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Those persons who were selected for the committee to meet with  
Mr. Dillon S. Myer, the national Director of WRA.

1. Yoshio Hamamoto
2. Kintaro Takeda (Tule Lake)
3. Kenji Ito (Tule Lake)
4. Harry Hatate
5. Minoru Yasui
6. C. T. Takahashi
7. Floyd Tokuda
8. Shigeru Osawa
9. Toshikazu Hirokane
10. Yoshio Urakawa
11. Sadahiko Ikoma
12. Raisho Hino
13. ✓ Takeo Nogaki (*He was out in Chicago*)
14. Yoshito Fujii
15. Roy I. Akiyama



DILLON MYER    National Director WRA  
and  
Community Representatives

October 25, 1943        1:00 P.M.  
Rec. Hall Administrative Area

Agenda and Time Schedule

- |    |  |                  |
|----|--|------------------|
| 1. | Administrative Policy of WRA<br>spokesman: Minoru Yasui        | 1:00 - 1:10 P.M. |
| 2. | Termination of Project employment<br>spokesman: Yoshio Urakawa | 1:10 - 1:20 P.M. |
| 3. | Hospital<br>spokesman: C.T. Takahashi                          | 1:20 - 1:40 P.M. |
| 4. | Steward Division<br>spokesman: Roy Akiyama                     | 1:40 - 1:55 P.M. |
| 5. | Clothing Allowance<br>spokesman: Floyd Tokuda                  | 1:55 - 2:05 P.M. |
| 6. | Social Welfare<br>spokesman: Yoshio Fujii                      | 2:05 - 2:15 P.M. |



## MINIDOKA RELOCATION CENTER

Dillon S. Myer Conference  
Community Representatives  
October 25, 1943; 1:00 p.m.  
Administration Rec. Hall

### INTRODUCTORY REMARKS:

On behalf of the residents of the Minidoka relocation center, and as one of the representatives of the community, I wish to extend our greetings and welcome to Mr. Myer, our national director. We are very happy to have you with us today, to meet with you and to discuss various problems with you. Out of this conference with you, we are hoping that certain issues will be clarified, and that you will not only carry away with you a better understanding of the present condition of this center but also that we shall have a better understanding of the WRA and its policies.

Altho we are going to present some issues that may seem controversial or even questionable, we hope that you will understand that the discussion which will follow is intended as constructive suggestion and recommendations by the people of this project. We intend, by no means, to raise personal issues, nor do we feel that we have covered all points thoroughly. We are raising issues to hear your suggestions and opinions concerning them, and to call your attention to what we believe to be valid grievances.

In order to facilitate that discussion, we, the representatives of the people, with their consent and with the approval



of the block delegates, as verified by their signatures, have adopted an agenda containing five major topics, viz.:

1. the basic administrative policy of the WRA and general questions.
2. the local hospital situation.
3. the food or stewards division.
4. the matter of clothing allowances, and
5. the social welfare of the project residents.

The sub-committees of the block representatives have worked up reports on each topic, and the reports having been ratified by the committee as a whole, we are presenting them to you for your consideration.

Since our time is so strictly limited, and as your time is valuable, we will turn directly to the matters at hand.



## HOSPITAL REPORT

We want take this opportunity of calling to the attention of Mr. Myer, project director and medical officer certain phases of the medical service in this project.

This report was prepared by a group of laymen and is intended to give you a picture of the medical situation as it appears to an evacuee layman. Furthermore, this is merely a one-sided report in the sense that no attempt was made to obtain facts and explanations from those in authoritative positions.

We are fully aware that the war has caused shortage of doctors, medical supplies and equipment throughout the country. We have tried to avoid making the comparison, often resorted to by some patients unknowingly, between the present project service and private medical service prior to the war. We are also aware that the attitude of some of the appointed personnel in general toward the evacuees is bound to be influenced by the prevailing atmosphere of the country as a whole against persons of Japanese ancestry. In this connection, too, we have endeavored not to make comparisons based on pre-war standards. Taking into consideration all these conditions and circumstances, we still feel that important improvements can be made in regard to the quality and quantity of medical service here in the project.

In the first place, we believe that facilities for transporting patients is not adequate. Some 9,000 evacuees residing in this project over an area  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles long must rely solely upon such motor transportation as is furnished them by WRA.



The project has four ambulance trucks, one cargo truck, and one passenger car for the use of the hospital. The interior of these ambulance trucks are the same as ordinary cargo trucks. When transporting patients on a stretcher, the stretcher is laid directly upon the truck floor. Of these 4 trucks, three of them are at present out of commission due to mechanical defects.

The cargo truck above mentioned is used mainly to transport hospital employees daily. But due to a lack of available vehicles, it is being used for emergencies.

The passenger car also just mentioned is used almost exclusively for 3 purposes:

- 1) to transport nurses who go out on home calls;
- 2) to transport expectant mothers who come to the hospital for pre-natal care on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.
- 3) to transport mothers and babies who come to the well-baby clinic every Friday afternoon.

This car is controlled in such manner that it is almost impossible to use it even in emergencies when neither the ambulance truck nor the cargo truck is available.

As an example, last Friday afternoon there was an emergency call from block 28. In answer to the call the cargo truck was sent because the ambulance truck was not then available. Upon arriving at the patient's apartment, the driver learned that the patient had the usual symptoms of acute appendicitis and the mother insisted that he was in no condition to be transported on a truck. The driver returned to the hospital feeling sorry and ashamed and requested another driver to go



back to get the patient with a more suitable vehicle. The second driver tried to obtain permission to use the passenger car, which was then not in use, but he was flatly refused. Determined to do something about it, he finally succeeded about 10 minutes later in getting the key to the car by means of a ruse, whereby he pretended that he was going to use it to take home an expectant mother after pre-natal examination. The patient in question was brought to the hospital in this car. About two hours later this same patient was on the operating table undergoing appendectomy. He is making satisfactory progress.

In regard to other facilities such as medical supplies and instruments and hospital equipment, we, as laymen, are not competent to pass upon their adequacy.

For the same reason, we refrain from commenting upon the question of professional skill and competency of the medical personnel. We believe that most of the doctors and nurses are competent. However, in the course of our none-too-thoroughly study of the subject, we have come into possession of such information as will, in our opinion, warrant your serious attention regarding their individual competency, both from the standpoint of medical skill and also from the standpoint of temperamental fitness to treat evacuee patients.

At present, we have three Caucasian doctors and two Japanese doctors. Judging by their number alone, and in the view of the war-time doctor shortage, the situation may not appear



to be too serious. But we believe there is a definite shortage of available medical service. In fact, some patients have been told authoritatively that due to a shortage of doctors, tonsilectomy cannot be performed at present. These cases are not sent outside the project for operation. As a consequence, a number of children are suffering more or less from infected tonsils.

The project hospital originally had 7 evacuee doctors, of whom 2 now remain. The 5 who have relocated have done so unwillingly, reluctantly and partly under official pressure. We cannot sympathize with such pressure brought upon any evacuee and especially upon the evacuee doctors, whose services are sorely needed here. They understand the language of the older men and women patients, most of whom do not speak English too well, and their temperament and psychology. We feel and regret keenly the loss of these doctors, and we sincerely hope and pray that no evacuee doctor who desires to remain and serve the project will be compelled to relocate under pressure, either directly or indirectly applied. Furthermore, we believe that those doctors who have relocated under circumstances just described but who desire to return and serve the project should be welcomed with open arms by the WRA, and, if possible, employed under a half-way reasonable compensation scale.

Finally, we as representatives of the people, have some confidence in dealing with the matter of public relations be-



tween the medical personnel and the evacuees. There is a widespread dissatisfaction among the evacuees relative to the attitude of the medical personnel towards the evacuee patients and employees. It should be pointed out in all fairness that this dissatisfaction is project-wide in scope. These criticisms, if warranted, will, in our opinion, develop into a far more serious situation than any other aspect of the medical situation. The kind of solution we hope for is not action from above but rather remedy from the ground up through mutual give-and take attitude among the medical personnel and the evacuees. To this end, we would like to recommend, in closing, a more extensive, and frequent exchange of opinions between the medical personnel and the evacuees.

END



## ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY OF THE WRA

1. What is the basic policy of the WRA with regard to community self-government with particular respect to the Minidoka Center?

We understand that a form of community self-government has been authorized for all relocation centers. As a point of information, it must be stated that a plan of self-government has once been rejected by the residents of this center.

We further understand that regardless of the type of self-government adopted by the center residents, that the project director, in the final analysis, either or both in theory and in practice, will retain and exercise the final power.

However, in this connection, the specific question arises: under self-government, to what degree may the representative bodies of community government act to influence the judgment or decisions of the project director? Obviously, to be of any value, the community government must have some degree of influence. We believe that unless the community government be clothed with sufficient influence and power so as to affect final decisions, relating to local issues, according to the dictates of the people, there would be no purpose or value to community self-government.

Further, in conducting the affairs of the center residents, to what extent may the community self-governing bodies exercise final discretionary powers? In matters of purely local concern, we feel that the community government ought to have, and must have, if it is to actually function, final jurisdiction in such matters as are of purely local concern.

And finally, with due respect to our own project director, and without any intent to cast any reflections or aspersions at Mr. Stafford, in the hypothetical event that the final decisions of the project director and the representative body of the community differ, admitting that the project director's decision will prevail in the immediate present, what recourse will the representative body have, aside from the dubious methods of strikes and walk-outs, which will be effective? Or, in elaborating this thought, in the event that the appointed personnel adopt a dictator-



ial or arbitrary attitude with regard to any issue that might arise, what is the proper procedure and the officially-sanctioned method of redress for the representative body? We believe that with final authority resting in the appointed personnel, that there is room for abuses, and that the community ought to have effective, and officially recognized means to nullify such possible abuses.

2. Is there any possibility that evacuee residents can be, or will be, appointed to the administrative staffs of the WRA, under regular civil service procedures, on the projects?

It is pointed out that there are many qualified evacuee residents on the projects, and among whom relocation may not be feasible or desirable at the present time. In view of the present-day manpower shortages, it is respectfully submitted that the evacuee residents ought to be extended the fullest opportunity to appointment to the administrative staff of the WRA, whenever qualified, on the projects.

In particular, altho the point will no doubt be mentioned again, it is pointed that particularly in view of the present shortage of doctors, that evacuee doctors are perfectly qualified to serve on the hospital staffs. It is believed that it is only equitable that such persons be appointed, provided that they can qualify under civil service rules, to perform professional services in their medical capacities, at a normal and ordinary rate of compensation.

In all professional fields, where unusual skills or abilities are required, it seems only reasonable that whenever an evacuee resident performs services, that a reasonable compensation be provided. And further, it is submitted that the residents of these centers are not here by choice, and may be prevented by circumstances from relocating. It is strongly urged that all such persons ought to be given an equal opportunity to earn according to their abilities, and not according to some artificial, arbitrary, honorary scale.

3. The residents of the Minidoka Center urgently request and strongly urge that separate school buildings be constructed at the Minidoka center.



At the present time, the schools of the Minidoka center are held in two half-blocks, which comprise the grade schools, and a single block which constitutes the high school. Under such inadequate conditions, we feel that the children are being tremendously handicapped when they should subsequently find themselves in the outside world trying to adjust themselves to normal living. Moreover, with such make-shift arrangements, we feel that it is jeopardizing the future of our children, as the physical set-up of the school prohibits satisfactory education, training and guidance.

Moreover, the temporary housing of the schools in the regular blocks aggravates the acute housing shortage in this center. With unpredictable increases in the number of residents at this center, due to a yet unaccomplished movement from Tule Lake and those who will be applying for re-induction even after having been granted indefinite leaves, the housing situation will become intolerable. We firmly believe that adequate facilities should be built for schools, and that adequate housing be provided for the residents, without the necessity of temporarily housing the excess population in recreation halls, as has been done in the past.

4. The residents of the Minidoka Center further request and urge that an AUDITORIUM be authorized and constructed for the Minidoka Center.

We strongly feel the need for a central gathering place on this project in order to integrate our activities and our efforts. In order to be better able to meet the changing conditions of the present time, there is necessity for a community-wide discussion and planning. At present no such facilities are available.

Moreover, in connection with cultural activities and in keeping contacts with the outside world, we feel that an auditorium is essential in order to hold joint meetings with outside groups, to sponsor exhibits, concerts, entertainments, and similar activities. In our programs honoring our volunteers, in war bond rallies, Red Cross drives, and other activities of a civic nature, at present we are forced to scatter in individual gatherings throughout the project, which but poorly effectuates our purposes.



Administrative Instruction No. 27 (Revised) dated August 4, 1943 on grounds for discharge, states:

"Grounds for discharge shall be determined at the discretion of the Project Director, and shall include the following:" And under this caption is given four specific grounds for the discharge of project evacuee employment.

Recently, through the Project Employment Officer, we are informed that the Project Director has found it within his discretion to add one more cause for discharge, namely, that of "the failure to accept suitable outside employment." This, we presume, is to emphasize and enhance the importance of and to expedite the cause of relocation. We are also told that this "failure to accept suitable outside employment" will be applicable to each and all project employment level.

We are here not to argue with the Director on the merit or demerit of the policy of relocation; neither are we intending to question the specific authority given the Project Director relevant to the discharge of evacuee employment. The evacuees as a whole, however, do feel that it is our inherent right and should rest upon each one's shoulder, individually, to self-determine in the lights of his own and other extenuating circumstances, and not the Project Director alone, whether an outside employment offer is suitable for him or not. We had forced evacuation before. That more or less, has been found to be a mistake. Now we are confronted with another form of forced relocation.



The majority sentiment is that we are placed in a precarious position of a condemned prisoner with a hammer over our heads. Such a position taken by our Project Director can, we fear, result only in the deterioration rather than the progressive development of the policy of relocation. We view it as a form of a threat, and thereby arousing not only hesitancy but antagonism against making applications for outside job offers.

We request the National Director to intercede in our behalf so that the Project director will take every precaution and thoughts before he exercises the prerogative and authority given him.



## STEWARD DIVISION

Owing to the indifferent attitude of the Steward's Division to the best interest of the Colonists, the different departments within the Steward's Division are gradually approaching a crisis. We believe a revised system in purchasing and distributing of food should be put into effect.

At one particular 3 month period, fish (specifically Columbia River smelts) was served 3 times a week in the dining halls. Although the requisition stated halibut, mackeral, or codfish, no variety was granted. When the Steward Division wired to the Quartermaster at Salt Lake City, in requisition for fish, our choice in fish was Columbia River smelt or nothing at all---take it or leave it." The nature of this carload being on the verge of spoilage was unfit for consumption.

On August 5th, fish was sent from Michigan--a total of 28,673 lbs. consisting of spoiled carp, mullet and sheephead. Though these may be called fish, the Japanese as a rule do not consume these particular types. As far as records show, it was rejected, but paid for and supposedly consumed. Instead of selling this for fertilizer or otherwise disposing it, the fish was frozen and a month later was sent to the mess halls again, when it was thought that the previous incident was forgotten. With the meat rationed, we desire a more variety of edible fish in our diet.

Meats, fruits and vegetables under the present food distribution system have much spoilage and waste. The distribution of fruits and begetables would be more appreciated if they were



varied during the week. By the time the last distribution is made, the fruits are spoiled for human consumption. Spoiled foods instead of being dumped at the warehouse are sent to the kitchens to be thrown in the garbage cans.

Owing to a sugar shortage, last January, the residents went through a period without sugar. This sugar was never made up when the shipment did come in.

There is an excess of starch food values in our diet. From the health standpoint, statistical research has proved the detrimental effects of highly starchy diets on the human bodily functions and energy supply.

In summary, we wish to state that the above examples are in reality a waste of food, acting in direct violation of the present war effort. We would like to call your attention and request:

- (1) that some attention be given to the quality of food instead of the quantity.
- (2) a variety of fish of consumable quality and type.
- (3) that when fruits are requisitioned, a variety be selected in each carload.
- (4) a variety of food values in the menus.

When foodstuffs of such nature are distributed to each dining hall, it is in reality checked against each individual's daily meal allotment, although it is not actually being consumed. We would like to call your attention to this particular point in reference to the nature of food being allotted to the residents.

We would like to call your attention to this particular point in reference to the nature of food being allotted to the residents.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Dillon S. Myer  
FROM: Evacuees  
SUBJECT: Clothing Allowance

We believe that Clothing Allowances should be issued to all evacuees in this Project regardless of the evacuee's status or classification and that the amount of each allowance should be increased because of the following reasons:

- I. Food, clothing, and shelter are three of the barest necessities for existence. The W. R. A. by its policy evidently believes that food and shelter should be provided for all evacuees regardless of whether a person works or not. We are unable to follow the W. R. A. 's reasoning in failing to regard clothing as a necessary equally as important as food or shelter if life is to be decently maintained for any length of time.
- II. Under latest regulations only the following persons receive Clothing Allowances:
  - a. A person working 15 days or more of a month and their dependents.
  - b. Persons receiving Unemployment Compensation for 15 days or more of a month and their dependents.
  - c. Persons receiving Public Assistance Grant.
- III. The so-called Unemployment Compensation since August 4, 1943 applies only to persons who become ill while working whereas prior to that time all unemployed persons able and willing to work were included. Only persons who can prove that they are practically penniless are eligible for Public Assistance Grant and the ordinary unemployed person is therefore not able to receive Clothing Allowance through this source. The WRA policy of limiting the employment of evacuees within the Project has therefore not only resulted in the loss of the meager \$16.00 a month to the persons discharged but also the loss of Clothing Allowances for himself and his dependents until he has been reduced to the level of poverty and indigence required.



- IV. The nature of the application for Public Assistance Grant and for Clothing Allowance under Public Assistance Grant is no humiliating that many persons in actual need avoid recourse to it. We do not believe that distitution and submission to unwarranted humiliation and embarrassment should be made a condition to receiving Clothing Allowances any more that they should be made a condition to receiving Clothing Allowance any more that they should be made a condition to receiving food and shelter.
- V. Since the present Clothing Allowance amounts were determined the price of clothing has risen substantially. The amounts, never adequate to begin with, have had to be supplemented out of personal savings which today in many cases have disappeared. The clothing originally brought here by the evacuees is gradually becoming unfit for use from wear and tear. If actual physical suffering is to be avoided the amount of each payment must be increased.

We earnestly request that you give this matter your serious consideration, that W.R.A. regulation be altered to grant Clothing Allowance to every evacuee in this Project, and that the amount of each allowance be increased.



We would like to request the director to clarify and make constructive suggestions on the following:

Subject: Social Welfare.

1. Under this division, all those who are unable to work due to old age, physical weakness, and families with no one working, have been receiving Public Assistance Grants. According to the WRA instructions, it is provided that the amounts to be granted shall be from \$3.00 to \$4.75. Here in this project, all cases have been receiving \$3.00 which is the minimum amount allowed. Therefore, the question has been raised by the residents, who is eligible to which amount, and under what conditions.

2. In spite of the ceiling prices on commodities, the cost of living today has been enormously increased that the daily necessities such as shoes and cotton goods have doubled in price. For this reason, we feel that it is only fair that the maximum amount of \$4.75 be granted to every case, regardless of conditions.

3. Regarding the traveling expense for the relocating evacuees, the practice in this project has been to provide a sum up to \$50.00 to those persons in need of such grants. We feel, however, that such expenses should be granted to every one who is leaving on relocation regardless of their status for the reason that it would cost the government approximately \$50.00 per month to have them stay within the project. This temporary aid will eliminate the government's further expense and responsibilities, and at the same time, this will prove a greatest inducement for the relocation program.

4. The object of the Public Assistance grants is in nature of relief, but here in this project, the procedure is such that it causes great embarrassment to those who are qualified to make such applications. Is it the policy of the WRA to take such attitudes in order to discourage more applicants, altho they are all needy people? If not, we would like to request the director to modify the procedure such that it will not cause too much hardships on the applicant.



Dillon S. Myer Conference  
Community Representatives

INTRODUCTORY TALK:

Mr. Chairman, Folks of Minidoka City,

It has been almost a year since I had the chance to visit Minidoka. I have during the last year visited many centers and have seen a great many developments and changes. I was here before when many problems, and some were very big ones. We went through a thorough investigation and there was a period when it was very hard for you people, when we didn't have the chance to have a say. We are now a good organization.

I think you all know, particularly in this center, that relocation is the major objective. The WRA cannot carry out a program unless you want us to. We are more or less in the same boat, so we have to work out our program jointly, in order to get the job done. We have been quite successful in doing this. Things have gone better than I expected. We are looking ahead for still better results. We think it is just as essential for you to relocate even though you are going back to Washington and Oregon after the war, regardless how old or young you are. You're the people who are directly affected--More involved than any one else.

Relocation up to now has been made up largely of people between the ages of 17 to 40. I would say about 85% relocated



have been the Nisei. In my opinion, we have to move on to family relocation. Housing is one of the major problems and there will be few others, too. I am quite convinced that the only sound thing is to get ahead with relocation on the basis of understanding and goodwill.

Administrative Policy of the WRA:

There is a policy of permitting self-government, if you want to have it. The project director has the responsibility for project administration. There is no question in my mind that the project director is the final authority on things that involve expenditure of Government funds. There are certain other things that the people of the community ought to be willing to do, but they must be willing to assume responsibility. There is a policy that would allow for setting up a community council. This project at one time had a plan and voted it down. We prefer that there be a representative form of government. We have had to revise in certain parts. I feel now, particularly now, that we have moved and completed the segregation program, that we should have community government here.

The Project Director is always going to have some responsibility that he cannot give to anyone else. There will be certain responsibility largely for the council and the Project Director to carry on. Joint responsibility should be shouldered in a cooperative way.

The possibility of appointment through the civil service



to the administration is very slender. If we do start, there will be a basis of conflict that will disrupt the whole program. We will do everything in our power to assist people who want to work under civil service outside, but there is very little possibility of appointment under the civil service to the administrative staffs of the projects.

#### School Buildings:

We didn't get started on the construction as soon as we hoped. The WPB finally authorized high school buildings, such as shops and laboratories, but told us to use barracks for elementary schools. High school construction including auditoriums for all the centers is recommended. The problem is to find enough labor and material and to set up priorities. Yours is just getting underway. There is a policy to provide a high school and the auditorium will be available for community purposes.

Question: (Mr. Y. Urakawa) Will it be contrary to your policy for a more representative government by negotiation?

Answer: I would hate to have these self-appointed pressure groups in power. It should be on the basis of a sound election, rather than a group of self-appointed people. We would prefer to have folks properly represented. I much prefer that the council be elected.



#### Termination of Employment:

I don't know all the facts, and I refuse to use my judgment until I have all side of the question. There are great numbers of people relocating, but the employment policy was not put into effect to force the people to relocate. It is a policy to be worked out satisfactory for everyone concerned. I know that Minidoka has a good record on relocation. This is the major objective of the WRA. If we have overstepped, naturally, we want to sit down and talk about it.

The toughest problem is the project employment. We had a great many on the payroll. The number of employees on each of the projects must be determined in order to make sure how many people we need on various jobs. It does, of course, mean that there will be probably some selection of those folks who will collaborate on the job. The termination of employment on project jobs was not intended to force people out of the projects. There may have been some misinterpretations. It is essential that we carry on necessary functions.

#### Medical Care:

Most of the people have better care now than before evacuation, and certainly better care than on the outside. In the last three or four months, we have had difficulty in maintaining the necessary number of doctors. It was not planned



to have more than four or five doctors in the centers. This amount is more than the ordinary community has. We are trying to render the service so that this program will maintain good health, I assure you that we are doing everything that we can, and trying to do more. We have recently asked the public health service to assume some responsibility. We have tried to work this out. We are having some success, but are not sure how successful.

Food Problem:

As we look ahead in relocation, we look ahead with concern and understanding that it will get tougher and tougher to get food. We are getting land in shape and livestock in shape, so you can have enough meat and enough eggs, and enough vegetables, simply because it will get harder and harder to get them on the market. We may have some difficulty in getting some kinds of fish. We will not starve, however. But because of the war situation and the problems of transportation, we may not be able to get the right kind of foods at the right time. But we shall do our best to provide the proper quality of foods as well as the proper quantities of food.

Question: (Mr. F. Tokuda) Why is it that the evacuees are charged with the cost of rotten fish which is delivered and thrown away?



Answer: I don't know.

Clothing Allowance:

This matter has been considered very thoroughly. We have decided not to change the policy in general. In the early days, the only provision was to grant rough clothes for the workers. We are not providing employment to everybody who wishes to work at the certain job which they choose, because we do not have enough jobs open for them. However, I think that it is working out reasonably well. I doubt if there is great change in clothing prices, because of ceiling prices. The price situation has not changed much. I realize how you people feel about asking for grants. For those people who want to get more clothes, we will try to find him a job on the outside, so that he can buy clothes.

Request by F. Tokuda: Give more lenient instructions to the WRA Administrative officials regarding Public Assistance Grants. In the policy of the WRA, the administrative officials unnecessarily humiliate and embarrass the evacuees.

In the policy of the WRA, we will have to have all of the facts before we give out money, clothing or anything. We have to justify every penny of the expenses that we have. I believe that we should not simply hand out money in the way of grants without good reason.



Social WELFARE:

It has been a problem to take care of the larger families. It will be necessary to make applications showing the need for money. This is the only way they can be helped.

CONCLUDING STATEMENT:

There is one thing that I think should be mentioned as a matter of great deal of importance. We have in the evacuee total, about one-third of the folks who came from Japan, and two-thirds are Nisei. And out of the 2/3, one-half of the Nisei have relocated. As I look around this room, I find that the majority of the folks are Issei. That means that we have a different situation. We have to work together, and lean backwards to understand. I hope you will not make this an old man's camp. It is going to be harder and harder to run this camp. We have to work together, and keep up our Americanization. This is a problem and is going to be a little bit hard to work out.



WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
MINIDOKA PROJECT

REPORT

November 15, 1943

On October 25th a committee representing the evacuees met with the National Director, Mr. Dillon S. Myer, to discuss certain phases of project administration. Following is a condensed record of this 90-minutes meeting.

Evacuee Representatives  
Minidoka War Relocation Center

Those representatives present were: Messrs. Roy I. Akiyama, Yoshito Fujii, Harry Hatate, Raisho Hino, Toshikazu Hirokane, Sadahiko Ikoma, Kenji Ito, Makoto Kibe, Shigeru Ozawa, C. T. Takahashi, Kintaro Takeda, Floyd Tokuda, Yoshio Urakawa, and Minoru Yasui.

提出案並討議事項記録書

西曆一九四三年十月二十五日  
WAR Relocation Authority  
居住民代表者との會見席上に於ける







Dillon S. Myer Conference  
Community Representatives  
October 25, 1943; 1:00 P.M.  
Administration Rec. Hall

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS:  
Mr. Yasui

On behalf of the residents of the Minidoka Relocation Center, and as one of the representatives of the community, I wish to extend our greetings and welcome to Mr. Myer, our National Director. We are very happy to have you with us today, to meet with you and to discuss various problems with you. Out of this conference with you, we are hoping that certain issues will be clarified, and that you will not only carry away with you a better understanding of the present conditions of this center but also that we shall have a better understanding of the WRA and its policies.

Although we are going to present some issues that may seem controversial or even questionable, we hope that you will understand that the discussion which will follow is intended as constructive suggestion and recommendation by the people of this project. We intend, by no means, to raise personal issues, nor do we feel that we have covered all points thoroughly. We are raising issues to hear your suggestions and opinions concerning them, and to call your attention to what we believe to be valid grievances.

In order to facilitate the discussion, we, the representatives of the people, with their consent and with the approval of the block delegates, as verified by their signatures, have adopted agenda containing five major topics, viz.:

1. The basic administrative policy of the WRA and general questions,
2. The local hospital situation.
3. The food or stewards division
4. The matter of clothing allowances, and
5. The social welfare of the project residents.

The sub-committees of the block representatives have worked up reports on each topic, and the reports having been ratified by the committee as a whole, we are presenting them to you for your consideration.

Since our time is so strictly limited, and as your time is valuable, we will turn directly to the matters at hand.

INTRODUCTORY TALK:  
Mr. Myer

Mr. Chairman, Folks of Minidoka City,

It has been almost a year since I had the chance to visit Minidoka. I have during the last year visited many centers and have seen a great many developments and changes. I was here before when many of you were comparatively new residents. We have had a great many problems, and some were very big ones. We went through a thorough investigation and there was a period when it was very hard for you people when we didn't have the chance to have a say. We are now a good organization.



I think you all know, particularly in this center, that relocation is the major objective. The WRA cannot carry out a program unless you want us to. We are more or less in the same boat, so we have to work out our program jointly, in order to get the job done. We have been quite successful in doing this. Things have gone better than I expected. We are looking ahead for still better results. We think it is just as essential for you to relocate even though you are going back to Washington and Oregon after the war, regardless of how old or young you are. You're the people who are directly affected--more involved than any one else.

Relocation up to now has been made up largely of people between the ages of 17 to 40. I would say about 85% relocated have been Nissei. In my opinion, we have to move on to family relocation. Housing is one of the major problems and there will be a few others, too. I am quite convinced that the only sound thing is to get ahead with relocation on the basis of understanding and goodwill.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY OF THE WRA

1. Question:  
Mr. Yasui

What is the basic policy of the WRA with regard to community self-government, with particular respect to the Minidoka Center?

We understand that a form of community self-government has been authorized for all relocation centers. As a point of information, it must be stated that a plan of self-government has once been rejected by the residents of this center.

We further understand that regardless of the type of self-government adopted by the center residents, that the project director, in the final analysis, either or both in theory and in practice, will retain and exercise final power.

However, in connection, the specific question arises: under self-government, to what degree may the representative bodies of community government act to influence the judgments or decisions of the project director? Obviously, to be of any value, the community government must have some degree of influence. We believe that unless the community government be clothed with sufficient influence and power so as to affect final decisions, relating to local issues, according to the dictates of the people, there would be no purpose or value to community self-government.

Further, in conducting the affairs of the center residents, to what extent may the community self-governing bodies exercise final discretionary powers? In matters of purely local concern, we feel that the community government ought to have, and must have, if it is actually to function, final jurisdiction in such matters as are of purely local concern.

And finally, with due respect to our own project director, and without any intent to cast any reflections or aspersions at Mr. Stafford, in the hypothetical event that the final decisions of the project director and the representative body of the community differ, admitting that the project director's decision will prevail in the immediate present, what recourse will the representative body have, aside from the dubious methods of strikes and walk-outs, which will be effective? Or, in elaboration of this thought, in the event that the appointed personnel adopt a dictatorial or arbitrary attitude with regard to any issue that might arise, what is the proper procedure and the officially-sanctioned method of redress for the representative body? We believe that with final authority resting in the appointed personnel, that there is room for abuses, and that the community ought to have effective, and officially recognized means to nullify such possible abuses.

Answer:  
Mr. Myer

There is a policy of permitting self-government, if you want to have it. The Project Director has the responsibility for project administration. There is no question in my mind that the project director is the final authority on things that involve expenditure of Government funds. There are certain other things that the people of the community ought to be willing to do, but they must be willing to assume responsibility. There is a policy that would allow for



setting up a community council. This project at one time had a plan and voted it down. We prefer that there be a representative form of government. We have had to revise in certain parts. I feel now, particularly now, that we have moved and completed the segregation program, that we should have community government here.

The Project Director is always going to have some responsibility that he cannot give to anyone else. There will be certain responsibility largely for the council and the Project Director to carry on. Joint responsibility should be shouldered in a cooperative way.

#### RESIDENTS AS WRA APPOINTEES

2. Question:  
Mr. Yasui

Is there any possibility that evacuee residents can be, or will be, appointed to the administrative staffs of the WRA, under regular civil service procedures, on the projects?

It is pointed out that there are many qualified evacuee residents on the projects, and among whom relocation may not be feasible or desirable at the present time. In view of the present-day manpower shortages, it is respectfully submitted that the evacuee residents ought to be extended the fullest opportunity to appointment to the administrative staff of the WRA, whenever qualified, on the projects.

In particular, although the point will no doubt be mentioned again, it is pointed that particularly in view of the present shortage of doctors, evacuee doctors are perfectly qualified to serve on the hospital staffs. It is believed that it is only equitable that such persons be appointed, provided that they can qualify under civil service rules, to perform professional services in their medical capacities, at a normal and ordinary rate of compensation.

In all professional fields, where unusual skills or abilities are required, it seems only reasonable that whenever an evacuee resident performs services, that a reasonable compensation be provided. And further, it is submitted that the residents of these centers are not here by choice, and may be prevented by circumstances from relocating. It is strongly urged that all such persons ought to be given an equal opportunity to earn according to their abilities, and not according to some artificial, arbitrary, honorary scale.

Answer:  
Mr. Myer

The possibility of appointment through the civil service to the administration is very slender. If we do start, there will be a basis of conflict that will disrupt the whole program. We will do everything in our power to assist people who want to work under civil service outside, but there is very little possibility of appointment under the civil service to the administrative staffs of the projects.

#### SCHOOL BUILDINGS

3. Question:  
Mr. Yasui

The residents of the Minidoka Center urgently request and strongly urge that separate school buildings be constructed at the Minidoka Center.

At the present time, the schools of the Minidoka center are held in two half-blocks, which comprise the grade schools, and a single block which constitutes the high school. Under such inadequate conditions, we feel that the children are being tremendously handicapped when they should subsequently find themselves in the outside world trying to adjust themselves to normal living. Moreover, with such make-shift arrangements, we feel that it is jeopardizing the future of our children, as the physical set-up of the school prohibits satisfactory education, training and guidance.

Moreover, the temporary housing of the schools in the regular blocks aggravates the acute housing shortage in this center. With unpredictable increases in the number of residents at this center, due to a yet unaccomplished movement from Tule Lake and those who will be applying for



re-induction even after having been granted indefinite leaves, the housing situation will become intolerable. We firmly believe that adequate facilities should be built for schools, and that adequate housing be provided for residents, without the necessity of housing the excess population in recreation halls temporarily as has been done in the past.

The residents of the Minidoka Center further request and urge that an auditorium be authorized and constructed for the Minidoka Center. We strongly feel the need for a central gathering place on this project in order to integrate our activities and our efforts. In order to be better able to meet the changing conditions of the present time, there is necessity for a community-wide discussion and planning. At present, no such facilities are available.

Moreover, in connection with cultural activities and in keeping contacts with the outside world, we feel that an auditorium is essential in order to hold joint meetings with outside groups, to sponsor exhibits, concerts, entertainments, and similar activities. In our programs honoring our volunteers, in war bond rallies, Red Cross drives, and other activities of a civic nature, at present, we are forced to scatter in individual gatherings throughout the project, which but poorly effectuates our purposes.

Answer:  
Mr. Myer

We didn't get started on the construction as soon as we hoped. The WPB finally authorized high school buildings, such as shops and laboratories, but told us to use barracks for elementary schools. High school construction including auditoriums for all the centers is recommended. The problem is to find enough labor and material and to set up priorities. Yours is just getting underway. There is a policy to provide a high school, and the auditorium will be available for community purposes.

Question:  
Mr. Y. Urakawa

Will it be contrary to your policy for a more representative government by negotiations?

Answer:  
Mr. Myer

I would hate to have these self-appointed pressure groups in power. It should be on the basis of a sound election, rather than a group of self-appointed people. We would prefer to have folks properly represented. I much prefer that the council be elected.

#### TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT

4. Question:  
Mr. Yasui

Administrative Instruction No. 27 (Revised) dated August 4, 1943, on grounds for discharge, states:

"Grounds for discharge shall be determined at the discretion of the Project Director, and shall include the following;" And under this caption is given four specific grounds for the discharge of project evacuee employment.

Recently, through the Project Employment Officer, we are informed that the Project Director has found it within his discretion to add one more cause for discharge, namely, that of "the failure to accept suitable outside employment." This, we presume, is to emphasize and enhance the importance of and to expedite the cause of relocation. We are also told that this "failure to accept suitable outside employment" will be applicable to each and all project employment levels.

We are here not to argue with the Director on the merit or demerit of the policy of relocation; neither are we intending to question the specific authority given the Project Director relevant to the discharge of evacuee employment. The evacuees as a whole, however, do feel that it is our inherent right and should rest upon each one's shoulder, individually, to self-determine in the lights of his own and other extenuating circumstances, and not the Project Director alone, whether an outside employment offer is suitable for him or not.







We had forced evacuation before. That, more or less, has been found to be a mistake. Now we are confronted with another form of forced relocation.

The majority sentiment is that we are placed in a precarious position of a condemned prisoner with a hammer over our heads. Such a position taken by our Project Director can, we fear, result only in the deterioration rather than the progressive development of the policy of relocation. We view it as a form of a threat thereby arousing not only hesitancy but antagonism against making applications for outside job offers.

We request the National Director to intercede in our behalf so that the Project Director will take every precaution and thought before he exercises the prerogative and authority given him.

Answer:  
Mr. Myer

I don't know all the facts, and I refuse to use my judgment until I have all sides of the question. There are great numbers of people relocating, but the employment policy was not put into effect to force the people to relocate. It is a policy to be worked out satisfactorily for everyone concerned. I know that Minidoka has a good record on relocation. This is the major objective of the WRA. If we have overstepped, naturally, we want to sit down and talk about it.

The toughest problem is the project employment. We had a great many on the payroll. The number of employees on each of the projects must be determined in order to make sure how many people we need on various jobs. It does, of course, mean that there will be probably some selection of those folks who will collaborate on the job. The termination of employment on project jobs was not intended to force people out of the projects. There may have been some misinterpretations. It is essential that we carry on necessary functions.

#### HOSPITAL REPORT

5. Question:  
Mr. Yasui

We want to take this opportunity of calling to the attention of Mr. Myer, the project director, and the medical officer certain phases of the medical service in this project.

This report was prepared by a group of laymen and is intended to give you a picture of the medical situation as it appears to an evacuee layman. Furthermore, this is merely a one-sided report in the sense that no attempt was made to obtain facts and explanations from those in authoritative positions.

We are fully aware that the war has caused a shortage of doctors, medical supplies, and equipment throughout the country. We have tried to avoid making the comparison, often resorted to by some patients unknowingly, between the present project service and private medical service prior to the war. We are also aware that the attitude of some of the appointed personnel in general toward the evacuees is bound to be influenced by the prevailing atmosphere of the country as a whole against persons of Japanese ancestry. In this connection, too, we have endeavored not to make comparisons based on pre-war standards. Taking into consideration all these conditions and circumstances, we still feel that important improvements can be made in regard to the quality and quantity of medical service here in the project.

In the first place, we believe that facilities for transporting patients is not adequate. Some 9,000 evacuees residing in this project over an area  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles long must rely solely upon such motor transportation as is furnished them by the WRA.

The project has four ambulance trucks, one cargo truck, and one passenger car for the use of the hospital. The interior of these ambulance trucks is the same as ordinary cargo trucks. When transporting patients on a stretcher, the stretcher is laid directly upon the truck floor. Of these 4 trucks, three of them are at present out of commission due to mechanical defects.

The cargo truck above mentioned is used mainly to transport hospital employees daily. But due to a lack of available vehicles, it is being used for emergencies.







The passenger car also just mentioned is used almost exclusively for three purposes:

- (1) To transport nurses who go out on home calls;
- (2) To transport expectant mothers who come to the hospital for pre-natal care on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons;
- (3) To transport mothers and babies who come to the well-baby clinic every Friday afternoon.

This car is controlled in such a manner that it is almost impossible to use it even in emergencies when neither the ambulance truck nor the cargo truck is available.

As an example, last Friday afternoon there was an emergency call from block 28. In answer to the call the cargo truck was sent because the ambulance truck was not then available. Upon arriving at the patient's apartment, the driver learned that the patient had the usual symptoms of acute appendicitis, and the mother insisted that he was in no condition to be transported on a truck. The driver returned to the hospital feeling sorry and ashamed and requested another driver to go back to get the patient with a more suitable vehicle. The second driver tried to obtain permission to use the passenger car, which was then not in use, but he was flatly refused. Determined to do something, about it, he finally succeeded about 10 minutes later in getting the key to the car by means of a ruse, whereby he pretended that he was going to use it to take home an expectant mother after pre-natal examination. The patient in question was brought to the hospital in this car. About two hours later, this same patient was on the operating table undergoing appendectomy. He is making satisfactory progress.

In regard to other facilities such as medical supplies and instruments and hospital equipment, we, as laymen, are not competent to pass upon their adequacy.

For the same reason, we refrain from commenting upon the question of professional skill and competency of the medical personnel. We believe that most of the doctors and nurses are competent. However, in the course of the none-too-thorough study of the subject, we have come into possession of such information as will, in our opinion, warrant your serious attention regarding their individual competency, both from the standpoint of medical skill and also from the standpoint of temperamental fitness to treat evacuee patients.

At present, we have three Caucasian doctors and two Japanese doctors. Judging by their number alone, and in the view of the wartime doctor shortage, the situation may not appear to be too serious. But we believe there is a definite shortage of available medical service. In fact, some patients have been told authoritatively that due to a shortage of doctors, tonsilectomy cannot be performed at present. These cases are not sent outside the project for operation. As a consequence, a number of children are suffering more or less from infected tonsils.

The project hospital originally had 7 evacuee doctors, of whom 2 now remain. The 5 who have relocated have done so unwillingly, reluctantly and partly under official pressure. We cannot sympathize with such pressure brought upon any evacuee and especially upon the evacuee doctors, whose services are sorely needed here. They understand the language of the older men and women patients, most of whom do not speak English too well, and their temperament and psychology. We feel and regret keenly the loss of these doctors, and we sincerely hope and pray that no evacuee doctor who desires to remain and serve the project will be compelled to relocate under pressure, either directly or indirectly applied. Furthermore, we believe that those doctors who have relocated under circumstances just described but who desire to return and serve the project should be welcomed with open arms by the WRA, and, if possible, employed under a half-way reasonable compensation scale.

Finally, we as representatives of the people, have some confidence in dealing with the matter of public relations between the medical personnel and the evacuees. There is a widespread dissatisfaction among the evacuees relative to the attitude of the medical personnel towards the evacuee patients and employees. It should be pointed out in all fairness that this dissatisfaction is project-wide in scope. These criticisms, if warranted, will, in our opinion, develop into a far more serious situation than any other aspect of the medical situation. The kind of solution we hope for is not action from above but rather remedy from the ground up through mutual give-and-take attitude among the medical personnel and the evacuees. To this end, we would like to recommend, in closing, a more extensive, intensive, and frequent exchange of opinions between the medical personnel and the evacuees.



Answer:  
Mr. Myer

Most of the people have better care now than before evacuation, and certainly better care than on the outside. In the last three or four months, we have had difficulty in maintaining the necessary number of doctors. It was not planned to have more than four or five doctors in the centers. This amount is more than the ordinary community has. We are trying to render the service so that this program will maintain good health, I assure you that we are doing everything that we can, and trying to do more. We have recently asked the public health service to assume some responsibility. We have tried to work this out. We are having some success, but are not sure how successful.

#### STEWARD DIVISION

6. Question:  
Mr. Yasui

Owing to the indifferent attitude of the Steward's Division to the best interest of the Colonists, the different departments within the Steward's Division are gradually approaching a crisis. We believe a revised system in purchasing and distributing of food should be put into effect.

At one particular 3 month period, fish (specifically Columbia River smelt) was served 3 times a week in the dining halls. Although the requisition stated halibut, mackerel, or codfish, no variety was granted. When the Steward Division wired to the Quartermaster at Salt Lake City, in requisition for fish, our choice in fish was Columbia River smelt or nothing at all. The reply being, "We have one carload of Columbia River smelt--take it or leave it." The nature of this carload being on the verge of spoilage was unfit for consumption.

On August 5, fish was sent from Michigan--a total of 28,673 lbs. consisting of spoiled carp, mullet, and sheephead. Though these may be called fish, the Japanese as a rule do not consume these particular types. As far as records show, it was rejected, but paid for and supposedly consumed. Instead of selling this for fertilizer or otherwise disposing of it, the fish was frozen and a month later was sent to the messhalls again when it was thought that the previous incident was forgotten. With the meat rationed, we desire more variety of edible fish in our diet.

Meats, fruits, and vegetables under the present food distribution system have much spoilage and waste. The distribution of fruits and vegetables would be more appreciated if they were varied during the week. By the time the last distribution is made, the fruits are spoiled for human consumption. Spoiled foods instead of being dumped at the warehouse are sent to the kitchens to be thrown in the garbage cans.

Owing to a sugar shortage, last January, the residents went through a period without sugar. This sugar was never made up when the shipment did come in.

There is an excess of starch food values in our diet. From the health standpoint, statistical research has proved the detrimental effects of highly starchy diets on the human bodily functions and energy supply.

In summary, we wish to state that the above examples are in reality a waste of food, acting in direct violation of the present war effort. We would like to call your attention and request:

- (1) That some attention be given to the quality of food instead of the quantity.
- (2) A variety of fish of consumable quality and type.
- (3) That when fruits are requisitioned, a variety be selected in each carload.
- (4) A variety of food values in the menus.

When foodstuffs of such nature are distributed to each dining hall, it is in reality checked against each individual's daily meal allotment, although it is not actually being consumed. We would like to call your attention to this particular point in reference to the nature of food being allotted to the residents.



Answer:  
Mr. Myer

As we look ahead in relocation, we look ahead with concern and understanding that it will get tougher and tougher to get food. We are getting land in shape and livestock in shape, so you can have enough meat and enough eggs, and enough vegetables, simply because it will get harder and harder to get them on the market. We may have some difficulty in getting some kinds of fish. We will not starve, however. But because of the war situation and the problems of transportation, we may not be able to get the right kind of foods at the right time. But we shall do our best to provide the proper quality of food as well as the proper quantities of food.

Question:  
Mr. Tokuda

Why is it that the evacuees are charged with the cost of rotten fish which is delivered and thrown away?

Answer:  
Mr. Myer

I don't know.

#### CLOTHING ALLOWANCE

7. Question:  
Mr. Yasui

We believe that Clothing Allowances should be issued to all evacuees in this Project regardless of the evacuee's status or classification and that the amount of each allowance should be increased because of the following reasons:

I. Food, clothing, and shelter are three of the barest necessities for existence. The WRA by its policy evidently believes that food and shelter should be provided for all evacuees regardless of whether a person works or not. We are unable to follow the WRA's reasoning in failing to regard clothing as a necessity equally as important as food or shelter if life is to be decently maintained as for any length of time.

II. Under latest regulations only the following persons receive Clothing Allowances:

1. A person working 15 days or more of a month and their dependents.
2. Persons receiving Unemployment Compensation for 15 days or more of a month and their dependents.
3. Persons receiving Public Assistance Grant.

III. The so-called Unemployment Compensation since August 4, 1943, applies only to persons who become ill while working, whereas prior to that time all unemployed persons able and willing to work were included. Only persons who can prove that they are practically penniless are eligible for Public Assistance Grants and the ordinary unemployed person is therefore not able to receive Clothing Allowances through this source. The WRA policy of limiting the employment of evacuees within the Project has therefore not only resulted in the loss of the meager \$16.00 a month to the persons discharged but also the loss of Clothing Allowances for himself and his dependents until he has been reduced to the level of poverty and indigence required.

IV. The nature of the application for Public Assistance Grant and for Clothing Allowance under Public Assistance Grant is so humiliating that many persons in actual need avoid recourse to it. We do not believe that destitution and submission to unwarranted humiliation and embarrassment should be made a condition to receiving Clothing Allowances any more than they should be made a condition to receiving food and shelter.

V. Since the present Clothing Allowance amounts were determined, the price of clothing has risen substantially. The amounts, never adequate to begin with, have had to be supplemented out of personal savings which today in many cases have disappeared. The clothing originally brought here by the evacuees is gradually becoming unfit for use from wear and tear. If actual physical suffering is to be avoided the amount of each payment must be increased.



We earnestly request that you give this matter your serious consideration, that WRA regulation be altered to grant Clothing Allowance to every evacuee in this project, and that the amount of each allowance be increased.

Answer:  
Mr. Myer

This matter has been considered very thoroughly. We have decided not to change the policy in general. In the early days, the only provision was to grant rough clothes for the workers. We are not providing employment to everybody who wishes to work at the certain job which they choose, because we do not have enough jobs open for them. However, I think that it is working out reasonably well. I doubt if there is great change in clothing prices, because of ceiling prices. The price situation has not changed much. I realize how you people feel about asking for grants. For those people who want to get more clothes, we will try to find him a job on the outside, so that he can buy clothes.

Request:  
Mr. Tokuda

Give more lenient instructions to the WRA Administrative officials regarding Public Assistance Grants. In the policy of the WRA, the administrative officials unnecessarily humiliate and embarrass the evacuees.

Answer:  
Mr. Myer

In the policy of the WRA, we will have to have all the facts before we give out money, clothing or anything. We have to justify every penny of the expenses that we have. I believe that we should not simply hand out money in the way of grants without good reason.

#### SOCIAL WELFARE

8. Question:  
Mr. Yasui

Under this division, all those who are unable to work due to old age, physical weakness, and families with no one working, have been receiving Public Assistance Grants. According to the WRA instructions, it is provided that the amounts to be granted shall be from \$3.00 to \$4.75. Here in this project, all cases have been receiving \$3.00 which is the minimum amount allowed. Therefore, the question has been raised by the residents, who is eligible to which amount, and under what conditions.

In spite of the ceiling prices on commodities, the cost of living today has been so enormously increased that the daily necessities such as shoes and cotton goods have doubled in price. For this reason, we feel that it is only fair that the maximum amount of \$4.75 be granted to every case, regardless of condition.

Regarding the traveling expense for the relocating evacuees, the practice in this project has been to provide a sum up to \$50.00 to those persons in need of such grants. We feel, however, that such expenses should be granted to every one who is leaving on relocation regardless of their status for the reason that it would cost the government approximately \$50.00 per month to have them stay within the project. This temporary aid will eliminate the government's further expense and responsibilities, and at the same time, this will prove a greater inducement for the relocation program.

The object of the Public Assistance Grants is in nature of relief, but here in this project, the procedure is such that it causes great embarrassment to those who are qualified to make such applications. Is it the policy of the WRA to take such attitudes in order to discourage more applicants, although they are all needy people? If not, we would like to request the director to modify the procedure such that it will not cause too much hardships on the applicant.

Answer:  
Mr. Myer

It has been a problem to take care of the larger families. It will be necessary to make applications showing the need for money. This is the only way they can be helped.



JAPANESE TRANSLATION

(Introductory Remarks:

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(WRA Policy:

By Keichi Kuraoka

Termination of Employment:

By Yoshio Urakawa

Hospital:

By Dick Kanaya  
By Kenji Ito

Steward:

By Roy I. Akiyama

(Clothing:

(  
(Social Welfare:

By Sadahiko Ikoma

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Myer's Answers:

By Keichi Kuraoka



#### CONCLUDING STATEMENT

There is one thing that I think should be mentioned as a matter of great deal of importance. We have in the evacuee total, about one-third of the folks who came from Japan, and two-thirds are Nisei. And out of the 2/3, one-half of the Nisei have relocated. As I look around this room, I find that the majority of the folks are Issei. That means that we have a different situation. We have to work together, and lean backwards to understand. I hope you will not make this an old man's camp. It is going to be harder and harder to run this camp. We have to work together, and keep up our Americanization. This is a problem and is going to be a little bit hard to work out.







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十八、轉住所は、多数の可能性があるが、  
十九、轉住所は、多数の可能性があるが、  
二十、轉住所は、多数の可能性があるが、

D

四、公會堂建設の必要  
一、公會堂建設の必要  
二、公會堂建設の必要  
三、公會堂建設の必要  
四、公會堂建設の必要  
五、公會堂建設の必要  
六、公會堂建設の必要  
七、公會堂建設の必要  
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十四、公會堂建設の必要  
十五、公會堂建設の必要  
十六、公會堂建設の必要  
十七、公會堂建設の必要  
十八、公會堂建設の必要  
十九、公會堂建設の必要  
二十、公會堂建設の必要

E

一九四三年八月四日附行政指令改正  
第廿七号の解雇の理由に関する件

解雇理由は、所長の考査により決定する  
一、解雇理由は、所長の考査により決定する  
二、解雇理由は、所長の考査により決定する  
三、解雇理由は、所長の考査により決定する  
四、解雇理由は、所長の考査により決定する  
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十、解雇理由は、所長の考査により決定する  
十一、解雇理由は、所長の考査により決定する  
十二、解雇理由は、所長の考査により決定する  
十三、解雇理由は、所長の考査により決定する  
十四、解雇理由は、所長の考査により決定する  
十五、解雇理由は、所長の考査により決定する  
十六、解雇理由は、所長の考査により決定する  
十七、解雇理由は、所長の考査により決定する  
十八、解雇理由は、所長の考査により決定する  
十九、解雇理由は、所長の考査により決定する  
二十、解雇理由は、所長の考査により決定する







殊に今後はい。我々が食べもしない食費  
が我々一人々々の頭に割り当てられて  
ゐるといふやうな矛盾に就いても特に  
氣をつけてもらひたい。

一、衣食住は人間生存上必要不可欠の政策  
 ざるものであります。が、轉住局が其政策  
 に明示せる如く所内住民の労働如何を問  
 はず、食住の保証ある以上、人間の生存上  
 適當に健康を保つ上に於て、衣も食住と  
 同じく重要なもの、一として考慮せら  
 れざる轉住局よりの方針に對し同意する  
 ことはできません。

二、最近発表されたる規則に依れば、下  
 記の資格ある人々のみが被服料手当を受  
 けてゐます。

一月十五日若しくは其以上就働せ  
 る人々及び其被扶養者。  
 一月十五日若しくはそれ以上の期  
 間に亘り失業手当を受けつゝある人々  
 及び被扶養者。  
 公共より補助を仰ぎつゝある人々。

三所就失業手當なるものは一九四三年以降、就働中病氣に罹りたる人々にのみ適用さるゝ事となりたるも、其期間までは就業可能の失業者と虽、同額を給與せられしむるが、幸突に於て困窮せる事を証明せられたる人々は、只に月十六弗の賃

失に止まらず、各人及被扶養者の被服料  
金に對する損失は各人及被扶養者をして  
窮乏のどん底にまで陥れたのであります。  
四公共扶助を申請せる人々や被服料の  
給與を受けつゝある人々及其被扶養者は  
實際に於て肩身の狭い處をしてゐますが

多數の人々は其恩恵にすら浴してゐないのであります。我々住民は堪え難き屈辱と財政上に於て困憊せしめるが如き遺り方には絶對服従する事はできません。宜しく食住の保証が與へらるゝ以上に被服料を給與せられん事を望む次第であります。

五、現在の被服料金が決定せられまして、衣服類の價格は幸災に於て騰貴の一途を辿り、今日に於ては個人の財を以て補足されつゝある有様にて、既に消費し終へたる人も少くありません。

衣服類は日を遂かに従つて殆ど使用に適  
しないやうになつてゐます。  
我々住民は此事項に關し貴下が慎重な  
考慮を払はれ、貴下、御尽力に依り戦  
時轉局の政策を改訂し、各住民に対して  
公平に被服料の合典ある率を切望する

次第であります。



所内厚生問題に關する意見

我々居住民は、下記の條項に關し、積極的希望を述べ、且つ貴下の御判断を仰ぐ次第であります。

一、社会救済部に於きましては、老齡のたに、労働不可能の人々、病人、及び労働に堪へざる家族の人々、にのみ、公的補助の資格が與へられてゐます。戦時轉局の規程に依れば、之等の七五に補助すべき金額は、三弗より四弗七五に、給與する額は、凡ての場合に、最低額三弗を支給されてゐます。仍て如何なる條件を具備する人々がどの程度の金額の補助を受くべきに高まつて來ました。不滿の聲が各住民間に、日用品の價格上騰し、生活程度は甚しく向上したる今日、靴類、綿類の如き日用品は倍額になつてゐます。此意味に於て、我々住民は其事情の如何を問はず、凡ての人人々に対して最高額四弗七五仙を給與せられる事が至当と思ふ次第であります。

三、現在收容所に於て実施されつゝある、外部轉住者に対する旅行費に關しては、許可を受けたる本人の必要に応じてのみ、五十弗以上を支給せられてゐます。然し此費用は各住民を收容所内に留置させるために、政府は約、月額五十弗の入費を付けてゐる事を思へば、各人の事情如を問はず、外部轉住を欲する者に対しては一様に給與せられても宜いと思ひます。此一時的補助金は、政府として之以上の費用と責任を除く趣旨に對する誘致を驗する、外部轉住の趣旨に對する誘致を驗する争ともなりませう。

四、公共補助金下附は、救助最大目的であります。然し轉住所内に於ては、かゝる申請をする資格者に對して、非常に妨害する傾向があります。が、貧窮せる申請者を、余計に落膽させるが如き態度をとる者が、果して戦時轉住局の政策でありませうか。若しそうでなければ、我々住民は申請者が余りに困らないやうな方法に改訂せられん事を貴下に対して切にお願ひする次第であります。



私には、諸君が、特に此處ミンドカ轉住所に於ては、我々現下の重要目標が轉住にあるといふ事を夙に認識して居らるゝ事と信じて居ります。然レWRAとして、諸君の欲しない計画を実行するといふ訳には行きません。實際我々は、お互に利害を同じくし、運命を共にしなければならぬ立場に置かれてゐるのであります。遂行して行かなければならぬのであります。幸ひ此處に付ては今日まで我々は充分に成功して來たのであります。今後更に一層の成果を挙げたいといふのが我々の希望する來たのであります。我々は、諸君が假令戦後には幸及又は央及に陥るにしましても、今後老若の別なく、轉住するといふ事が極めて必要であると考へてゐるのであります。此轉住の影響を最直接に受けるのは諸君自身であつて、従つて此問題に關しては、諸君は他の何人よりも大なる關係を持つてゐるのであります。大分今日もては轉住された人々の大部分は十七歳から四十歳までの年齢の人々で、其約八割五分は二去であります。それで私の考へでは、今後我々はどうしても家族轉住の段階に進まなければならぬと思ふのであります。住宅問題も重要問題は、此際理解と好意の基調の上に、此轉住方針を實行して行くといふ事が、今日我々の採り得る唯一の健全なる政策である、と確信してゐるのであります。

W R A 行政方針に關する  
マイヤー長官の説明

諸君が御希望とあれば、自治を許すと  
いふのが WRA の方針であります。轉任  
所管理の責任は所長に在ります。政府資  
金の費消を必要とする事項に関しては、  
所長が最後の権能者であるといふ事は疑  
いなく余地はありません。他に居住民達  
が自進んでなすべき事もありますが、居住  
民達は責任をも負ふ覚悟がなければなら  
ません。方針としては、居住民評議会が  
ミニニター・カウンシルの設置を斟酌す  
る事になつてをります。  
ミニニドカでは曾て自治案を否決しました。  
我々は寧ろ代議制の確立される事を望ん  
で居ります。隔離プログラムも殆ど完了  
された今日、此処ミニニドカにも自治制が  
布かるべきであると私は考へて居ります。  
所長は（訳者註）自治制になつても他の  
何人にも轉嫁し得ない所の責任を持つ者  
であり、ます。然し或責任は、評議会と所  
長が共に負はなければならぬでせう。  
連帯責任は共同的に負擔されなければな  
りません。  
文官任用令に基いて行政部職員の所内  
居住者を任用する可能性は甚だ乏しい  
所外に於て文官就任を望む人々に対して  
は、我々は凡ゆる尽力を吝まぬものであ  
ります。が、然し所内行政部職員に任用す  
る事には殆ど可能性はないのであります。

校舎建築に関する  
マイヤー長官の説明

校舎の建築は我々の予想よりも遂に遅  
れました。戦時生産局は遂に実習室や実  
験室等の如きハイ・スクール校舎の建築  
を許可しました。然し小孝校には依然バ  
ス・クスを使用せよとの事であります。各  
轉住所に公會堂を含むハイ・スクール校  
舎が建築さるべきであります。要するに  
問題は、必要なる労力と材料を手に入れ  
る事と、優先権を獲得する事とあります。  
諸君の校舎建築は、最近既に着手され  
ております。完成の暁には、公會堂は所  
内一般公共目的のために使用を許される  
事になつてをります。

代議体の交渉權に關する裏川氏の質問に對するマイヤー長官の説明

答 (マイヤー長官)  
私は自選圧力團體が勢力を握るのを好まない。代表者は健全なる選挙に依つて選挙されなければならぬ。我々は居住民達が適正に代表さるゝ事を望む故に、私は居住民評議会が選挙に依て成立する事を望む者である。

從業員解雇に  
関する長官の説明

凡ての事實が判つてゐないから問題の全貌に関する情報を得るまで判断を下し度くない。多数の人が轉任してゐるが強



諸君の大部分は現在、立退前よりも又  
 所外の人々より古い医療上の立話を受  
 けてゐる。過去三、四月間、我々は必要教  
 の医師を任用するの困難を感じた。大  
 体轉住所では最初から四五名以上の医師  
 を任用する方針ではなかつた。四五名で  
 も通常社会の医師の教よりも多い割合だ。  
 我々は所内の衛生と健康を維持するため  
 に最良のサーヴイスを興へやうと努力しつ  
 つゝある。我々は此矣について最良を尽し  
 つゝあると諸君に断言し得る。

食糧を得る事は、今後益々困難になるであらうと氣遣はれる。我々が土地を耕し、家畜を飼養してゐるのも、諸君が肉類や卵や野菜類を充分に得るゝやうにするためである。市場で之等の食糧品を購買する事が日増しに困難とならう。兎の仕入も多少困難となるかも知れぬ。が我々は餓死するやうな事はない。戦時下交通運輸の都合上、我々が適當の時に適當の食糧を得られない事もあらう。けれども我々は適當の食物を適當量に供給するためには、我々の最大の努力をする積りで

眞闇(徳田フロイド氏)  
配給されても使用し得ず、投げ捨て  
られた鰻敷した魚の價格を我々にチ  
ヤードしてゐるのはどういゆわけか  
答(マイヤー長官)  
私には解りません。

此問題は今日までに徹底的に考究され  
た。で、我々は此問題に關する一般方針  
を更改せぬ事になつてゐる。最初には從  
業員等に粗末な衣類を給與する規定だけ  
であつたのだ。我々は、自分の好む仕事  
に從事する事を欲する人々の全部に仕事  
を與へる事は出来ない。充分に仕事口が

ないからである。然し大体に於て万事順調に行つてゐると思ふ。物價の限定が行はれてゐるから衣類の價格に大なる変化があつたとは思はれない。物價には大した変化はない筈だ。諸君が給興を請ふ時にどんな氣持がするか私には解つてゐる。被服類をもつと欲しい人々には。我々は所外の仕事口を探して上げよう。外に出て働いたら充分衣類も買へるでせう。

△要請（徳田フロイド氏）  
公共扶助給興に關して、所内行政吏員等に対して一層寛大なる訓令を與へて貰ひたい。所内吏員等は濫りに居住民に屈辱感を與へ、當惑感を起さしむるやうな傾向がある。

答（マイヤー長官）  
WRAの方針としては、金銭や衣類等を給興する場合には、一切の事實を調査する事になつてゐる。我々は一ペニーでも正当の理由なしに費消する事はできない。我々は充分なる理由なしに、金銭を給興の形式で與へる事は断じていけないと信じてゐる。

所内厚生福利問題  
大家族を去訪する事は一つの問題である。金の必要な場合には事情を速べて扶救濟の方法はない。

最後、マイヤー長官最後の辭言申述べたい。立退者總數の約三分の一は、日本から來られた人々で、三分の二は二去である。此三分の二を右める二去の約半數は既に轉住してゐる。今此室を見廻すと、大部分は一占のやうである。是は一占問題である。私は此處を老人キヤンブとしたくない。今後此キヤンブを維持運営する事は益々困難になるのである。我々は共同協力して米化運動を續行しなればならない。然し之は問題、少鮮決の困難な問題である。



