to their regular salary. This will include facts concerning housing, vegetables, milk, fuel, and other things which are frequently provided workers in the Mid-west but are not furnished on the West coast. He thought that people in general needed more encouragement to resettle and believes that something is holding them back but is not certain what it is. He said the same situation existed in Gila River.

Mr. Moulton was of the opinion that in many cases the family head was afraid that he would become ill or unable to work for some reason after relocation and that many of the people did not fully understand that arrangements had been made with the Social Security Board for special assistance in cases of this kind. Miss van Dusseldorp stated that she thought the people should be educated to

the fact that acceptance of social security aid is no disgrace and that they should consider it as a public service which was due them, such as free education. Miss van Dusseldorp was of the opinion that we must accept the responsibility for educating the people to that effect. Mr. Mori described how it was necessary to convince the people in the blocks that public assistance was owed them somewhat in the same nature as food and lodging before they would ask for it. Miss van Dusseldorp explained that the Welfare Section would help support in the center the families of those who had relocated. As a rule, this assistance would be given if the per capita income of the family were less than \$6.50 per month. This would be done until the head of the family had become established on the outside. Mr. Abbott was of the opinion that there would be little inclination to take public assistance after the people left the center although some might be inclined to do so while they were here. He thought that most of the people would leave when they were convinced that they had security on the outside. Miss van Dusseldorp thought that only a small portion of the people preferred to stay in the center and she expressed the belief that the younger members of families whose head was interned were becoming more inclined toward relocation.

Mr. Moulton stated that Mr. Whitaker had left on a trip to visit several of the field offices and that he had asked Mr. Whitaker to impress upon the field men the importance of more complete information about job offers. It was suggested that additional information concerning schools, hospitals, recreation, shopping possibilities, etc., might be helpful. Mr. Moulton was of the opinion that information concerning job offers was becoming more complete.

Mr. Miyake stated that some of the field offices were becoming discouraged because of the slow progress in relocating farm families and that he thought that these offices needed more information concerning the background of the evacuees, such as financial losses caused by evacuation. Mr. Moulton stated that a plan was now being developed by which officials of field offices would visit relocation centers and thereby become better informed concerning the attitude of evacuees. Mr. Kojima was of the opinion that some of the field offices were becoming discouraged and that they needed a better understanding of evacuee problems. He also stated that it had been reliably reported that some of the hostels were inclined to impose upon some of the residents.

Mr. Moulton expressed the belief that the ideal manner of relocation was for the credentials of the prospect to be sent to the field office for approval and then for the prospect to go to the field office and be taken to interview possible employers so that he might have full information concerning a job offer. He advised that 50% of those leaving this center now were going on this basis and that the Washington and Boston areas had given blanket authorization for people to be sent to them on this basis. However, he warned that

before an evacuee could go to this area, it would be necessary for him to be cleared by the Eastern Defense Command.

Mr. Mori expressed the opinion that it would be desirable to relocate farmers in groups of 100 or more. Mr. Moulton agreed that this would have many advantages but reminded the committee that there would be much more opposition from the public to a plan of this kind and expressed the belief that the same end could be reached with less controversy if relocation were carried out on a progressive basis and families scattered as much as possible.

The meeting adjourned with the agreement that the committee would meet with the group appointed by the Community Council, on July 14 at 2:00 p.m. in the relocation conference room.

ASeri

Mr Paul Sato

10-8-D

Mr. Shikuma Mori

3-11-A

Mr. Chimata Sumida

7-2-E

Mr. Kenichi Saito

16-11-D

NOTICE

cc Mr. Ray D. Johnston

Mr. Austin Smith

INVESTIGATION

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Men between the ages of 25 and 45 wanted
for jobs in Colorado.

Timber workers 45¢ per hour plus bonus
for production.

Post office, Western Colorado, Population
1000.

22 miles from Trinidad; population, 20,000.

For details see Mr. Scatterday at Public
Service Hall, Block 28 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.,
Wednesday, April 21 and all day Thursday.