

K2.25

67/14
C

August 18, 1942

Had very informal meeting of most influential and civil-minded persons of this camp consisting of both 1st and 2nd generations. The consensus of opinion was to make requests as follows:

1. Wish to have an advisory board of 15 or more men appointed from 1st and 2nd generations, and approved by the Administration.
2. To request Administration to use its influence in securing a Junior College on this Project.

T. Yohanda

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TITLE OF MEETING: Block Managers of Camp #1

DATE AND HOUR: August 28, 1942 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: Dining Hall #4

PRESIDING OFFICER:

PRESENT: *All Block Managers.*
Mr. E. R. Smith, Project Director
Mrs. Anne M. Smith, Counsellor
Mr. Robert Yeaton, Housing
Mr. Yahanda, Central Block Manager

A meeting of the Block Managers in Camp #1 was called on Friday, August 28, 1942, to discuss Community Government. It was reported that of the 18 blocks in Camp #1, 15 blocks had organized their Block Councils. Blocks 13 and 20 are being reserved for schools and block 16 is only partially occupied by the Medical and Hospital Staff. Mr. Smith asked the Block Managers whether they felt Block Councils were serving useful purposes. The general sentiment of the Block Managers was that the Block Councils had proved useful and helpful. They assisted the Block Managers in many ways. They handled complaints and transmitted them to the Block Managers. There were no adverse comments on Block Councils.

Mr. Smith said that at the recent Policy Meeting at San Francisco attended by the National Director of War Relocation Authority, the members of the San Francisco and Denver National Office of the War Relocation Authority, and the Project Director much thought was given to the subject of Community Government. Mr. Smith explained why we should set up a Temporary rather than a permanent Community Government at this time. The total population of the Camp will be 15,000 people. At the present time

there are almost 9,000 residents. It would be unfair to set up a permanent Community Government with 6,000 residents still to come. It would not be right for the present Temporary Community Council to make laws and regulations for those residents who are not yet here and therefore have no representation on the Temporary Community Council. That is why it was proposed that each block as it received substantially its full quota of residents elect one representative to sit on the Temporary Community Council. Mr. Smith read the memorandum on Temporary Community Councils which was distributed to the Block Managers for posting about ten days ago. He emphasized that the Temporary Community Council would be an advisory body. When a larger number of our total population is here we will consider the election of a permanent Community Council.

Mr. Smith spoke of the fact that our residents here came from various localities. There is a natural community of interest between people from the same section. They are acquainted, understand each other, and have learned to work together. Mr. Smith urged that people here make an attempt to know other groups than those from their own localities. The whole community has common problems. We will stand and fall together. He urged the Block Managers to help break down the barriers between different groups and get people to think of the Community as a whole. What affects one affects all, what benefits one benefits all, and what hurts one hurts all.

Mr. Smith read the section of the memorandum on Temporary Community Councils devoted to voters. Mr. Onoda said his block felt that the qualification that the Block Representative must be an American citizen should be abolished, and that the age of 16 was too young for voters. Mr. Smith replied that the statement of policy from our National Director said definitely that the Block Representative must be an American citizen. He suggested that we have a group of elder statesmen to speak for the non-citizens and make their opinions known. The non-citizens cannot sit on the Community Council and make laws for the community but they can act as an advisory group. He suggested that the composition of this advisory group could be considered by the Temporary Community Council in collaboration with the Project Director. He said it is not possible to grant the request that non-citizens be eligible for Block Representatives. This policy has been stated by our National Director and must stand unless modified. Mr. Onoda felt that some blocks have no capable American citizens who might serve as Block Representatives. He also felt that the 16 year old residents did not have sufficient wisdom or experience to vote in elections. Mr. Smith replied that at the San Francisco Policy Meeting, it was agreed that the age for voters should be changed to 18. The reason for considering 16 or 18 as legal age for voters is that there are workers in those age groups, and it is felt that the workers should have a voice in Community Government. He advised that 18 should be taken as the legal age for

voters in the forthcoming Temporary Community Council elections.

Mr. Smith asked whether any block had legally elected a Block Representative. It was determined that no block had as yet legally elected a Block Representative. Mr. Onoda said people in his block wanted to vote for a non-citizen member of the advisory Council at the same time that they elected a Block Representative. He reported that the residents of his block did not want to vote for an American citizen for Block Representative. Mr. Smith's answer was that if the people of his block did not want to elect a Block Representative they will have no representative on the Temporary Community Council. Mr. Ishimaru asked whether any pressure was brought to bear to change this qualification of American Citizenship for Block Representatives. Mr. Smith answered, "I can report to the Region and to Washington the sentiments of the people here on this subject. At present we must abide by the rules". Mrs. Smith pointed out that the non-citizens can vote here and thus have a voice in the government. In the communities from which they came, they could not vote and had no voice in the government. Mr. Yeaton inquired whether this citizenship restriction held for both temporary and permanent Community Council members and Mr. Smith replied, "Yes".

Mr. Smith pointed out that we must all pay close attention to the memorandum on Community Government. If the rules set forth in this memorandum are not observed the election will not

be legal. He announced that the nominees for Block 22 representative had been approved and were ready to be posted. The nominees for Block 9 had not been submitted to Mr. Smith for his approval. Therefore, the election held in Block 9 was null and void and must be held over again.

Mrs. Smith suggested that each Block Manager compile a register of voters. She further suggested that on Election Day the ballots should be placed in a box, counted by the election committee after the election was held, and then forwarded to Mr. Smith.

There was some discussion as to whether the legal voting age of 18 should obtain in this forthcoming election. The general sentiment of the Block Managers was strongly in favor of this, and Mr. Smith said that 18 would be the age for voters in this forthcoming election. Mr. Smith asked Mr. Yahanda's opinion this subject of legal voting age and Mr. Yahanda replied that he thought 18 was too young but preferable to 16.

Mr. Smith said that we must not regard the present regulations as rigid, but we must get our Community Government started and suggested that we get to work immediately within the present framework of rules. When the Community Councils here and in other Relocation Centers become established, they may make suggestions regarding the modification of the present rules. He could not say the rules will be changed but he said they might be modified on the basis of experience.

A question was asked as to whether the Administrative

Office must be informed of the meetings of Block Councils. Mr. Smith replied, "No, the Councils can meet when they desire. It was only suggested by the administrative staff that there be Block Councils".

Mr. Ishimaru asked who has the right to name the nominees for Block Representative. Mrs. Smith replied that it was left to the people to decide what method of nomination they wished to follow as no rules had been laid down. She suggested it could be done by the Block Council, by a meeting of the heads of families in the block, by secret ballot, by viva voce, or by petitions. Mr. Ishimaru thought there should be a uniform method of nomination.

Mr. Smith said that the permanent Community Council will have the power to make ordinances governing the general life of the Community. It cannot make laws governing felonies, major crimes and the like. These must be the responsibility of the Project Director or such officials as he may call in. Aside from these major crimes, the War Relocation Authority policy is that the Community Council be empowered to determine how the lives and activities of the people whom it represents shall be regulated. When we receive a permanent policy statement Mr. Smith will go over it carefully with the Block Managers also with any other interested bodies. At the present time Block Managers are the persons to understand and interpret policies to the people.

Mr. Smith asked if there were any questions about the procedure to be followed in nominating and electing Block Representatives. Mr. Yahanda said that he thought the procedure was

understood. Mr. Smith said that as soon as he received notice of the selection of nominees he would approve them and return them for posting. Mr. Onoda asked, "If the residents of my block do not choose to follow the rules, can they petition?" Mr. Smith, "Certainly, explain what happened here today. If they do not wish to elect a Block Representative, they will have no voice in the Permanent Government of the community. " A question was raised as to whether the Temporary Community Councils would act in the same capacity as the permanent Community Councils. Mr. Smith's answer was that the temporary Community Council is an advisory body, the permanent Community Council will make laws. However, the Project Director will be strongly advised by the opinion of the temporary Community Council. Mr. Murayama asked, "What is the relation of the Community Council to the Block Council?" Mr. Smith said one function of the Permanent Community Council might be to determine whether it believes the Block Councils should persist. Mr. Smith's feeling was that it would advise the continuance of the Block Councils. The Community Council will be the governing body of the Community. It will recommend suggestions from each block, and Mr. Smith's feeling was that it would decide that Block Councils be encouraged. He further said that access to the Block Representative should be easy so that people can make their feelings known to him, as he is their representative.

Mr. Murayama asked whether the Block Representative should be a member of the Block Council. Mr. Smith said it would be up to the Community Council to decide. Mr. Yeaton inquired whether there

would be one Community Council for the entire Relocation Center. Mr. Yeaton raised the question as to how the Judicial aspect of government would be managed. Mr. Smith replied that a Judicial system will be set up. There will be a group of individuals from among the residents whose duty will be to interpret the laws and ordinances issued by the Community Council. The details of the Judicial system remain to be worked out. Mr. Yeaton said the Administrative staff is appointed, the Legislative arm is elected, and asked how would the Judicial arm be chosen. Mr. Smith was reluctant to make a definite statement before he received the final policy statement for the War Relocation Center.

A question was asked as to whether the members, the temporary Community Council would be paid. At present, our Temporary Community Council will have only Advisory powers and the question of whether the members will be paid or not is not important enough to worry about.

Mr. Yeaton raised the question of relation of the Block Managers to the Community Council. Mrs. Anne Smith suggested this question be taken up a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Files
Report of meeting held September 3, 1942, in Dining Hall 64, Camp 2.

There were present delegates from most of the occupied Blocks of Camp 2, (all male), Mr. Smith, Mr. Embree, Mr. Yeaton, and Mrs. Smith. Mr. Iwasaki acted as Chairman and Mr. Hikida as Interpreter.

The meeting was held in response to an invitation to Mr. Smith to meet with a group from Camp 2 in order to discuss many of the problems of the Community.

Mr. Smith said he appreciated the opportunity of meeting with the people of Camp 2, and would do his best to clarify the points they had raised in their petition to him. He spoke of the letter he had received some weeks ago from Tulare asking many questions about Gila River. He answered the letter telling them what they might expect to find here. He did not go into details in that letter about the progress of construction as he hoped it would be possible to prevent the movement of Tulare people here until greater progress in construction had been made. He said it was regrettable that he had been unable to prevent such movement. He stated that now we want to take thought to make the conditions of living as good as they can be under the circumstances.

Mr. Smith said he had been glad to receive the list of questions from Camp 2. Some of these could be answered favorably and some not. However, this list of questions and this meeting would make a good precedent. He hopes to receive more questions and hold further meetings, as this Community will be run on Democratic principles. Free speech and the right to petition are an important part of the democratic

system. (Mr. Smith suggested that the people listening outside the building be invited in.)

Mr. Smith suggested that he read the questions raised in the petition and then answer them.

Question I:

That further evacuation from Tulare Assembly Center to this Relocation Center be suspended until such time as normal facilities are actually available to all evacuees arriving therefrom. Normal facilities shall be interpreted to mean facilities which are sufficient for purpose of accommodating human habitation; that among these include, proper lighting system, proper lavatory and bath facilities, laundry, ironing, and a dining hall ready for use.

That if such normal facilities are unavailable and evacuation must proceed as scheduled by the Military, then in that event improvised facilities be hastily prepared to accommodate the incoming evacuees, and that all humane steps be taken toward this end.

That normal facilities be provided for those evacuees who are already here, many of whom are still without bath or lavatory facilities or without lighting system in their respective rooms.

Answer:

Mr. Smith said the Army had planned the movement of people into this Center and nothing could be done to prevent that movement. He said, "Your desire was that the utilities should be completed before people are moved in so there will be no undue hardship. I, too, should have like utilities and facilities to be available. It was not possible. The Turlock people here remember that when they came to Gila River there was no water, sewage, gas or light. We cooked in GI cans over fires built in open pits. The staff feels the lack of these utilities keenly. We are trying to provide all the possibilities for improving⁵¹ that we can."

QUESTION II:

Housing facilities for evacuees already quartered here should be provided for. That these include the following:

- a. Street lighting to facilitate travel to and from toilet and bathroom in evening. Many cases of evacuees and their children falling into open ditches have been reported because of no lighting system.

Answer:

Mr. Smith said he had asked the contractor to place all available truck flares on the open ditches. Mr. Smith said that it was necessary in the case of emergency gas and water lines to leave the ditches open so that the main lines could be put in and connections made. If the ditches were filled now it would be impossible to complete and perfect the utilities system." Ultimately, we will have a street lighting system. It is impossible now. Power now comes in without the aid of necessary transformers. Therefore, we must cut the power load on these lines to a minimum. We can not say when these transformers will arrive here."

Mr. Hikida said that there were no truck flares except on the main road. Mr. Smith said he would give this matter his personal attention tomorrow. He had asked the contractor to put them out and he thought they had been put out.

- b. That water piping system be laid as soon as possible for purpose of enabling evacuees to sprinkle water on the dusty ground.

Answer: Mr. Smith said that everyone has seen the water tower which is now constructed. "It is not yet finished. At present it is necessary to run the electric pump continuously to provide necessary water pressure. When the tower is finished water can be pumped to it and it will give the necessary pressure. Until the tower is finished

it is not possible to sprinkle between the dwellings. We are planning to construct an irrigation system for this whole area. It is hoped that when we have that irrigation water, we can grow grass between the buildings and in the open spaces. We are fortunate in being near a main canal where we can get a gravity flow of water to start and maintain vegetation."

- c. That tables and chairs and closets be provided each family in this camp. Some have built for themselves but there are many who are not so proficient in carpentering or have no tools with which to build.

Answer: Mr. Smith said it is hoped that those who can not make the things they need can get help from others. He said he realized that it is difficult to find suitable lumber and he hoped it might be possible to get more lumber made available. "It is difficult these days to get lumber and even more difficult to get nails. We have been trying to get hand tools so that each block manager can have a set of tools in his office for the use of his block. We may have to ask Unit 1 to release some tools for Unit 2. There are probably some people here who have brought tools and will help others to make the necessary furniture. Most people have their own furniture in storage. As soon as our own warehouses are finished we hope we can send for this furniture. Then each householder can have his own things to use."

- d. That each barrack be screened with proper wire netting to keep out flies, mosquitoes, moths, and other insects.

Answer: Mr. Smith said it would be fine if we could get screening.

"I have been fighting for screens for hospitals, mess halls, and latrines. In Unit 1, the Dining Halls and Hospitals are screened. I just learned

today from the Army Engineer's Office that screening is available for the latrines in Unit 1. We will provide the labor to install this screening. I hope we can get screening for Unit 2 for the Dining Halls, Hospital, and latrines. I know we can not hope to get wire screening for apartments. Screening is very scarce and difficult to obtain today. It can be secured only for the most important uses."

- e. That the laundry and ironing dept. of each block be hastily prepared and be made ready for instant use.

Answer: Mr. Smith spoke of the need for patience in regard to the completion of the laundry and ironing rooms. He said that there is still no hot water in most blocks in Unit 1. "It has been found necessary to turn off the water heaters where they were completed. The water pipes have to be welded and to do this the water must be turned off. If the boiler is going when the water is turned off, there is great danger of scalding anyone who might be in the laundry or latrines and there is great danger of the boilers burning out." He said we should all like to have things perfect but things are not perfect. We must wait until the contractor can finish the job." You people are not to blame, the staff is not to blame. There is nothing you or I can do save make the best of things. We must do without luxuries. Ultimately, we shall have them but not tomorrow or next week."

Mr. Smith said tonight there are at least two blocks without water and light. "This is unfortunate but facilities are available in the next block. You will need patience for a few days but it will not be long before these utilities will be installed."

Question III: Canteen or Community Store:

That a Canteen or Community Store should be opened for business as soon as possible, and that said canteen be owned, operated and financed by each and every evacuee in this Center on a non-profit basis.

Answer:

Mr. Smith reported that Mr. Shelley, Manager of Community Enterprises, said this afternoon that he hoped the store in Unit 2 would be open for business by Tuesday." In the early stages, it is not possible to proceed on the outlined cooperative basis. There will be inaugurated shortly a Cooperative store at which all kinds of goods can be bought. This will be operated in such a manner that any profits will benefit the whole community. It may be that out of the profits it will be necessary to pay the evacuees who work in the store at the same rate of pay received by other workers in the community. After the running expenses have been paid out of the profits, what remains will go to the community. The stores are supervised by Mr. Shelley who is bonded. The proceeds of the present stores will be made available to the cooperative so that it can get a good start with that capital."

Question IV: WELFARE

Some needy families are now in dire want of proper clothing and wearing apparel, also soap for laundry and other domestic purposes. That these needy families be provided with such necessities of life.

Answer: Mr. Smith said he had just returned from a Policy Meeting in San Francisco where the matter of public assistance was given serious consideration. A policy was formulated there, it is now being perfected, and we should have the final draft in a few days. Mr. Smith spoke briefly of the contents of this policy. "In the case of needy families no member of which is employed, there will be made an allowance in cash

or script which will make it possible for families with no means of support to obtain necessities." Mr. Smith said he would be surprised to learn that there had not been a first free issue of soap. He asked the delegates if there had been an issue of soap and the answer was that none had been issued so far. Mr. Smith said he would check on this matter immediately.

Question V: RECREATION

Creation of a recreation department in this Center, in Unit 2, to supervise and promote recreational programs is most urgent. That all steps be taken toward accomplishing this end.

Answer: Mr. Smith said, "If you have talked with people in Unit 1, you have learned what an active program is now under way there. For many days the people were very crowded in Unit 1, and many activities depending on the use of Recreation Halls had to stop, as the Recreation Halls were needed for housing. You in Unit 2 have not yet had to do this. I hope you will not have to, but shelter for people must come before recreation." He said he was sure the people would find Mr. Gaba ready to help in every way possible to get Recreation activities going.

Question VI: EDUCATION

That an educational department be created for proper education of evacuees' children.

Answer: Mr. Smith said this question made him laugh when he thought of the great amount of thought and work that had already been devoted to the subject of education by the staff. "The majority of teachers is already hired and it is hoped that school will start October 1. We have no school buildings but we have grown used to improvising and doing the best we can. It will be a matter of using apartment houses for schools. It is hoped that we will have some slack in the housing situation so that there will be a good number of buildings not used for dwellings, which

can be used for schools. By October 1, there should be available a number of buildings for schools so that we will not have to crowd the children. That is one reason why many of you have been moved and it may be necessary at some future time to move again to another part of camp. However, I know you are so interested in the education of your children that you will be willing to move. Mr. Yeaton has warned you that you may have to move at a later date to make way for the schools. It is planned to have one elementary school and one high school in Unit 1, two elementary schools and one large high school in Unit 2. The teachers employed must meet high standards. As many as we can find who meet these requirements will be of Japanese ancestry. The education staff has attempted to get in touch with all residents who can meet these standards and are interested in teaching. The planning for schools has been done with the idea of giving children here the best possible education in the circumstances. All of us are interested and ready to make sacrifices, and to submit to inconveniences to insure that the children here shall get the chance to receive the education they deserve in our elementary and high schools."

Question VII: RELIGION

There shall be religious toleration, and places of worship should be immediately provided for.

Answer: Mr. Smith said the people could rest assured that there will be religious tolerance. He said, "We hope there can be as many of the typical elements of a democratic community here as it is possible to have. As for providing immediate places of worship, that is difficult." He said that the people would find Mr. Gaba very helpful in this respect. "It will be necessary for several weeks to use Recreation Halls.

Ultimately, the War Relocation Authority will make available materials and labor for the construction of a building which can be used for worship. Materials and labor for one building are all the WRA can contribute. How the problem of providing each denomination with a place of worship, can be solved we do not know yet. If the materials were divided up, no one group would have enough for a building. We shall help, insofar as we are able, to provide places for worship. In these times when building materials are difficult to secure, it would be impossible for the Government to provide materials for a building for every religious group here. This problem remains to be worked out."

Question VIII: HOSPITAL

That all necessary steps be taken to provide hospital facilities in Unit 2, That present facilities are wholly inadequate, if not dangerous, to the well-being of the evacuees in Camp No. 2.

Answer: Mr. Smith said, "You have seen the hospital which is now being built. It is a large building and will accommodate many people. It is true it is not ready now. We have a 20-bed hospital and a 10-bed infirmary in Unit 1. In Unit 2 we have at present only a first-aid station. However, if you lived in a city before you came here, or in a farm area, many of you were farther distant from a hospital than you now are from the hospital in Camp 1. We long ago made arrangements with the Indian service at Sacaton so that in the event of need, we should be able to use their facilities. They have at Sacaton, a newly completed hospital which is one of the best in all the Southwest, so there is no need to worry about the present lack of hospitals in Unit 2. Everyone is concerned about finishing the hospital, both the contractor and the

United States Engineering Department, at the earliest possible time. Parts of two blocks will have to be made available for the medical personnel and possibly the remainder of those blocks may have to be used to care for the sick if we should have an emergency and need more beds than we have."

Question IX : TRANSPORTATION

That transportation be provided evacuees in Unit 2 for the purpose of travel to and from Unit No. 1 as often as are necessary for purpose of enabling them to make purchases in Canteen of No. 1 Unit.

Answer: Mr. Smith said, "What I have already said about the establishment of a store in this Unit 2 by Tuesday of next week should answer this question. We all realize how scarce are rubber, cars, and trucks. When it is possible to get from one place to another without using cars, we are going to have to do it. There is no prospect of our getting more tires or cars than we have now so we must use carefully what we have. People who must go from one Unit to another, such as the sick, will be transported. It will not be possible to furnish transportation for the able bodied who can walk."

Question X: QUALIFICATION FOR ELECTIVE POSITION

It was unanimously agreed at said convention that non-citizens be given the same privilege as citizens to hold elective positions in this Camp; that Many of the non-citizens by reason of their long residence in American have assimilated American ideals and would long have been American citizens had it not been for Congressional Act barring them the right to obtain citizenship. That if permitted to hold elective positions in the same manner as citizens, greater harmony and coordination would be achieved.

Answer: Mr. Smith said he could not give as favorable answer to this question as the people would like. "It is not a matter which rests with me. It rests with the National Director of War Relocation Authority in Washington. He has stated clearly that while he desires to see the non-citizens participate in Community Government to the extent of voting (something non-citizens have not participated in in their previous

residences) the holding of elective office in the Center Government is not possible for non-citizens. Those who have talked with people in Unit 1 know that they have elected block councils. They are now nominating and electing a representative from each block to the Temporary Community Council, whose function will be advisory. When the entire number of evacuees are here there will be elected members of a permanent Community Council, whose function will be not only advisory but legislative and regulatory. The permanent Community Council will be a representative body made up of persons from each block who will within limits make all the laws and ordinances of the Community. In case of major crimes there will be outside authority. Within certain limits there will be very great freedom in handling the government and regulating the daily life of the people. I believe that by now every block has received instructions with regard to the setting up of block councils and nominations of candidates for the election of Block Representatives to the temporary Community Council. It would be unfair to set up a permanent Community Council, until all the residents of the Center shall have arrived. To get started and to provide advice to the Administration it is proposed that temporary Community Councils be set up immediately."

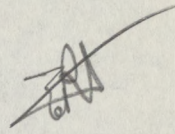
Mr. Smith said that we had discussed a variety of subjects proposed by the delegates. "Nothing has been said about one of the very important parts of our life here. We have discussed health, education, housing, religion, but we have not mentioned work. There is plenty of work ahead of us and I know you will welcome it. We have 7,000 acres of some of the best land in Arizona, most of which is now in

alfalfa. Some is being converted into other crops, and the fields are now being prepared. Withing a few months, we shall not have to depend on the Los Angeles market for our vegetables. Yesterday, I saw the fields which have been planted and I saw that many acres are green already. Most vegetables are already started. It is hoped that not only shall we have plenty of fresh vegetables for this Center but that we can make our surplus available to other Centers. Potatoes are being produced in large quantities at Tule Lake and their surplus will be made available to us. We shall attempt to make the Centers self-sufficient. Insofar as possible it is hoped that many acres can be put in long staple cotton which is needed sorely by the country. There is also the possibility and opportunity of subjugating a considerable area surrounding and west and north of this present site. Also, there will be opportunities for engaging in many varieties of work, so we can use the skills you already have and develop other skills, you would like to have.

Mr. Smith said we could go on with questions and answers all night but it is impossible to do everything at once. He said he should be glad in the future to meet with this group and other groups to discuss matters of interest.

The meeting was adjourned.

GILA RIVER RELOCATION CENTER
UNIT NUMBER 2
RIVERS, ARIZONA

August 31, 1942 

Mr. E. R. Smith
Project Director
Gila River Relocation Center
Rivers, Arizona

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith is a copy of resolutions adopted and passed by delegates of all the blocks of Unit No. 2 of this Relocation Center at a convention held on the 30th of August, 1942.

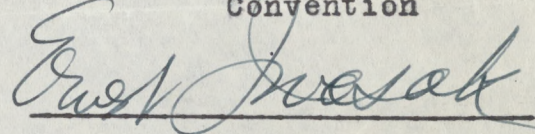
In submitting the above copy of resolutions may we stress the point that the thought uppermost in the minds of the delegates at said convention was unlimited co-operation in all ways possible with the Administration of this Center as well as with the War Relocation Authority.

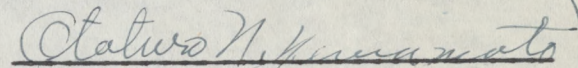
With this in mind the undersigned representatives of said convention submit to you the copy of resolutions herewith enclosed.

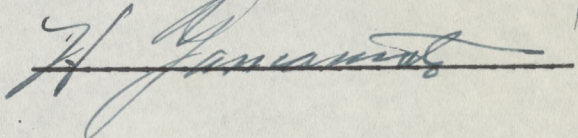
May we have a favorable response from you in respect to the resolutions adopted.

Yours respectfully,

Representatives of the
Convention







RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AND PASSED BY DELEGATES
OF EACH BLOCK AT CONVENTION HELD AT DINING HALL
OF BLOCK 72 ON AUGUST 30, 1942

PURPOSE OF CONVENTION:

To assist and cooperate with the War Relocation Authority and with the Administration of this Relocation Center in all matters affecting the general welfare of the evacuees in said Center.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AND PASSED INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

I. That further evacuation from Tulare Assembly Center to this Relocation Center be suspended until such time as normal facilities are actually available to all evacuees arriving therefrom. Normal facilities shall be interpreted to mean facilities which are sufficient for purpose of accommodating human habitation; that among these include, proper lighting system, proper lavatory and bath facilities, laundry, ironing, and a dining hall ready for use.

That if such normal facilities are unavailable and evacuation must proceed as scheduled by the Military, then in that event improvised facilities be hastily prepared to accommodate the incoming evacuees, and that all humane steps be taken toward this end.

That normal facilities be provided for those evacuees who are already here, many of whom are still without bath or lavatory facilities or without lighting system in their respective rooms.

II. HOUSING:

Housing facilities for evacuees already quartered here should be provided for. That these include the following:

- a. Street lighting to facilitate travel to and from toilet and bathroom in evening. Many cases of evacuees and their children falling into open ditches have been reported because of no lighting system.
- b. That water piping system be laid as soon as possible for purpose of enabling evacuees to sprinkle water on the dusty ground.
- c. That tables and chairs and closets be provided each family in this camp. Some have built for themselves but there are many who are not so proficient in carpentering or have no tools with which to build.
- d. That each barrack be screened with proper wire netting to keep out flies, mosquitoes, moths, and other insects.
- e. That the laundry and ironing dept. of each block be hastily prepared and be made ready for instant use.

III. Canteen or Community Store:

That a Canteen or Community Store should be opened for business as soon as possible, and that said canteen be owned, operated and financed by each and every evacuee in this Center on a non-profit basis.

IV. WELFARE

Some needy families are now in dire want of proper clothing and wearing apparel, also soap for laundry and other domestic purposes. That these needy families ^{be provided} with such necessities of life.

That if possible coupons be issued for purpose of enabling these needy families to make their purchases, or in lieu thereof funds be given them in order that they might make their purchases.

V. RECREATION

Creation of a recreation department in this Center, in Unit No. 2, to supervise and promote recreational programs is most urgent. That all steps be taken toward accomplishing ~~at~~ this end.

VI. EDUCATION

That an educational department be created for proper education of evacuees' children.

VII. RELIGION

There shall be religious toleration, and places of worship should be immediately provided for.

VIII. HOSPITAL

That all necessary steps be taken to provide hospital facilities in Unit No. 2. That present facilities are wholly inadequate, if not dangerous, to the well being of the evacuees in Camp No. 2.

IX. TRANSPORTATION

That transportation be provided evacuees in Unit No. 2 for purpose of travel to and from Unit No. 1 as often as are necessary for purpose of ^{enabling them to} making purchases in Canteen of No. 1 Unit

X. QUALIFICATION FOR ELECTIVE POSITION

It was unanimously agreed at said convention that non-citizens be given the same privilege as citizens to hold elective positions in this Camp; that many of the non-citizens by reason of their long residence in America have assimilated American ideals and would have been American citizens had it not been for ~~their~~ Congressional Act barring them the right to obtain citizenship. That if permitted to hold elective positions in the same manner as citizens, greater harmony and coordination would be achieved.

The above resolutions are true & correct.

Evelyn Iwawaki, representative.
Frank Shokichi Ando
Eijiro Noguchi
George Yamashiro

SUMMARY OF ACTION AT BLOCK MANAGERS
JOINT EXECUTIVE MEET

September 4, 1944

The Block Managers Joint Executive Meeting was held in Canal on Monday afternoon, September 4. The group voted to meet hereafter at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday on alternate weeks starting Wednesday, September 20 at the Butte Central Block Manager's headquarters. The meetings are to alternate thereafter between Butte and Canal.

The Block Managers recommended:

(1) that housing authority promises to hold no apartment for people on trial leave or seasonal leave for more than four months.

(2) that no block manager assume responsibility for furniture or personal property left in the apartments by people on trial indefinite or seasonal leave.

(3) screens for laundry rooms be provided at the earliest opportunity.

(4) An immediate check and repair be made on oil stoves and that oil stoves be distributed to apartments now lacking them.

(5) Shower rooms be given another coat of paint in order to preserve the wood.

(6) Immediate attention be given to maintaining lawn mowers which are breaking down rapidly and of which there are not enough.

(7) That an equal distribution of screens and screen door material be made. They pointed out that at present Butte received screening and lumber for the screendoors for each apartment and that four blocks in Butte received hinges for such doors; whereas Canal received NO lumber for door frames, no hinges, and that furthermore ready-made screen doors were provided for several blocks in Butte where the apartments in which the occupants had been to negligent or incapable of

making their own screen doors from materials provided by the project.

(8) That wash basins be again checked for wear, especially in Canal where the concrete applied to basins was applied only flat to the bottom and not curved up to the sides as in Butte.

Finis

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED THIS MONTH

510

1. Recommend that Project Director defer erection of fence around project. It absolutely necessary, it is desired that such a fence be placed at the extreme limits of the centers.
2. Render full support to the camouflage net factory in its present plan of operation.
3. Adopt Plan 3, revised form, for wage d istribution for camouflage workers.
4. Recommend that p ices of commodities sold by Community Enterprises be readjusted downward without jeopardizing capital set-up.

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM
GILA RIVER PROJECT
RIVERS, ARIZONA

Community Services

March 22, 1948

MEMORANDUM TO: Block Managers of Canal Community

SUBJECT: Eligibility for Glasses and Dentures

The following eligibility schedule has been prepared by the Social Service Department in order to determine who is eligible for Public Assistance grants for glasses and dentures. Only those who have less than \$500 in negotiable assets are eligible. This schedule is not to be regarded as fixed, but merely as suggested.

GROUP I

1 worker (single) pays up to	\$5.00
1 worker in family of 2 pays up to	2.50
1 worker in family of 3 or more (eligible)	

GROUP II

2 workers in family of 2 pays up to	10.00
2 workers in family of 3 pays up to	7.50
2 workers in family of 4 pays up to	5.00
2 workers in family of 5 pays up to	2.50
2 workers in family of 6 or more eligible for full	

GROUP III

3 workers in family of 3 pays up to	15.00
3 workers in family of 4 pays up to	10.00
3 workers in family of 5 pays up to	5.00
3 workers in family of 6 pays up to	2.50
3 workers in family of 7 or more eligible	

GROUP IV

4 workers in family of 4 pays up to	20.00
4 workers in family of 5 pays up to	15.00
4 workers in family of 6 pays up to	10.00
4 workers in family of 7 pays up to	5.00
4 workers in family of 8 pays up to	2.50

4 workers in family non-eligible unless in very special case.
5 workers in family non-eligible

Morton J. Gaba
Assistant Chief,
Community Services

MJG:TA

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM
GILA RIVER PROJECT
RIVERS, ARIZONA

510

March 19, 1943

TO: Chairman of Block Council #16
Mr. K. Kishi, Block Manager

SUBJECT: Misunderstanding among Residents

With regret I notice that a suggestion made by one of the block managers, with reference to consolidating all enterprises and organizations in block 16, created some misunderstanding among your residents. That was merely a suggestion presented before the block managers' meeting and has no weight or direct bearing on the general policy of the Housing Division or Block Managers.

At the present time we are not contemplating any such change, nor do we think it wise to propose such a plan, whereby all the residents in block 16 and also the organizations elsewhere are affected without first consulting the party concerned.

I can assure you and your residents that before any radical change is contemplated in our general policy, we shall first try to discuss the problem with the representatives of the parties concerned.

Regreting that my absence caused considerable commotion and inconveniences.

T. Yahanda
Central Block Manager
and Housing Supervisor
Canal Community

TY/sh

510

Gila River Project
Rivers, Arizona

Community Self-Government

March 18, 1943

L. H. Bennett, Project Director
Gila River Project
Rivers, Arizona

Dear Mr. Bennett:

It has been over six months since we have come to this camp and we have not as yet organized a permanent self-governing body.

The Temporary Community Council feels that organizing a permanent self-governing body is very desirable. We had been given to understand that the delay had been due to the possibility of receiving further supplementary instructions relating to the type of Government to be organized here. The Community Council feels that we have waited long enough and that a permanent self-governing body should be organized under existing instructions. The Community Council would like to recommend to you that every effort be expended to get a self-governing body organized here.

If we are in any position to be of help to you we would be glad to be of service.

Yours very truly,

Mats Ando, Chairman
TEMPORARY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CANAL COMMUNITY

MA:ta

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM
GILA RIVER PROJECT
RIVERS, ARIZONA

Health Dept.

March 16, 1943

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. Harry Miyake
Central Block Manager

SUBJECT: Meeting of Block Managers and
Medical Staff

I regret that there was some misunderstanding which prevented the meeting between the representatives of the block managers and the medical staff being held during my absence. The doctors would still like to meet with the block managers and would be glad to meet with them at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 23, at 42-3-A.

Will you kindly advise me in writing if this time meets with your approval; and if not, what steps you would like to take in regard to this matter.

Jack C. Sleath M.D.
Jack C. Sleath, M.D. MEDICAL OFFICER
Chief Medical Officer

JCS:ms

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM
GILA RIVER PROJECT
RIVERS, ARIZONA

510

Housing Department
Butte Community

April 17, 1943

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. T. Yahanda
SUBJECT: Block Manager's meeting
FROM: Mary E. McCarthy

To review the points agreed upon in the Block Manager's meeting on April 12th, we are submitting the following:

The Block Managers agreed to advise the Canal Housing Department of all residential moves within their respective blocks as well as the moves in and out of their blocks. This is to be done by signed memorandum and is to be submitted each Monday morning. In the event there are no changes, a simple notation will be made to that effect and forwarded to the Housing Department. Accurate block population reports are extremely important since Mess Operations base their food allotments on our reports.

Duplicate copies of Property Record Card #39 will be forwarded by Mr. Joe Miyamoto to Mr. Saimoto. These should first be checked against the file in the Canal Property Office and then given to the individual Block Managers. It will then be the responsibility of each Block Manager to check with the families in his block. If the family does not have on hand all the equipment charged to him the discrepancy should be reported immediately to the Property Section. If the family has more equipment than he is charged with, the surplus should be turned in to the Block Manager as it is probably charged to someone else. Where indefinite and seasonal leaves are granted, the Leave Office has agreed to send a report giving the name, family number, and address of all those people leaving Camp. The notice should be received by us two days prior to their departure. This information will go directly to the Property Section and Mr. Saimoto will first notify the individual Block Managers and then the leave report will be forwarded to the Housing and Clothing Division.

It will be the responsibility of the Block Managers to see that the property is turned in to the Block Manager's office before the family leaves this Center. The Leave Office will not issue the final leave papers without a signed note of clearance from the Block Manager.

The block Manager should also notify the Property Section as to what property is turned in to him. It will be permissible for the Block Managers to reissue the equipment from his office providing he notifies the Property Section--in other words, Mr. Saimoto should be advised of the whereabouts of cots, mattresses, and blankets at all times.

A separate memorandum will be written covering the move of several families from Canal Camp to Butte Camp.

If you wish to make any changes or additions to the above, please let me know.

Mary E. McCarthy
Housing & Clothing Supervisor

MEM
MEM/hk

cc: Mr. Saimoto
Mr. Keadle
Mr. Miyamoto
Mr. Huso

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM
GILA RIVER PROJECT
RIVERS, ARIZONA

Central Block Manager

510

May 18, 1943

MEMORANDUM TO: L. T. Hoffman, Act. Asst. Proj. Dir.
SUBJECT: Requests and Recommendations

In the last Block Managers' Meeting, May 17, 1943, request and recommendations were made as follow:

1. Early distribution of clothing allowance for March and April.
2. For the safety of all residents, particularly of the children, all non-essential driving inside the block should be prohibited. All vehicles should be kept on the outside road or street.

T. Yahanda
Central Block Manager
Canal Community

570
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM
GILA RIVER PROJECT
RIVERS, ARIZONA

Asst. Project Director

June 9, 1943

NOTICE TO:

Community Council
Executive Committee
Issei Advisory Board
Other Leaders of Canal Community
George Nagamatsu
Kelly Matsumura
George Yokoyama
Masao Omoto
Mats Ando
Frank Sasaki
George Kawahara
Fujimi Yanagihara
Ben Teizo Iida
Teizo Yahanda
Harry Kono
William J. Furuta
Joe Omachi
Karl Iwanaga
Mas Yoshitsu
George Domoto
Kay Nobusada

You are asked to attend a meeting at Canal Administration Building Thursday morning, June 10, 1943, at 10:00 a.m., to discuss with Mr. Bennett and myself important matters affecting each and everyone of us in this community.

Will you make every effort to be here, although I recognize this is very short notice?

L. T. Hoffman
Assistant Project Director

LTH:ed

Gila River Project
Rivers, Arizona
June 22, 1944

513
extra copy

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE NEW CANAL AND/OR BUTTE COUNCIL:

Please accept my congratulations upon your election to a position of government in this community. I consider you, as a Councilman, charged with a great responsibility to the residents of the community and just as great a responsibility to the War Relocation Authority. The Councilmen who preceded you, and they were the first permanent Councilmen elected, tried most diligently to establish a community government which represented the people and cooperated with the WRA Administration. At this time I wish to congratulate them for the effort they put forth.

Because I will be away from the Center when you are inducted and take your Oath of Office, I would like to state in this letter my understanding, as Director of this Project, of the functions of your office. As Project Director I am guided by many instructions issued from our Washington Office which place full responsibility for anything happening in the Center directly upon me and also limits my actions and those of the staff and the community in what any of us may do. In some instances these instructions are very clearly defined--in other instances latitude is given to me for the use of my judgment in the best interests of the program as a whole.

The well-worn statement: "He governs best who governs least" has been a definite part in my policy as Project Director. With that thought in mind I have consistently delegated authority to Assistant Directors and Division Heads, holding them responsible for the proper conduct of their offices. I have encouraged them to pass on a large share of responsibility to the evacuee members of the community. Just as long as the actions of the appointed staff and the community are consistent with good government and the best interests of all, I have limited my power as Project Director to suggestions and assistance. At times some of the policies have not appeared consistent with the best interests of the WRA or the community and it has been necessary for me to accept the responsibility of reversing decisions. I could not uphold my Oath to the Government and accept the full responsibility with which I am charged unless my actions were in accordance with instructions.

I trust you will accept your responsibility just as seriously as I accept mine. Many of you are for the first time being given the responsibility for government. One of the primary tenets of democracy is the opportunity of any individual to hold office and to retain that office as long as he is accepted by the people as an honest and sincere worker in their behalf.

The War Relocation Authority was established for the single purpose of providing a home for you and assistance in relocating and readjusting your lives during and after the war. Most of you are at liberty to take advantage of relocation and leave the Center whenever you wish and I trust you will avail yourselves of that opportunity. While you remain within the Center and are guests of the government it should be your duty to promote the welfare of every person, either evacuee or staff, to give definite assistance in the maintenance of order, property and happiness. Only through the cooperation between the staff and you (as a representative of the people) can these goals be attained.

For best results you should constantly seek out the major problems of your block, regardless of what they may be, and be courageous enough to bring them to the Council Meeting for open discussion. If any problem is of community-wide importance, the Council as a whole should accept it and, through the Assistant Director in charge of Community Management, bring it to my attention. I will assure you that if a solution can be determined that is consistent with the instructions, it will have my approval. This statement gives you wide latitude.

Finally, I urge you to take your Oath of Office most seriously, to attend every meeting of the Council--openly express your opinions, to study the American type of government, for this can only be an American Community, and of great importance to carefully read and acquaint yourself with the Constitution of your community which advises you and limits the responsibility of a Councilman.

I am very confident you will be a hard-working and representative official and that you will live up to your Oath of Office. I wish you every success!

L. H. Bennett
Project Director

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM
Gila River Project
Rivers, Arizona

510

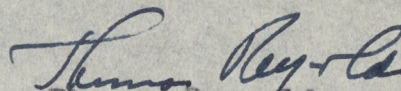
August 18, 1943

MEMORANDUM TO: T. Kinoshita
Central Block Manager

SUBJECT: Meeting

I trust you will accept my apology for failing to appear at your meeting last Tuesday morning. I can only offer the press of business plus failure to note the date on my calendar.

I am happy to accept your kind invitation to be present at the next Block Managers' meeting, August 24. In view of my limited experience as a member of the appointed staff, I would like to be excused from making any extended remarks. However, I will be glad to answer any questions that I am familiar with.


Thomas Reynolds
Placement Officer

TR:cy

Gila River Project
Rivers, Arizona

510

September 3, 1943

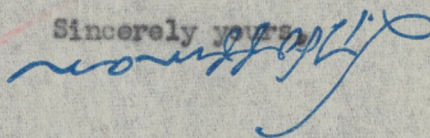
Mr. Kay Nobusada
Executive Secretary
Sagurao Y Board
Rivers, Arizona

Dear Mr. Nobusada:

I appreciate the honor conferred by selecting me as a member of your Board in Canal Community, and I will be glad to serve in that capacity.

Kindly let me know when you have your first meeting and I will plan to be there.

Sincerely yours,



L. T. Hoffman
Acting Project Director

L.Hoffman:WAO
File Copy
Clon Copy

510

RESOLUTION

Whereas, We consider that the services of our Assistant Block Managers are indispensable in order to adequately serve our block residents; and

Whereas, There is great amount of clerical and errand works involved in our work as block managers in order to efficiently and harmoniously operate a block of approximately 200 residents; and

Whereas, We, Block Managers, are responsible for all government properties most of which are stored in our offices and that closing of our office while our absence during the day greatly inconvenience the residents who wish to acquire access to these properties such as hoes, rakes, shovels, etc; and

Whereas, The request has been made by the administration to retain our assistants for only those blocks with telephone facilities and others be terminated; therefore,

Resolved, That a committee of four be appointed by the chair to negotiate with the proper authorities to have the good services of our assistants now rendered by them so satisfactorily can be continued without abrupton.

The above resolution has been adopted unanimously at the regular Block Managers meeting of October 12, 1943, and the chair has appointed Messrs. Hayashi, Miyata, Ninokawa and Sakata to serve on this committee.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mail
Interpreting
Clerical work
Delivery of messages & orders
Keep office open
Emergency services
Telephone services.*

SAB

J. Furukawa

Central Block Manager
Butte Community

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM
GILA RIVER PROJECT
RIVERS, ARIZONA

December 8, 1943

MEMORANDUM TO: L. H. Bennett
Project Director

Three matters receiving answers were brought to my attention by T. Yohanda, Chairman of Block Managers, while at Canal this morning.

1. He says there is a great shortage of fire wood but this could be remedied in all probability if wood, tree stumps, etc., just outside of the dyke gate could be collected. He wants to know if it would be possible to secure passes for evacuees to retrieve this wood. In case this is not possible, he wants to know if scrap lumber or wood is available.

2. He says the Internal Security has been searching baggage of evacuees with leave clearance and that foodstuffs are removed. He wants to know if there are regulations for this, and if so, can Internal Security remove personal foodstuffs, either sent to evacuees or purchased at the canteen. If regulations permit this procedure, he suggests that publicity be released, so that those leaving will adjust their baggage accordingly.

3. Another matter causing concern is an item in the Approved Evacuee Employment schedule. That is there is no allotment of teaching positions at the professional level and of the use of the term "Assistant Teachers," was brought to the attention of Mr. Runyan for consideration at the Denver meeting.

Elyson S. Black
Elyson S. Black
Acting Assistant Project
Director
Administrative Management

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM
GILA RIVER PROJECT
RIVERS, ARIZONA

Community Services

January 7, 1943

MEMORANDUM TO: S. Yahanda

SUBJECT: Block Managers' Minutes

Would it be possible to furnish me with a copy of the minutes of the Block Managers' meetings? I request this so that they can be compared with the minutes of the Canal Temporary Community Council so that there would be no duplication in the matters that are considered by the respective bodies.

Morton J. Gaba
Acting Assistant Chief,
Community Services

HJGaba:JK

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM
GILA RIVER PROJECT
RIVERS, ARIZONA

Community Services

December 17, 1942

MEMORANDUM TO: Teizo Yahanda, Central Block Manager
SUBJECT: Public Meeting, Monday, December 21,
7:30 P. M. at Community Stage

Mr. Leroy Bennett, Project Director, has asked me to call a public meeting of all residents of Canal Community on Monday, December 21, 7:30 P. M. at the Community Stage.

I am sending copies of the enclosed messages to all of the Block Managers for block release.

Morton J. Gaba
Acting Assistant Chief,
Community Service

Attachment
MJGaba:SW

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
GILA RIVER PROJECT
RIVERS, ARIZONA

Community Service

December 17, 1942

MEMORANDUM TO: All Block Managers

SUBJECT: Public Meeting, December 21, 7:30 P.M.
at Community Stage

Mr. L. H. Bennet, Project Director, has asked that a public meeting be held Monday, December 21, 7:30 P.M. at the Community Stage. All members of the Canal Community are urged to be present.

Mr. Bennet wants to have an opportunity to meet all the residents of Canal Community, to give them his ideas regarding the program and policies of this Project and to specifically discuss the newly opened net factory.

Will you please bring this message to the attention of the members of your block..

Morton J. Gaba
Acting Assistant Chief,
Community Services

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM
GILA RIVER PROJECT
RIVERS, ARIZONA

Community Services

January 29, 1943

MEMORANDUM TO: S. Yahanda

SUBJECT: Attacking Dog

The Military Police have informed me that a huge dog, which apparently lives in the area of Block 4, 5, or 6, attacks soldiers riding in jeeps along the main highway.

Will you please raise this subject at the next Block Managers' meeting and ask the block managers to see that the person owning the dog keeps him tied up. The next time this dog attacks any of the Military Police, he will be shot.

I have no way of locating where this dog lives except through the assistance of the block managers; hence, this request to you.

Morton J. Gaba
Assistant Chief,
Community Services

cc: J.C.Henderson
MJG/jk

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM
GILA RIVER PROJECT
RIVERS, ARIZONA

Employment

March 1, 1943

MEMORANDUM TO: Central Block Managers
Harry Miyake, Butte
T. Yahanda, Canal

SUBJECT: Population Charts

W. R. A. must know that everyone in this center is accounted for. The basis of such exact knowledge should be centered in the block manager's office. Since the inception of these communities, records of movements have not too well correlated with the statistical end of it. I believe it will be necessary to immediately set up population charts in the offices of block managers which will indicate every inhabitant of the block and where he resides. These charts can be made large enough for future changes so it will not be necessary to make a new chart whenever any one leaves or is admitted.

To assist the block managers in compiling exact population figures by name and address, the Housing Division under Community Services is instructed to see the block manager before any moving is commenced. In other words, no change of address will be made without the knowledge of the manager of the block. Such changes shall be transmitted to Community Services Division and also to the Employment Office.

William Huso
Acting Hous. & Emp.
Officer

cc Luther T. Hoffman
William K. Tuttle
Morton J. Gaba ✓

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM
GILA RIVER PROJECT
RIVERS, ARIZONA

Reports Office

March 2, 1943

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. L. T. Hoffman
SUBJECT: Translations

Referring to memorandum received by your office from Eddie Kasugai, assistant Central Block Manager and translator, Canal Community.

All translations of official notices and other instructive matter will be translated by this office. Copies in both English and Japanese will be furnished only when so ordered by the Project Director or Chief of Divisions affected by such notices or instructive matter.

Robert A. Le Baron
Reports Officer

cc: Mr. Bennett
Mr. Gaba ✓
Mr. Terry

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM
GILA RIVER PROJECT
RIVERS, ARIZONA

Community Services

February 22, 1943

MEMORANDUM TO: Eddie Kasugai, Assistant Central
Block Manager

SUBJECT: Notices for Bulletin Boards

Thank you for your memorandum of February 25 in which you requested all notices and reports from this department be submitted to the Block Manager's Office for translation into Japanese before posting. This procedure will be carried out in the future for both the Canal Community Activities Section and Social Service Department.

Morton J. Gaba
Assistant Chief,
Community Services

MJG/jk

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM
GILA RIVER PROJECT
RIVERS, ARIZONA

Community Services

February 24, 1943

MEMORANDUM TO: John C. Welles
SUBJECT: Translation of Notices to Japanese

Please comply with the request made in the
attached memorandum.

Morton J. Gaba
Assistant Chief,
Community Services

Attachment

MJG/jk

Mr Gaba

February 25, 1943.

TO: MR.MORTON J. GABA
Community Service

SUBJECT: NECESSITY OF TRANSLATING ALL IMPORTANT
NOTICES INTO JAPANESE

The important notices and reports from your department must be translated, into Japanese and posted with the original notice. This is necessary, in order that the Isseis can read and understand them. This translation will be done by the Central Block Manager's Office.

Will appreciate, if you will send one copy of all notices and reports to this office at the same time they are sent out to the Block Managers.

Yours truly

Eddie Kasugai
Eddie Kasugai
Translator and
Assist. Central Blk. Mgr.
Canal Community

A. Why a Block Council?

(Based on 1 representative from each Block)

1. Handle Block problems.
2. Machinery of disseminating information from the Community Council.
3. To aid co-ordination and co-operation between Councilman and the people whom he represents.
4. Machinery to solicit Block opinion on matters pertaining to resident matters.

B. How to Set Up Block Council

1. Block Council

a. Membership to Block Council

1. The membership of the Block Council shall be composed of 17 members.
2. There shall be one representative from each of the 14 barracks.
3. The Block Manager, Mess Hall Supervisor and Block Councilman shall attend all meetings in an advisory capacity.

b. Officers of Block Council

There shall be Chairman, Vice-chairman, and Secretary elected from the 14 Barrack Representative. The Block Manager, Mess Hall Supervisor and Block Councilman shall not be eligible to vote nor hold office.

2. Election of Barrack Representatives to Block Council

a. Eligibility

Eligibility is limited to any barrack resident 21 years of age or over.

b. Method of Election

Method of election should be by a majority of the people of voting age residing within each barrack. (Voting age - 18 years or over)

c. Voting

1. By ballots
2. By popular vote at a gathering of residents (18 years or over) of each barrack. (By showing of hands, etc.)
3. Tenure of Office of Barrack Representative to Block Council

The period of 6 months was recommended.

3. Recall System

On account of the very short tenure the question of establishing a recall system was undecided.

Suggested Procedures for Organizing Community Council

The membership of Community Council

1. Block Representation
Councilman elected from each Block.
2. Ward Representation
Special political wards designated to include more than one block for a unit of representation.
*(Advisory Board System deemed necessary.)
3. Election at Large
*(Advisory Board System deemed necessary.)

Definition of Advisory Board

Board consisting of Chairman of each Block Council
Meeting - Advisory Board shall have a weekly or bi-weekly meetings.
Purpose - To offer written recommendations to the Community Council.
Board to receive minutes of the Community Council and these shall be disseminated to their respective Block Councils.

Advantages and Disadvantages of Procedures 1, 2 and 3

1. Block Representation (One Community Councilman per Block)

Advantages

1. Direct representation -
 - a. Eliminate dissatisfaction due to lack of representation.
2. Closer contact between Council and Block residents
 - a. Eliminates cumbersome machinery of intermediary bodies (e.g., Advisory groups.)
3. Proportionate representation

Disadvantages

1. Block consciousness--inter-block competition
2. Too large of a Community Council
3. Block necessity of providing for a Councilman irrespective of ability.
4. Small fractional representation

2. Ward Representation

Advantages

1. Smaller Council
2. Better selection
3. Increase sense of responsibility

Disadvantages

1. Ward consciousness
2. Some Blocks will be deprived of direct representation.

3. Election at Large

Advantages

1. Eliminates Block or Section consciousness.
2. Better selection.
3. Free from Block or sectional pressure.
4. Councilman takes broader view of general community welfare.
5. Smaller body enables efficiency in arriving at decisions.
6. Facilitates emergency meetings - project director, etc.

Disadvantages

1. Lack of direct representation of Blocks
2. Disinterested voting - blind voting, etc.