

F2.75

67/14  
C



HISTORY OF POSITION OF REPORTS OFFICER  
NORTH CENTRAL AREA

By Eleanor W. Zimmerman - December, 1945



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### HISTORY OF POSITION OF REPORTS OFFICER, NORTH CENTRAL AREA by Eleanor W. Zimmerman

Introduction.....	Pages 1-5
Position of Reports Officer Authorized.....	Page 6
The First Reports Officer.....	Page 7
Duties of Reports Officer.....	Page 7
Marango Opposition Met Satisfactorily.....	Page 12
Street Fight in Chicago.....	Page 13
Photographic Tour.....	Page 14
Publicity Notes in August 1943.....	Page 15
Feature Stories Promoted by Reports Officer.....	Page 15
Semi-Monthly Reports.....	Page 16
"Relocate" in English and Japanese.....	Page 16
Bathtub Incident.....	Page 18
Colonization Scheme by Japanese-American Opposed....	Page 19
Recapitulation of First Six Months of Reports Officer.....	Page 20
Mechanics For Duplicating and Distributing News.....	Page 22
Area Supervisor Resigns in January.....	Page 24
A Sample Month's Work For Reports Officer.....	Page 26
Booklet Proposed For Chicago Resettlers.....	Page 26
News Releases From January to June 1944.....	Page 27
Bi-Monthly Job-Offer Summaries.....	Page 28
Special Supplements to Job-Summary Reports.....	Page 29
A Sample Month's Work For Reports Officer.....	Page 30
Opposition Fades in Lincoln.....	Page 31
Pecria Resettler Re-Instated.....	Page 32
News Items in April and May.....	Page 32
Wisconsin District Has Local News Service.....	Page 34
Speeches and Movies.....	Page 34
Minnesota Farmers Hesitate.....	Page 35
Violence Threatened to Chicago Resettler.....	Page 35
New Area Supervisors.....	Page 37
Railroad Workers Threaten Strike.....	Page 38
Phone Call From Ray Richards.....	Page 43
Hearst Press Begins Slandorous Attack.....	Page 44
WRA's Relations With Press in Railroad Incident.....	Page 48



Other Public Relations During the Period July 25-31..	Page 50
New Area Resettlement Plan.....	Page 54
Technical Consultant On Labor Unions Needed.....	Page 56
Opposition to Chick Sading School.....	Page 59
Area Adds Four Districts.....	Page 61
Press Releases From June 1944 to 1945.....	Page 62
Second Reports Officer Promoted.....	Page 63
Center Booklets Change In Format.....	Page 63
District Newsletters to Centers.....	Page 65
Evaluation of District Newsletters.....	Page 66
Other Field Visits in 1945.....	Page 67
Reports Officer Visits A Center.....	Page 68
Public Relations in the Districts.....	Page 69
One Serious and Two Minor Acts Widely Publicized.....	Page 73
Press Releases from February to December, 1945.....	Page 75

Exhibit of Newspaper Clippings .....	Supplement I
Exhibit of Publications.....	Supplement II
Exhibit of Press Releases.....	Supplement III
Exhibit of Newsletters.....	Supplement IV
Exhibit of Field Bulletins.....	Supplement V



## HISTORY OF POSITION OF REPORTS OFFICER NORTH CENTRAL AREA

By Eleanor W. Zimmerman

### Introduction

Prior to the establishment of the position of Area Reports Officer in July, 1943, the Chicago Area Supervisor and members of his staff, stationed in the four and a half states comprising the Area, already had in operation a general public relations program. In a broad sense, their work was entirely in the field of public relations. Their purpose was (1) to persuade employers to offer jobs to Japanese-Americans still in Relocation Centers (2) to create favorable sentiment in the community generally for the introduction of Japanese-Americans.

### PRESS

The leadership of the first Area Supervisor, Elmer L. Shirrell, set the pace for many "firsts" in developing a relocation program which were sometime later incorporated into national relocation policy. Within a few months after the first Area Supervisor entered on duty in February, 1943, he had called personally on the editors of the five Chicago metropolitan daily newspapers. As a Californian who had recently arrived in Chicago, he talked bluntly with editors from a first-hand knowledge of the evacuation. He outlined to them frankly what he hoped to accomplish in establishing Midwest field offices for the War Relocation Authority. He emphasized the merits of Japanese-Americans as residents in a community and the skills and trades they possessed as a likely source of labor for Chicago's expanding wartime economy.

Undoubtedly, the initial impression made by the Area Supervisor



with the editors of the Chicago metropolitan press was good. During the remaining three years of operation, the Chicago offices of War Relocation Authority were assailed in two separate periods by a Chicago newspaper (the Chicago Herald-American) as part of a national Hearst press campaign against Japanese-Americans and the War Relocation Authority. The Hearst special correspondent, Ray Richards, arrived in Chicago to quote certain Chicago leaders as opposed to the relocation program in a series of articles beginning July 25, 1944. The Chicago Tribune remained neutral during this vilifying attack, but a few months later when national elections approached, the Tribune stated editorially that the War Relocation Authority was a New Deal agency on its way out along with the rest of the administration. In the second instance (in the summer of 1945), the Hearst correspondent, Ray Richards, reiterated his charges of casual handling of loyal and disloyal Japanese alike in Chicago by the War Relocation Authority when the news broke that Japanese prisoners-of-war had escaped from Fort Sheridan and were reportedly headed toward Chicago. (Later the prisoner, who had run in the opposite direction from Chicago, were captured and returned to the Army.) The Chicago Sun, the Chicago Daily News, and the Chicago Times remained friendly to Japanese-Americans and receptive to news releases from the Area office, while the Chicago Tribune at the local level was at least neutral in its routine news coverage of the city. The Chicago Tribune with its vast resources probably gave more space to routine news of the War Relocation Authority and the Japanese-Americans than any of the other Chicago dailies were equipped to during the war.



### CITIZENS COMMITTEES

In the first half of 1943, the Area Supervisor and his staff attempted, in addition to soliciting jobs for evacuees, to organize Citizens Relocation Committees and to advise those Committees which were already organized. In the fall of 1942, the Chief of the Relocation Division in Washington, Thomas W. Holland, and a representative of the Church Federation, George Rundquist, on a swing of the Midwest, organized a nucleus of civic leaders interested in the welfare of the evacuees. Citizens Committees were established prior to the opening of War Relocation Authority offices or soon afterwards in Madison, Wisconsin, in Chicago and Peoria, Illinois, in Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota, and in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Some of the more active Citizens groups formed sub-committees on publicity, housing, recreation, jobs, and welfare counseling for the evacuees. The Area Supervisor and his district officers were invited to speak at meetings of these Citizens Committees and also to participate in many informal group-discussions to present War Relocation Authority's policies and problems.

### SPEECHES

In addition to speaking at meetings of Citizens Relocation Committees and at gatherings promoted by them, the Area Supervisor began to receive requests for speeches from churches and schools and other institutions. On June 15, 1943, the Area Supervisor reported that he would confine his speech-making to one opportunity a week and that other members of the staff would meet the balance of the demands for speakers.



#### PUBLIC OPINION GENERALLY

In April, 1943, Relocation Officers attempted to assess public opinion toward Japanese-Americans in the major communities of the four and one half states of the Chicago Area. There were only a few hundred resettlers living in the States of Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, eastern North Dakota, and Indiana, and most of them lived in Chicago, Minneapolis and other cities. There were many smaller cities and towns whose residents doubted if they had ever seen an American Japanese. Sentiment was less favorable in these small towns than in the large cities. (See Marango Opposition, Page 12) This axiom was borne out with each succeeding month: the larger the city, the less criticism of Japanese-Americans. Farm areas in northern Indiana were noted as possible trouble-makers, indicating an opinion generally accepted by Relocation Officers a few months later: that Indiana is a tough state in which to relocate Japanese-Americans.

Responsible groups of citizens in every major city were aware of the War Relocation Authority's task, and public opinion generally throughout the Area was good.

As relocation increased, Relocation Officers' thoughts turned from public relations activities in their communities at large to meeting specific problems related to the inner administrative workings of the Authority and to situations involving the weak and strong points of the evacuees as individuals. They summarized their needs as follows: (1) provide additional information for the Centers to persuade the evacuees to leave (there were more job-offers on file than there were applications from evacuees by June, 1943); (2) provide wider job-



counseling at the Centers and the field offices to match the individual's qualifications with the job-offers available (employers were complaining that the younger Nisei seemed particularly unstable because they changed jobs quickly); (3) find way and means to locate suitable housing for the incoming evacuees, especially in Chicago.



#### POSITION OF REPORTS OFFICER AUTHORIZED

In the spring of 1943 the Office of War Information had the responsibility of releasing news for all the war agencies and exercised general supervision over press and radio releases and the publications of all Federal agencies. The Area Supervisor arranged with the Chief of the Regional office of OWI in Chicago, Mr. Paul Jordon, to have a member of his staff report WRA news to the Midwest press. The OWI representative assigned to the Area WRA office, Mr. Raymond Grow, expressed great interest in the relocation program. He was authorized by his OWI chief to spend several days at the Granada Relocation Center in May for the purpose of acquiring information and a greater understanding of the WRA's program. In the meantime, the OWI representative had arranged for several favorable news items to appear in the local press, including a picture of Nisei soldiers visiting the Area WRA office. His routine duties consisted of localizing for the Midwest press the releases issued by OWI in Washington concerning the War Relocation Authority in addition to special assignments in OWI.

In June, 1943, the Area Supervisor reported that Mr. Grow was giving WRA about half his time and that a steady increase in favorable news items in the Midwest area was anticipated.

When appropriations for the OWI's domestic branch were truncated in Congress, the Area Supervisor recommended Mr. Grow's transfer to the WRA as Reports Officer, which was approved by the Washington office beginning July 1, 1943.



### THE FIRST REPORTS OFFICER

The first Reports Officer was born of Norwegian parentage and had lived most of his life in metropolitan areas near Chicago. He is a rather stocky young man who expresses himself directly and gets along well with his associates. In his late 20's when he came to the War Relocation Authority, Grow had been rejected several times by Selective Service for a physical disability and was finally classified as 4-F. His background included a degree in journalism from a Wisconsin university, five months on the Milwaukee Sentinel, a year with a public relations firm in Milwaukee, and approximately five years in free-lance writing, in addition to his OWI experience. He had attended a Spanish language school in Gary, Indiana, where his family lived, and had given a good deal of his time to neighborhood work among Mexican and Spanish peoples, assisting them with citizenship problems and community integration. He was classified by Civil Service Commission as an Assistant Information Specialist.

During his six months with the OWI, Mr. Grow acquired a clear understanding of the role of public information in the Federal service. At an Area staff meeting he explained at the request of the Area Supervisor, his job in these words to the Relocation Officers:

#### — Duties of Reports Officer —

"WRA has two major public relations goals: first, to acquaint the public with our program and all of its ramifications, and to strive, as best we can, for its acceptance and understanding; second, through



proper presentation of information, bring more evacuees from the Centers.

"WRA has suffered set-backs and has taken much unnecessary criticism, because it had no information campaign to combat the cunning and well-organized anti-Japanese elements. WRA took a licking from the Dies Committee and the American Legion because it did not have the setup to counteract adverse publicity.

"It was policy at first to avoid publicity, to relocate as many Japanese as possible with the least newspaper notice. The argument was: Why take chances? Why risk public censure? Unfortunately, there are a few still who believe in this method. But that is an error of judgment. When you are promoting a worthy public cause, then it is smart to place your cards flatly on the table.

"There is nothing that antagonizes the press so much as to discover a Government agency doing business in the back yard when the front gate is locked. The press gets mad if it thinks an agency is trying to hide something from it. It begins to mistrust the agency. You may say that we are not in business to please the press, and you are right. But it is through the press that we sometimes can reach the public so we must consider it. It won't pay us to disregard publicity's value. Only through favorable publicity can we expect our program to succeed. No matter how good we are as relocation officers, we cannot empty the Centers, if the public won't accept the people, or if the people won't come out.

"Now, we have been good enough Relocation Officers that virtually every time we go into a city or region to canvass public sentiment and



plump for the American Japanese, we have succeeded quite well. Every time you have done that, you have acted as publicity agents. But for every square mile canvassed, there are a hundred we do not see, and in that hundred, the public is going to come up with some very strange and annoying ideas about WRA and our program. It is in these areas that danger often lies; it is in these areas that publicity can do some of its greatest good.

"Washington is now all-out for an information program. In the regional offices it has established Reports Officers whose duties are many and varied. They can be divided broadly into three sections and this is the way Washington has briefed them:

1. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS TO THE WASHINGTON OFFICE — The Reports Officer will establish a system of reports from Relocation Officers which will keep Washington informed of the progress of the relocation program in the Area.

2. PUBLIC RELATIONS — The Reports Officer will assist the Relocation Supervisor in various phases of public relations work, especially in those phases which require knowledge and ability in special techniques, such as preparing material for press, radio, public addresses, displays, and distribution of informational materials. He will assist Relocation Officers throughout the Area in their contacts with the representatives of the media of communication, in developing news stories, broadcasts, and other phases of communication to the public.

3. INFORMATION TO RELOCATION CENTERS — The Reports Officer will develop a regular flow of information on the progress of relocation to the Centers. Some of this information will be rather static on such



subjects as population, geography, climate, agriculture, industry, business, and the facilities and services available in the communities of your district. A continuous stream of current information on job opportunities, positions accepted, progress of relocated evacuees on their jobs, changes in the housing situation, indications of favorable public attitude, etc., will also be needed at the Centers. The Reports Officer will have the task of making evacuees in the Centers familiar with the districts open to relocation, and then providing them with information which will make some or all of these districts look favorable as places to live."

In these words the Reports Officer briefly outlined his duties at a 1943 staff meeting and then he described ways and means the District Relocation Officers would be expected to participate in developing a public relations program.

He complimented them on their semi-monthly reports, reminding the Relocation staff that the reports were due in the Area office as soon as possible after the 15th and the last day of the month. He asked that every District officer read the newspapers in his town and submit any news clippings promptly relating to the program.

"This must be done if we are to have a check on public sentiment. Clip any article--no matter how small--and send it to the Area office immediately; we will make copies and send them on to Washington," the Reports Officer said.

He also explained that from time to time the Area staff would prepare news stories for use outside of Chicago. If the release had to



do with the states of Wisconsin and Minnesota, for example, it would be sent to all dailies in those states and also to the District Relocation Officers in those states so that they would know what was being done. If a release was of interest only in one local area, such as Minneapolis, it would be sent to the Relocation Officer in Minneapolis marked LOCALIZE. The Relocation Officer would telephone or mail the release to the local newspapers. The Reports Officer recommended telephoning or calling personally on the news editors in order that the Relocation Officer would become acquainted with his local press.

In addition, Area news releases might be localized by the District Officer's substituting his name and office address for that of the Area Supervisor's in Chicago and changing statements about the region to statements about the local district, the Reports Officer said.

The District officers would be expected to give any suitable news item they came upon to their local press, such as a Nisei girl joining the WACS, or the success of a relocated family in a farm or business venture.

He also described to the Area staff the mechanics of distributing news from the Area office, the news services available in Chicago, and the photographs recently made by visiting WRA photographers in the Area which would be offered to picture editors of the press. He expressed the hope that WRA would be offered time on the radio, a rather delicate field to invade. Nothing had been done as yet to feed news to radio commentators, but Mr. Grow hoped that he and District officers might eventually interest radio people in programs on American-Japanese.



He concluded by requesting that the District officers gather published data of the kind issued by local Chambers of Commerce for submission to the Centers. He also wanted to be informed when the Relocation Officers expected to make a speech, so that he could furnish an advance release to the local newspaper.

This statement touches on every aspect of the functions and duties of a Reports Officer and indicates the need of having an Information Specialist in the position familiar in the techniques of (1) furnishing factual news to the press and radio (2) preparing persuasive information for the Centers to encourage relocation, and (3) preparing accurate reports so that policy-making officials may obtain a clear understanding of the progress of the program.

— Marengo Opposition Met Satisfactorily —

The first instance of unfavorable community sentiment toward evacuees to flare into the open occurred following the news of the Japanese executions of American airmen in Tokyo in April, 1943. At Marengo, a small town of several thousand residents 64 miles northwest of Chicago, three Nisei arrived to work on the Curtiss Candy Company farms. The farms and housing are located four miles outside the town. Thirteen additional evacuees were expected in a few days. (See Chicago District Report; also Exhibits — Clippings)

A restaurant owner, Ray McAndrews, who said he had lost his son in the Pacific, proposed to the townspeople that a petition be circulated demanding the ouster of the Nisei. The Mayor, W. L. Miller, and the Chief of Police, Paul Carr, who told the Chicago newspapers that he would give the three boys police protection if they asked for it, stated that they would



confer with company officials on April 26. The W.R.A. arranged for the three boys to stay in Chicago temporarily and directed the thirteen additional evacuees to Rockford until the situation was clarified in Marengo.

The Area Supervisor announced that seven farm operators in the Chicago Area had offered jobs to the Japanese-Americans in the event that they did not work in Marengo. In the meantime, two Chicago Relocation Officers talked individually with many townspeople and farmers around Marengo. Curiously, the public relations representative of Curtiss Candy Company was opposed to the Nisei. At a town meeting in a vote of 62 to 21, citizens endorsed the employment of Nisei on farms. Curtiss Candy Company officials announced that the three Nisei would resume work in the jobs they held before the dispute began, and the thirteen additional evacuees would be put to work. The resettlers reported for work May 6, 1943.

The Area Supervisor capitalized on the victory at Marengo to offer W.R.A.'s services to other farmers and employers who might need workers in his statements to the press. (See Rockford Register, May 6, 1943, and The Pantagraph, May 25, 1943, in Exhibit--Clippings)

#### — Street Fight In Chicago —

On July 13, 1943, a street fight occurred when some ten Filipino sailors "pounced on" four Hawaiian Nisei at the corner of Clark and Division Streets in Chicago. A plain statement of the facts was furnished the Chicago newspapers the following day by the Area Supervisor. A fair unbiased story of twelve inches appeared in the Chicago Daily News



on July 14, 1943, stating that W.R.A. and other agencies were investigating the incident and quoting the Area Supervisor. (See Exhibits—Clippings)

On July 24, the Area Supervisor reported to Washington that few repercussions had been felt as a result of the publicity on the street fight and that he noted no reluctance toward relocation. He had received some letters from evacuees and Center personnel, and the incident had been fully explained. Although unfortunate that the street fight took place (it grew out of an argument between the Filipino and a Nisei in a saloon), the Area Supervisor reported that his working relationships with the Army, Navy, F.B.I., and the Chicago police force were much improved as a result. Representatives of the Chicago police, F.B.I., Internal Security and Intelligence Divisions of the Army, the Office of Naval Intelligence and Coast Guard Intelligence, and Navy Shore Patrol began telephoning W.R.A. whenever they desired information on individual Japanese-Americans in Chicago. Previously, some of these agencies had picked up individual Japanese-Americans for questioning without grounds and simply because they were ignorant of the evacuation and relocation program.

— Photographic Tour —

In August 1943, the Reports Officer spent a good deal of time with cameramen and a visiting W.R.A. photographer to get shots of Japanese-American relocatees in their jobs in the Area for the movie "A Challenge to Democracy" and for still pictures to be used in the W.R.A. public relations program. The Reports Officer stated that invariably it was



easier to get the employer's permission for taking the pictures than it was the individual Japanese-Americans, who were shy. Most of the pictures were of Nisei, as very few Issei had relocated at that time.

— Publicity Notes in August 1943 —

The chairman of the Housing and Integration Committee of the Indianapolis Citizens Advisory Committee, Mrs. Howard J. Baumgartel, reported that a radio commentator, Gilbert Forbes, had berated Japanese-Americans and the W.R.A. program over Station WFBM. Mr. Forbes was given some W.R.A. literature, and he replied that he would say more against the relocation program.

In Minneapolis, a former newspaper man, Rudolph Lee, then secretary of the Minneapolis Research Council, agreed to serve on a sub-committee on publicity for the Minneapolis Relocation Committee. Mr. Lee furnished a story to the local press on Nisei girls who had volunteered for the Women's Army Corps. The story was published in abbreviated form and the newspapers asked that they be informed when the Nisei were actually inducted, so that photographs and a longer story might be obtained.

— Feature Stories Promoted by Reports Officer —

In September 1943, the Reports Officer visited several districts and stimulated favorable feature stories in the Milwaukee Journal (see clipping of Sept. 13, 1943) the Wisconsin State Journal (Madison area — see clipping of Sept. 19, 1943) and in the Peoria Star (Illinois). These stories were accompanied by pictures of local resettlers and the jobs in which they were employed. The Reports Officer worked with the District Relocation Officer in meeting with local editors and promoting



the stories, so that his efforts were not only helpful to the program generally but also educational in demonstrating to the District Relocation Officers how to go about establishing friendly relations with their local press.

— Semi-Monthly Reports —

By this time a system of semi-monthly narrative reports from the District Officers supplemented by an overall report from the Area Supervisor to Washington was functioning. In a letter dated September 24, 1943, the Chief Reports Officer, John C. Baker, complimented the Area Supervisor on the reports being prepared by his Reports Officer. The Chief, Reports Officer, stated that he wished the Area would begin to furnish more information to the Centers to stimulate relocation (such as facts on the population, industry, labor conditions, and housing in the principal cities of the Area). The Washington staff was undecided as yet how this information should be duplicated for dissemination in the Centers, but instructions would be forthcoming. He mentioned a series of pamphlets entitled "Facts About America" which were then in preparation by the Washington staff.

— "Relocate" In English and Japanese —

This letter is referred to because it was probably the stimulus for a "first" from the Area office in Center relocation publicity. In October 1943, the Reports Officer furnished the Centers with an inexpensive poster (reproduced by the multilith process) entitled "Relocate" and containing three excellent pictures of Nisei at work in Chicago.



Captions appeared in English and Japanese on the poster, summarizing what the Midwest had to offer Japanese-American relocatees. In the writer's opinion, it remains the most effective Center publicity on relocation issued by the North Central Area office. (See Exhibit of Publications)

In October the Reports Officer at the request of the Area Supervisor devised a contest among the Relocation Officers for the best job-offer descriptions. At this time Relocation Officers had received a total of 445 job-offers for evacuees, representing 100 different occupations. The Area Supervisor recommended that his staff obtain additional pertinent information about the jobs offered in the belief that more adequate job-descriptions might stimulate increased relocation from the Centers.

The Reports Officer promoted additional news stories in the local Indiana press and in Peoria during October. The Indianapolis Relocation Officer spoke at a meeting in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and a local anti-administration newspaper published the Reports Officer's report of the speech word-for-word.

In November 1943, the Relocation Officer in Rockford was instrumental in having the Rockford newspaper publish a favorable column on the differences between the Tule Lake segregees and the loyal Japanese-Americans then residing in Rockford.

In November, the Reports Officer attended a conference of all W.R.A. Reports Officers in Chicago. At this conference it was recommended that the semi-monthly reports be discontinued in favor of a monthly report. In the monthly report for November, the Area Supervisor



stated that henceforth the following subjects would be reported monthly instead of a listing of job-offers and employer-contacts made, (1) number of Japanese-Americans employed, types of jobs, average length of employment, performance of evacuees on jobs (2) attitudes of other employees toward Japanese-American workers (3) why evacuees leave their jobs (4) manner in which evacuees are hired. Although the form of the monthly reports was changed, the district officers did not follow this outline specifically in succeeding months. General remarks on housing conditions, employment opportunities, public relations, and other activities of the Relocation Officer were reported. The purpose was to provide Washington officials with an indication of the progress of the program in addition to providing the Reports Officer with information for the Centers.

— Bathtub Incident —

The statement in a W.R.A. leaflet directed to the Centers from a Relocation Officer in Columbus, Ohio, (not in this Area) that the Japanese should come to the Midwest and teach the farmers something about cleanliness provoked a good bit of unfavorable publicity in the Chicago and Midwest press. No evidence came to the Area staff that these stories were harmful to the relocation program. Farmers in downstate Illinois were reportedly jocular on the subject, and enjoyed kidding the W.R.A. officer about it. The Chicago Tribune ran two cartoons making fun of the bathtub incident and published an editorial damning W.R.A. as New Deal and on the way out along with other New Deal agencies (national elections were to be held shortly). Several editorials protesting the W.R.A. statement appeared in smaller papers in the Area. This statement, together with the disturbances at Tule Lake, did not give W.R.A. a favor-



able press on the national level during November.

— Colonization Scheme by Japanese-Americans Opposed —

The Relocation Officer of Minnesota, Mr. Harold Mann, visited Superior, Wisconsin, to discover the motives behind a stream of pro and con letters to the Superior newspapers on the subject of Japanese-American relocation. He talked with businessmen, farmers, and workers. Apparently a garage mechanic was the leader of the opposition which turned out to be a very small number of persons. Opposition was based on a recent visit and proposal by the chief of Cooperative Enterprises in a Center accompanied by two Japanese-American leaders that a group of evacuees would start a farm colony with cooperative enterprises in the Superior area. The Relocation Officer had not been informed of this delegation's visit to Superior. Four Nisei working in Superior were interviewed by the Relocation Officer. Each of them stated that the community attitude was excellent, but they would discourage any substantial numbers of evacuees from coming to Superior because of the extreme housing shortage. The excellent community attitude toward Japanese-Americans was borne out by more influential leaders in the city than the garage mechanic. The Relocation Officer recommended that a reasonable number of evacuees be encouraged to resettle in Superior.

In December, 1943, when news of Japanese atrocities toward American soldiers on Bataan, was spread over the front pages of Midwest newspapers, Relocation Officers wondered apprehensively if repercussions would be felt to their program. Actually, no lull occurred in relocation.



Job offers continued to be submitted to W.R.A. offices, and evacuees continued to find jobs. No dismissals took place nor was any threatened violence reported. Homer Chaillaux, of the American Legion, prompted a short unfavorable article toward Japanese-Americans, and several unpleasant verbal statements were reported.

An attorney in Madison, Wisconsin, Benjamin Bull, who actively promoted the relocation program, wrote letters to President Roosevelt and Attorney General Biddle, complimenting them on their fair-mindedness to American-Japanese, and also to the national commander of the American Legion and several Representatives and Senators in Congress requesting their support for the program.

The Reports Officer arranged to have Chicago newspapers take pictures of a number of Japanese-Americans employed at the Stevens Hotel in Chicago, which received favorable space in the local press.

The city editor of the two Decatur, Illinois, newspapers wrote an editorial early in January favoring relocation, and five ministers in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, called on the editor of the Sentinel to protest the Hearst newspapers' policy of opposing the W.R.A.

— Recapitulation of First Six Months of Reports Officer —

To summarize briefly the accomplishments of the Reports Officer from July, 1943, to January, 1944: 26 news releases had been issued; the mechanics for their distribution had been established, and the metropolitan press in every district in the four-and-one-half states had handled at least one local story on the relocation program, (most



of the newspapers more than one story); a system of regular reports from the district officers was functioning; a filing system had been established for the Reports Officer; and an attractive poster of relocated Nisei with captions in English and Japanese had been distributed to the Centers.

The subject matter of the press releases may be classified roughly as follows:

	<u>No. of Releases</u>
Closing of W.R.A. District Offices and personnel changes:	9
Administrative announcements to stimulate relocation, (such as employment of resettlers by a certain firm):	10
Human interest stories about individual resettlers:	2
Favorable community sentiment (such as local editorials on loyalty of Japanese-Americans):	1
Participation of individual Nisei as soldiers in War:	13
	<u>26 Releases</u>

The distribution of the 26 releases may be classified roughly as follows:

	<u>Percentage</u>
Chicago Press (with possibility the story might get on national wires such as AP)	40%
Selected Newspapers (such as local story to Minneapolis press, Pacific Citizen only, etc.)	40%
Centers only	20%

It is possible that errors occur in the above rough classifications because accurate records were not maintained. For example, a release to the Minneapolis newspapers on the appointment of a new Relocation Officer in Minnesota might have been furnished the Centers



also.

A few words about the press releases of this period — The first numbered release in the W.R.A. Area files was issued to several hundred Midwest newspapers and describes a resolution by the American Legion Memorial Post No. 17, Gary, Indiana, favoring the W.R.A.'s seeking employment for loyal citizens of Japanese ancestry in Gary. The dittoed press release is dated August 10, 1943. Most of the releases were short notices of less than one page. Longer releases included an 8-page feature released through the Western Newspaper Union only (August 19, 1943) announcing that Midwest farmers might find in the 90,000 evacuees at the Centers a potential source of labor to meet their farm needs. A comprehensive statement on the evacuation and relocation program comprised the eight pages.

A release describing the interesting family background of Mrs. Chiyo Izumi, 52 year-old counselor of Japanese descent, who had been recently appointed on the staff of the Chicago Office occupied three pages, and a two-page release consisted of several short items about individual Japanese-Americans to be used by editors as fillers.

— Mechanics For Duplicating and Distributing News —

This mimeographed two-page release of "fillers" together with other releases which were mimeographed or duplicated by "ditto" were furnished to several hundred small Midwest daily newspapers. This mailing list was established by the Office of Price Administration and maintained in Central Administrative Services (Office of Emergency



Management of the National War Agencies Building, 226 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, where the W.R.A. offices were located. W.R.A. was permitted to use this mailing list. W.R.A. was fortunate in having duplicating and mailing services available in the same building. The press releases designed for local distribution only were typewritten rather than duplicated in quantity. A press room whose representatives of the Chicago daily press and the City News Bureau were assigned to cover the National War Agencies building, was located on the same floor as the W.R.A. offices.

An accurate check on all the W.R.A. releases which were or were not printed in the Midwest press during this period is not possible. No clipping service was subscribed to by the Chicago Area W.R.A. Relocation Officers did submit clippings of such stories as they happened to see in their local papers and these were sent to Washington. Wherever extra copies were available in the Area office, these clippings have been included in the Exhibit of Clippings.

The emphasis on distribution of releases to newspapers in the Area rather than to the Centers has been explained by the first Reports Officer. His purpose was to get editors acquainted with the War Relocation Authority at the local level and receptive to news from it as well as cognizant of the job W.R.A. was created to perform. Also, during this early period, as indicated in the letter of September 24, 1943, signed by the Chief Reports Officer, no plans had crystallized on ways and means for the Area offices to furnish the Centers with information to stimulate relocation, and there was still confusion and



reluctance concerning the development of a relocation program both at the national and at the Center level.

— Area Supervisor Resigns In January —

The Area Supervisor was summarily ordered to transfer to the Kansas City Area office on January 15, 1944, in what proved to be a general exchange of Area Supervisors in New York, Cleveland, Kansas City and Chicago. The Supervisor of the Kansas City Area, Mr. Vernon Kennedy, arrived a day or two later to take over the Chicago Area, and the first Chicago Area Supervisor, resigned. He later accepted a position with a national firm which had been among the first employers in Chicago of Japanese-Americans in large numbers.

The Reports Officer released the news to the Chicago press after obtaining the approval of two Area Supervisors. The explanation was that a switch in Area Supervisors had been ordered by W.R.A. in the four Area offices of the country. The new Area Supervisor later ordered the Reports Officer to get this story killed on the grounds that the Washington office did not want the exchange of Supervisors in the New York and Cleveland Areas announced in the Chicago-Kansas City story. All local Chicago papers deleted this reference but it was too late to change a press association's release of the story over its national wire services which by this time had reached Washington. The W.R.A. Washington office later stated that the story should have been killed in its entirety, and the Area Supervisor asked the Reports Officer if it were not possible to issue a contracting story. The Reports Officer stated that this would draw unnecessary attention to a story which had no



great news value anyway.

Undoubtedly, this small but rather unfortunate initial act placed the new Area Supervisor and the Reports Officer on the defensive in their relation with each other. Other employees did not like the new Supervisor's methods and personality. Within two months after the Area Supervisor's transfer, seven employees resigned or transferred to other agencies. About the middle of March, 1944, when the second Area Supervisor was talking with several employees in his office, he called to the Reports Officer, who happened to be passing his office, that he would no longer be needed. Mr. Grow stepped inside the Area Supervisor's office where he learned the news that Mr. Harold Mann, Relocation Officer in Minnesota, at that time, had been detailed to the Chicago Area office to replace Mr. Grow immediately. Mr. Mann later said that he was as surprised as Mr. Grow at the manner in which the Area Supervisor made this announcement to Mr. Grow in front of himself and other employees.

Mr. Grow appealed to the Reports Division in Washington at this arbitrary dismissal. The Area Supervisor's explanation was that Mr. Mann possessed more maturity than Mr. Grow, and Mr. Mann's previous experience including some work on a St. Louis newspaper and editorial work on Commerce magazine in Chicago qualified him for the position of Reports Officer. The Chief Reports Officer in Washington advised Mr. Grow to accept the Area Supervisor's decision and stated that no positions were open in the Reports Division at the moment. In the meantime, Mr. Grow obtained a position as Information Specialist at a higher salary



(CAF-11) with the War Manpower Commission in Chicago. He transferred on March 31, 1944.

— A Sample Month's Work For Reports Officer —

As an example of the Reports Officer's work for a given period, his report for February, 1944, is cited. The Reports Officer summarized his month's activities for the second Area Supervisor as follows: answered numerous queries from the Centers and outside individuals interested in the relocation program; arranged to have local photographers take pictures of the wedding of a Nisei soldier and his bride in Chicago and also of the installation of a Nisei pastor in the First Baptist Church (these pictures were later incorporated into W.R.A.'s permanent photographic files in the Denver Laboratory); furnished eight news stories to the Centers in addition to reprints of favorable editorials from Midwest papers; prepared a digest of War Manpower Commission regulations, income tax laws and weekly statistical reports; wrote the Area monthly report for Washington and prepared the Job-Offer Summary for the Centers.

— Booklet Proposed For Chicago Resettlers —

In April, 1944, at a meeting of AREA staff specialists, publication of a booklet for Chicago resettlers was proposed. The booklet should encourage Japanese-Americans already resettled to assume responsibility for bringing other family members and friends from the Centers. The aim would be presented indirectly by advising Chicago resettlers of the W.R.A. and community resources available to help them, by presenting information on the general distribution of resettlers in Chicago, new arrivals, and



related facts.

The Reports Officer prepared a memorandum outlining the above subjects which booklet might deal with and its proposed size and format. Because of some disagreements between Chicago District and Area staff members as to the nature of the proposed booklet, the suggestion was dropped.

A few months later, the North Central Area staff published a mimeographed Newsletter, designed for distribution among W.R.A. employees and their associates on Resettlement Committees. (See Exhibits--Publications) Several issues of this NEWSLETTER appeared until word came from the Washington Relocation Division that a regular periodical could not be issued by the field offices under a standing head. The Newsletter was discontinued.

— News Releases From January to June 1944 —

Of the forty news releases issued during this period (copies of all of them are not available in the files, although the subject matter is listed along with the date of release), about 70 per cent of the releases were written for distribution in the Centers. Most of the Center releases were issued to all Centers, but in three or four instances, they went only to the Center from which the evacuee relocated and to the Pacific Citizen, weekly printed newspaper published in Salt Lake City by the Japanese-American Citizens League. About 20 per cent of the news items were for release to the Chicago press and about 10 per cent of the items were for selected local newspaper use.

Thus, the emphasis during this period turned sharply from promoting



favorable relocation news in the Midwest press to stimulating relocation from the Centers through press releases. The subject matter of the releases may be classified roughly as follows:

	<u>No. of Releases</u>
Human Interest items to stimulate relocation and reflect favorable community sentiment:	23
Administrative Announcements to stimulate relocation:	7
Administrative-Personnel changes:	3
Nisei soldiers and Nisei girls in Nursing Corps:	7
Total	<u>40</u>

— Bi-Monthly Job-Offer Summaries —

During the first half of 1944, a sharp increase, as has been stated, in supplying information to the Centers took place. In accordance with instructions from the Washington office, the Area Supervisor on December 31, 1943, furnished the Centers with a mimeographed summary of the current job-offers available and general remarks on housing conditions. Job-offers were listed by each district of the Area along with such pertinent facts as the number of Japanese-Americans needed in each job, wages paid, skills or experience necessary. (See Exhibits--Publications) A sample alphabetical listing would read as follows: Auto Attendants, Auto Mechanics, Cabinet Man, Ceramics Workers, Cooks, Dishwashers, Dry Cleaners, Electrical Repairman, Farm Offers, Greenhouse Workers, Lens Grinders, etc. Jobs for men and women were classified in separate columns. Formerly the job-offers had been submitted to the Centers by letter and teletype whenever received by the District Officer.

It was the responsibility of the Reports Officer to gather these



job-offer summaries from the district officers, edit them, and have them duplicated for distribution to the Centers. Copies of the first Job-Offer Summary were furnished the Centers in quantities of 100 copies each, with a covering memorandum of explanation signed by the first Area Supervisor. The names of employers offering the jobs were omitted on the grounds that the evacuee should apply through the W.R.A. field offices rather than write or visit the prospective employer directly without prior job-counseling by the W.R.A. The Area Supervisor also stated "We are very anxious to have resettlers come in without accepting job-offers" (that is, evacuees need not have accepted a job located in Chicago prior to his arrival in Chicago from a Relocation Center).

The Reports Officer continued to have these job-offer summaries (later referred to as Field Bulletins) sent to the Centers twice each month.

— Special Supplements to Job-Summary Reports —

In April, 1944, District Relocation Officers were instructed to gather data on job-offers and housing conditions which would be of special interest to Issei in the Centers. A supplement to the regular Job-Summary Report of May 15, 1944, appeared under the title "Over 40". This was another "first" in relocation information developed by the Chicago Area staff. Favorable comments from Relocation Program Officers and Reports Officers in the Centers reached the Area staff following the distribution of "Over 40". (See Exhibits—Publications)

On May 30, 1944, the Area Supervisor wrote to a selected list of



of Chicago employers and also to Chicago landlords asking for a frank appraisal of the resettler's social adjustment in terms of fellow-workers, tenants, and neighbors. The employers and landlords were invited to reply confidentially, if they preferred that their statements not be quoted publicly.

Eleven of the replies were selected from those correspondents willing to be quoted and reprinted by the Reports Officer as a special supplement to the North Central Area Job Summary for July 1, 1944. Two pages of these letters were reproduced by the multilithed process under the title "Illinois Evaluates Resettlers" and distributed with the Job Summary Report to the Centers. Extra copies of the two-page leaflet were made available as hand-out material to interested individuals in the Area. (See Exhibits—Publications)

A second special supplement to the bi-monthly Job Summary Report appeared on July 15, 1944. The Reports Officer had listed on a one-page mimeographed sheet the names of nine resettler landlords in Chicago with their former Centers and pre-evacuation home towns. The Chicago addresses at which these Japanese-American landlords operated rooming houses or hotels were not mentioned. Interested persons at the Centers were invited to request their addresses from the Chicago District office.

— A Sample Month's Work For Reports Officer —

As an example of the Reports Officer's work for a given period, his report for February, 1944, is cited. "The Reports Officer summarized his month's activities for the second Area Supervisor as follows: answered

*Eliminate  
as it  
appears  
on  
page  
26*



numerous queries from the Centers and outside individuals interested in the relocation program; arranged to have local photographers take pictures of the wedding of a Nisei soldier and his bride in Chicago and also of the installation of a Nisei pastor in the First Baptist Church (these pictures were later incorporated into W.R.A.'s permanent photographic files in the Denver Laboratory); furnished eight news stories to the Centers in addition to reprints of favorable editorials from Midwest papers; prepared a digest of War Manpower Commission regulations, income tax laws and weekly statistical reports; wrote the Area monthly report for Washington and prepared the Job-Offer Summary for the Centers.

— Opposition Fades in Lincoln —

In Lincoln, Illinois, where three Nisei were employed as chick sexers in the Sieb Hatchery, the proprietor reported to the sheriff in February, 1944, that he had heard rumors of threats against the boys. The sheriff reported to the newspapers that he had formed an emergency organization of special deputies and American Legion members to guard against possible disturbances and the three Nisei were temporarily removed to Peoria for safety. The Relocation Officer in Peoria, Mr. Milton Gauthier, went to Lincoln at once where he talked with many citizens and also at a meeting of hatchery representatives. The Relocation Officer explained that the boys were citizens of the United States, subject to the draft, and that more than 22,000 Japanese-Americans had been relocated to date and not a single act of sabotage had been reported. Following the meeting, hatchery workers and owners agreed that the Nisei should



return to their jobs, which they did the next day. The proprietor of Sieb Hatchery told W.R.A. that he planned to have the same chick sexers back again the following year and that an eight-room house had been purchased near the hatchery, so that one man could have his family with him.

--- Peoria Resettler Re-Instated ---

In March, 1944, the Peoria Citizens Committee was very active and among other accomplishments, brought about the re-instatement of a Japanese-American grocery store clerk who had been discharged after several months' employment in one of the major chain stores in Peoria. The clerk had been dismissed at the request of a few customers who were prejudiced against Japanese. (This incident was not reported in the newspapers.)

On March 11, 1944, an editorial appeared in the Milwaukee Journal entitled "Brave Yanks With Yellow Skins" which concluded with the words that Wisconsin residents could be proud of these Nisei soldiers who had trained in their state (Camp McCoy). The following month the editorial was reprinted in the Manzanar Free Press, copies of which were furnished the editor of the Milwaukee Journal. He acknowledged receipt of the reprint with these words: "It is our deep conviction that the American press should do all it can to preserve the rights of those Americans of Japanese ancestry loyal to our country". (See "Brave Yanks With Yellow Skins", Milwaukee Journal, March 11, 1944, in Exhibits--Clippings.)

--- News Items in April and May ---

The Reports Officer in the Area Supervisor's report to Washington



for the month of April, 1944, stated that newspapers in the Area ranged from neutral to strong support of resettlement and that no unfavorable publicity had appeared during the month other than in the Hearst press. The Reports Officer explained that what might have appeared as a distorted story was averted when a representative of the Chicago Herald-American telephoned to ask if Japanese-Americans were trying to suppress distribution of the Fortune special issue on Japan by buying all the copies (limited in number) on the news stands. The resettlers' interest in the special issue was explained by the Reports Officer and the Herald-American representative agreed not to run the story. All Hearst papers were not uniformly anti-Japanese American at the local level, the Reports Officer wrote. The Chicago Herald-American was the only Chicago daily to carry the picture of a high Naval officer congratulating a group of Japanese-Americans. (This picture was released for national distribution and appeared in the Chicago Herald-American with a friendly caption.)

On May 7, 1944, the St. Paul Pioneer Dispatch devoted a Sunday roto page to kinds of activities sponsored for Nisei by the Twin City Baptist Union. Later in the month a local Nisei girl was robbed. One of her three assailants helped her to escape. He was being held by the local police. The event was described in the local press in the same manner in which any other robbery under similar circumstances would have been reported.

On April 16 and on May 21, 1944, the Wisconsin State Journal (Madison) devoted its Sunday editorial page to guest writers on the sub-



ject of Japanese-Americans, one of the editorials being written by a resettler, Ruby Kubota. Also a columnist in the Madison Capitol Times on May 19, 1944, saluted the attorney, Benjamin Bull, for his continued interest in the relocation program. (See Exhibits--Clippings)

—Wisconsin District Has Local News Service —

In the Milwaukee District W.R.A. office, a Nisei secretary, who held a degree in journalism, began to furnish regularly the local papers with small news items about resettlers in Wisconsin. This young woman, Sumi Shinozaki, also started furnishing the Center newspaper from which a resettler had relocated with news items about those individuals and furnished similar items to the Pacific Citizen. In view of Miss Shinozaki's experience in W.R.A. and her journalistic training, the Area office agreed that the Wisconsin District might issue press releases of local interest without prior approval by the Reports Officer in Chicago.

— Speeches And Movies —

In the spring of 1944, many more Nisei began to appear as speakers on the evacuation and relocation program. The number of speaking engagements by Nisei leaders and the W.R.A. Relocation Officer in the district ranged from one and two to six or eight meetings per month. Each district usually averaged about three speaking engagements per month.

Two prints of the War Relocation Authority documentary film, "A Challenge to Democracy", which was sponsored by the Office of War Information and the Office of Strategic Services, were furnished the Area Office. District Officers borrowed or rented 16 mm. sound pro-



jectors locally when showing the movie to an audience.

The Minnesota District showed the film, "A Challenge to Democracy" three times during June, and the Wisconsin District showed the film twice. The film was also available in local commercial film laboratories designated as Office of War Information film repositories.

— Minnesota Farmers Hesitate —

In June, 1944, an editorial written by the State Master of the Minnesota Grange appeared which was not entirely favorable to the relocation program. After calling at the W.R.A. office and receiving literature and an explanation of the facts, a Minnesota Grange official promised to be more sympathetic. The Minneapolis District Officer called on the editor of the Minnesota Grange Gleaner to report the facts on the program. At this time the Minneapolis Journal conducted a survey among Minnesota farmers on a Gallup poll basis, which indicated that 50 per cent of the State's farmers were willing to employ Japanese-Americans and 50 per cent were opposed. When this news appeared in the Minneapolis Journal, many friends of the Japanese-Americans wrote letters to the editor expressing indignation that farmers should be opposed to the relocation program. Some of these letters were published in the Minneapolis Journal, and the W.R.A. District office received many phone calls from individuals offering jobs to Japanese-Americans.

— Violence Threatened To Chicago Resettler —

Toward the end of May, 1944, a landlord, Mr. Santo Alengo, reported to the Chicago District W.R.A. office that he had sold through his real



estate dealer a two-story brick building to Mr. Harry Hosaka, a Nisei resettler. Mr. Alengo said that a few of the neighbors were objecting to the purchase of the property by a Japanese-American and he was puzzled by the furor. Of the two tenants involved, Mr. Alengo said the family in the downstairs flat had agreed to move sometime ago and had been looking for another residence. The upstairs tenant, Mrs. Helen Nelson, would be permitted to remain by the new owner. The Hosaka family consisting of Mr. Hosaka's father (the only Issei), Mrs. Hosaka and her sister and the Hosaka's baby daughter, planned to move into the downstairs flat Wednesday night, May 24, but found it locked when they carried household goods into the building. An individual approached Mr. Hosaka and told him that he and his family were not wanted in the neighborhood and life would not be pleasant for them there.

The next morning, Alderman Edward J. Upton, of the 30th Ward, accompanied by three residents of the neighborhood, called at the W.R.A. office and suggested the probability of physical violence if the family moved into their building. The four callers demanded that W.R.A. instruct Mr. Hosaka to give up the property. The Acting Area Supervisor, a Chicago Relocation Officer (Mr. W.W. Lessing) and the Reports Officer agreed to inform Mr. Hosaka of the delegation's visit, but refused to accede to their demands. The delegation was told that W.R.A. would support Mr. Hosaka in whatever course of action he decided to follow, and if he chose to keep his building, W.R.A. would lend him every possible support. The delegation threatened to carry the case to the Army which "had moved these Japs out of California".



The following day stories appeared in the Chicago Sun and the Chicago Herald American. The Herald American story played up the alleged plight of Mrs. Helen Nelson, the upstairs tenant. It further developed that the downstairs tenant had decided suddenly to compel Mr. Hosaka to institute eviction proceedings. It was evident that neighborhood pressure had caused both tenants to change their earlier plans and points of view.

On May 26, 1944, the former property-owner, Mr. Santo Alengo, and Mr. Hosaka agreed to release simultaneously separate statements to the Chicago press, announcing that the sale of property had been canceled and that each of them regretted very much the intolerance shown by the neighborhood.

Mr. Alengo, in his statement said "I happen to know of the contribution of the Japanese-Americans are making to the war, both in industry and in the United States Army.....so I feel badly about the whole situation."

Mr. Hosaka stated that he had come to appreciate Chicago for its tolerance and hospitality and that it was quite a disappointment to him to learn that a few people were unable to distinguish between American citizens of Japanese ancestry and the people of Japan with whom we were at war. He added that he was particularly concerned over the threat of physical violence to his family and property and that factor had determined his decision. (See Exhibits--Clippings, May 1944)

-- New Area Supervisors --

Near the end of June, 1944, the second Area Supervisor, Vernon R. Kennedy, was transferred to Washington as a Special Relocation Officer



to develop new areas in the South for relocation. He resigned shortly thereafter to go to the War Production Board. His assistant, Harold S. Jacoby, was appointed Acting Area Supervisor. Mr. Jacoby was a Californian, 36 years of age, who had about ten years as an associate professor of sociology at the College of the Pacific in Stockton, California, and at the Stockton Junior College. He worked a year and a quarter at the Tule Lake Relocation Center establishing an Internal Security Division, and came to the Chicago Area in November, 1943. Mr. Jacoby had been interested in overseas' service with a civilian agency prior to his transfer to the Chicago office. His appointment to UNRRA became effective the end of July so his period as Acting Area Supervisor covered only about two months. Miss Prudence Ross, Area Adjustment Adviser on welfare problems, who had worked on evacuee welfare problems prior to the establishment of the Chicago Area of the War Relocation Authority and who had opened the W.R.A. offices here, was appointed Acting Area Supervisor. Miss Ross had long experience in private and public welfare agencies in downstate Illinois and in Chicago.

— Railroad Workers Threaten Strike —

In July, 1944, a disagreement brewing between American Federation of Labor Union railway officials and the management of the Illinois Central Railroad over the employment of 59 Japanese-American workers finally culminated in the discharge of the evacuees. The facts will be related briefly because this was the only instance of conflict which received a good deal of publicity in the Chicago press and which the



W.R.A. was unable to resolve in favor of an entire group of Japanese-Americans in Chicago.

In June, the Illinois Central Railroad had reported a shortage of more than 2,000 workers. After discussions with two Chicago Relocation Officers who investigated the conditions under which the proposed Japanese-American labor would work, the Illinois Central sent a representative to the Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Wyoming. A small group of evacuees were reportedly willing to accept maintenance jobs in the Chicago railroad freight houses. The Illinois Central representative returned to Chicago on July 20 with 89 evacuees from Heart Mountain, rather than the 52 who had been suggested. Of this group, 20 were employed at a Chicago produce terminal at the request of W.R.A. after the evacuees expressed disappointment in the housing furnished by the Illinois Central.

The Illinois Central put the remaining evacuees to work July 21, pending Provost Marshal General's Clearance of their records. The Illinois Central management had not understood previously that this military clearance would be necessary.

In the meantime, the Illinois Central management had been trying diligently to discuss the proposed employment of Japanese-Americans with AF of L union officials. The General Chairman of the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks, Mr. F. E. McCarthy, could not be reached during the week of July 10, but the matter was discussed with Mr. John Fitzgibbon, Secretary-Treasurer. Mr. Fitzgibbon said he would get in touch with the local employees and advise the management of their re-



actions.

On July 12, Mr. Fitzgibbon reported to the Illinois Central management that his committee and the employees they represented were opposed to working with the Japanese-Americans. On July 20, representatives of the Chicago W.R.A. staff and the Illinois Central management met with local representatives of the Railway Clerks, who stated that all freight house employees would stop work if the Japanese-Americans were put to work.

In the meantime the grand president of the Railway Clerks whose national headquarters were in Cincinnati, Ohio, had failed to answer appeals from the Illinois Central management other than to telegraph on July 21 that he understood the problem was "no longer pressing". The union president, George M. Harrison, advised the management to handle the problem through the local union chairman, Mr. McCarthy. A full report was mailed to Mr. Harrison on the situation July 22 by the Illinois Central management, requesting that he get in touch with the War Relocation Authority in Chicago to the effect that his organization was agreeable to the employment of Japanese-Americans. By August 1, 1944, no response had been received from Mr. Harrison.

The Illinois Central management had also gotten in touch with Mr. F. L. Noakes, General Chairman of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees, in Chicago on July 5. Mr. Noakes stated that his organization went on record in convention action as being opposed to working with Japanese-Americans on the railroads. The President of this union whose national headquarters were in Detroit, Michigan, was notified



of the proposed employment of Japanese-Americans by the Illinois Central Management. The Acting Area Supervisor, Mr. Harold S. Jacoby, accompanied by Mr. Robert Cullum, Great Lakes Area Supervisor, called on this union president, Mr. E. E. Milliman, in Detroit. Mr. Milliman stated that he was aware that Japanese-Americans worked on railroads in other parts of the country, but if the Illinois Central would pay time-and-a-half for overtime instead of straight time, the management would have no difficulty getting all the workers it needed around Chicago. He said the union had proposed that Mexican nationals be employed, but the management had procrastinated because of the time-and-a-half for overtime feature. After a thorough discussion, Mr. Milliman said that he would not object if the local union was willing to accept Japanese-Americans.

On July 15 Chicago W.R.A. representatives conferred with local officers of the Maintenance of Way Employees union. On July 25, Mr. Noakes, local chairman, reiterated his opposition and stated that he would use every resource at his command to cause the dismissal of the Japanese-American workers.

Representatives of the Illinois Central management and of the Chicago W.R.A. met with Mr. Noakes on July 25, but the following day, Mr. Noakes was still adamant and threatened a walk-out on July 28 if the Japanese-Americans were not discharged. The news threatening a strike of 42,000 Illinois Central employees appeared in the Chicago press July 26 and July 27. On July 28, the Illinois Central management



issued a lengthy press release stating that a few Japanese-Americans had been removed from their jobs until the War Department could complete a check of their records. The men would be returned to work as soon as their records were found to be satisfactory. The Illinois Central press release also quoted a telegram from the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practices asking that the management not yield to racial prejudice. The press release also contained excerpts from President Roosevelt's message to the Congress of September 14, 1943, outlining W.R.A.'s aim to <sup>help</sup> return to the evacuated military area as soon as the military situation made it feasible.

In the morning of July 31, Illinois Central officials met with the General Chairmen of sixteen AF of L unions representing a majority of the operating and non-operating crafts. The railroad's need for additional labor and the circumstances under which Japanese-Americans had been employed were explained to local union officials. In the afternoon of the same day, the Illinois Central Personnel Director received a letter signed by the representatives of the sixteen unions which by resolution stated "It is our profound and unanimous conviction that the injection of the Japanese evacuees at this time would profoundly disturb the morale of the employees and would in all probability precipitate a condition for which neither of the organizations could assume responsibility and which they would be wholly unable to control."

Section foremen in a check by the Illinois Central management had previously reported that they thought the rank-and-file workers



would not strike in protest to Japanese-Americans.

During this period beginning July 25, the Hearst press launched its first and principal attack against Japanese-Americans settling in Chicago, and against the War Relocation Authority. This simultaneous attack, apparently conceived independently, undoubtedly added fuel to the latent opposition to Japanese-Americans. More will be said about the Chicago press.

On August 4, the Illinois Central management informed the Chicago W.R.A. that PMGO clearance had not been forthcoming yet, and the company could not afford to keep the men on the payroll any longer while they were not working. Chicago employers had telephoned W.R.A. during the publicity about the threatened strike that they would offer jobs to the evacuees if the Illinois Central Railroad discharged them. Through the joint efforts of the W.R.A. and the War Food Administration, forty-seven men in the group secured other employment. Eleven evacuees chose to return to the Heart Mountain Center, rather than accept other jobs in Chicago.

— Phone Call From Ray Richards —

The Acting Area Supervisor had been telephoned by Ray Richards at noon on July 24, 1944. Mr. Richards asked that if there were organizations among the evacuees, were they subject to W.R.A. control. Mr. Jacoby replied that W.R.A. did not attempt "a hold" over the personal social life of the evacuees. He stated that the United States District Attorney's office had jurisdiction over the aliens. He also said that the resettlers had been in Chicago only a short time, many of them were



coming and going among them boys being inducted into the Army. He said that if any organizations had developed, they would have come to W.R.A.'s attention. Mr. Richards asked if the Japanese American Citizens League had a group in Chicago, and Mr. Jacoby stated that there was a J.A.C.L. office here. Mr. Richards asked how the evacuees were accepted in Chicago, and Mr. Jacoby replied that Chicago had a definite spirit of tolerance and although the city paid little attention to newcomers, no organized open opposition had developed. Mr. Richards said that the Japanese could not be assimilated like second generation Italians and Germans because it was against the Emperor's wishes for them to intermarry. He asked how they lived in Chicago. Mr. Jacoby replied that they were definitely scattered. Mr. Richards asked if W.R.A. tried to keep them scattered. Mr. Jacoby said "It has been our suggestion. However, we have no control over their movements."

Mr. Richards stated that a West Coast man who knew the Japanese should have been put in charge of W.R.A. He asked if declarations of disloyalty had not been "amazingly high". Mr. Jacoby mentioned Hawaii and the 100th Battalion, and Mr. Richards replied that a majority of boys in the 100th had Korean names. He concluded with the information that he was staying at the Stevens Hotel where several Nisei employees apparently knew him by name. He asked if Mr. Jacoby thought the evacuees showed any tendency to remain in Chicago. Mr. Jacoby said "Some of them, yes. Some have sunk their roots here and will probably remain."

— Hearst Press Begins Slandorous Attack —

On July 25, the Chicago Herald American (Hearst newspaper) published on the front page under red inked headlines "Jap Evacuees



Flood City" a full-column story entitled "Realty Chief Cites Peril to Property". Quoting Joseph B. Ford, President of the Chicago Real Estate Board, the signed article by Robey Parks stated that "the influx of Japs from western interment camps presents the City's No. 1 social and housing problems." According to the article, Mr. Ford assailed the War Relocation Authority for sending an average of twenty-five Japs a week to settle in Chicago, adding that they are infiltrating neighborhoods throughout the city and wherever they locate "rental and property values toboggan". Unless the tide is stemmed at once, Mr. Ford is quoted as saying, many better residential areas will become substandard and cease paying taxes. At the bottom of the article, the Area Supervisor, Vernon Kennedy, is quoted as saying that only the housing shortage is holding down an even greater influx of Jap evacuees and that letters to all owners of dwellings advertised for rent had been dispatched, asking landlords to accept Jap families as tenants. (See Exhibits—Clippings)

The Chicago Daily News published a half-column story on the same day, quoting Harold S. Jacoby, Acting Area Supervisor of W.R.A., as saying that Mr. Ford's figures of 5,000 Japanese-Americans in Chicago were substantially correct but the number was only "average" in considering the ratio of Japanese-Americans to the total population. Mr. Jacoby strenuously discounted Mr. Ford's property value objection, according to the Daily News, saying "I know of no instance of a drop in property values. In fact, I have on file a great many letters from property owners who speak highly of the cleanliness, the quiet and the responsibility of these people as tenants and as neighbors." (See Exhibits—Clippings)



The following day, the Chicago Sun also quoted the Acting Area Supervisor, Mr. Jacoby, in somewhat the same language as the News in an article entitled "Threat to Realty Values By U.S. Japs Discounted". The Sun also quoted Ira Latimer, Executive Secretary of the Chicago Civil Liberties Committee, as saying that his organization would do all in its power to prevent any effort to drive the Japanese-Americans out of their Chicago homes. The Sun published a friendly editorial on the subject July 27, 1944. (See Exhibits--Clippings)

On July 26 a special article signed by Ray Richards appeared in the Hearst press datelined from Chicago. Illinois American Legion officials were worried over the freedom given citizen and Jap aliens alike in Chicago by the W.R.A., according to the article, and Ellidor Libonati, Chairman of the Americanization Committee of the American Legion, would undoubtedly introduce some resolutions on the subject at the August convention in Springfield. Mr. Richards wrote that the 5,000 Japanese in Chicago constituted the largest colony outside a Relocation Center and accused the W.R.A. of having had many recent collisions with the U. S. District Attorney's office over its casual distribution of the Japs through critical war zones.

A similar article signed by Ray Richards was datelined July 27, Chicago, in which Libonati, of the American Legion, and Frank Moy, honorary mayor of Chicago's "Chinatown" were described as concerned over some twenty-one subversive organizations to which Japanese had belonged on the West Coast and which may have been reorganized under deceptive



names in Chicago. Mr. Libonati was asked also to comment on the investigations being made in Washington of a Japanese-American employee of the Federal Communications Commission and a Japanese-born employee of the Office of Strategic Services. (See Exhibits—Clippings)

"Find Scores of Disloyal Japs Sent to Chicago" was the headline of a similar article in the Herald-American July 30, signed by Robey Parks. The writer (probably Ray Richards or someone who gathered the statistics for him) charged that scores of Japs who owed their sole allegiance to Hirohito were living in Chicago, and this and other amazing facts were brought to light by a record survey of the War Relocation Authority.

On August 4, a two-column editorial in large type appeared in the Herald-American on the subject of the Congressional investigation of the Federal Communications Commission in which the Hearst writer attempts to associate a Nisei employee's impropriety in handling FCC <sup>record</sup> with the coddling of Jap evacuees by the W.R.A., and the possible dangers of sabotage records if the Army did not resume authority over the evacuees. (See Exhibits—Clippings)

The Chicago Herald-American during this period from July 25 to August 10 also published stories emanating from sources other than Chicago which were unfavorable to Japanese-Americans and the Federal Government's policies in general. For example, a six-inch picture of the ice follies show girl, Audrey Miller, who refused to accept her citizenship papers in St. Paul at the same time that a Nisei soldier, Terry Doi, was sworn in as a U.S. citizen received considerable space. Other small



news stories included the hunger strike at Tule Lake and the administration of Fort Ontario for incoming refugees by W.R.A. The Chicago Herald-American also played up the case of three Japanese-Americans who were arrested recently for failure to report for military induction. The Herald-American quoted the three as saying that they would never bear arms against the Rising Sun Empire. According to information in the W.R.A. office, the three men had neglected to notify their draft boards of their new addresses.

— WRA's Relations With Press In Railroad Incident —

On becoming cognizant of the wholesale attack launched against Japanese-Americans and the W.R.A. by the Hearst press, the Area Supervisor and the Reports Officer decided to give the newspapers only positive statements on local resettlement and decline to enter any name-calling fight with the Chicago Herald-American. The Reports Officer did not talk with any Herald-American representatives other than a radio newscaster, Elmo Turner, who defended the Japanese-Americans in two broadcasts during the week of July 25 and who was subsequently discharged.

With the exception of the stories in the Chicago Daily-News and Chicago Sun discounting Mr. Ford's statements in the Chicago Herald-American, queries made by the newspapers at the W.R.A. offices related to the threatened railroad employees' strike during this period. Most of these queries were answered verbally by the Acting Area Supervisor, the Chicago District Officer (Mr. G. Raymond Booth) or the Reports Officer. Mr. Mann did issue at the request of the Chicago Daily News, The Chicago Sun and the Chicago Tribune a written statement on the con-



ference the Acting Area Supervisor and the Chicago District officer held with the representatives of the Illinois Central management and the officers of the Maintenance of Way Employees union on July 26. This was not a formal release to all Chicago newspapers. (See release in Exhibits—Clippings)

On July 28, the Chicago District Officer, Mr. Booth, made a verbal statement to the Chicago Daily News and to the City News Bureau (which furnishes news leads to all Chicago metropolitan dailies except the Chicago Sun) in response to their request. Mr. Booth was quoted as saying:

"The War Relocation Authority feels that the Japanese-Americans have the same right to work side by side with workers of other ancestries as do their sons and brothers to fight on the battlefronts side by side with other Americans. The strong commendation given yesterday by General Mark Clark to the 100th Battalion of Japanese-American troops for heroism in Italy is in strong contrast to the attitude shown by Illinois Central workers in attempting to deny the right of Japanese-American civilians to make their contribution to the war effort by working on the railroad....."

The Chicago newspapers' treatment of the threatened strike may be summarized as follows:

The Chicago Sun featured in a friendly fashion the Illinois Central labor dispute. In addition to news stories, the Sun in an editorial July 27, under the title of "A Retreat Before Prejudice", pointed out that the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees on the Illinois Central had served their union and their country ill by



their stand against the employment of fifty-nine citizens of Japanese ancestry.

The Chicago Daily News assigned a special reporter, Frank L. Hayes, who spent considerable time with the Reports Officer on several occasions acquiring background information.

The Chicago Tribune tended to play down the local relocation situation including the Illinois Central labor dispute, and carried very brief factual stories only, usually well back in the paper.

The Chicago Times, always friendly to local resettlement, carried nothing insofar as we can learn since July 25, the Reports Officer wrote on July 31 which in his opinion was rather a strange attitude in view of the threatened strike.

— Other Public Relations During the Period July 25-31 —

A number of personal contacts were made with a view to enlisting the active cooperation of local organizations and individuals, the Reports Officer stated, including Mr. Sol Alinsky, Executive Secretary of the Industrial Areas Foundation and active in the Back of the Yards Council; Dr. Homer Jack, Secretary of the Chicago Council Against Racial and Religious Discrimination; Robert Weaver, Executive Secretary of the Mayor's Committee on Race Relations; the Church Federation of Greater Chicago; the American Friends Service Committee, and its own Committee on United Ministry to Resettlers; Dr. James Yard, Round Table of Christians and Jews; Ira Latimer, Executive Secretary of the Chicago Civil Liberties Committee; Paul Hutchinson, editor of Christian Century;



Dr. Frank McCullough, of the Mullenbach Institute (a Presbyterian labor-church organization); Michael Mann, Secretary of the Chicago Industrial Union; Newton Farr, former president of the Chicago Real Estate Board; Ernest Fremont Tittle, minister of the Evanston First Methodist Church and president of the Chicago Council Against Racial and Religious Discrimination; Elmer W. Henderson, Regional Director of the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practices; Committee on Race Relations, Chicago Housing Authority; Mr. A. L. Foster, Executive Director of the Chicago Urban League; Edwin R. Embree, of the Rosenwald Fund and active in the new American Council on Race Relations; Wilfred S. Reynolds, Director of the Council of Social Agencies, and the Chicago City Club.

Key employers of Japanese-Americans were informed of the current situation in the belief that some of them might decide to enlist the aid of their own business organizations to exert pressure against the Hearst campaign. Contacts were also established with key officials in the War Production Board and the War Manpower Commission with a view toward securing an understanding on their part to W.R.A. problems which might influence public opinion to some extent.

The Church Federation of Greater Chicago kept in close touch with the Chicago W.R.A. staff during the week and arranged a meeting of W.R.A. representatives, the Friends Service Committee and its own Committee on United Ministry to Resettlers. Out of this meeting came a two-page statement prepared for release to all Protestant ministers in Chicago (approximately 1250) quoting facts <sup>from proposed</sup> sermon on Sunday, July 30, on the



evacuation and relocation program<sup>which</sup> was quoted at length in the Chicago Sun, July 31, 1944.

The Chicago District Officer and the Reports Officer were also invited to a meeting of the Chicago Civil Liberties Union which was attended by representatives of affiliated organizations and the Chicago press. The W.R.A. officers stated the facts and then excused themselves before the meeting reached the stage of planning definite action. Out of the meeting came a committee who called on the U.S. District Attorney to check on the statements appearing in the Herald-American that he had launched a special investigation of resettlement in Chicago. The Chicago W.R.A. office was later informed by the U.S. District Attorney's office that no special investigation was in progress or contemplated.

A meeting of the staff of social agencies dealing with individual problems of resettlers had been called in advance of the Hearst campaign.

Part of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of the current situation and was attended by representatives of the Y.W.C.A., Friends Service Committee, the Church Federation, United Charities, and the W.R.A. The only specific outcome of this meeting was the promise by Y.W.C.A. representatives to learn if Chinese leaders in Chicago suspected Japanese-American resettlers of establishing subservice organizations, as reported in the Chicago Herald-American.

In the event that the Hearst campaign achieved larger portions, Mr. Michael Mam, of the Chicago Industrial Union Council, promised that his organization would launch an educational program, in order to maintain their union's strong policy against racial discrimination. Dr.



Homer Jack, arranged for the Chicago W.R.A. District manager and the Reports Officer and himself to meet with Mr. Michael Mann.

Of the individuals and organizations reached on the subject, Newton Farr, former president of the Chicago Real Estate Board, who was spoken to by Virgil Lowder of the Church Federation, was the only individual distinctly unfavorable to relocation.

Since the present Reports Officer was not employed in W.R.A. during this critical period, she hesitates to attempt to evaluate the efforts of the Staff members on the basis of the written record only. With the Hearst slander campaign and the threatened strike of railroad workers occurring simultaneously, it may have been physically impossible to follow this writer's recommendation which is, of course, easy to make in retrospect. She would have devoted less effort in getting the support of well-known progressive leaders and Chicago organizations already sympathetic to the program and tried to spend more effort in having such key figures as the Mayor, the Governor, Association of Commerce representatives or American Legion members issue statements on the desirability of the Japanese-Americans. Since the vilifying attack on Chicago, relocation echoed in Hearst papers throughout the country, ~~there~~ probably should have been attempts to have prominent leaders at the national level, such as President Roosevelt, comment on the desirability of the Chicago resettlers as evidenced by their fighting sons overseas. (If such efforts were made, they are not recorded in the Area files) Time and the exigencies of the period were undoubtedly an element which did not permit much independent action and planning by the Reports Officer



along these lines.

Although the Milwaukee Sentinel (a Hearst paper) carried Ray Richards' attacks against the Japanese-Americans and the W.R.A., it also printed in August two news items (one on the death of a Nisei soldier in Italy) which contributed to favorable sentiment toward the Japanese-Americans.

At the request of the Indianapolis Citizens Advisory Committee, the Indianapolis press, usually neutral and inactive, carried some friendly material including a feature story on a Nisei soldier killed in Italy whose wife had relocated in Indianapolis.

— New Area Resettlement Plan —

The Reports Officer stated in August that a Relocation Kit, containing such printed data as was available on the smaller towns in the North Central Area, would be furnished the Centers. The Area Supervisor, the Reports Officer and District Relocation Officers had gathered the information and discussed at length a North Central Area Resettlement Plan which would encourage evacuees to accept jobs in the smaller cities and towns of the Area rather than congregate in a few cities. The Reports Officer stated that other materials were also being prepared for release to the Centers early in November.

In September, 1944, the Reports Officer commented on the opening of business enterprises by resettlers in Minneapolis and Chicago which seemed to indicate that they might remain permanently in the Area. The businesses catered to resettler and Caucasian trade and had been reported



successful thus far by the Japanese-Americans.

The Minnesota Relocation Officer stated that speeches and the film, "A Challenge to Democracy" were presented in Duluth, Minnesota, with good coverage by the press. In promoting the Area Resettlement Plan, the Relocation Officer talked with leaders in five smaller Minnesota towns, obtained job-offers, and scheduled future meetings at which speeches would be made on the program.

The Wisconsin District reported that the "Fighting Nisei" series of releases had resulted in favorable news stories in the local press. A dinner honoring four Nisei officers received good coverage in the Milwaukee Journal.

Reviews of Carey McWilliams' book "Prejudice" gave the evacuation and relocation program more space in Chicago and other Midwest newspapers during the month of October than any other event. The Reports Officer stated that the book was reportedly selling well in a large Chicago book store chain.

Evacuees visiting the Milwaukee W.R.A. office for the first time reported that they had heard of the friendly Milwaukee Journal and the Nisei Council before coming into the city. This was due to the steady flow of news information issued by the Nisei secretary, Miss Sumi Shinozaki, from the W.R.A. district office to the Pacific Citizen and to Center newspapers.

— Technical Consultant On Labor Unions Needed —

In the first half of 1944, the Washington Relocation Division directed the field offices to furnish information on labor unions willing



to accept Japanese-Americans and also the number of Japanese-Americans belonging to any such unions.

In 1944 instances of friction involving unfavorable publicity on the program or refusal to accept resettlers by at least half a dozen American Federation of Labor unions in the Area were reported to the Reports Officer. In addition local officials of sixteen A.F. of L. unions opposed the employment of Japanese-Americans in the Illinois Central Railroad situation in Chicago which has been described in detail elsewhere.

In March, the Washington Relocation Chief asked the Area Supervisor to discuss the relocation program with the writer of an unfavorable article which had appeared in "The International Teamster", magazine of the A.F. of L. International Teamsters union. The headquarters of the International Teamsters are located in Indianapolis. The Area Supervisor made an effort to see Dan Tobin, President of the International Teamsters, but apparently nothing further was done on this until October.

In April, the Lakeside Bulletin, published by the Council of Union Donnelley Employees who were attempting to unionize the Lakeside Press, Chicago, contained unfortunate paragraph which was echoed in the Bakers and Confectioners Journal for the week of July 15 and in The International Laundry Worker, July. The paragraph referred to a resolution on Japanese infiltration in the plant and commented that racial discrimination had no place in the union. "Union members are not convinced that the company was actuated by unselfish motives in hiring these people of Nipponese



origin. Japanese have been reputed to be the hardest to unionize of any racial group represented in the United States, and their willingness to work over long hours for low wages is also well-known."

Under the headline "KEEP JAPS OUT OF LAUNDRY BUSINESS" the Laundry Worker newspaper advised all locals to watch closely for any Japs being released from concentration camps in the West who might be hired by non-union firms to threaten wages and working conditions in the laundry industry. The writer of the article was probably influenced by the Hearst newspaper campaign also in his statement that "The sentimental handling of Japs by the War Relocation Authority is dangerous. These Japs are a menace to the American standard of living and to the future security of this country." (See Exhibits-Clippings, July 1944)

In October, at the suggestion of the Washington office, the Area Supervisor asked the Area Agricultural Adviser to talk with officials of the International Teamsters and the International Laundry Workers. Mr. Lester Hunt, the assistant editor of "The International Teamster", was acquainted personally with the Area Agricultural Adviser.

S. J. Beyers, Secretary-Treasurer of the International Laundry Workers Union and editor of their official newspaper, stated that he had no personal objections to Japanese-Americans, but most of the laundry workers are Negroes who do not accept the Japanese. He mentioned a Reno, Nevada, laundry which discharged A.F. of L. workers and employed evacuees in their jobs. The Area Agricultural Adviser recommended that Cleo Blackburn, prominent Negro leader, responsible for Flanner House in Indianapolis, be invited to assist in an educational program for laundry



workers.

Mr. Lester Hunt, assistant editor of the "International Teamster" magazine, appeared emotionally unbalanced on the subject of Japanese-Americans in the opinion of the Area Agricultural Adviser. He talked several times with Mr. Hunt who had three sons in military service, one located in the South Pacific. Mr. Hunt showed the Agricultural Adviser vicious article "So Sorry Please--Throw Them Out" which he said he was undecided about publishing. He advised the W.R.A. representative to get in touch with Mr. Dan Tobin, president of the International Teamsters, in Washington, D. C. from whom Mr. Hunt takes orders directly. Mr. Hunt informed the Area Agricultural Adviser on their last visit together that he had been to see the Governor of Indiana, requesting an endorsement for the employment of farm workers of Japanese ancestry in the State. The Governor did not wish to make such an endorsement.

In the December issue of the union's magazine, the proposed article was published. Joseph K. Shepard, president of the C.I.O. Industrial Union Council in Indianapolis, and a feature writer on the Indianapolis Star, issued a release through the Federated Press, attacking the article in "The International Teamster". The Agricultural Adviser had previously talked with Mr. Shepard, who was a member of the Indianapolis Citizens Advisory Committee. A second Federated Press release also was favorably issued commenting on Mr. Shepard's article. It was recommended by the Area Agricultural Adviser and the Indianapolis Relocation Officer that additional educational work be undertaken among A.F. of L. unions and



the American Legion.

Following brief talks on the relocation program by Relocation Officers in Minnesota, the A.F. of L. Grain Handlers Union in Twin Cities area voted to reject evacuees for membership in October, 1944. Unfortunately, the union meeting with about 600 members present, was called for the purpose of holding elections and attending to other union business, so that very little time or thought was given to the evacuation and relocation program. Mr. Earl DeSmidt, Area Agricultural Adviser, was present at the meeting in addition to Mr. Elmer Isaksen, Relocation Officer, and Miss Evelyn Carroll, Associate Relocation Officer of the Minnesota District. Mr. Isaksen reported that W.R.A. would continue to work with the elevator groups in Duluth despite the outcome of this meeting.

In view of these instances of lack of acceptance of resettlers by certain unions in the Area, the Reports Officer in writing the Area report for the month of October, recommended that a technical consultant on labor unions be added to the Area staff.

— Opposition to Chick Sexing School —

Fred Hirasuma who formerly operated the International Chick Sexing Association at Mankato, Minnesota, decided to open a chick-sexing school in Minneapolis, on being informed by the W.R.A. that it would be inadvisable for him to conduct such a school in a Relocation Center. He found a satisfactory building at 1235 Lowry Avenue, North, and opened his school November 1, 1944, with fourteen students. The W.R.A. district



office offered to find part-time work for his students.

Immediately, on the opening of the school, several residents objected and Mr. Hirasuna was asked to call at the Northside Police Station. The W.R.A. officer accompanied Mr. Hirasuna to the Police Captain's office, where they were told that the neighbors' complaints were based on the fact that certain legal requirements had not been met. The police were told that Mr. Hirasuna had previously learned at the Minneapolis City Hall that no license or permit was required to operate a chick-sexing school. The Police Department maintained that the objection was based on legal issues, whereas the W.R.A. representatives and Mr. Hirasuna insisted that the objections were based on racial prejudice.

The Minneapolis press cooperated fully, the St. Paul Dispatch and the Minneapolis Star Journal assigning feature and editorial writers to defend the Nisei. Influential members of the Minneapolis Advisory Committee telephoned civic leaders and also the Mayor's Office, the Chief of the Police, and the Alderman in the ward in which the school was located. A new committee was formed, "Committee for Protection of American Rights", of which the Minnesota Relocation Officer was a member. He sent copies of "Nise in Uniform" to all members of the Committee.

The police volunteered to help Mr. Hirasuna find a new location for his school, but he was advised by the W.R.A. office and Minneapolis leaders to stand ground. The Alderman of the ward had an ordinance passed by the City Council requiring a permit for operation of the school.



Members of the Committee for the Protection of American Rights and W.R.A. staff members interviewed residents in the neighborhood of the school, and many of the residents, formerly opposed, agreed to attend a meeting at which "A Challenge to Democracy" and Lt. Masayuki Matsunaga were presented. The Committee succeeded in getting the City Council to issue a permit to Mr. Hirasuna to operate his school in the disputed building.

In Chicago, the opening of the first Buddhist Church in the city in November received newspaper publicity. In Indianapolis, a delayed announcement of the appointment of a native of Indiana, Norwood Dillman, as Relocation Officer, was made with news items appearing in the Indianapolis press, and the Times and the News publishing Mr. Dillman's picture. The Reports Officer provided the release and the picture through the District W.R.A. office.

— Area Adds Four Districts —

The Central Area comprising the territory of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, eastern Nebraska and eastern South Dakota, was absorbed by the North Central Area in December 15, 1944, an order of the Washington office. The monthly reports for December, 1944, included reports from W.R.A. District offices at Des Moines, Omaha, Kansas City and St. Louis.

The Reports Officer in commenting on the month's work stated that newspapers throughout the Area had reported favorably on the Army's lifting of the exclusion ban, with the exception possibly of the Chicago Herald-American and Milwaukee Sentinel (Hearst chain) which showed almost



no reaction to the news. Newspapers in Des Moines, Minneapolis, and St. Louis were among those giving sympathetic editorial treatment to the Hood River incident.

The Reports Officer attended meetings of Resettlement Committees and other interested groups in Chicago and St. Louis to explain W.R.A.'s post-exclusion program in December.

The Omaha District reported showings of "Go For Broke" in twelve towns with audiences reached numbering 2,950 persons and nineteen showings of "A Challenge To Democracy" with an estimated audience of 3900. W.R.A. photo exhibit at the Omaha Public Library from December 1 to 15 created favorable comment. Speeches and movies were also reported in other districts.

In Shabbona, Illinois, a petition which was started to protest the employment of evacuees at a War Hemp Mill died for lack of signatures. The editor of the local weekly interviewed the evacuee-foreman at War Hemp and was so favorably impressed that opposition in Shabbona never crystallized.

--- Press Releases From June 1944 to 1945 ---

During the period from June, 1944, to February 1945, the Reports Officer prepared approximately 45 releases, of which 70 per cent consisted of human interest items about resettlers, favorable editorial sentiment and administrative announcements to stimulate relocation. Approximately 15 per cent pertained to news of Nisei soldiers and 15 per cent to personnel and administrative changes. About 65 per cent of the



releases were distributed to the Centers while 25 per cent were offered the Chicago press and 15 per cent went to selected newspapers only, such as the Pacific Citizen, or the Indianapolis newspapers.

— Second Reports Officer Promoted —

The Reports Officer, Harold Mann, was named Assistant Area Supervisor in January 1, 1945. Early in February, 1945, Mrs. Eleanor W. Zimmerman, present incumbent, was appointed. The writer held a degree in journalism from Florida State College for Women and had had approximately seven years' experience in informational work, including four and a half years in the small Information Division of the Office of Indian Affairs.

Before relinquishing the Reports job, Mr. Mann had already in preparation the following mimeographed materials for Center distribution: "Nebraska, Green Land of Opportunity"; "Midwest Farming Opportunities"; "Kansas City, A Good Place to Live"; and Special Housing Supplement to the February 15 Field Bulletin (formerly the Job-Summary Report) (See Exhibits--Publications)

The second Reports Officer also had planned the publication of a mimeographed booklet "Business Opportunities for Issei in the Midwest" and had directed the gathering of data by the Chicago District staff for a second business booklet "Starting A Small Business in Wartime".

— Center Booklets Change In Format —

The new Reports Officer performed minor editing on the two business



booklets and obtained photographs to illustrate the Japanese editions of the two booklets, the translations of which were furnished by the Washington staff. Special permission was obtained to have these booklets as well as future issues of the monthly Field Bulletin duplicated by the multilith process. A shortage of heavy mimeograph paper existed. In addition, the Reports Officer wanted to make the Field Bulletins more attractive by using photographs of resettlers to illustrate the text. This could be achieved by reproducing the text by multilith rather than the mimeograph process.

By the spring of 1945, the United States Employment Service was referring resettlers to jobs other than farm and domestic situations, which continued to be handled by the W.R.A. district offices. A listing of jobs available in the Field Bulletin was considered no longer necessary by most District Officers and the Area staff. For a period of a year, jobs had been listed twice a month by the Districts and furnished the Centers through the medium of the Area Job-Summary Report. Special job offers had also been described by correspondence and teletype from the Districts to the Centers.

At the suggestion of the Acting Area Supervisor and her assistants, the Reports Officer used the Field Bulletin as a medium for publishing pertinent data on the districts not otherwise available in printed form. The April 15, 1945, issue of the Field Bulletin contained a list of private and public welfare agencies cooperating in the relocation program. These lists were compiled by the District Officers at the request of the



Area staff. The May 15, 1945, issue of the Field Bulletin contained the names of schools in each district where resettlers' children were welcomed. District Officers were asked to comment on job and business opportunities, health, recreation and insurance services available to resettlers in subsequent issues of the Field Bulletin.

In addition, printed data already available was furnished the Centers by District Officers as follows: State Agricultural Publications, Chamber of Commerce material descriptive of locality, Railroad Agricultural and other descriptive literature, Recreational publications, School and College Bulletins, and descriptive literature, etc.

— District Newsletters to Centers —

Beginning in July 15, 1945, the Field Bulletins were discontinued at the suggestion of the Washington staff in favor of a weekly Newsletter from each district to the Centers. The Newsletters were to consist of separate items about individual resettlers indicating satisfactory adjustment in their new homes. For example, Mr. X purchases a business, Mrs. Y joins the PTA, and even such news items as births, marriages and deaths among resettlers. In order to get the District Officers started on a weekly Newsletter at once (many of them thought that journalistic experience was a requisite to such work). The Reports Officer accompanied Mr. Ben Brodinsky of the Washington Reports Division on a visit to the Kansas City and Des Moines offices for the purpose of demonstrating how to prepare a simple newsletter for Center distribution. The gathering of such news items during the course of performing regular duties was demonstrated to the Relocation Officer, and the stenographer or clerk in the office was instructed on the preparation and format of



the Newsletter. At this time the Reports Officer also visited the Omaha District where she prepared the first Newsletter as a sample for that staff and had it mailed to the Centers.

The other District Officers in the Area were able to issue a weekly Newsletter following the samples and instructions the Reports Officer furnished them by correspondence. A schedule was established throughout the Area, each District Officer being advised to mail his Newsletter on the same day each week. After the first three weekly Newsletters were prepared for the approval of the Reports Officers and mailed from the Area office to the Centers, the Districts were asked to mail their Newsletters direct to the Centers without prior approval by the Area office.

Approximately 166 weekly Newsletters to stimulate relocation were issued by District Officers from July 15 to December 1945. On the basis of clippings from Center newspapers and the Pacific Citizen, the Reports Officer estimates that roughly one-third of the news items were published in one paper or another. (See Exhibits-Clippings)

-- Evaluation of District Newsletters --

The District Officers in the North Central Area issued the weekly Newsletters promptly and regularly, with the exception of the Indianapolis and the Minneapolis Districts. The Indianapolis District issued only one or two news items during this period and the Area Reports Officer tolerated this for two reasons: (1) a single Nisei stenographer comprised the full-time W.R.A. staff in the Indiana District during this



this period (2) fewer resettlers lived in the Indiana District than any other district, and community sentiment was not considered especially favorable to relocation.

The Minnesota District was late in starting a weekly Newsletter because of the unfamiliarity of the new District Officer (James Hiner, Jr.) in Federal administration and the necessity of his devoting considerable effort to more pressing problems. When he did finally assign a staff member to the preparation of a weekly Newsletter, approximately thirteen newsletters were issued. Their content was much poorer than the other districts because of a limited understanding and ability to interpret the instructions.

Although lacking in brevity as recommended by the Washington staff, the St. Louis District newsletter was probably the best from the point of view of containing the most complete information to stimulate relocation. By journalistic standards, the news items contained too many details about each person comprising a newly-arrived family group.

— Other Field Visits in 1945 —

In addition to the visit to three districts in August for the principal purpose of starting a weekly District Newsletter, the Reports Officer made three other trips from her Chicago headquarters during the year. In February, she traveled through the Indiana District with the Relocation Officer, Norwood Dillman, and met in Indianapolis the Washington Chief of the Current Information Section (Reports Division), Mr. Arnold Serwer, who stopped over at several district offices on his



way to the West Coast. In March, the Reports Officer visited the St. Louis, Kansas City, Des Moines, and Omaha Districts for purposes of orientation and to direct a W.R.A. photographer, Mr. Hikaru Iwasaki, in obtaining photographers of resettlers, principally Issei. Mr. Iwasaki visited six of the nine districts in the North Central Area. The Reports Officer prepared approximately 55 captions during the month to accompany the pictures he obtained.

— Reports Officer Visits A Center —

At the end of April, the Reports Officer departed for the Central Utah Relocation Center, Topaz, Utah, where she spent ten days trying to promote relocation. She talked individually with approximately 50 evacuees, spoke informally at a Block Managers' meeting, wrote an article for the Topaz Times and a flyer for door-to-door distribution announcing her visit in the Center; attended several administrative staff meetings, and assisted the Center Reports Officer and the Assistant Relocation Officer in displaying literature and photographs from the North Central Area.

The apparent lack of interest on the part of evacuees in relocation and the subsequent apathy on the part of the Relocation staff in promoting relocation aggressively were a distinct disappointment to the Reports Officer. She had been led to think by the remarks of a Washington official of the Relocation Division (Mr. Ottis Peterson) that she would be kept busy simply as an interviewer in the Topaz Relocation Office. Actually, the small number of evacuees calling at the Relocation Office from May 1 to 10 was insufficient to keep the Center Relocation Advisers busy. Although



the Reports Officer talked individually with six or eight Issei, she felt that she could claim partial credit for the relocation of only two Nisei, one involving a family of four to Rochester, New York, and the second who went to St. Louis at her suggestion and eventually relocated his family members and friends numbering eleven persons.

The only recommendation the Reports Officer had for promoting relocation more aggressively was to visit informally with evacuees in their homes, in their mess halls and in their social gatherings. She attempted to do this when few evacuees called at the Relocation Office.

A plan to consolidate the Relocation and Welfare Divisions at the Center and assign each worker to several blocks was under consideration at this time by the administrative staff. The Reports Officer thought that this plan offered a partial solution in bringing the Relocation workers into closer personal relationship with the evacuees.

#### — Public Relations in the Districts —

The Reports Officer concludes that the rather limited number of visits she made to the district offices was adequate in view of the fact that no serious public relations problems arose during 1945 other than an incident at Shelton, Nebraska. (This will be described elsewhere.) Also, during the second half of 1945 when it became apparent that no tremendous upsurge in relocation would take place in the districts, an Assistant Area Supervisor, Walter Parmeter, was most helpful in making suggestions and checking up on the public relation's work of the District Officers. This Assistant Area Supervisor spent most of his time visiting the dis-



tricts and assisting the Relocation Officers in all phases of the relocation job.

The writer believes that she might have attempted to promote additional favorable public relations in the districts during her first few months as Reports Officer. While new on the job, she experienced some uncertainty as to what phase of the information program she should concentrate her efforts due to the rather negative attitude of the Assistant Area Supervisor who had previously served as Reports Officer. The writer learned that the Acting Area Supervisor did not share this passive approach and was usually amenable to suggestion and anxious to encourage any public relations' activities which might stimulate relocation, both at the District level and at the Center level.

Thus, through joint planning and frequent suggestions from various members of the Area staff, the Reports Officer instructed the District Officers in carrying forward a public relations' program during the last half of 1945 along the following specific lines: (1) organize a Speakers Bureau consisting of outstanding Nisei leaders who are available to speak on programs solicited by the District Officer and at which meetings the W.R.A. films might be shown; (2) solicit time on local radio programs at which the evacuation and relocation program might be discussed (3) interest the local newspaper editor in having at least one comprehensive feature story published on relocation in the district, preferably with pictures; provide the main libraries in those communities in which resettlers live with a supply of W.R.A. literature; keep the active members of Advisory Committees and the leaders among resettlers supplied with



W.R.A. informational materials; notify local radio stations and newspaper radio columnists of national programs pertaining to relocation; solicit space for literature and pictorial exhibits at county fairs.

The degree of accomplishment ~~in these efforts~~ <sup>toward the</sup> public relations program varied a good deal with the existing district situation and the individual District situation and the individual District Officer's interests and inclination. All district officers supplied the principal libraries in their communities with W.R.A. literature, except the Chicago branch system which did not have the necessary space. The Iowa District Officer concentrated on arranging two exhibits at important agricultural fairs and on arranging for several state-wide radio programs rather than promoting a feature story in the Des Moines Register-Tribune, which was already in the habit of publishing articles favorable to relocation. The St. Louis District Officer concentrated on promoting a full-page illustrated feature story, in addition to several smaller local human interest stories, rather than soliciting radio time. Although the St. Louis press had expressed friendliness at the national level, the editors had published little locally because no one had suggested possible news stories.

From February to December, 1945, W.R.A. films were distributed among districts for showings at civic meetings as follows:

Chicago District	72	showings
Wisconsin "	5	"
Minnesota "	20	"
Des Moines "	12	"
Indianapolis "	5	"
Greater Illinois	10	"
Omaha "	17	"
St. Louis "	18	"
Kansas City "	22	"



Approximately <sup>23,000</sup>~~28,000~~ pieces of literature on the evacuation and relocation program were distributed at meetings and on individual request during the period from February 1945 to January 1946.

In Chicago, the Area Reports Officer handled relations with the press and radio representatives directly. She promoted a press conference about once a month, most of them interviews with returning Nisei soldiers. She furnished a news release on the availability of W.R.A. films and Nisei speakers to some 50 radio representatives in the Chicago area and obtained four 15-minute interviews with Nisei on three different local stations as a result. References were made by news commentators on the air to the imminent closing of W.R.A. field offices as a result of this release and a subsequent letter to them signed by the Area Supervisor.

In connection with the educational program of movies and Nisei speakers made available by the Chicago District, the Reports Officer furnished a release to approximately 20 neighborhood newspaper chains in the Chicago area and also to the Chicago language and labor press. A Chicago Relocation Officer assigned to the educational program followed up this release by calling personally on the editor of the newspaper in the neighborhood in which a Nisei was scheduled to speak. As a result, during the last three months of 1945, accounts of these speeches on the program were often reported in the Chicago neighborhood papers.

When a shortage of W.R.A. literature developed, the Assistant Area Supervisor prepared text for a leaflet "Chicagoans of Japanese Ancestry" based on the Washington W.R.A. leaflet "Relocating A People".



The Reports Officer selected photographs and edited the leaflet of which 5,000 were published. An additional re-run of 5,000 copies was made in November, 1945, for distribution principally to the Chicago police force. A second similar leaflet "Midwesterners of Japanese Ancestry" was issued by the Reports Officer for the use of other District Officers in their public relations program in September, 1945.

From May to October, the Reports Officer attended some eight sessions of the Chicago Conference on Home Front Unity which was called by the Mayor's Committee on Race Relations. The Reports Officer participated in discussions of the Commission on Education and its sub-committees. Since the delegates to this Conference represented civic organizations in Chicago, the Reports Officer participated simply in an advisory capacity, rather than as an active voting delegate. (Proceedings of the May and October Conference on Home Front Unity have been published by the Mayor's Committee on Race Relations.)

— One Serious and Two Minor Acts Widely Publicized —

The only serious incident in the North Central Area occurred in March, 1945, when a delegation of six residents of the Shelton, Nebraska, farm area called on Hi Korematsu. Mr. Korematsu, a Nisei graduate of Cornell University, had leased the prosperous Harvey Lippincott farm and expected to obtain, with W.R.A.'s assistance, 10 to 20 Japanese-American farm workers from the Centers. There were several Japanese-American relocatees living on the Lippincott farm at the time, including a single Nisei worker, Mrs. Korematsu and her elderly father,



and the Peter Omachi family, with six children.

The delegation told Mr. Korematsu that a petition had been circulated opposing any Jap colonization schemes in the Platte River Valley. The delegation recommended that Mr. Korematsu and his workers leave the Lippincott farm at once. A newspaper reported that the leaders offered to pay the Japanese-Americans' transportation expenses. Mr. Korematsu agreed to leave. (See Exhibits—Clippings)

When the news broke, Harvey Lippincott himself and ministers in the rural area staunchly defended the Japanese-Americans. (Details of W.R.A.'s participation will probably be described in the Area history.) A series of letters to the editor in the Omaha World-Herald also supported the Nisei.

The Reports Officer's role during this period was limited to teletyping the Centers to cease recruiting for the Lippincott farm and to issue a press release to the Centers a few days later when all the facts became available. (The Area staff was reprimanded by the Washington office for not issuing the release sooner and in slightly different style.)

Relations with the Omaha press were being maintained along friendly lines by the Omaha District Officer, William K. Holland, and the Assistant Area Supervisor, Mr. Parmeter. As only short one and two-paragraph stories (taken from the wire stories in Nebraska) appeared in the Chicago press, a statement by the Acting Area Supervisor in Chicago to the local press did not seem warranted at the time. None of the Chicago newspapers requested information.

Two minor acts occurring in 1945 created a favorable press for



one story was  
Japanese-Americans. ~~Both stories were~~ promoted by the Chicago <sup>physician</sup> Doctor Shevin, from the staff of the Jackson Park Hospital when his Nisei patient was ordered to leave the ward before he had given her surgical treatment. (See Exhibits—Clippings.)

The second instance involved the death in childbirth of an illegitimate Nisei mother of twins, who attributed her plight to an unnamed member of the Navy. The Chicago Herald-American (Hearst) played up the story considerably and other Chicago newspapers featured it as a "Madame Butterfly" episode. (The evidence which was not mentioned in the press indicated that the young Nisei resettler had a questionable background and that her death in a Chicago hospital was caused by venereal disease.)

— Press Releases from February to December, 1945 —

During a ten-month period, the third Reports Officer issued approximately 100 press releases. A number of these releases required little writing on her part as they consisted simply of excerpts from favorable stories in the Midwest press for Center and Japanese-American newspaper distribution. Of the 100 releases, approximately 65 per cent may be classified as human interest items and administrative announcements to stimulate relocation, 25 per cent pertained to Nisei soldiers, and 10 per cent to administrative changes, such as personnel appointments and the closing of W.R.A. field offices.

The Reports Officer did not make use of the O.P.A. mailing list of small Midwest newspapers. About 15 per cent of the news releases



were offered the Chicago press, about 18 per cent were designed for selective distribution, and about 67 per cent of the releases were issued mainly for the Centers. On the basis of news clippings, the Reports Officer estimates that roughly 95 per cent of the releases appeared in one newspaper or another.