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ORGS

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

1944-46

CA  
171

# American Friends Service Committee

Midwest Branch

189 West Madison Street  
(2) Chicago, Illinois

General Office, Philadelphia  
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William R. Fogg, *Treasurer*  
Clarence E. Pickett, *Executive Secretary*



Midwest Office  
Charles S. Beal, *Chairman*  
James C. Matchett, *Treasurer*  
Edwin C. Morgenroth, *Executive Secretary*

Telephone CENTral 2623 2664

November 2, 1944

Ruth W. Kingman  
Room 203  
465 California Street  
San Francisco, California

Dear Mrs. Kingman:

The enclosed report on Chicago resettlement is being forwarded to you in the hope that it may bring you up to date on some aspects of relocation in the Midwest, which we have observed during the past two years.

I am particularly interested in receiving from your office any recent releases on the Fair Play Committee.

Very sincerely yours,

  
Togo Tanaka

TT:tv  
Enclosures

(For Committee circulation only)  
(This is not a press release)

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NOVEMBER 1944 Report on CHICAGO Resettlement

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Midwest Branch Office  
(Central 2664)

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE  
in cooperation with the  
AMERICAN BAPTIST HOME MISSION SOCIETY

189 W. Madison St.  
Chicago 2, Ill.

RESETTLEMENT of Japanese Americans in Chicago is now in its third year. Approximately 6,500 work and live here. In background, education, training and skills, religious preferences, and differences among them, they represent a fair cross-section of American life.

SINCE JUNE, 1942, our staff members have interviewed and assisted some 3,500 individual resettlers, ranging in age from 14 to 69, who have made well over 9,300 personal calls at the office. Our resettlement staff has varied in size from two persons devoting part time to twelve giving full time.

Community agencies and interested persons of good will were contacted by our staff in summer of 1942; in June of that year the Advisory Committee for Evacuees was formed. Relocation as a government program was still in the planning stage then.

The Friends' Hostel was opened Feb. 1, 1943. Until its closing Nov. 30, 1943, it accommodated 360 of the early resettlers at a time when release from centers was facilitated through hostel acceptance.

Employers on job placements: Out of some two thousand employer contacts, we have developed satisfactory relationships with 550 employers who have made continual job offers. Over half of the resettlers calling on us came for leads, counsel, and direct help in finding suitable employment; we have been able to find placement for some 2,000.

Housing: Landlords, apartment managers, some real estate agents, and neighborhood people generally were approached in our early efforts to help resettlers locate housing. Up to Jan. 1, 1944, we had assisted some 600 persons. We discontinued this special service when a central housing staff was set up by the government agency, though periodically we have aided individuals in house-hunting.

Speaking engagements before religious, civic, educational, business, professional people have been filled by staff members in accepting 134 invitations. There were an estimated 11,578 persons in the audiences of these groups. We have spoken only upon invitation.

Student relocation: As representatives of the National Student Relocation Council, we have counselled over 450 students who have come to us. Up-to-date catalogs have been made available. High school and vocational as well as college students have been referred to us.

Medical care and facilities: To assure resettlers of access to adequate medical services, we contacted nearly 100 physicians and surgeons, dentists and optometrists, and some spec-

ialists, as well as staffs of accredited hospitals. Where possible, resettlers have been referred to doctors in their immediate neighborhood.

General counselling: Newcomers have been familiarized with community agencies, informed of activities of interest to them, introduced to persons of good will in different neighborhoods, directed to recreational facilities, helped in knowing Chicago transportation. Meeting new arrivals at railroad and bus stations was an early staff function which was discontinued when Traveler's Aid undertook to guide resettlers to their destinations. A revolving loan fund of \$115, contributed by individuals interested in resettlement, has been loaned to resettlers in temporary distress to the extent of \$1500. (At present, this fund has been exhausted).

THE TRENDS recorded here and the percentages upon which this analysis of Chicago resettlement is based are drawn from our files covering the period from June, 1942 to October, 1944.

#### Fluctuating Population

THERE HAS BEEN a constant movement to and from the city. Hundreds have gone on to Cleveland, Detroit, New York, Madison, Milwaukee, Philadelphia--and in many instances--returned. Hundreds have arrived from Salt Lake City, Denver, Des Moines, St. Louis--and frequently--gone back. The greatest in-flow has been directly from Relocation Centers. Hundreds have returned to the camps, mostly young men awaiting Army induction who wished to be with their families before reporting.

While the population has been transient, its total number has continued to rise; the increase continues, though at a rate less than the 1943 peak. Chief incentives for coming here: (1) expectation of better paying jobs (2) friends and families already here.

#### Instability in Resettlement

How permanently resettled are these 6,500 new Chicagoans? Among resettlers and agency workers, among employers and landlords, among community people of good will and others with whom resettlers come into contact, there is wide difference of opinion.

- ... Some believe a general reopening of the west coast may signal a mass exodus in that direction. We do not share this belief.
- ... However likely or unlikely this may be, it is commonly acknowledged that a large proportion of resettlers have a sense of temporariness about Chicago residence; they do not intend to stay here.

TWO FACTORS appear to be largely responsible for evident instability in the permanent resettling process which the government program seeks to accomplish:

- (1) COMPATIVELY BAD HOUSING  
aggravated by discriminatory restrictions
- (2) PREPONDERANCE OF YOUNG, SINGLE MEN AND WOMEN AMONG RESETTLERS  
less than one-fifth are family units

'Available housing, to hundreds of Chicago resettlers, is incredibly bad, below west coast evacuee standards; discrimination in trying to get housing has been more acute to the resettler, more disillusioning and frustrating, than any other unfavorable group experience.

Our figures show that 17% of those here are married persons constituting family units, including those who have not yet been able to bring out the rest of their family for lack of housing; 81% are single persons, mostly young men and women. 62% are in the age group, 20-30, with the greatest numbers of the ages 20, 21, 22, 23, 24. Single young women outnumber young men.

AREA OF NEEDED ATTENTION: the re-establishment of what constituted normal pre-war family units, especially in the case of Issei parents with minor children, has made little headway in Chicago--as yet. This may account too for the police records of resettler delinquency which, though few in proportion to the total Japanese American population, have been reported in the press, and in certain areas of the city have made an unsavory reputation for the group.

There are known to us--and probably to all resettlement agencies here--persons who are blocked in their attempts to bring out the rest of their families still in relocation centers, due to inability to obtain housing.

Many of these people are Issei, handicapped by language barriers in making effective inquiry on their own. Larger quarters suitable for family, furthermore, have not been available to resettlers.

Generally, in the older-age brackets are people whose maturity and responsibility would make for stability in Chicago resettlement, whose re-establishment here would tend to modify the shifting, transient nature of the resettler population.

#### E v i d e n c e   o f   P e r m a n e n c e

For all the expressed concern over the migratory, temporary character of resettlement, there is underneath, a steady, substantial sinking of permanent roots by a growing nucleus.

In our June report we called attention to shipment of furniture from west coast storage, leaseholds in preference to monthly tenancy, home-buying, employment of a more permanent type, in Chicago. These symptoms are even more in evidence today than then.

Resettlers, in larger numbers, are placing themselves in circumstances where they become less mobile. Commitments to jobs, acquisition of property, ties of children in school, attachment to community, not to mention marriages and births--all these tend to make for greater permanence.

- (1) WE FEEL THERE IS A HIGHER DEGREE of declared intention to "stay in Chicago because of my job" now than a year ago. Dissatisfaction with employment is still conspicuous, but resettlers have made substantial gains.
- (2) BUSINESS ENTERPRISES by resettlers have increased. Reflecting the major need, most of these are in the operation of rooming and boarding houses, apartments and hotels; over 30 are known to us. Half a dozen food and provision stores and restaurants, a transfer-cartage business, a radio repair service operated jointly by a Nisei and European American friend have been established. Professional men; several physicians, dentists, optometrists have opened private offices, and a resettler attorney has set up his own office in the Loop.

4.

- (3) HOME BUYING continues on a limited scale. Estimates indicate there are over 50 families among 6,500 resettlers who have started purchasing homes, possibly more. Several sales of west coast properties by resettlers now here have been reported; indicative, we believe, of intentions to stay in Chicago.
- (4) VOTING REGISTRATION: An estimated 71% of the total resettler population is 21 years of age or over; 21% is Issei, or non-citizen ineligible to vote. This leaves about 53% meeting both age and citizenship requirements; slightly less than half this number, however, meet the one-year residence requirement. Of the estimated 1500 qualified resettlers, only a very small number are actually known to us as registrants. Those whom we know have registered are the type who say they intend to settle permanently in Chicago.
- (5) COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS: The picture has changed considerably since our last report. Numerous group formations have crystallized, notably under Church leadership. Those regarded as of community character:

Fourth Presbyterian Church, Issei and Nisei services, attended to large extent by leaders in the pre-war Chicago Japanese population, has welcomed resettlers.

First Baptist Church of Hyde Park, with its Sunday evening service conducted by a Nisei associate pastor, is regularly attended by several hundred Nisei, mostly younger people.

Moody Memorial Church is the meeting place every Sunday of a group of both Issei and Nisei ministered to by a former Los Angeles Holiness Church pastor.

The Chicago Buddhist Federation includes two groups, each with separate services, separate headquarters, different priests, and followings in the hundreds.

The Chicago Resettlers Committee, meeting usually at 19 South La Salle, is a group, led by a Nisei nucleus, to further resettlement generally, works closely with W.R.A.

Japanese American Citizens League, with a Chicago office for relocation since 1943, is now organizing a membership chapter here for the first time.

In addition, informal social and interest groups, both within and outside the Church, have come into existence throughout the city; a common basis for these associations may be found in the fact resettlers are converging in certain areas of Chicago according to west coast communities or relocation centers from which they have come.

FOR THE MOST PART, growth of community organizations has followed, on a modified scale, the patterns of segregation found on the west coast and in the relocation camp. One value of such organizations, however, has been the affording of a primary group around which most resettlers seem naturally to prefer to gravitate. Deviation from this pattern is occurring at points of individual contacts for which there seems to be no accurate measure.

#### A r e a s o f D i s c r i m i n a t i o n

Daily threats to individual resettler's sense of comfort and security, particularly newcomers, may be found in two major areas of experience, and to lesser degree in several others. Here, in a sense, is a sustaining force compelling Japanese Ameri-

cans into groups of their own:

- (1) Race prejudice in housing: There are now congregated in numbers of several hundreds, resettlers in the 800-1400 North Clark and La Salle streets, 4400-5000 North Winthrop, Clifton, Wilson streets area, 3600-4500 South Drexel, Lake Park, Ellis streets area. Numerous buildings are 95% and 100% resettler occupied; many of these structures would be classified sub-standard. In most cases, resettlers declare they found, in the course of their house-hunting, at least one vacancy more desirable than the one they got, a vacancy which was within their financial means but denied them because of their race. This does not overlook the fact there are literally hundreds of resettlers today living in high standard housing who are satisfied; but most of the 6,500 are not. Opposition of some real estate interests has been a factor in this inability to secure better housing.
  
- (2) Discrimination in employment: This exists more in up-grading at higher levels and in certain fields than in availability of initial jobs, especially unskilled and semi-skilled factory and office work. It is difficult to measure race prejudice here. Much of the earlier discrimination has been eliminated by resettler performance; and currently some of it seems to have been created by bad performance. The resettler employment record is characterized by extremes: (1) Where work has been satisfactory, employers have reported high commendation; (2) On unskilled factory jobs, absenteeism has been very high; this may be attributed partly to the early-twenties age group and partly to the monotony of such jobs in view of the high educational level of resettlers.

(We feel, as the result of job placement service these past two years, that most resettlers are better equipped to secure their own jobs than permanent housing.)
  
- (3) Difficulties in burial and funeral arrangements: The refusal by a Chicago crematorium to accept the body of a deceased resettler was experienced by a Christian minister making arrangements for burial. Some cemeteries likewise have been guilty of practising race discrimination.
  
- (4) In public places there have been scattered instances of discriminatory treatment of resettlers. One of the city's largest dance halls excludes Nisei, excepting Servicemen, giving incentive to in-group social activity. At one west side polling place during the recent registration, a mis-informed precinct captain told a Nisei housewife she could not register because "Japanese Americans can't vote." The error was quickly corrected.
  
- (5) In hospitals: There have been some half dozen instances of alleged refusal to admit Japanese American patients in Chicago hospitals and other instances where resettlers have been required to take more expensive private rooms without choice.

These are some negative aspects of resettlement which usually loom large out of proportion to Japanese Americans themselves. But they play a real part in the vicious circle whereby external forces influence a racial minority to segregate itself, thereby creating conditions and atmosphere for the perpetuation of discriminatory practises by the community.

There is a tendency for resettlers as a group to overlook, in their understandable concern over discriminatory practises, the steady progress made in widespread acceptance and treatment on the basis of equality:

## A r e a s o f A c c e p t a n c e

- (1) In employment: Chicago's demand for Japanese American workers far exceeds the number of persons available. Resettler engineers, commercial artists, draftsmen, accountants, chemists, welders, electricians, architects and other skilled technicians have reported wider opportunity and greater acceptance here than on the west coast before evacuation. Numerous employers have promised post-war opportunities for the steady, capable employee.
- (2) In housing: Within commercial rooming house and small furnished apartment areas, landlord acceptance has been good. Once resettlers have become known, they have made a reputation generally as good housekeepers and desirable tenants. In some cases, landlords have actually taken steps to remove other renters in order to replace them with resettlers. A few real estate men have helped secure more permanent and adequate housing. The Y.W.C.A. and Y.M.C.A. as well as Eleanor Clubs have furnished a large share of housing facilities.
- (3) In churches: Established churches throughout the city, largely through the direction of the Church Federation of Greater Chicago, have welcomed resettlers and reached out in many ways to help them in their adjustment to a new community in wartime.
- (4) In schools: The public school experience has been favorable. Principals and teachers have often gone out of their way to be helpful to new students. High school tuition charged Nisei whose parents are not resident in the city is not a discriminatory levy against resettlers. With one outstanding exception--Northwestern University--colleges in this area are open to qualified resettlers, and many are taking advantage of these opportunities. Nisei are enrolled in numerous business and trade schools where they have been well received, with only one or two of Chicago's many vocational schools rejecting resettler applicants.
- (5) In shopping: Resettlers have had good experience in neighborhood stores, barber and beauty shops, and restaurants. Especially has this been true in less transient residential sections. Shopkeepers and business men have welcomed their patronage.
- (6) In hospitals: For the most part, hospitals have admitted Japanese Americans without question. Reported discrimination in admittance has come from small private institutions. Individual doctors have been most cooperative in attending to resettlers' medical needs.
- (7) Leisure time facilities have for the most part been accessible to resettlers. Churches, YMCAs, YWCAs, neighborhood houses, all of the Chicago public parks and recreation centers have actively sought and welcomed resettler participation in their regular programs. Commercial entertainment in hotels, night clubs, theatres, dance halls and bowling alleys as well as other public places are open with almost no discrimination.
- (8) In the metropolitan and community press; Four of the five Chicago daily newspapers have continued to be fair in news stories and editorials concerning resettlement. Various neighborhood weeklies have been equally favorable.

WIDENING OF THE AREAS OF ACCEPTANCE will depend, we believe, largely on the individual and collective efforts of resettlers. BREAKING DOWN the areas of discrim-

ination will likewise depend upon breaking the vicious circle of which self-segregation is a part.

In our resettlement efforts, we have been critical, not of segregation in itself, but of the injustices and inequalities inevitably arising from it.

WE ARE FULLY AWARE of the fact that every resettler's arrival in Chicago itself represents an emergence from an experience where he has felt himself the victim of mass racial discrimination. We further realize that there may be certain areas of social needs where racially uniform activity appears inevitable.

We have tried to direct our limited personnel and energies in those directions where we have hoped to cut into this vicious circle in which discriminatory treatment drives a group into clannish withdrawal within itself, thereby inviting further discrimination. Encouraging non-segregated on-going life in the neighborhood, we have felt from the outset, is a step in the direction toward healthy, long-range community patterns.

We have never devoted any of our limited staff resources to the development of segregated Japanese American activity simply because we have felt that responsible resettlers themselves would organize where necessary. We have always hoped that racially segregated activity among resettlers would be maintained at a functional and minimum level.

#### R e l i g i o u s   P r e f e r e n c e s

A large proportion of resettlers whom we have interviewed described themselves as Christian in religious preference. Religious background or affiliation has not been a pre-requisite of eligibility to aid. Of those whom we have interviewed, we have recorded the following percentages:

Christians.....	69%
Denominations stated.....	36%
Denominations not stated....	33%
No Religious preference stated.....	19%
Buddhists.....	12%

IT IS POSSIBLE that many who left the space for "religious preference" blank or wrote in "none" may have had nominal Buddhist backgrounds; however, our records indicate that Buddhists are still found in greater proportion inside the relocation centers generally than in resettlement areas. The two Buddhist organizations here have been formed just this summer, and their influence in furthering relocation in Chicago cannot yet be measured.

Among the 36% stating denominational affiliations there were the following: Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians, Congregationalists, Episcopalians, Southern Baptists, Free Methodists, Holiness, Brethren, Christian Scientists, Disciples, Friends, Seventh Day Adventists, members of the Church of Christ, Reformed Church, as well as Roman Catholics.

#### E d u c a t i o n a l   B a c k g r o u n d

On the basis of our compilations, the resettler population here is a highly literate one; of those whom we have interviewed, 93% have had at least a complete high school education; 20% have had trade, business or professional training after high school; 28% have had some college or university education, in many cases interrupted by evacuation, and many of these have also had special trade or vocational training;

8% are university graduates. Many resettlers have continued their study here.

#### What is the Outlook?

Generally, we feel the program here has been successful beyond the original expectations of both government and private agencies in planning and undertaking wartime relocation of west coast evacuees.

CHICAGO AS A WHOLE has welcomed resettlers into all kinds of employment, into housing in nearly all parts of the city, into its religious life, into civic and professional organizations, into public and private schools, into its public recreational activities, into nearly all of its conglomerate metropolitan community life.

AREAS OF CONTINUING SERVICE: Most recent government figures place at slightly over 30,000 the total number of evacuees who have been resettled under the War Relocation Authority program; Chicago has approximately one-fifth of that total. Throughout the midwest and east, there is mounting evidence that resettlers are taking root as permanent members of permanent communities. More Issei are now relocating which undoubtedly will stabilize resettlement.

However, the proportion of the unsettled, migratory, resettlers is still large. In Chicago the rate of new arrivals seems recently to have decreased; still it seems to us much faster than government and community agencies are able to induce newcomers to make a real effort to become a permanent part of the established community.

We are led to conclude on the basis of our experiences and observations that persons and groups of good will within the city have opened their doors to greater opportunity for social and recreational activities than resettlers have generally accepted.

A CONTINUING PROBLEM, then is not only keeping open the doors of welcome, but in persuading resettlers to participate in on-going community activities and accepting the responsibilities of citizenship in the American pattern.

ADEQUATE, DECENT HOUSING for more and more family units is an outstanding need still to be met.

The question of how permanent Chicago resettlement will be depends for a favorable answer upon the extent to which this problem is faced now and solved by both resettlers and resettlement agencies.

If, in the process of bringing general housing standards of resettlers to the level of permanence, resettlers also come to feel more a part of the community through participation in on-going non-segregated activities, a constructive step will have been taken toward, not only the mitigation, but the avoidance of neighborhood racial and social tensions which have so long been a part of Chicago's past.

Philosophy of Service: We conclude this report with a re-statement of our philosophy of service. We have conceived our function as a private agency in resettlement as being basically a religiously-motivated service. Our efforts have represented for us an expression of our faith and belief in the Fatherhood of God and brotherhood of man. We have sought to narrow the gap between the ideals of our society and the actions of its members. We have felt our service to be unique in some aspects from those of the government agency at whose request we originally undertook the responsibility of work in this field. We have always regarded resettlement as an opportunity to set long-range community patterns, believing that a religious approach to this problem still has a practical contribution to make, both now and in the months ahead.

*Copy these letters*

JAN 23 1945

689 Cypress Street  
Monterey, California

January 20, 1945

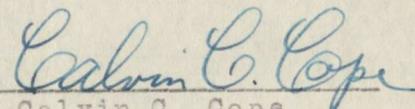
American Friends Service Committee  
1830 Sutter Street  
SAN FRANCISCO, California

Dear Friends:

This is to report that I have written several letters on the matter of restoration of citizenship rights to our friends of Japanese ancestry. A few samples of these letters are enclosed. I am proposing that Congress make restitution in cases of financial loss. I also am asking that government at every level take steps to protect returning citizens.

I write also to say that I should like to be informed when any families of Japanese ancestry want to return to Pacific Grove or Monterey. I should like to help them get settled. We have room for only two or three to stay at our house while they are making their homes ready, and that only when my father-in-law is not staying with us. But I can always help them clean up their homes and make repairs.

Sincerely,

  
Calvin C. Cope

689 Cypress Street  
Monterey, California

January 20, 1945

Sheriff Charles H. Silva  
Auburn, California

My dear Sheriff:

More power to you in your action concerning our fellow-citizen Sumio Doi. I thank you not only for doing your duty, but also in the process, for maintaining the American way of life.

Protection of the rights of racial and religious minorities is the best test of a just and enlightened government.

Conditions could develop under which it might be easier for you not to enforce the law; but by defending this minority now we will find it easier later to defend the minorities to which you and I belong. "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty."

Many of us are writing our Senators and Congressmen to express our approval and appreciation of the action of the Army and the Supreme Court, and to encourage them to wipe out the injustices already committed against these fellow-citizens.

I have already written the Governor thanking him for his statement, and requesting State support of all local officials who may be faced with the same problem that you have.

Sincerely yours,

---

Calvin C. Cope

689 Cypress Street  
Monterey, California

January 20, 1945

Honorable Earl W. Warren  
Executive Mansion  
Sacramento, California

(In the matter of the  
racial commission)

Sir:

Your 12-point program of social legislation as reported in the papers is a most excellent one. If you can lead the Legislature to enact into law any considerable portion of it, or even to establish a good system of compulsory health insurance, we, the citizens, will owe you our sincerest thanks and appreciation.

In this letter, however, I wish to express particularly my approval of the idea of setting up a commission to study the problems of racial minorities. I hope this body will be given full authority and adequate means to investigate, report, and recommend not only legislation to you and the Legislature, but other measures and action to local government and to employers, landlords, and private organizations. I would hope that this body would use publicity and all the means of public information to educate our people as to the importance of political, economic, and social justice for our racial minorities.

If you should be successful in having this commission established, I recommend my colleague, the former Principal of the Monterey Adult School, now the Principal of the Monterey Union High School, Mr. R. Thorvald Kragh,\* for a place on the commission. For over a year he has been the efficient and tactful chairman of the newly organized Interracial Committee of Monterey Peninsula. He is one white man who would work conscientiously and unselfishly for the good of all. I hope you will consider him.

Very sincerely yours,

Calvin G. Gope

*Also wrote him a  
letter about protection  
of returning Citizens  
of Japanese ancestry.*

*\* Please put him on your  
mailing list for all  
interracial material.*

589 Cypress Street  
Monterey, California

January 20, 1945

Honorable Sheridan Downey

Senate Office Building  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Dear Senator Downey:

As a Caucasian and a believer in Christian ethics and the democratic form of government, basic to our American way of life, I am pleased to express my approval and deep appreciation of the action taken by the Army and the Supreme Court in restoring the legal rights of American citizens of Japanese ancestry. I shall be watching to see whether these steps will be followed by other governmental action, national, state, and local, which will bring results in the daily lives of these people.

Protection of the rights of racial and religious minorities is the best test of a just and enlightened government.

Inasmuch as there were no overt acts of sabotage or subversive activities committed by our Japanese fellow-citizens, either here or in Hawaii, and, inasmuch as they have given ample evidence of their loyalty and heroism, I propose that we make amends for the arbitrary and injurious way we have treated them. I urge that Congress -- just as soon as practicable -- take steps to reimburse these people for financial losses incidental to their captivity.

Only by so doing can we correct an injustice against a whole people, - an injustice born of suspicion and fear, and supported by avarice and race prejudice. Will you join in this plan for restitution, and in this effort to clear our Government's good name?

Sincerely yours,

---

Galvin C. Gope

*Also wrote a  
similar letter  
to Congressman  
Outland.*

COPY

April 28, 1945

Judge Lowell Sparks  
Auburn, California

Your Honor:

We were greatly disturbed by the result of the trial of those who attacked the Doi Ranch. It came as a distinct shock that such a verdict would be given in a community as intelligent as Auburn.

We greatly fear the consequences of condoning such un-American vandalism. If encouraged, it can so easily spread through the State. Is there anything that can be done to reverse this decision or to educate the community away from its present fascist tendencies?

Sincerely,

JWD:mh

Josephine W. Duveneck  
Associate Secretary

COPY

April 28, 1945

Mr. Robert Kenny  
Attorney General  
Sacramento, California

Dear Sir:

We are greatly shocked by the decision in Auburn on the case of the men who attacked the Doi home. Is there anything you can do to reverse this decision which is bound to have the effect of encouraging vandalism? We feel that if once a good stiff sentence can be imposed on someone guilty of molesting Japanese Americans, it would deter repetitions of such offenses.

We were glad to note that you had appointed special agents to investigate the Merced incident~~x~~ and hope that this time justice will carry through.

Sincerely,

Josephine W. Duveneck  
for  
JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMITTEE

COPY

May 2, 1945

Josephine W. Duveneck  
Associate Secretary  
American Friends Service Committee  
1830 Sutter Street  
San Francisco, California

Dear Madam:

Receipt is hereby acknowledged of your letter of April 28th in reference to the case of People vs. Watson et al.

Inasmuch as there are still matters pending in Court in connections with this case, I am referring your letter to the district attorney who prosecuted it, and who I am sure will be pleased to give you the information you have requested.

Very truly yours,

Lowell L. Sparks

COPY

May 3, 1945

Miss Josephine W. Duvenick  
American Friends Service Committee  
1830 Sutter Street  
San Francisco, California

Dear Miss Duvenick:

This will acknowledge your letter of April 28 inquiring whether action could be taken by this office to reverse the decision in the Doi case at Auburn.

In the absence of irregularities in connection with the trial itself persons cannot, when a jury after its considerations of facts has found them not guilty, be retried for the same offense. There is therefore no action the State can take.

The outcome of this particular trial has been seriously disturbing to many thoughtful citizens because of its reflection on the inviolability of the institutions of trial by jury, an integral part of our Constitutional guarantees.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Kenny  
Attorney General

COPY

May 9, 1945

American Friends Service Committee  
1830 Sutter Street  
San Francisco, California

ATTENTION: Josephine W. Duvneck, Associate Secretary

Dear Madam:

Your letter of April 28, 1945 with reference to the Johnson and Watson case, addressed to Judge Lowell Sparks, has been handed to me by th4e Judge. The verdict in that case I feel was most unfortunate, but it does reflect the fea~ling and sentiment of the public in this County. Apparently the public is carried away and their judgemnt is warped by war hysteria and war propaganda. There is nothing further under the law that we can do after the verdict has been returned by the jury, as it has been in this case. We will have to hope and pray that the more level heads of the community will prevent a recurrence of such acts. I might state that so far there have been no other acts of violence of any nature in this county. The fact that we prosecuted the case, and that they cannot get away with such acts without a prosecution, will undoubtedly have some deterrent effects.

I wish to thank you for this letter as it does show us that there are still some people in this State that believe in the American institutions, and the equal protection of our laws.

Yours very truly,

C. E. TINDALL  
District Attorney

Information copy to Mrs. Kingman

A.F.S.C.  
20 S. 12th Street  
Philadelphia 7, Pa.  
May 10, 1945

Caleb Foote  
Fellowship of Reconciliation  
2151 Vine Street  
Berkeley 7, California

Dear Caleb Foote:

Thanks very much for your letter of May 4th, together with the enclosed copy of your article for the June number of FELLOWSHIP.

Yesterday Clarence Pickett and I had a two hour and a half conference with Dillon S. Myer in Washington. He discussed with us very frankly and in considerable detail the problems, cross currents and various points of view which finally induced the WRA to adopt the policy of closing the relocation centers on December 31, 1945. Among these considerations were the following:

(1) As you suggest in your article, there are some 20,000 young people under 18 years of age now in the centers. These youngsters have already had three years of camp life. This has resulted in very serious behavior problems on the part of these youngsters and this experience tends to entirely unfit them for living as free citizens in a normal American community. Myer said that he felt that it was absolutely imperative that for the sake of these children, the centers must be closed and these children gotten back into normal community life at the earliest possible date.

(2) The employment opportunities are much better now than they are apt to be at the close of the war, hence the opportunities of re-integration into normal community life on a self-supporting basis are greater than they will be at a later period.

(3) The staffs of the welfare organizations in the various communities are better able to help handle the reintegration of the returning evacuees at the present time, due to lower relief load, than they are apt to be at the close of the war. Hence they will be able to give to the evacuees much better service than at a later period.

(4) Congressional appropriations are apt to be cut rather drastically as there is increasing opposition in Congress against making appropriations to care for the evacuees in the centers. With the tempo of the war in the Pacific, this opposition is almost sure to increase.

(5) The anti-Japanese baiters on the West Coast are constantly using the centers as a source of agitation for the enactment of exclusion laws on the Coast. The longer the evacuees remain in the centers, the greater the opposition to their return to normal community life.

May 10, 1945

As a result of these considerations, Dillon Myer said that the WRA had finally come to the conclusion that the best policy for all concerned was to set the date, December 31, 1945, as the date when the centers would be closed. He said that this policy was based upon certain assumptions: (1) that jobs are now available; (2) that housing can be secured; (3) that support will be arranged and available through Social Security; and (4) that the WRA, while it is still in existence, will be a sponsoring agency for the return of the evacuees to normal community life. Naturally, if some of these assumptions are proven to be incorrect or unfounded, then that will have a bearing upon the ability to carry out the policy.

We emphasized to Dillon Myer our feeling that housing was the bottleneck of the whole program and that this was one of the chief deterrents causing the hesitation of the evacuees to leave the centers and that unless the WRA adopted a vigorous policy to solve this problem, that the whole evacuation program would bog down. He agreed that the WRA would have to adopt a more vigorous policy in securing houses and he said that they were prepared to put a special man in each office to work solely on the housing problem. He felt, however, that the housing shortage could not be solved without the cooperation of the various agencies and especially with the support of the evacuees who have already settled in a community. He said that this job is too complicated for any one individual or office force to solve without complete cooperation and co-ordination of efforts. He said that the WRA was encouraging the establishment of hostels on the Coast as a temporary residence for the evacuees to live until they could find permanent housing. He pointed out that the WRA is now prepared to provide equipment to furnish these hostels. Some of the churches, the Buddhist temples and other institutions under the control of the evacuees are under consideration for use as hostels.

After this interview with Dillon Myer I reread your letter and article for the June number of FELLOWSHIP. It seems to me that the chief difference between the position which you have taken in this article and the policy of the WRA is that the WRA has set a definite date for the closing of the centers, namely, December 31, 1945. You feel that no definite date should have been set or that at most it should have been set farther in advance to give the evacuees a longer time to make the readjustment. I think there can be an honest difference of opinion on this point. The date was set by the WRA a year in advance. Regardless of the date that had been set, even if it had been two years in advance, there would still be people in the centers at the expiration of the date. Taking everything into consideration, it seems to me that the WRA has adopted a wise policy in announcing that the camps would be closed on the 31st of December. There is no question but that this will involve hardships. Overagainst this, there must be placed the damage which will be done to young people by continued existence in the centers and the effect which this whole system is having on pauperizing all those who remain in the centers. There is no painless way out of the situation into which we have gotten ourselves as a result of the evacuation procedure. In saying what I have, I do not want to be understood as in any way approving the evacuation program, which I have from the very beginning opposed.

Caleb Foote

- 3 -

May 10, 1945

Every time I have a conference with Dillon Myer, I am always supremely grateful that a man of his idealism, purpose and motivation is in charge of this program. He is trying his best to do as little harm as possible in admittedly a bad situation.

As far as I know, all the church groups and all individuals who are friends of the evacuees urged the WRA to permit the evacuees to leave the camps, to demand the rescinding of the exclusion orders and have urged the closing of the centers as soon as possible. If the WRA had not adopted this policy, I am sure they would have been roundly condemned by all friends of the evacuees, including yourself.

In view of the honest difference of opinion in connection with the date of the closing of the centers, it seems to me that it would be only fair that Dillon Myer have an opportunity to see your article before it is published and prepare an article which would state his position to be published in FELLOWSHIP at the same time, if he cared to. This would then give the opportunity for the presentation of both points of view concurrently. Your article will be used as additional ammunition by evacuee-haters to undermine the policy of the WRA and in their personal attack to secure the removal of Dillon Myer. In view of all the political considerations involved, it seems to me that the appearance of this article at this time, unless it is accompanied by a statement by the WRA, will be of questionable value.

You were good enough to send me a copy of your article and I have been frank in expressing to you my reaction to it.

With best wishes, I am

Yours sincerely,

Homer L. Morris

HLM:MY

Cc to A. J. Muste  
Clarence E. Pickett

reply  
7/12/45

July 3, 1945

Mr. Robertson M. Fort  
Secretary, Japanese American Relocation  
American Friends Service Committee  
20 South Twelfth Street  
Philadelphia 7, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Fort:

Many thanks for letting us know about the very generous offer of one of your cooperators to provide us with reprints of the Readers Digest article for WRA distribution.

As it happens, we had already ordered 10,000 copies of this reprint some time before receiving your letter and could not very well cancel the order now. Mr. R. B. Cozzens of our West Coast field office, however, assures me that the Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play could undoubtedly make effective use of as many as 5,000 copies. As you doubtless realize, distribution through the Fair Play group would be concentrated in the very areas where the reprint is most acutely needed to offset local antagonisms and misconceptions.

If your potential donor is interested in such distribution, I would suggest that either you or he get in touch with Mrs. Ruth Kingman, Executive Secretary, Committee on American Principles and Fair Play, 2234 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley, California.

Sincerely yours,

*M. M. Tozier*

M. M. Tozier  
Chief, Reports Division

cc: ✓ Mrs. Ruth Kingman  
Executive Secretary  
Committee on American Principles and Fair Play  
2234 Telegraph Avenue  
Berkeley, California

Telephone: Riverside 0917

Spokane Office  
AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE  
East 17 Seventh Avenue  
Spokane 10, Wash.

November 1, 1944

Dear Friends:

There is every reason to feel that the Army is now ready from the military standpoint to lift the exclusion orders as it affects those of Japanese ancestry. We think that the reason why the Army has not taken any steps is because they lack confidence in the coastal residents to democratically accept the return of the evacuees to their former homes. Because of the loud agitation of the "abolitionists", Army has some grounds to be concerned.

However, we feel that the agitation is conducted by a minority - a small minority. We want the Army to realize that, and to have confidence in the people now living on the coast.

Therefore, this is an endeavor to organize good-will on the coast in a quiet, substantial way. We want to contact those peoples who are friendly to the Japanese to give assurance to the Army that they want their former neighbors back. Instead of the loud way in which the small vocal racist groups are conducting their campaign of continued exclusion, we want to quietly, and with good-will, assure the Army that the large share of the coast population are still firm believers in justice and democracy.

Here is where we can play an important role in the application of democracy. Those of us who have been evacuated know of one or two or more Caucasians back home who were friendly to the Japanese. We need to know who they are. These people will then be contacted and will be encouraged to ask the Army authorities to speed up the day of homecoming, and of our return to a status of a more decent citizenship. The Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play, the American Friends Service Committee, the Federal Council of Churches, and other groups are anxious to know who our friends are.

Could we participate in this work by supplying names and, wherever possible, the addresses of the friends we left back home? We need to act on this immediately, so your immediate cooperation will be appreciated. Please send the names and addresses to me at the above address.

Sincerely yours,

*Gordon Hirabayashi*

Gordon Hirabayashi  
Spokane Secretary

P.S. Ask your friends who are not on my mailing list to join in on this project, too.

## I N F O R M A T I O N   B U L L E T I N

### JAPANESE-AMERICAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Southern California Branch, American Friends Service Committee  
426 North Raymond Avenue  
Pasadena, California

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Number 16

June 10, 1945

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#### NEW CHAPTER IN RESETTLEMENT

The lifting of the ban excluding Japanese Americans from the west coast area was accepted with much less protest than opponents of return had predicted. "Echoes of the racial hysteria that had confused the problem were heard, but the consensus was that civilians should support the judgment of military authorities backed as it was by the highest court in the land", was the appraisal of the Los Angeles Daily News.

A comparatively small number of the evacuees have thus far taken advantage of the opportunity to return to the west coast which was opened to them January 2, 1945, when the Army order of December 17 became effective. But this new chapter in resettlement is actually going forward.

Student placement in colleges--always an impetus to resettlement--is developing gradually. The national Student Relocation Council reported that "with the opening of the spring terms, about 50 evacuee students are known to have returned (to the west coast) and all reports from them and about them are favorable."

A few Japanese Americans who own real estate are returning to their houses or income producing property. And there is a significant group of "returnees" who are real pioneers--those who have come back without any specially favorable circumstances as background, with a matter-of-fact readiness to make the best of the situations they find.

#### HOSTEL SERVICES

Our branch of the American Friends Service Committee is aiding early returnees by maintaining two hostels which, in addition to meeting a practical need for temporary lodging, help by their friendliness to restore a feeling of security and to furnish an atmosphere in which those returning can work out their problems and make unhurried decisions. Staff members give some informal aid in securing employment, and where possible, in locating permanent housing. As in most areas, housing is a far more serious problem than employment.

The Pasadena Hostel, in the church house of the former Japanese Union Church at 301 Kensington Place, accommodates about twelve guests, is used to capacity most of the time, and has arranged some accommodations in private homes. Sarah Field is director, assisted by Katherine Fanning.

The Evergreen Hostel, at 506 North Evergreen Avenue, Los Angeles, is housed in a building formerly used as a school for Mexican girls. The Presbyterian Church is co-operating with the A.F.S.C. in sponsoring the project by contributing the services of one of the directors and making the building available. This hostel now has an average of about 81 guests and has had a total of more than 750 since it began operating in February (officially opening March 1). Esther B. Rhoads is director and Rev. S. Kowta, of the Union Christian Church at Poston, co-director. Newell Steward and Martha Langston have generously given full-time volunteer service. The former has recently joined the regular staff of the Southern California A.F.S.C. and will have

general supervision of the hostels and other Japanese American work during the coming three months absence of Esther Rhoads.

The importance of restoring normal social relationships is always borne in mind, and the hostels endeavor to have a part in breaking down the artificial barriers between Caucasians and Japanese Americans which have been built up during three years of segregation. Mr. Kowta, in charge of religious services, constantly emphasizes the opportunity which the new start of resettlement gives persons of Japanese ancestry to affiliate themselves with regular American churches and social activities. Visitors are welcome at the hostels and the informal friendliness of interested people is of great help. Guests may have lunch or dinner at the hostels by sending advance request.

#### OTHER A.F.S.C. SERVICES

Although the hostels have occupied our main attention and resources recently in the Japanese American work, other activities continue. Esther Rhoads will visit several relocation centers on a three-months trip this summer. Helen Brill, student secretary in the Pasadena office, is now loaned part time to a project sponsored by the Regional Office for Student Work of the YMCA and YWCA for aiding college young people to find summer service openings in the relocation centers, assisting with educational and recreational activities under arrangements permitted by the War Relocation Authority.

The work of the Southern California Branch is of course only a part of the Japanese American program of the Service Committee. At Philadelphia a hostel is maintained and the A.F.S.C. aids in the orientation of resettlers in that area. A number of Nisei are employed in the A.F.S.C. offices. The Chicago office has many opportunities for service to the large group of Japanese Americans located there. An A.F.S.C. hostel is maintained at Des Moines. The San Francisco and Seattle offices have their own activities; in the latter area Floyd Schmoie is active in helping to find openings and locations in the agricultural field. Interesting work camps sponsored by the Seattle A.F.S.C. are shared in by Japanese Americans, Caucasians, and those of other races. The Service Committee office in Hawaii, where there was no general evacuation, has still had significant opportunity for services to Japanese Americans who are war sufferers, beginning with aid to fishermen whom the war emergency left without livelihood. We hope later to be able to give a further report of activities in Honolulu.

Former personnel. G. Raymond Booth, formerly with the Service Committee and later on the War Relocation authority staff, serving successively in the Cincinnati, Chicago, and Los Angeles offices, has recently resigned to become director of the Los Angeles Council of Civic Unity... Gracia D. Booth is now executive secretary of the Southern California Branch Committee on American Principles and Fair Play, which is active in aiding the community integration of returning Japanese Americans, furthering cooperation between different interested groups, and in varied public opinion work... Walter Godfrey, who was on our Southern California A.F.S.C. staff in the Japanese American section for several months, recently left for other work. His reporting and coordination service -- very helpful during the months preceding and just after the "lifting of the ban" -- was appreciated both by A.F.S.C. and other interested organizations.

#### SAMPLINGS OF COMMUNITY SENTIMENT

Many organizations have been helpful and cooperative in the hostel projects in Southern California. The Los Angeles and Pasadena chapters of the Committee for American Principles and Fair Play endorsed the projects to their membership, and in-

dividual members of the Pasadena League of Women Voters have made contributions. The Friends of the American Way (an active organization headed by a Pasadena business man) is generous in its cooperation. A contribution was received from the Federation of Congregational Women of Southern California and several have come from women's societies and Sunday School classes of other denominations. A girls' missionary guild in a large Baptist church sent in a contribution of \$22.25--proceeds from a Saturday morning's work for members of the church. A contribution came in from a group of high school teachers in memory of a co-worker who had recently passed away--a woman who had been "a staunch and invaluable friend of Japanese Americans".

In general, fair community acceptance in the Southern California area is indicated by experiences in our relocation work. There have been no protests nor neighborhood difficulties in the case of our hostels. Friendly visitors have come from neighborhood churches and from the public schools. Women from a Negro church called at the Los Angeles hostel to leave a generous check and to express friendly interest. Neighborhood children have stopped to inquire if there were children at the hostel with whom they could play. The few boys and girls staying at the hostels have had happy, normal experiences in the public schools. In stores and in local travel in Los Angeles the experiences of returnees have been normal, bearing out the general comment of Japanese American resettlers: "The big cities are all right!" Instances of rebuffs and discourtesies have been reported from smaller towns and sometimes from suburban residence cities, but often they are evidently due to individual attitudes, not prevailing community sentiment. A Japanese American was refused service at a barber shop in one town with the gruff announcement that the proprietor "had a son in the Pacific". But he was courteously received at a shop a few doors away. A young man bluntly snubbed at a bank in another town had a pleasant chat at the corner drug store with old acquaintances, and again at the grocery store. Much good sportsmanship is evidenced by Japanese American returnees as they acknowledge the element of uncertainty in community acceptance, and work out the problems of their personal situations matter-of-factly and with a prevailing fine, sweet-tempered spirit which cannot but have its effect in building mutual understanding.

#### RETURNEES ON THE JOB

Types of employment secured by returnees in our area are varied. Several young women are employed as stenographers in church or social work organizations... one is in a doctor's office... two women are employed in dressmaking alteration work in stores. Among the men, a few are employed in technical or highly skilled factory work... one in the packing of medical supplies. A former postal employee is reinstated in his old job... Two are employed in a cooperative gas station... There are more calls for gardeners than can be filled -- in some cases men experienced in garden work are available, but lack of tools is the difficulty. Many times the more expensive essential tools--power lawn mowers, pruning shears, etc.--were disposed of at the time of evacuation and now new ones cannot be purchased without priorities. A few evacuees have secured jobs in the nursery or florist trade... a few are in truck farming or other forms of agriculture. Some of these, it is interesting to note, are sufficiently well established to send contributions of vegetables for hostel use. A very few are starting independent businesses. One former barber is ready to open a shop -- one returnee is operating a small variety store.

#### CENTER RESIDENTS FACE THE FUTURE

The less encouraging side of the relocation picture must be frankly faced. The War Relocation Authority hoped that a relocation pace of 1000 persons per month returning to the west coast might be maintained through 1945. However, the actual number returning is far below that. Complete figures for west coast resettlement are

not available. As of June 1, the district office of WRA estimated that between 1000 and 1200 returnees are in Southern California on terminal leave.

As hurdles which have kept evacuees from leaving the centers, the American Civil Liberties Union lists:

- Fear of vigilante action based on reported incidents of attack or molestation;
- Attitudes of many west-coast newspapers;
- Activities of organized groups in California, Oregon, and Washington engaged in a determined effort to keep them out of those areas;
- Lack of housing;
- Insufficient funds to make a fresh start.

It is a serious question whether these handicaps can be reduced sufficiently to achieve the complete closing of the relocation centers by the end of 1945 -- the schedule firmly announced by the War Relocation Authority. If that is to be accomplished without serious hardship, more adequate provision must be made for care of the aged and for large families, as well as for some of the other problems involved.

Limited assistance is provided by the W.R.A., which pays railroad fare or other transportation of evacuees to their new locations, and shipping costs of personal property stored in government warehouses (where shipping distance exceeds twenty-five miles). Other assistance is provided by the district relocation offices in key cities, which give some help with property difficulties, including legal aid in certain "type" cases. W.R.A. staff also contact state and local government departments and community agencies in the varied problems involved in resettlement.

No adequate restitution for the actual financial losses of evacuation has been provided, nor proposed by official sources. Evacuees must themselves pay costs for shipping any property of a commercial nature, and the individual cash allotment granted evacuees on leaving the centers is \$25.

Some 55,000 people, most of them old people and children under eighteen, still remain in the centers--forced to begin life over again, and fearful to make this venture in our American communities.

#### DEMOCRACY CHALLENGED

Organized opposition to the return of evacuees is being unscrupulously pressed in some areas of California, Oregon, and Washington, and is responsible for a number of incidents of intimidation and molestation, and some actual violence. Policies of racism -- opposition to non-Caucasians -- and motives of economic competition are evident bases of organized hostility.

It is fair to note that veterans' organizations, which in some phases of evacuation and relocation have been considered among "pressure groups", have now swung over to a support of the rights of Japanese American citizens, give full recognition to the distinguished service record of Nisei in the United States Army, and have rebuked instances of racial discrimination on the part of local posts.

The seriousness of incidents perpetrated by lawless elements and their grave threat to our standards of democratic practice cannot be minimized. Their challenge to all the forces which stand for law-abiding democracy must be met by greater efforts -- more concerted public opinion work, more vigorous repudiation of vigilante methods, more articulate insistence that the west coast shall not condone "black spots" where the basic principles of democracy are flouted.

The steady pressures of illiberal forces, as well as the more dramatic incidents, should give us serious concern. One "anti" organization is reported by a well-informed lawyer to have fourteen directors all members of the Produce Exchange, with no attempt to create a blind. We encounter the same element of commercial competition on a petty scale, and have report of a florists' car pool combining to deliver flowers to our largest cemetery-undertaking establishment, which now refuses to deliver the flowers of a Japanese American florist.

An appraisal of the constructive and the illiberal forces involves our fundamental faith in the capacities of democracy. The contacts of our relocation work have heartened us in our confidence that the constructive forces are varied and vital, and can dominate the situation. We could cite numbers of anecdotes warm with human interest... the professor at our outstanding institute of technology who asked for an Issei (older generation) gardener because they would find it harder to secure employment than would the young men... the city fire inspector who, his official tour of the hostel over, commented respectfully on the Japanese Americans' quiet acceptance of a hard situation--remarkably fine spirit, he felt, for those who after all "had had a dirty deal"... or the lieutenant serving in the U.S. Army in the Philippines, whose letter reached our office (officially censored) May 17:

"All I can contribute (to the hostels) is my sincere congratulations for the splendid work you have started. Many Californians out here have been ashamed of the views and opinions expressed by certain anti-Japanese-Americans in California and feel a definite obligation to attempt to atone for the treatment of these American citizens during the past  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years."

Incidents such as these from our relocation work--wholesomely democratic, fine-spirited, and heartening--furnish us assurance that our democracy is sound enough to repudiate intolerance which expresses itself in intimidation and violence. At points we have seriously failed in applying democratic principles and maturing democratic practices, and the West has helped to furnish the dark spots, but written into the history of the West also is demonstration of a warm faith that a man's a man regardless of ancestry. This faith is one of the important potentials of the relocation situation.

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I N F O R M A T I O N   B U L L E T I N

JAPANESE-AMERICAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Southern California Branch, American Friends Service Committee  
426 North Raymond Avenue  
Pasadena, California

Number 17

February 20, 1946

OFFICIAL CLOSING

The year 1945, which began with the "lifting of the ban" permitting Japanese Americans to return to the west coast, ended with the closing of the relocation centers and a program of hastily-made arrangements for those who had not voluntarily resettled. At progressively set dates during November and December, the last of the nine regular relocation centers\* were closed: all by the time scheduled--some in advance of the date announced. An excellent summary of the closing of the government relocation program is given in Interpreter Releases, Vol. XXII, No. 51, Dec. 15, 1945, issued by the Common Council for American Unity.

This final group of "returnees" included the less skilled and less confident, many of them elderly. All had found relocation difficult for some reason. But some had failed to relocate simply because of large families for whom no housing could be found; some had useful skills but were unable to resume their old occupations -- truck gardeners who could not lease land; Issei fishermen still prohibited from operating boats off our west coast.

Those who had not made plans for their own relocation and who expressed no preference as to area of resettlement were returned by the War Relocation Authority to the area of their legal residence. Temporary housing in the Los Angeles area, at Sacramento, and near San Francisco was provided for those without private housing in prospect. Near Los Angeles, military barracks were converted into family living quarters by the WRA, and turned over by them to the Federal Public Housing Authority for operation. There are six barrack "installations": at Lomita, Hawthorne, Santa Monica, El Segundo, and Burbank (two separate camps); also a large camp near Costa Mesa in the Santa Ana area. About 4000 persons were installed in these temporary accommodations in Southern California, according to report made in December (Interpreter Releases cited above).

Monthly rental is charged at the rate of \$15 for two persons, with \$2.00 added for each additional person. The size of each section is 12½ x 20 feet. The only furniture provided consists of cots (on which each person pays \$5 deposit) with mattresses and blankets, and oil heaters. Residents form a cooperative "mess" to operate kitchen and dining room. Sanitary facilities and laundry are communal and, limited at best, are quite unsatisfactory for families in extended residence.

For the first 60 days funds to cover rent and food charges for those unable to pay them were provided by the War Services Aids, a federal agency with funds coming from Social Security. It was the intention of the federal agencies to shift to the County, at the end of that period, the financial responsibility for care of those Japanese Americans unable to be self-supporting.

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\*Tule Lake, functioning both as a regular center for those (both Nisei and loyal aliens) free to relocate at any time, and as segregation center for renunciants, those who had given up their American citizenship, was not made subject to the end-of-the-year closing. The closing date was deferred first to February 15; then to March 1. Several groups of repatriates have already been sent back to Japan. However, numbers of the Nisei have petitioned to re-establish their citizenship on the grounds that they were pressured into renunciation. A program of hearings granted by the U. S. Department of Justice to consider these petitions is now under way.

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### EVACUATION'S CASUALTIES

A number of the old men were sent to the Mariposa installation at El Segundo. Some of these are borderline cases, unable to gain admittance to the County Hospital, but needing individualized attention -- one blind man, several diabetics needing insulin injections, and others needing tray service. No provision was made for personal care, laundry, or cleaning of rooms. And rooms were the bleak barrack quarters of "general issue"; cot, mattress, blankets (no sheets), oil stove -- nothing else.

Esther Rhoads and Newell Steward of the AFSC staff made a number of trips to El Segundo... succeeded in getting one man for general care, paid for by the contractor operating the house. And from funds of the Service Committee a Nisei nurse and three hospital orderlies are being provided. Also the Committee has furnished a sitting room. Our staff visitors continue to call and to give help in special cases.

No project could be more fundamentally in keeping with Friends' aim to serve with tender human concern in situations where the need is inconspicuous and not generally understood.

The Service Committee is anxious to develop further services for elderly American Japanese who have no relatives to care for them. Several sites for a small old people's home have been investigated and it is hoped that a decision on these can be made shortly.

### HOSTEL ACTIVITIES

The hardships of the housing shortage are common problems. But the Japanese Americans face these problems handicapped by war-time prejudice; racial restrictions; and the depletion of their financial resources due to the evacuation.

Hostels to aid returning Japanese Americans have been operated in several west coast cities by religious groups -- in Los Angeles by some eight Christian denominations: Methodist, Baptist, Free Methodist, Disciples, Unitarian, Friends, Presbyterian (in cooperation with Friends), and the Holiness Church. The total of 35 hostels (several now closed) included also those operated by Buddhist groups and by individual Japanese Americans.

The Friends Service Committee has maintained or helped to operate the two hostels described in earlier bulletins. Its official participation in the Pasadena Hostel (a joint enterprise of several different groups, including the Congregational mission board) ended January 15. The house is now to be used by the Japanese Union Church, which is resuming functioning. Informal lodging of individual guests may continue as a hospitality activity of the church or pastor. Sarah Field's work as director of the hostel has been much appreciated; her sympathy and cheerful spirit have given the project warm friendliness.

Evergreen Hostel is still crowding its accommodations and has an average of 118 or 120 persons. The turn-over of guests is comparatively slow due to housing shortage. Yet in January nine families found outside housing and left the hostel, this being the best record in several months.

Help with individual problems is given by the Hostel staff; there is increasing need for services of the welfare type.

Rev. S. Kowta, co-director at Evergreen, conducts religious services on Sunday and at mid-week, and does counseling, particularly with older people.

Several young people have served as "social internes" (a serve and learn technique which is an essential part of Quaker social work). Students from Mt. Holyoke, Earlham,

and several California colleges, and a young woman starting in personnel work, have helped with recreation and placement activities. One of the students shortly to return to her eastern college summed up the stimulation she had received: valuable lessons in the use of community agencies and facilities... a broadening of sympathy by realization of what evacuation had actually meant to the Japanese American people... inspiration to work as an individual for the overcoming of racial prejudice. The hostel has also had generous volunteer assistance, both for short projects and for longer periods.

Evergreen staff members, particularly Newell Steward, have spent much time assisting the hostels operated by other groups. Nineteen or twenty of these were given some sort of aid with problems of initial equipment or maintenance, including some loans.

#### TRIBUTE

The Japanese American work lost the services of Esther Rhoads as the end of December. She is now in the Philadelphia office of AFSC, helping to plan future Friends' work in the Orient, and as soon as permitted will go to Japan to resume her former teaching work. While with the Southern California Branch of AFSC for nearly four years she directed local projects, visited relocation centers and mid-western hostels, and was loaned to Poston Relocation Center for special services. Her tireless devotion, her practical ability and broad understanding have made an enduring contribution which will be gratefully remembered.

#### HIGHLIGHTS OF EMPLOYMENT PICTURE

The employment prospects of returnees reflect the general situation... heavy demand for trained domestic help... some openings for farm laborers, but at unsatisfactory wages... the situation tightening in the industrial field. The U. S. Employment Service made the statement recently that there are no unskilled jobs available in the Los Angeles area -- no openings in "entry occupations" in factories, construction industries, etc. -- and that few skilled jobs are available.

The placement staff at Evergreen Hostel tries particularly to help trained workers. Among those recently placed have been a printer, two pharmacists, two laboratory technicians (women), an experienced seamstress in custom dressmaking, two photographers, and several factory workers. There some opportunities for those in stop-gap jobs to obtain better work. Some placements of this type are made by our hostel staff; others are reported to them. One man who had spent several months as dishwasher in a convent school obtained a job as food chemist with a manufacturer of vitamins. The latter provided housing by giving a room in his own home.

It would take a detailed research check to give adequate report of labor union acceptance, actual application of civil service regulations, etc. But highlights can be given... A boycott against Japanese American workers in the Los Angeles wholesale produce markets, enforced during the war by a ban against Nisei membership in the Produce Drivers and Employees Union, was broken on December 7 by vote to accept all American citizens of Japanese American ancestry. Efforts to limit such membership to war veterans only was defeated.

It was reported some months ago (Minutes, Los Angeles Coordinating Council for Resettlement, August 22, 1945) that the Los Angeles County Hospital workers might be reinstated three months after the close of the war; and that the Los Angeles City Board of Education employee relationships had not been severed... no employees had returned as yet, but the way was open.

Recent protest in Placer County against use of a Japanese American section crew

by the Southern Pacific was firmly met by railroad officials... the same protest from the sheriff of Nevada County, who urged that he was "afraid of trouble" if Japanese Americans were employed in that county, was rebuked by State Attorney General Kenny as malfeasance in office.

With the Japanese Americans offering needed skills, the hostile and the prejudiced have often had to eat their words. One Los Angeles newspaper protested west coast return on December 19, 1944, with the editorial query: "Will a householder whose son was on Bataan, say, or Guadalcanal or Tarawa, give a Jap a job or buy his vegetables?" And the same newspaper, on New Years Day, 1946, entered in the Pasadena Tournament of Roses a float decorated 100% by Nisei workers.

On the opposite side of the score: The "white man's country" attitude persists in efforts to limit the opportunities of Japanese Americans to unskilled fields. There is the attitude which considers the Japanese Americans principally a source of faithful, self-effacing domestic help, and the crude hostility of newspapers advocating shipping back to Japan those unwilling to work on County road gangs... Japanese American "returnees" formerly in farming and truck gardening have in the main been unsuccessful in getting land... Issei (non-citizen) fishermen are now prohibited by state law from operating, although the Coast Guard, which passes on the public safety angle, has removed war-time restrictions on fishing... Japanese American farmers who have re-established themselves have in some cases been forced to turn over their produce to a third party in order to have their vegetables handled in the market... Two factories employing numbers of Nisei have one wage scale for Caucasians--90¢ an hour; another for Japanese Americans--80¢. A raise is given Caucasian workers after 30 to 45 days service; no raise is given Japanese American workers until they threaten to leave.

#### POST-WAR PUBLIC OPINION

General community attitudes have grown considerably more liberal and understanding, in spite of the persistence of prejudice in the economic field. War feeling relaxed definitely during the fall months. As various war-time regulations were removed, most communities accepted the fact that authorized resettlement would proceed. In general, the returning Japanese Americans' right to residence, freedom from molestation, and normal social mingling are now granted with little serious challenge.

"Incidents" have decreased, though there are sporadic cases, now usually the milder forms of violence. A broken plate glass window in a drug store at Fresno did \$40 worth of damage on December 20, but was the first case of damage to the property of a returned Japanese American to be reported in several months. A little later, however -- (January 29) -- a similar incident occurred in a Placer County town; a window in a store just opened by a Nisei veteran, winner of the Bronze Star for bravery, was shattered during the night.

The press still tends toward negative influence, since outstandingly hostile newspapers have wide circulation. The coloring of simple news is illustrated by two contrasting accounts describing a quite natural encounter, in the Los Angeles Union Station, of veterans from the Pacific and Japanese American families returning from the government relocation centers.

"A tense scene...watched grimly by G.I.'s" was described in one news report with a half-page spread of photographs. And "Japanese American families complained because most of them had to travel by chair car on the seven-day trip... did not get off the train when it first came in because there were no Red Caps to wait on them..."

"No evidence of hostility..." quietly reported the other paper. "...some curious stares, but marines stared no more or less than the rest of

the station crowd." And a single photograph snapped for real human interest showed little family groups; men baggage-laden, mothers with babies. "The trip was rather rugged but they weren't griping."

Inaccuracy as well as malice enters into the press picture. The paper which gave the quieter and more accurate of the accounts just mentioned published as fact (just as did other Los Angeles newspapers) a false report that there were 4000 Japanese Americans on the Los Angeles County relief rolls. A correction item appearing three days later stated that there were 84, not 4000, but the damage of untold misunderstanding had already been done.

#### NEXT STEPS

Continuing problems will have to be faced by local organizations when the War Relocation Authority goes out of existence (date of termination set as May 1). Machinery for constructive action is already available. Organizations established for special service on behalf of racial minorities; the Fair Play Committees, Friends of the American Way, Council for Civic Unity, and a range of special committees -- church, county, and coordinating groups, are functioning usefully. Social agencies, "Y" organizations, and others give this concern a place in their activities... The situation now requires that these various organizations cooperate more definitely. Precedence will first need to be given to housing problems, and efforts to secure large-scale assistance from public housing authorities should continue. At the same time concern must be given to the more subtle problems which are aftermath of the war period, and different agencies can be helpful in their own special ways, as well as through joint efforts.

The Friends Service Committee will operate a Los Angeles Hostel as long as the present urgent need exists, and expects to develop the services for old people already mentioned.

#### EVACUATION'S LEGACY

The unfinished business of evacuation is formidable. Facing us now are the long-range problems which those dissenting predicted at the time of evacuation and have continued to point out (see, for example, one recent statement: "Our Worst War-Time Mistake" -- Harper's, September 1945). At a time when we sorely need all wholesome influences, family life has been weakened among a group of 110,000 people. We have welfare cases where none existed before. The tremendous cost of evacuation and relocation (estimated at some \$237,000,000) has added to the financial problems of a government operating "in the red". With desperate food shortages in many parts of the world, we have farmers without land; skilled fishermen prohibited from operating boats. The economic plight of the elderly, always a hard by-product of our industrial civilization, has been made more sad. We need unity, and our racial minorities have been disquieted. The largest and most aggressive, taut with sense of grievance, has its bitterness constantly fed by reminders of discrimination on the basis of ancestry. The way back after the war-time weakening of civil rights is not so easily found.

There is no easy path out of war's aftermath. But the slow, patient effort must go on with cooperative spirit, with resourcefulness and hope. Against a dark background, certain gains have been consolidated. We cannot without unctiousness seem to close the balance sheet of the evacuation. Acquaintanceship and personal understanding between Japanese Americans and fair-minded Caucasians have increased; the abilities and the qualities of Issei and Nisei have become more generally recognized. Yet we must not assume that friendliness can compensate for fundamental injustice. The Japanese Americans remain without any indemnification for the heavy actual losses suffered as a result of hasty eviction and life in detention. The unfinished business of evacuation confronts us with sobering accusation of failure to apply democratic principles in time of crisis. Yet out of its penalties comes its challenge. The evacuation of persons of Japanese ancestry from their west-coast homes has taken us part way on a searching and wholesome analysis of our country's achievements and limitations in democratic practice.

1355-31

# NEWS BULLETIN

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE  
Southern California Branch  
426 North Raymond Avenue, Pasadena

May 22, 1946

N E X T M E E T I N G -- Saturday, June 1, 4:00 p.m. - PASADENA  
VILLA STREET FRIENDS MEETING (Villa and Oakland).  
Pot-luck supper at Orange Grove Friends Meeting  
(one block north). Bring food and table service.

Concern has been expressed that in view of the world food situation, it would seem appropriate for Friends to simplify the customary supper and omit bread-stuffs, fats, and other foods in short supply.

Friends are also reminded that Herbert Hoover's suggestion of "the unseen guest at the table" is one which may well be used in our homes.

DEVELOPMENTS IN JAPANESE AMERICAN RELOCATION. Since our full Japanese American Information Bulletin is no longer being issued, we are making the following report of the situation of Japanese American returnees and projects of the Service Committee in this field.

The Evergreen Hostel (now operated by the Service Committee on property of the Presbyterian Church) will be taken over on July 1 by the Japanese Union Church of Los Angeles. This is in response to their desire for a project which would continue to serve the present emergency need for housing, but would eventually develop into a neighborhood center.

One project of the Service Committee has already been discontinued because of changing needs. The elderly men who were housed at the El Segundo "installation" for a time and were given interim aid through Service Committee funds are now being cared for at Rancho de los Amigos, a County institution.

The closing-out program of the War Relocation Authority (WRA) brought to those remaining in the temporary installations in the Los Angeles area the hardships of another enforced move. Many of those faced with eviction worked out their own arrangements, but these were often of a makeshift nature. Quite a large group accepted housing in trailers provided by the WRA for large ranches or commercial firms needing "hands". Similar situations in the past have been fraught with possibilities for exploitation.

A final group of nearly 900 remained without housing in prospect as the local area office of the WRA prepared for its closing deadline (May 15). This group was sent by the WRA on the week-end of May 11 and 12 to the Federal Public Housing Authority trailer camp at Burbank. This camp was in unfinished condition with almost no sanitary facilities and without provisions for cooking. County officials protested this move; newspapers featured the plight of those "dumped" by the expiring federal agency. The County Department of Charities had to function in the emergency by serving hot meals in the trailer camp.

Because of the inability of the contractors to complete the various trailer camps, the WRA postponed its local closing date until Wednesday, May 22, when the last of the people will be evacuated from the various installations.

A number of social agencies and church groups remain interested in Japanese American relocation, have held meetings at the call of the Los Angeles Council

of Social Agencies, and have selected a steering committee for active service in the interest of housing efforts and the problems of civil rights of Japanese Americans. The International Institute of Los Angeles is assuming responsibility for welfare cases not handled by Los Angeles County. Newell Steward of the Evergreen Hostel staff has been active in helping to coordinate the efforts of various groups and in contacting public officials.

A number of the private hostels established for returnees in 1945 are still functioning -- a helpful factor in the present emergency but an indication that many problems of ultimate housing remain to be solved.

The form which the Service Committee's "follow through" concern will take is not yet clear; this will be a matter of consideration in the coming weeks as we conclude our services at Evergreen. One long-range problem which will have our concern is the indemnification of Japanese Americans for the financial losses of evacuation. A bill establishing claims courts and other machinery has been introduced in Congress. There is little prospect that it will be acted upon before the summer 1946 adjournment, but it is hoped that there is fair prospect of later favorable action.

Under present plans the WRA will be liquidated on July 1. Announcement has come, however, that a small unit will function in the Interior Department to complete records, finish paying off obligations, and continue for a limited period a study of the readjustment problems of Japanese Americans throughout the country. A small appropriation is being sought for this purpose.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOTES. Eric Johnson will be in this area again in June to forward support of famine relief and rehabilitation in India... A group of relief agencies including the AFSC is working through the "log jam" of difficulties involved in the securing of authorization for relief services in Japan. They hope that announcement of initial services can soon be made.

Quaker relief in central Europe has been given impetus by the generous response to recent newspaper appeals. There has been some expansion of projects. In Poland the Service Committee is now working in two areas, one near Warsaw and the other in the Polish section of what was formerly East Prussia.

Large additional funds could be given immediate use in central Europe. "We have had to restrict the number of institutions we could help..." comes the report from Vienna, where the AFSC is furnishing supplemental meals in high schools and rest homes. "The prospect in Vienna is grim" we are told. The food ration dropped to 908 calories per day, and again to 857 calories in late April and the first part of May. (Average American diet: 3000 calories or over.)

SERVING THE MENTALLY ILL. The National Mental Health Foundation, with a group of outstanding, nationally known sponsors headed by Owen J. Roberts, former Justice of the Supreme Court, is the outgrowth of the Mental Hygiene Program of CPS. The Foundation will (1) report on conditions in mental hospitals and stimulate public interest; (2) prepare and distribute training material for hospital personnel; (3) draft and foster support for a model mental health law based on a survey of laws in more than thirty states.

The AFSC is giving limited financial grants to this Foundation, but the latter must seek a substantial part of its support from private donors. The cause is commended with a reminder that a quickening of our concern will give new emphasis to the interest that Friends have taken in the mentally ill since the earliest days of the Society's existence.

The Service Committee is also aiding in the mental hygiene field by developing its Institutional Service Units, now functioning in several institutions of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York. Groups of young men and women are recruited on the basis of their interest in improved care for the mentally ill, and in the human problems of other institutions, and their willingness to make the work an educational experience as well as a service. Employed on the regular staff of hospitals and other institutions, they have an off-duty program of educational and recreational activities provided by the Service Committee.

Dramatic description of conditions in mental hospitals was recently given by Life magazine (see article Bedlam 1946, issue of May 6). Pictures and text describe the sensational exposés which began in 1943 when a group of conscientious objectors stationed in Cleveland State Hospital interested two leading Cleveland citizens, a Baptist clergyman and a journalist. The pressure for reform thus started has already resulted, in Ohio, in grand jury indictments, extensive changes in personnel, improved facilities and added beds in mental hospitals.

Our branch of the Service Committee will be shaping its own specific concern in the coming months. We hope to have presentations of the problems given at some of the coming monthly meetings, and it is possible that an Institutional Service Unit will be formed by this Branch.

ISSUES IN WORK STRIKE AT GLENDORA CAMP. The strike at Glendora Camp (now government administered) which commenced on April 24 involves more than 80 men as it completes its first month. The strike started in connection with the forced transfer of two men to the disciplinary camp at Minersville, California, but has broadened to include the larger issues of pay, dependency, compensation for work accidents, and demobilization at a rate commensurate to that of other drafted men. Also at issue is the right of civilians to strike without imposition of penalties.

After a stalemate of several weeks, six men were arrested on May 17 and were held on bail first fixed at \$5000 each. On Monday the 20th this was reduced to \$500 each and the men were released. It is expected that the Grand Jury will bring an indictment this week.

While the men were in jail there was picketing of the Hall of Justice in which Allan Hunter, Dr. E. P. Ryland, and other prominent citizens took part. The case has aroused wide interest and men in other camps throughout the country have taken part.

The Service Committee has had no administrative responsibility for the Camp since March 2, and in accordance with the expressed wishes of the men, has taken no official position on the strike. Interested individuals have continued to feel a very real concern for the men in their efforts to have a frustrating situation recognized, and to have brought to issue the principles of democratic treatment of dissenting groups.

FRIENDLY HOSPITALITY NEEDED. The concerns which the Service Committee is expressing through Friends House may often be expressed also by individuals. Increasing opportunities will come in these next years for American families to take into their homes students from overseas -- an experience mutually enriching.

A present request comes from an American Japanese girl in a Honolulu high school, seconded by her counselor, who has been a volunteer worker for the Honolulu branch of the AFSC. Nikkie Uychara needs assurance of lodging for next school year before June 24 in order to be accepted at the Pasadena Junior College for fall enrollment. Anyone willing to offer a room is asked to communicate with the Pasadena office.

# American Friends Service Committee



426 North Raymond Avenue  
PASADENA 3, CALIFORNIA

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## RECONSTRUCTION AND PEACE-MAKING

The shooting and the bombings have stopped. For this mankind humbly gives thanks. The world talks feverishly of reconversion. Factories, railroads, shipyards and shipping, investments, and jobs all must be changed. The economic and political tasks may well overwhelm us unless we unite under a leadership that is able and courageous.

But the question of prime importance is: "What will man do with himself?—what is taking place in men's hearts, and in their thinking?" We are disturbed by the hardening of heart that seems to have increased with the end of the fighting. "Victory" may be a poison if taken with pride and arrogance. There is an old Chinese saying that "all military victories are mournful occasions."

Though this is the age of energy—in the home and factory, on the road and in the air—yet everywhere men and women and little children suffer sorrow, lose hope, confidence, and life itself because mankind wilfully ignores the Light of the Spirit that is in every man. This is the age of power, but how little of it becomes the power of the light of love!

It is the chief task of those who love to kindle afresh this inward light that has kept glowing in hearts in all corners of the earth and that is now

waiting to light man's way to healing, hope, and reconciliation.

If this healing light of love is to replace the searing, blighting, killing forces of hate, men of goodwill must begin with themselves. For the sensitive souls there must come a spiritual process of at-one-ment with God and all his peoples. This must go beyond any ceremonial "atonement" whereby man seeks to avoid the consequences of his acts if it is to save the world in this hour.

We must put into effect the spiritual forces by which man can be rehumanized, and we must cultivate that type of living which brings sensitivity and clarity of insight.

The American Friends Service Committee does not claim to know the answers to all of the questions arising out of this new world into which man has plunged. But of some things we are more convinced than ever. The way of violence is worse than futile. The way of humble, loving service is the way of healing and hope.

Therapy for those who give and serve is the first gain from humble service; self-forgetting ministry to the suffering restores the spirit of the one who ministers. And for the victims of man's destruction, the sharing ministry of love renews that hope which is confidence in the future.

Beyond the immediate therapy of relief lies the further healing for the human spirit that comes as little groups of sensitive persons in many lands renew their contacts, exchange experiences, hopes, and plans for the future.

From France and Holland and Denmark, cut off so long during the tragic years of occupation . . . from Switzerland and Sweden, where suffering pressed in as the little nations succored floods of refugees . . . from within Germany, where, just now, individual Friends have been sought out in devastated, rubble-piled cities . . . come messages from Friends indicating that the precious ties of understanding love continue unbroken; assurance that in each country men and women of goodwill seek means to express an intense and tender concern for reconciliation. This is only the beginning; other messages, further assurance will come as the curtain of separation lifts in the East as well as in Europe.

These intimate and tender ties with those who have suffered in war-stricken countries can sensitize us both to God's goodness and to man's need. They can point to those central values of life which we are inclined to lose. They can help us to say with reality, "blessed are the peacemakers," and to rely again on the widening of the circles of creative peace-making as the way of the spirit.

And there are the hungry in many lands, the shelterless, and the poorly clad. We must renew health and hope by rebuilding homes and by sharing food and clothing and medicine. We must help the children to be able to smile again, to welcome their morning of life and their later task of rebuilding civilization.

For the sake of the future we must give

"Joy to the laughing troop  
That from the threshold starts,  
Led on by courage and immortal hope."

Recognizing our failure to achieve the good life for man, we must so live and love and share life with the children that

"They to the disappointed earth shall give  
The lives we meant to live,  
Beautiful, free and strong;  
The light we almost had shall make them  
glad."

So it becomes increasingly clear that while man gropes in this turbulent new world, the American Friends Service Committee has a clear-cut task ahead. It must go on and expand its relief activities around the world. It must so do this as to rebuild hearts and recall men to the higher way. It must visit many groups, cross many boundaries, and it must help to re-sensitize American life by bringing here the light and counsel of those who, without regard for national boundaries, have gone out to serve in the hour of humanity's great need.

Beyond these specific services we must humbly and modestly do our part within our own country in trying to help find those central values around which the nation may so organize its life and activities as to move through these stormy days into peaceful, trustful ways of true neighborliness. Our country falters today at taking the steps that lead to racial, economic, and political statesmanship.

The American Friends Service Committee must go on giving itself to those in need, especially to the unpopular, the neglected, or the oppressed. We must experiment with those projects in housing, work camps, education, and practical peace-making which may serve as a testimony to the supremacy of understanding over fear and prejudice, and as an evidence of our faith in the capacity of man to live in the light of that spirit which takes away the occasion of war.

## SPECIFIC SERVICES OF INTEREST TO RESIDENTS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

**Expanding Relief Program:** As destruction progressed and curtailed production continued, the needs in many countries became distressing and alarmingly large. The American Friends Service Committee has been able in recent months to greatly expand its shipments of clothing and to send some of these to colder countries not previously accessible, including Scandinavia. The Committee has continued to give first attention to those refugees and other displaced peoples not otherwise provided for. Beyond emergency relief in Europe and medical relief in China and India, significant rehabilitation projects are in operation in Italy, where housing and housing materials are stressed, and in India, where fishing, boat-building, farming, and other practical crafts are organized. (A bulletin describing this over-seas relief is available.)

**Our Exiles' Return:** The restrictions against Japanese and Americans of Japanese ancestry have been removed. Those who are not disloyal are urged to relocate immediately. Schools are not opening in the relocation centers and early closing dates for the centers are announced.

Friends and others are maintaining hostels in Pasadena, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Seattle. These are crowded to capacity as places for temporary lodging and meals. Even more important, friendship and experienced help are available. These returnees, whose physical and spiritual needs are so like those of the refugees abroad, seek housing, work, and community acceptance.

Committee members and staff members find themselves overwhelmed. Assistance particularly in housing and placement is needed. Schools in our communities have started, winter is coming, and life in the centers is deteriorating. It is urgent that as many as possible become settled now!

**The Conscientious Objector and Civilian Public Service:** Friends' administration of the camps and hospital projects approaches an end (perhaps early next spring). In the meantime Friends' service to the men, whether in prison, in the camps, or in special projects, becomes more urgent. Problems of dependents become more acute with the passing of time. The Demobilization Committee is busy planning to help these men who have maintained their peace witness in time of war to find channels of constructive community living. As they return to the mainstream of American life, they need help in education, job placement, and community contacts. The future will have need of them.

(The Pasadena CPS Hostel, directed by Lewise Langston, is now located at Pacific Oaks, 714 West California Street, Pasadena.)

**Friends House:** This is an interracial and intercultural laboratory in fellowship. It is located at 1137 West 37th Place, Los Angeles, and is under the direction of Robert and Margaret Simkin, formerly of Friends Center at Chungking. Students from other countries reside here, where they have opportunity of sharing in the life and work of an American home, and of coming into sympathetic contact with university professors, Service Committee workers, and others engaged in interracial work, education, and worship.

**International Relations and Peace Education:** Recent events have demonstrated man's desperate situation. He must have peace or go down before the new forces of destruction. To have peace he must not only desire it. He must understand its nature and its nurture.

The American Friends Service Committee carries on a year-round program of work with students, of one-day and week-end conferences, and of general education in the critical issues in international relations. In Southern California plans are now developing for the fall and winter conferences. The year's work will be again brought to a climax in the Whittier Institute of International Relations.

**General:** The Southern California Committee hopes that by being of modest aid to those in distress and by carrying on the specific projects it may in a small way contribute to the character of the life that is developing in this area. Ministers, teachers, young people, law makers, business and labor leaders may become more sensitive of spirit as they see and have contact with these experimental laboratories of active goodwill.

Contributions may be made to any of the special projects described, or contributors may participate in all of these and the general work of the Service Committee by sending undesignated contributions to the General Fund. As this practice grows, it allows the Executive Committee to make allocation of funds according to specific needs as they arise.

Address mail inquiries and contributions to:

**THE AMERICAN FRIENDS  
SERVICE COMMITTEE**

Box 966

Pasadena 20, California

## OUR TASK

*An ancient prophet—it was, in fact, Ezekiel—diagnosing the expanding civilization of his time, with its perils and possible disasters, said: “Thy rowers have brought thee into great waters.” It is no longer an ancient situation in a seldom read book. It is a vivid picture of our times, ourselves, our people, our country, our world, our civilization, carried out of safe harbors into great and stormy waters. It is a time that calls loudly for good pilots.*

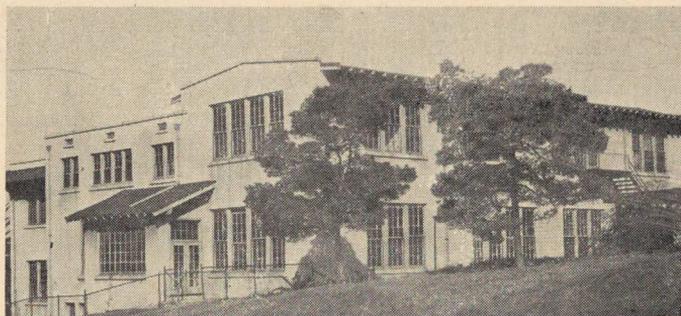
*But whatever happens in the immense task of steering the ship in these great waters, the course of the American Friends Service Committee is clearly marked out. As in the past, so now and in the future, it must go on helping to share and to bear the burden of the world's suffering. We may take it as settled that a stable world order cannot be built by a Dumbarton Oaks plan or any plan of human ingenuity in countries where men, women, and children are starving. We must repair houses, reclothe bodies, rebuild lives, mend hearts and perform the fundamental business of saving the generation that is essential for the world order of our hopes before the ship can be in safe waters again. To that task, under God, we are dedicated.*

RUFUS M. JONES

HDC  
Common m.  
American Principles

# EVERGREEN HOSTEL

A HOSTEL FOR RETURNING  
JAPANESE AMERICANS



506 North Evergreen Avenue  
Los Angeles 33, California

Sponsored by American Friends Service Committee  
and The Presbyterian Church in U. S. A.

## EVERGREEN HOSTEL

With the lifting of the ban prohibiting persons of Japanese ancestry from residing on the West Coast, and the announcement that the Relocation projects will be closed at the end of 1945, the evacuees are faced with many new problems. Already, a third of the 110,000 who were evacuated from the West Coast area have settled in the Middle West and East, and it is estimated that a large proportion of those remaining in the camps will follow friends and relatives east.

There will be others, perhaps twenty per cent, who will choose to return to the West Coast. Of these, only a few will have homes and businesses waiting for them. The great majority will have to begin again, finding business openings and homes in which to resettle their families.

The Evergreen Hostel is being opened to provide temporarily a quiet and inexpensive place where those who return may live during the period of adjustment.

The Presbyterian Church is contributing the services of one of the directors and has made available a large building, formerly a boarding school for Mexican girls, at 506 North Evergreen Avenue, Los Angeles 33. This building will accommodate forty to fifty persons. It is conveniently located at the end of the B car line, ten minutes from the Union Station and Main Street. The American Friends Service Committee has partially re-decorated and furnished the building.

Following the plan of hostels in the East, the charge will be from \$1.00 to \$1.50 a day for room and meals, all residents sharing in the daily work of the hostels.

Among the many problems facing returning Californians of Japanese ancestry, housing, jobs and community relations are foremost. Working closely with the War Relocation Authority and other government, social and religious organizations, the staff of the hostel will endeavor to work out with each guest a solution for his individual problems. The home-like atmosphere should provide a clearer perspective on the changed situation in California.

## WAYS IN WHICH INTERESTED PERSONS CAN HELP

**CASH CONTRIBUTIONS** \$12,000 is the budget for the Japanese work of the Southern California Branch of the American Friends Service Committee, which is responsible for the administration of the Evergreen Hostel, a smaller hostel in Pasadena, and general work for returning Japanese.

Checks should be made payable to the American Friends Service Committee, Box 966, Zone 20, Pasadena, California, and marked for Japanese Hostels.

**EQUIPMENT** Among things still needed are the following:

Tables	Single beds	Wash tubs	Cooking utensils
Chairs	Springs	Lawn mower	Dishes
Rugs	Sheets	Garden tools	Silver
Curtains	Blankets	Garden hose	Potted plants
Bureaus	Quilts		

**FOOD CONTRIBUTIONS** are also welcome. We will be glad to receive gifts of canned or dehydrated fruits and vegetables, dried beans, peas, etc., as well as home canned and preserved foods.

**WORK** Already groups of students and other interested persons have rendered most valuable service in renovating parts of the building. Such assistance is still greatly needed. It has been suggested that certain groups might undertake to complete the renovation and furnishing of certain rooms, while other groups might prefer to assist with cleaning, or work on the grounds. Leaders of such groups should contact Esther Rhoads at ANgelus 5373.

**HOUSING** is a primary need of most of the returning families. Information in regard to houses and apartments soon to be vacated, or in regard to rooms temporarily available, will be most welcome, and will be shared by the hostel with the War Relocation Authority and other agencies.

**JOBS** Certain fields of work in which persons of Japanese ancestry were formerly prominent, such as wholesale produce, have been so completely taken over by other groups that for the present many cannot return to their former employment. Younger persons will find it comparatively easy to obtain jobs through U.S.E.S., but older men, formerly owners or managers of business firms, will need special assistance in becoming reestablished. Contacts and suggestions for business and professional men are especially desired.

**SOCIAL ACTIVITIES** As many will be settling in new neighborhoods, invitations to church activities, clubs and homes, and friendly calls from neighbors will greatly assist integration into community life.

STATEMENT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COUNCIL  
OF PROTESTANT CHURCHES AND  
CHURCH FEDERATION OF LOS ANGELES

Issued December 19, 1944

In view of the situation within our State of California, precipitated by the rescinding of the order of evacuation of American citizens and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry, we wish to record the Church Federation of Los Angeles, and the Southern California Council of Protestant Churches as willing to support the War Department in its action; and in urging that the citizens of our State respond with calmness and generous goodwill to the decision and to those evacuees who may return eventually to our State. We believe that the good name of California is under test and that we should be very thoughtful and without passion as we deal with the situation.

\* \* \* We hold that as Americans they (persons of Japanese ancestry) are entitled to a place of dignity and opportunity, and that it is possible to give them such a place in the life of our commonwealth just as much as to any other people.

Now that the evacuation order has been discontinued and these people will soon be free to seek a place of normal abode and activity, we urge that all civic and community leaders, the press, and all citizens and particularly those of Christian confession take a positive stand for a true demonstration of Christian and democratic principles.

We should encourage order and goodwill by making clear the principles and duties of American citizens. We should give ourselves resolutely, likewise, to the solution of problems of housing, employment, and social adjustment.

*Church Federation of Los Angeles*

*Southern California Council of Protestant Churches.*

E. C. FARNHAM, *General Secretary.*