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COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT

Quarterly Report - April, May, June, 1943

Community Government at most relocation centers has shown a satisfactory development during this quarter. The charters establishing permanent government were ratified at Poston and Rohwer and rejected at Minidoka. The charters submitted by Heart Mountain, Gila River, and Jerome were approved by the Washington office for subsequent ratification by the residents at those relocation centers. Permanent councils are now operating at Granada, Central Utah, Poston, and Rohwer.

The revision of Administrative Instruction No. 34 to permit Issei to hold elective office received a favorable response at all centers; elections were held at four centers under this provision. The returns indicate that selection of councilmen was primarily on the basis of qualifications with little emphasis on generation.

Significant advances were made in the field of community organization and the solution of community problems. Several councils established committees to deal with questions of manpower, relocation, agricultural production, health facilities, and the improvement of community morale. A summary of major developments in Community Government for each project is given below:

The Poston Charter was approved on May 18 by a vote of 3667 to 1008. Over half of the opposition votes were cast in Unit 3, and were interpreted as a desire of that Unit to retain its autonomy. Election to the three local councils was held the latter part of May and the Community Council at Poston, composed of 19 members, was organized on June 1. A temporary Council had been active in labor relations, manpower, and law and order problems. The new Council, following its organization, recognized the need for increased agricultural production as a major concern of the community and appointed a committee to deal with this problem.

The Charter for permanent government for Gila River was approved by the Washington office the latter part of June. The temporary Council continued to function during the quarter with emphasis given to relocation and project employment.

The second election under the Topaz Charter was held the latter part of June with 22 Issei and 11 Nisei elected as new councilmen. The first council was active in the field of labor relations and employment, with the acceptance of the Merit Rating Board and the Fair Employment Practice procedure forms. Attention was given to the agricultural need for workers in the Agricultural Division and amendment to the Charter, providing for the election of Issei and placing representation on a block basis, was accepted by 95 percent of the voters.

The Charter submitted by the Organization Commission of Minidoka was rejected on June 19 by a vote of 2375 to 1568. The rejection has been interpreted as the result of opposition by block managers, not ^{an}adequate explanation and understanding of the voters, the injection of personalities, and a willingness by most residents to accept the status quo.

Following the election, the Organization Commission resigned, but was not accepted by the Project Director pending election of a similar advisory group. Some minor changes were made in the Charter and it was decided to re-submit the Charter to the residents. An election was called to choose a new congress of representatives.

Following the receipt of the provision permitting Issei to hold office, plans were made for drafting an amendment and re-establishing the Council at Tule Lake. These plans had progressed to the point of a request for a center election when word was received that Tule Lake was to become the segregation center. No action in the field of Community Government has been taken since that time.

No steps had been taken to establish permanent Community Government at Manzanar during this quarter. An advisory council of nine was elected in May. The block managers continued to function in an administrative and political role.

Community Government under a temporary block chairman at Heart Mountain has been active in many community problems. The temporary council dealt with problems arising out of manpower shortages, the acceleration of the farm program, dietary needs of the residents, law and order, and relocation. The Charter, establishing a permanent government, had been approved by Washington at the end of the quarter, and it was scheduled for ratification in July.

The Community Council at Granada enacted law and order regulations and established a Judicial Commission. The second election under the Charter was held in June. Only four of the new councilmen were Issei, but two women were elected.

The residents of Rohwer approved their Charter by a 95 percent vote on May 20. The election for the Council was held June 1 with a majority being Issei. A Judicial Commission and a Board of Health of seven members were appointed.

The temporary council continued to function ^{at Terome} during this

quarter. Several resolutions were passed concerning center discipline, sanitary conditions, and vaccination of dogs, etc. The Charter for permanent government was approved by the Washington office the latter part of June.

REPORT ON COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT
July 1, 1943-December 31, 1943

Community Government has had an important role in helping to solve some of the difficult problems posed by evacuation. It has contributed to individual security and social stability, fostered cooperation, provided training in democracy and administration, given opportunity for the orderly airing of grievances, and provided a channel for communication and promoting confidence and understanding between administration and residents.

Community Government is the instrumentality through which organized formal relations have been established with the evacuees. The Community Council acts in an advisory capacity to the Project Director, communicates policies and procedures to the residents, and relays sentiments and desires of the community to the administration. It has as one function the enactment of law and order codes and a judicial process for punishing violators. It is responsible for developing plans for community betterment.

During July plans were made for the participation of Community Councils in the process of segregation and reception of people from Tule Lake. Agreement was also reached that the policy for Community Government would not apply at Tule Lake but that provision would be made for the establishment of a representative Advisory Council.

The policy for Community Government was reviewed and a Manual issued in October. The authority of the Community Council to license

Business Enterprises was restored. Eligibility to membership on the Council was prohibited to those who had been denied leave clearance. The authority of the Judicial Commission to penalize violators of center residents by suspension of work privileges, clothing allowances, and similar types of direct aid was withdrawn. The Judicial Commission, however, was granted the authority to impose jail sentences and levy fines. A Community Government Handbook was issued in November which included a description of functions, organization, administration, Council relationships, objectives, and problems of the community.

Copies of the organization of the Juvenile Board at Central Utah and a report of the Charter Commission of Heart Mountain were distributed to all projects. Communications were also addressed to the Councils requesting their cooperation in meeting problems of fire prevention and requesting their recommendation as to the restoration of licensing authority to the Council.

In conjunction with the Relocation Division, a plan was developed for the organization of staff-evacuee relationships for the purpose of aiding the relocation process. This plan was submitted to the various centers in November. The plan provided for the establishment of a Relocation Planning Commission to be appointed by the Community Council and to be composed of representatives drawn from resident groups. A staff committee with the relocation program officer as the executive secretary was to be appointed by the Project Director. These two groups were to appoint three members to an executive board which would operate under the leadership of the Project Director in developing programs.

transmitting information and, in general, facilitating relocation.

In response to a suggestion in a letter of October 28 by the Director regarding the advisability of holding a national conference of evacuees, the Heart Mountain Community Council and a number of other Councils in December addressed resolutions to the Director requesting that such a national meeting be held in the near future. The decision was reached to hold such a conference and it was scheduled for Chicago the last week of January. Communications were sent to the Community Councils of all centers which advised them of a national meeting and requested their submission of proposals for an agenda and names of delegates. It was also decided that the expenses of delegates would need to be borne by the community.

During the half year period considerable progress was made at most centers in organization and development of Community Government as an instrument of community organization. Community Councils at Colorado River, Gila River, Jerome, Manzanar, Minidoka and Rohwer made commendable progress in organization and in securing confidence of the community and the administration. Four of the centers, Gila River, Heart Mountain, Minidoka and Jerome approved Charters for their centers, bringing the total of centers organized under Community Government policy to eight.

Problems surrounding the movement of people to Tule Lake and reception of newcomers, the enactment of regulations, definition of relation with block managers and relocation were common to all centers. Other problems of considerable interest were those concerned with labor

reduction, production facilities, hospitals and schools.

Community Government at the Centers

Central Utah

The record of Community Government at Central Utah was marred by the mass resignation of the Community Council in November. The Chairman of the Council had been questioned by the FBI concerning some remarks attributed to him. The Chairman resigned and the Council after passing a resolution to the effect that statements attributed to the Chairman were not made by him at a Council meeting, also resigned. An election was held to complete the last few weeks of the session and most of the members were reelected.

The Council was active on segregation and labor difficulties. A committee of the Council and of the segregees worked with the administration in preparing detailed plans for the movement of people from Central Utah. The committee also worked on plans for the reception of people from Tule Lake. The efficiency and speed with which movements were completed and the nature of the welcome extended to the incoming residents received commendation.

One labor grievance was brought to the attention of the Council and after investigation the Council made recommendations which were accepted. Subsequently the individual provoking the dispute continued to act in an uncooperative way and the Council made recommendations that he be removed from the center.

The Council passed an ordinance regulating keeping of pets and

prohibiting of bingo. The latter ordinance created some opposition in the community and it was only after considerable negotiation that two blocks which had scheduled bingo games were satisfied regarding the enforcement of this regulation. Resolutions were passed favoring the establishment of a Relocation Committee and cooperation in fire prevention.

The Council also held discussions with the administration on food problems, recreation, employment policies, repair of the water system, removal of military police, cooperation with the block managers, baby diet and formula, increased milk supply and provision of school equipment. The administration requested the Council to inform the residents regarding the impending withdrawal of military police and requested enactment of regulations to govern ingress and egress from the center. The Council made a number of recommendations for insuring adequate police protection. A number of Council members helped make an investigation of the shooting incident at Provo and made a report to the community. Elections for the Council for the first half of 1944 were held in December.

Colorado River

During the six months period the Community Council enacted a penal code, traffic regulations, regulations governing annual elections and a regulation licensing the use of braziers.

Resolutions were passed requesting an increase in the clothing allowance, requesting Civil Service status for center physicians, supporting the Marcantonio bill, requesting the release of interned physicians

at Santa Fe to Poston, requesting an increase in wages, recommending a redistribution of manpower for agricultural production, inviting the settlement of an additional 3,000 people from other centers and recommending a national conference of evacuees.

The Council referred to the blocks a proposal to establish a clean-up week, requested a list of Nisei soldiers, asked for discussion of the conduct of Business Enterprises and conveyed a request from the Spanish Consul for a list of deceased aliens.

The Labor Relations Board and the Executive Board were combined. A youth counseling board, a planning board and a manpower board were established. In addition to the regular committees, committees were also established on food, public relations and public health.

The Council also established special committees for the investigation of the Poston Free Press, for a celebration for departing volunteers, for a determination of regulations governing keeping of fowls within the blocks, an investigation of adequacy of food, an investigation of mess worker complaints and an investigation of Parker warehouse workers. Other matters discussed at Council meetings included the preparation and presentation of a service flag for Nisei in the Army, the milk shortage and the library budget. The need for an ambulance for Unit 3 was called to the attention of the administration. The Council voted in favor of the extension of licensing powers to the Council, the establishment of compulsory school attendance regulations, sent two delegates to Santa Fe Internment Camp to secure the

release of evacuee physicians, cooperated with the elimination of fire hazards, favored the establishment of a bakery, an ice plant and facilities for the manufacture of soap, favored the purchase of uniforms for Internal Security and the purchase of an X-ray machine for the hospital.

The Council also established a service for families who had interned members in order to facilitate the reuniting of these families. It gave formal recognition to the employees of the hospital for the services they had rendered the community. There were lengthy discussions on the subject of making Poston self-sufficient through an expansion of the agricultural program. The Council also recommended that steps be taken to counteract the unfair Pacific Coast press and to improve public relations.

The Judicial Commission disposed of four cases. The new Permanent Council was installed in October and will continue in office for one year.

Granada

The new Council inducted in July had four Issei Members, the first under the ruling permitting their election. No regulations were enacted and only one resolution which favored the establishment of an evacuee relocation committee. Two cases were heard by the Judicial Commission.

At the time of the visit of the National Director representatives of the Council called to the attention of the Director problems

regarding food, relocation, rent of Business Enterprises, adequate water supply and agricultural production.

The Council favored the restitution of licensing power, the establishment of an old people's home, a diet kitchen, requested a C-rating for Councilmen and favored a campaign to enroll additional nurses' aides.

In conjunction with the block managers, the Council assisted in raising a fund of over one thousand dollars for distribution to hospital workers. The Council assisted in segregation.

Gila River

The Charter for Gila River was approved by an overwhelming majority in August. In September Councils were elected and organized. The Council at Butte was composed of 17 Nisei and 12 Issei. The Council at Canal had 9 Nisei and 8 Issei.

Resolutions were passed favoring the restoration of licensing power, a vote of confidence in the program and policies of the WRA was transmitted to the Director, a resolution condemning un-American activities, a resolution favoring support of the National War Fund and limiting solicitation of funds to the Community Chest and the Red Cross, a resolution asking for the Army to be careful in the use of firearms and a resolution requesting speed in the processing of indefinite leaves. The Community Council spent considerable time in developing an organizational chart and appointing committees of the Council to act in an advisory capacity with administrative divisions and sections. The Council sponsored a policemen's ball for securing funds for the purchase

of uniforms. It also sponsored a staff-evacuee picnic at which 1500 people were present. At the request of the Spanish Consul, two Issei from each community were appointed to represent the interest of the aliens. Election for the new Council was held on December 14 and most of the Councilmen were returned to office.

The first Community Council at Gila made great strides in organization and in learning problems of center management. Major problems of the community were considered as well as problems affecting the administration. Ways and means of improving the hospital facilities, agricultural production, public relations, housing, recreation, mess, law and order and many other matters were discussed. A Relocation Commission was established with community-wide representation.

Heart Mountain

The Charter for Community Government was adopted in July. Following the election and organization of the Council, regulations were passed establishing the Judicial Commission, a criminal code, a vehicle code and fire hydrant control. Resolutions were passed favoring classification of coal workers at a C-rating, Civil Service status for evacuee doctors and the holding of a national meeting for evacuees. The Council also considered problems and made recommendations in connection with segregation, improvement of center roads, jails, meals, Red Cross, hospital, swimming pool, Community Enterprises, domestics, the establishment of tofu packing and pickle factories. It assisted in settling one minor dispute in the warehouse and established a food committee which worked out better relations with the steward's office. The Judicial Commission heard 22 cases.

Jerome

The Temporary Council continued in office until the ratification of the Charter in October and the election of the Permanent Council in November. The Community Council favored an increase in clothing allowance, established a wood committee to help solve the fuel problem, favored the retention of the high school principal, requested the re-establishment of the optometry section of the hospital and favored the payment of rental fees for equipment owned by evacuee doctors.

The Permanent Council was composed of 18 Issei and 15 Nisei. In conjunction with the block managers a system of securing adequate fuel for the center was developed, a resolution of regret at the departure of the Project Director was passed, a Judicial Commission manual prepared and resolutions of appreciation to the woodcutters and for confidence of the community in Council actions passed. December 18 was designated as cleanup day. The Judicial Commission was appointed and a Relocation Commission established.

Manzanar

The block managers' assembly continued to be the representative group of the community. It is the policy at Manzanar for the Project Director to appear each week before the assembly and discuss problems and activities of the community.

During the half year period the assembly discussed problems of segregation, the establishing of a home nursing course, the erection of a monument in the cemetery, juvenile delinquency, rumor control, leave clearance, community fair, internal troubles, victory gardens, gambling and relations with the military. It also recommended the prohi-

bition of baseball within the blocks and golf in the firebreaks. It sponsored a celebration in recognition of the first anniversary of the Project Director. Representatives met with the Spanish Consul on his visit to the center.

Minidoka

The Organization Commission continued work on the Charter for the Minidoka Center. It was approved and presented to the residents and accepted in December. Elections to the first Council were scheduled for January.

Rohwer

The Rohwer Community Council was particularly active during segregation and in relocation. A committee of the Council with a committee of the segregants developed plans for the movement of people from the center.

The Council established a relocation committee which circulated questionnaires to two thousand people who had resettled from that center. On the basis of replies, a report was prepared which called attention to problems of those relocating and advocated certain measures.

The Council passed resolutions favoring opportunity for those who wished to withdraw applications for repatriation to be allowed hearings before segregation. They also favored postponing reduction in employment until after segregation and requested that evacuee doctors receive additional compensation.

In addition to the regular committees of the Council, Boards

for Public Relations and Social Welfare were established. A Board of Information was also created for the purpose of keeping residents informed. The Council also made recommendations in regard to the hog pen, keeping of pets, fuel, doctors, old men's home, labor cuts, Council fund, wages and clothing allowances. It established a clean-up week and passed a resolution favoring the national conference of evacuees. The Judicial Commission heard three cases. In November an election was held at which 22 Councilmen were returned to office and 11 new Councilmen elected.

Tule Lake

Formal Community Government was never reestablished at Tule Lake following the resignation of the Council during registration. The civic organizations including the planning board continued to function through the segregation period. Upon completion of the segregation movements, a committee of eight met with the Project Director in October to discuss the farm situation and the establishment of a representative committee from the residents. This committee later became known as a negotiating committee and was the group representing the community at the time of the November incident. The civic organizations continued to function and with their assistance a committee was established in December to advise with the administration in regard to problems affecting Tule Lake.

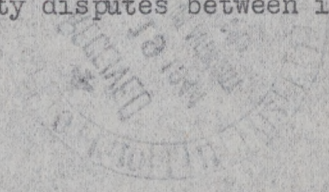
REPORT ON COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT
January 1, 1944 to June 30, 1944

Community Government has been the organization through which the community has been able to present its views and needs to the administration, to discuss policy and problems, and to plan and coordinate for community betterment. Government has contributed to community stability. It has given leadership for crystallizing opinion on critical issues. It has given to many thousands their first opportunity to learn and participate in the democratic process.

Eight of the nine relocation centers have adopted a constitution or charter and elected a Community Council. The Councils have enacted law and order codes and established Judicial Commissions to apply penalties to violators of community law. The health, education, food, employment, production, and public relation problems of the community have been handled through committees composed of Council members. Many Councils have also established a number of commissions of a permanent nature to which non-Council members have been appointed. The Relocation Planning Commission has been established at all Centers and is playing an active and significant part in stimulating resettlement. Other groups include Health, and School Boards, Manpower Commissions, Juvenile Commissions, Police Commission and Cemetery Boards. Selective Service and segregation committees have been established at many Centers to handle these special problems.

The responsible role of Community Government during the sometimes heated discussions over the reinstitution of selective service was demonstrated at every Center. Most Councils either sponsored or transmitted petitions from citizen groups welcoming selective service but requesting clarification of citizenship rights for all nisei. The Councils at Heart Mountain, Minidoka, and Central Utah, sponsored the visit of Sgt. Ben Kuroki, the nisei war hero. Departing inductees have been honored by Councils at all Centers.

The Councils have contributed to the internal stability of the Centers by negotiating labor disputes, improving labor relations, and meeting critical shortages of workers. Manpower Commissions have been established at several Centers to work with the Administration in determining job priorities and allocating the available labor supply. Councils have also resolved many intra-community disputes between individuals or groups.



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Councils have also resolved many inter-community differences, determining job priorities and allocating the available manpower. Established at several Centers to work with the community in meeting critical shortages of workers, a number of committees have been formed by negotiating labor disputes, improving working conditions, and

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REPORT ON COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT



A national meeting of Council representatives was given additional study. It was finally decided that it was advisable to postpone planning for such a conference until later in the year. Recommendations for the establishment of a joint staff Council Manpower Commission to meet the increasingly critical labor shortage were transmitted to the Projects in June.

Through the Judicial Commission, the residents have assumed a responsibility for maintaining law and order. Violators of Council regulations are cited to the Commission for hearing and sentence. One hundred thirty-six cases in all were docketed during the first five months of the year. Nearly half of these were for gambling and a quarter for traffic violations. A table showing number and type of cases is given below.

Offenses Heard by Judicial Commission by Center
January to June 1944

Center	Assault	Disturbing the Peace	Gam- bling	Intoxica- tion	Theft or Larceny	Traffic	Tres- passing	Misc.	Total
Central Utah					2	19		1	22
Colorado River	2	5	23		1	1		3	35
Gila River	6	3	37			11	5	4	66
Granada				4					4
Heart Mountain	4							1	5
Jerome	2			1				1	4
Rohwer									0
Minidoka									0
Total	14	8	60	5	3	31	5	10	136

Community Government has had an important role in preparing the evacuees for a return to normal life, promoting good public relations, and maintaining a constructive attitude among Center population.

COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT AT THE CENTERS

COLORADO RIVER

The Community Council and the three local Councils of the Colorado River Center continued to have a significant role in the affairs of the community and in administration through collaboration with the staff.

The Council requested cooperation of the community in the drive to raise money for the prevention of infantile paralysis. It developed and circulated a questionnaire on relocation and assisted the visiting relocation team. It discussed the establishment of a cleaning service and a barber shop in the hospital with Community Enterprises. It prepared plans for holding memorial services for deceased soldiers. It approved and assisted in the construction of a log shade for tubercular patients and arranged for the purchase and distribution of literature on tuberculosis. It recommended that such patients be allowed to return home only after discharge by medical authorities.

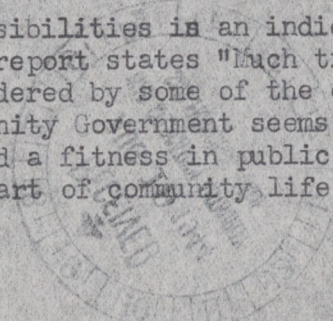
The Community Council called to the attention of the Project Director a request for the purchase of uniforms for the police department and for an increase in the number of policemen. It presented a petition representing the viewpoint of the nisei on the reinstitution of Selective Service and the restoration of rights of American citizens. It recommended the establishment of a bakery and suggested changes in the handling and distribution of ice, meat, rice and bread. It recommended that negotiations be carried on for the release of interned doctors at Santa Fe.

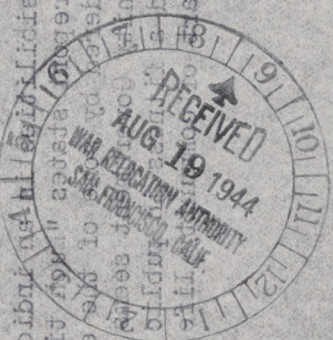
The Law and Order Code was expanded to include regulations on cats and dogs, a school code, additions to the traffic regulations, a procedure for eviction of residents, a rabbit and poultry regulation, and a regulation covering disturbance of the peace. The Judicial Commission heard 35 cases during the first five months. A resolution of appreciation to Mr. Wade Head was passed upon the announcement of his departure from Poston.

The new Council was elected and installed in April. Offices for the Council officials were established in the administration building. The Council made plans for the establishment of a trading post to permit residents to sell or exchange articles for which they had no additional use. The trading posts were to be under the supervision of the local Councils.

Due to the shortage of workers, and emergency Manpower Commission was established in May. This Commission had as its function the determination of essential labor needs, the establishment of priorities and the formulation of rules and regulations governing employment and transfers. The Commission made its first report in June.

The continued assumption of responsibilities is an indication of the progress of Community Government. A report states "Much time and effort, with no financial benefit, is rendered by some of the evacuee members. On the whole, the evacuee Community Government seems to be developing a feeling of responsibility and a fitness in public affairs, together with a feeling of being a real part of community life here."





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CENTRAL UTAH

A number of internal problems affecting the welfare of the community consumed much of the time and energy of the Council during the six month period. These problems included the dispute between the cooperative and the credit union, a consideration of the demands of various organizations to solicit funds from the residents, and food and labor problems.

The Council discussed with the Project Director questions affecting employment quotas, public assistance grants, food in the hospital, establishment of a Junior College, the extension of the sewer pipe line, the issuance of privilege cards for members of the enlisted reserve, and the adequacy of recreational facilities.

The Project Director discussed with the Community Council the transfer of the WRA to the Department of Interior, the establishment of vocational training courses, the establishment of policy governing the use of the civic auditorium, and the closing of two dining halls.

The community problems which arose and which were considered by the Council included the reinstitution of Selective Service for nisei, voluntary donations to hospital workers, distribution of articles received from the Japanese Red Cross, voluntary blood donors, the establishment of a central diet kitchen, requests for food from various groups, and the establishment of a community fund.

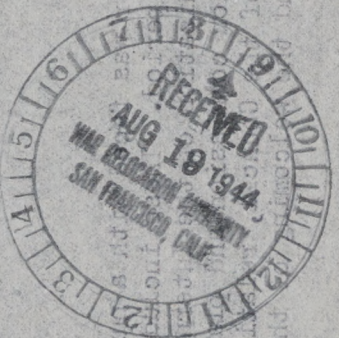
Regulations prohibiting gambling and establishing procedure for resignation from the Council were enacted. Resolutions were passed granting full power to the Judicial Commission. The Council appointed a Mediation Board to negotiate the dispute between Business Enterprises and the Credit Union and appointed committees to consider the establishment of a community fund, and one on public safety.

The new Project Director, Mr. Luther T. Hoffman, was introduced to the Council in June. A public reception sponsored jointly by the Council and block managers was held in the civic auditorium. Elections for the new Council held in June, resulted in fewer than half of the old members being reelected.

GILA RIVER

Community Government at Gila River was faced with a number of important problems during the half-year period. These included an investigation of the functions and organization of the Internal Security Section, the establishment of a recreation commission and plan of recreation for the community, reorganization of the Council, relations with the block managers, juvenile delinquency, and the welcoming of the new residents from Jerome.

residents from Jerosa, block managers, juvenile delinquents, and for the community, reorganization of section, the establishment of a recreation investigation of the functions and organization of the problems during the half-year community government at City Hall.



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regulations prohibiting gambling and establishing procedure for groups, and the establishment of a community fund.

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A number of informal problems affecting the welfare of the community

CITY HALL

The Council enacted a code of offenses, a traffic code and a regulation prohibiting private enterprise. The Butte Council passed a resolution condemning the Japanese atrocities against American prisoners of war, recommended the retention of Dr. Jack Sleath as Chief Health Officer, established an executive board of seven members, established a recreation association, issued a formal welcome to the incoming people from Jerome and recommended the establishment of optical service by Business Enterprises.

The Council discussed, with the Project Director, a number of problems. Major among these was the presentation of a petition requesting the restoration of civil rights to the nisei following the announcement of reinstitution of Selective Service. It also recommended that a notary be appointed for the Canal community.

Problems of community concern included the investigation of the Internal Security Section, a report of the Public Health Committee on optometry services, block sanitation and blood typing for emergencies. It supervised the distribution of a shipment of goods received from the Japanese Red Cross and conducted a relocation survey. It called to the attention of the block residents the impending visit of the Spanish Consul to discuss problems of Japanese Nationals, a proposed juvenile code, the establishment of family eating in the mess halls, welcoming of Jerome residents and the forthcoming June election.

The Project Director discussed with the Council the need for cleaning irrigation drainage, the prohibition of private enterprise and the need for improvement of sanitary conditions within the Center.

GRANADA

The Community Council had an active role in discussions on the citizenship rights of nisei and the preparation of a petition on this subject. Problems of community concern included the reduction in employment under the quota for the third quarter, distribution of goods received from the Japanese Red Cross, compensation for accumulated overtime and the provision of incentive wages to workers in the slaughterhouse.

The Council called to the attention of the Project Director a request for reclassifying the position of Nurse's Aide to \$19.00, the distribution of clothing allowances on a monthly instead of quarterly basis and a request to expedite the leave procedure for boys called for physical examination for the Army. A request to send a delegate to the staff meetings was denied.

The Project Director informed the Council of agricultural plans for the present year and requested assistance in solving labor shortages by recruitment of additional workers. He also suggested to the Council the extension of a formal invitation to residents of Jerome coming to the Center and inclusion in the Council body of members of the Jerome Council. The Community Council at Granada continued to have a preponderance of nisei members.

HEART MOUNTAIN

The Heart Mountain Community Council was concerned with one major and several minor community problems. Following the announcement of the reopening of Selective Service for nisei, strong agitation developed under the leadership of a Fair Play Committee which threatened to influence large numbers of citizens to ignore their calls for pre-induction physicals and induction into the Army. The Community Council in an attempt to give perspective to members of the community and to emphasize the responsibility of the citizens prepared and circulated a petition for transmission to the President. The Council also requested and sponsored a visit of Sgt. Ben Kuroki. Sgt. Kuroki was at the project for several days, was honored by a banquet sponsored by the Council, and made several public addresses to the community. Members of the Council speak at ceremonies held for the young men who depart for Army service.

Other problems of community interest included representing members of the janitorial service in the labor reduction of the third quarter labor quota. The Council sponsored the distribution of Red Cross gifts, discussed the establishment of a scholarship fund, recommended that evacuee doctors be given Civil Service status, sponsored the establishment of a local unit of the USO, discussed the advisability of establishing cooperative business enterprises outside the Center, presented the purchase of uniforms for the police force to the blocks and investigated a labor dispute in the poultry section.

The Council discussed with the Project Director several problems in connection with relocation and urged that certain time-consuming procedures be modified to ease the departure of those leaving the Center. It presented requests for urgently needed repair and maintenance. It favored the establishment of a Junior College, of a manufacturing plant to produce miso, the construction of wind breaks at the hospital clinic and laundry rooms, the distribution of free soap and washboards, and additional medical assistance. The Project Director called to the attention of the Council a number of problems in relation to relocation and asked Council sponsorship of the fourth and fifth War Loan Drives. The Council communicated with a number of Centers on a national meeting of representatives from all Centers.

Regulations governing the keeping of pets and fowl were enacted and the criminal code amended. Resolutions were passed making Council action binding on all Council members, requested the WRA purchase of uniforms for the police department and prohibiting the use of food for any special group or party.

ROHWER

The Community Council, through its various committees, maintained a close working partnership with the Administration. The committees that were particularly active were those concerned with relocation, segregation, employment and reception of incoming residents from Jerome.

The Council sponsored the visit of Hibutsi Murai, a specialist in mid-western farming. Mr. Murai gave a series of lectures on agricultural possibilities in the mid-west. The segregation committee handled a major share of the burden in connection with the movement of segregants to Tule Lake. The labor committee had a number of problems involving minor disputes, employment, hours of work and the like. The committee for the reception of the Jerome residents worked on details of cleaning vacant apartments, providing adequate housing space and formally welcoming Jeromites as they arrived on the Project.

The Council brought to the attention of the Project Director a number of problems. It requested that consideration be given to a possible stoppage of work in connection with cutting of fuel. It recommended that clothing allowances and salary payments be made in cash rather than by check. It proposed that a series of conferences be held between committees of the Council and members of the Administrative staff in order to improve relations and understanding of problems. It called to the attention of the Administration the excessive infestation of cockroaches in the mess halls, the need for additional street lighting, the rumor that mental patients of Japanese ancestry at the State Hospital were being mistreated, and the need for an old men's home. It recommended that plans be made for the manufacture of Japanese foods, that operating and maternity rooms in the hospital be air conditioned, that doctors from Jerome be invited to come to Rohwer.

It assisted the Administration in the quarterly population count, in securing compliance with Selective Service regulations, and in selecting a site for the old men's home.

Problems of general community concern considered by the Council included the provision of adequate tokens of appreciation to the hospital staff for their services to the community, recruitment of additional nurse's aides and securing voluntary blood donors. In conjunction with the block managers, it sponsored a Center-wide clean-up.

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The Council brought to the attention of the Project Director's formally welcoming ceremonies as they arrived on the project.

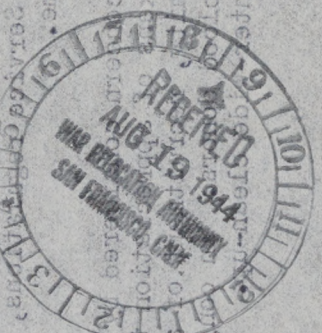
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HOUSES

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MINIDOKA

Community Government became operative at Minidoka with the election of a seven-man Council and 34 Block Commissioners in February. The immediate problem was that of organization and six committees including education, health, welfare, public relations, education and juvenile were established with the chairman of each committee a representative of the Council and the other members being drawn from the block commissioners. Following the initial meeting of the Council the election of officers and the appointment of committees, the Council was confronted with a number of serious problems. The strike of workers in the warehouse and the subsequent halting of deliveries of food and other essential supplies was called to the attention of the Council in April by the Project Director. The Council appointed a 15 man Fact Finding Committee which conducted hearings and prepared a report for the Project Director on the labor situation. During the period of investigation, the Council assumed responsibility for the operation of those Sections affected by the strike.

A second serious situation arose when a ditch rider from a nearby irrigation area reported that some of the Center residents had set fire to the grass and brush rip-rap along the Canal bank. The Project Director with members of the Community Council inspected the damage caused by the fire and the chairman assumed responsibility for making repairs and recruited 75 volunteer workers.

The Council called to the attention of the Project Director a number of situations within the community. It recommended that a sedan be provided for transporting pregnant women to and from the hospital. This request was granted. It sponsored a public meeting on west coast property problems in conjunction with the legal and property sections. It assumed responsibility for the Red Cross drive which collected over \$2300. It advocated provision of temporary hospital facilities for mental patients. It proposed that facilities be provided for the manufacture of Japanese foods. It assumed responsibility for recruitment of additional nurse's aides.

The organization of Community Government proceeded with the establishment of several civic groups by the Council. A cemetery board was appointed which prepared plans for beautifying the local cemetery. Volunteers provided the labor and Memorial Day services were held at the cemetery site. It established a Judicial Commission, considered a Fair Labor Practice Board, and discussed relations with the Relocation Commission. It also appointed a special hospital committee to provide gifts to hospital personnel in appreciation of their services to the community.

MANZANAR

Manzanar continued to be the only relocation center lacking a formally organized Community Government. The Block Managers Assembly composed of one representative from each block acts in the dual capacity of representing the administration and the community. Progress was made in organization and standing committees were appointed for food, public works, welfare, community relations, employment, and administrative cabinet. A resolution was presented on the rights of nisei and Selective Service. The Assembly decided that materials for wedding cakes could be supplied from the available quota of foodstuffs and that the keeping of chickens and rabbits should be controlled.

The work of the Block Managers in the segregation program was commendable. Not only did those Block Managers which remained at Manzanar take an active part in making certain that members of their blocks were adequately cared for but several block managers were in the contingent which went to Tule Lake and represented their people at that center.

The block managers and the Administration jointly sponsored a panel discussion on "America In The Making". It also considered problems in connection with relocation, the C.A.C.A., standardization of social life, manpower shortage, food complaints and representations to the Spanish Consul.

The Project Director brought a number of problems to the attention of the assembly. These included the movement of segregants to Tule Lake, reinstitution of Selective Service, the future of Manzanar, a report on the Washington Conference of Project Directors, housing problems and problems of seasonal and indefinite leave.

TULE LAKE

The problem of establishing a responsible representative group among the residents at Tule Lake was not satisfactorily solved during this period. The confusion and disorganization which resulted in the November incident continued to have its effect. Some progress was made but a final solution has not yet been reached.

A Center-wide vote on the question of continuing or ending the status quo was held on January 11. Those favoring the ending of the impasse won by a small majority. Following this vote, a coordinating committee was appointed from the Division of Responsible Men. This committee working in conjunction with an advisory committee of seven from the project staff tackled a number of problems facing the Center. These included reemployment of several thousand workers, the release of persons held in the stockade, the lifting of the curfew and the

modification of Army control. Within a short time, the back-to-work movement had assumed considerable proportions and before the end of the month over 3800 workers were again employed.

During February, the committee recommended the lifting of the curfew and appointed an Arrangements Committee which was to develop a plan of community organization. It also recommended the names of six individuals to act as Police Commissioners as advisors to the Colonial Police. Three of these men were appointed in that capacity. It also assisted the Administration by recommending appointments to key supervisory positions. It called to the attention of the Administration petitions recommending the release of numbers of persons from the stockade. It distributed the shoyu and miso received from the Japanese Red Cross.

The Coordinating Committee continued its work during the month of March. It became apparent, however, that there was an increasing loss of confidence on the part of the residents because of the failure of the committee to secure the release of more persons from the stockade. The Coordinating Committee sensing the loss of prestige offered its resignation to the Project Director on April 8. The Project Director requested the committee to continue its work until policy for the establishment of a representative system could be announced by Washington. The announcement of policy was made April 22 and the resignation of the Coordinating Committee was accepted as of April 29.

The new policy provided "The residents of the segregation center will be invited to establish a Representative Committee. The membership of this Representative Committee shall be selected by orderly, representative, elective procedures. The members shall be selected on a geographical basis to represent residential areas within the Center, shall be selected for fixed periods of time, and the total membership of the committee shall not be greater than 12 persons.

" "The function of the Representative Committee shall be that of acting as the official representative of the residents of the Center in communicating to the Project Director the viewpoint, attitudes, and requests of the residents, in conveying to the residents information concerning WRA regulations and determinations affecting them, and in advising with the Project Director on matters as to which collaboration between the Administration and the residents is needed."

Following the announcement, plans were made for the election of delegates to an arrangements committee. It was proposed that each block send two delegates and that block delegates convening by wards would select one member of the arrangements committee. The arrangements committee had as its function developing a plan of government and supervising the election of persons to a representative committee.

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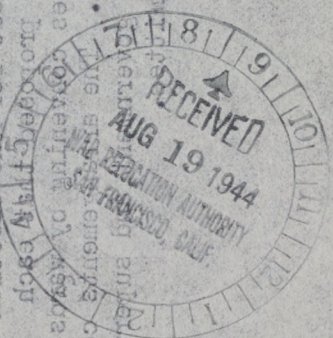
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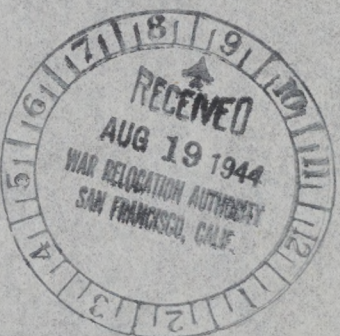
Responsibility for conducting the elections was given to Civic Organizations. The block elections were scheduled for May 18 but because relatively few blocks elected delegates, it was decided that further attempts to establish a Representative Committee would be postponed until there was an indication of a definite interest on the part of the residents.

The Police Commissioners appointed by the Coordinating Committee also resigned and gave as their explanation the fact that since the group responsible for their appointment had dissolved they had no further obligation to act in that capacity. The attempt to secure the election of Police Commissioners to replace the former body failed.

The situation at Tule Lake has many complications which will influence the eventual establishment of a Representative Committee. The block managers group under the leadership of Civic Organizations has in the past been concerned with political questions. There is a tendency for this group to retain their present vested position as the primary channel of communication and negotiation with the Administration. Their position is strengthened by the attitude of the fairly large Manzanar contingent. The stockade is an additional factor. The sentiment is prevalent that until the stockade problem is solved the residents are not interested in establishing any type of group to work with the Administration. The opinion has been expressed that such a group would be powerless and that in the event of trouble the members would be subject to immediate incarceration.

It is apparent that until additional understandings are reached between the Administration and the residents at Tule Lake that no organized form of community representation is possible.





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REPORT ON COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT

July 1, 1944-Dec. 31, 1944

Announcement of the opening of the West Coast and center closing hastened the movement of Community Government to the third phase of its development with the felt need for a meeting of delegates from all centers to discuss common problems. This new assumption of responsibility was possible because of the commendable progress made in organization, function, and resulting prestige during the past six months.

of community government
Community Councils have continued to extend their influence and increase their efficiency in many directions. The responsibility for transmitting the attitudes and thinking of the evacuee population to the administration and of informing the community of changes in policy and procedure has shown marked improvement, due largely to increased confidence and better organization. The legislative and judicial functions became relatively less important as they became regularized and accepted and as more significant problems appeared.

The role of the Community Council in the symbolic life of the community became increasingly apparent. The Councils at all centers organized and sponsored, in conjunction with other evacuee groups, memorial services for the sons of residents who had been killed in combat. The Councils also sponsored the erection of memorials and honor rolls to commemorate the living as well as the dead. Departing inductees were usually given formal recognition previous to their leaving for military duty.

The basic pattern of organization remained much the same but with some desirable modifications. The Committee system was changed at some centers to provide greater flexibility in selection of members. The utilization of non-Council members on boards and commissions became increasingly apparent as problems of a total community nature were assumed by the Community Council. At some centers, there was also a move to utilize a small executive group of the Council for liaison with the administration and for planning purposes.

Relations of the Councils with the administration, the community, and other evacuee groups improved greatly. One of the knotty problems at all centers has been the respective functions of the Block Managers and the Community Council. This problem was on its way towards solution with definite recognition on the part of administration and community that matters of policy and community welfare belonged to the Council. The Block Managers concerned themselves more with administrative problems, but assumed joint responsibility with the Councils in matters affecting all the residents. With minor exceptions, the period was one of cooperative relations with the administration and acceptance of mutual responsibility for the welfare of the community.

Major problems with which the Councils were concerned showed similarity from center to center. A shortage of manpower led to the creation of Manpower Commissions. The lack of qualified people was especially noticeable in the hospitals and Councils at all centers turned their attention to

informing the residents of the situation and attempted to recruit nurses' aides.

The opening of the West Coast and the pending close of the centers created many additional problems. Project Directors were quick to call together the Councils and to inform them of the lifting of West Coast exclusion. These meetings were also utilized to transmit all available information on conditions and policies. The response of the Council and Block Managers group to the task of disseminating this information was excellent. The new problems facing the residents, particularly those connected with the closing of the centers, began to be discussed through Council bodies. These discussions led to a proposal by the Councils at Central Utah and Colorado River for a meeting of evacuees from all centers. The responses were immediate and favorable, and as the year ended, there was a strong movement in this direction.

The Block Managers, although functionally part of the administrative organization are also an important segment of the total community organizational structure. Comment has already been made that relations between the Council group and the Block Managers group showed improvement due largely to a clear definition of their respective functions within the community and the working out of cooperative relations in meeting general community problems. It is to be expected that during the coming months, these two groups will become increasingly complementary and less competitive in their relationships.

COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT AT THE CENTERS

COLORADO RIVER

The structure of the overall Community Council with subsidiary local Councils for each of the three units became more firmly established. There developed a clearer understanding of the respective roles of each with the result that the larger problems affecting all the residents of a center became a responsibility of the Community Council. The Community Council established a Finance committee and a Movie committee. The Manpower Commission continued its considerations of manpower problems and made specific recommendations governing the number of employees in mess operations. The Judicial Commission was reformed and began operation on a high judicial level. The Council also was concerned with problems of sub-standard - milk and rice, the limitation of transportation facilities, regulation of persons having contagious diseases; the establishment of a memorial; the creation of a hospital fund; and relations with the Internal Security and the Police Commission.

CENTRAL UTAH

The new Council inherited difficult problems affecting the relations between the community and the hospital, the payment of overtime, and the recruitment of labor for repairing serious breaks in the pipeline. After a period of negotiation with the administration, satisfactory solutions were found for all questions. It was agreed that all overtime should be cancelled,

that assistance would be given in recruiting a pipeline crew, and cooperation extended to the hospital staff in a new program to give adequate health facilities. With these difficult problems out of the way, the Community Council and the administration worked cooperatively on many other matters. The Council established a Labor committee, with representatives from all operating sections, to discuss questions of manpower and labor relations. Memorial services, in cooperation with other groups, were held for soldiers killed in action. An active campaign in support of cases testing various aspects of the constitutionality of evacuation was initiated, and funds raised to assist the American Civil Liberties Union. The Topaz Council was also active in initiating an all-center conference.

GRANADA

The major efforts of the Council were in the direction of establishing satisfactory working relations with the administration. A number of problems arose in connection with the establishment of a Manpower Commission, relations with the Block Managers, distribution of minutes, and the rights and privileges of the Council, on which there were disagreements between the Council and the administration. Relations between the two groups were seriously strained on a number of occasions, but through this period, there gradually evolved a better understanding on the part of the administration, the Council, and the community of the functions of a representative body. Toward the end of the period, a movement was initiated for the election of the best qualified members of the community to the new Council. As a result of this election and a better definition of Council responsibilities, the new Council was inducted into office with a spirit of good will existing between the administration and the community.

HEART MOUNTAIN

Due to the administrative decision that the position of Block Coordinator was to be abolished, considerable confusion existed during the early weeks of the summer. This confusion was dispelled by an agreement that the Block Coordinators should be reestablished and elections were held in blocks which had previously failed to send representatives. The Council became involved in an intra-community split affecting Community enterprises. It initiated a referendum for the establishment of a scholarship fund. It also took the lead in establishing a center-wide committee to consider the problems which would arise following the announcement of the opening of the West Coast. This committee operating somewhat independently of the Council had a stormy career in its early stages, but soon developed into a responsible group discussing community problems. The Council gained considerable prestige for its foresightedness in organizing this committee when the West Coast announcement was made.

GILA RIVER

The principal problems with which the Canal and Butte Councils were concerned included juvenile delinquency, Japanese language schools, utilization of manpower, council reorganization, and collection of funds. Both councils established juvenile codes and established special boards to advise

on juvenile problems. This action had wide community and administrative support and quickly solved the problem. The inadvisability of formal Japanese language schools was presented to the Council by the administration with the result that there was acceptance of the administration's point of view. The Manpower Commission which concerned itself with recruitment, training, hours of work, and similar problems gained the respect of both administration and the community. The Councils also passed resolutions limiting collection of funds to a Red Cross and Community Chest drive each year. Activities of the two Councils and the administration were coordinated through the establishment of a Joint Executive Board which met weekly with the Project Director. The Council also reorganized the committee system with a view to permitting greater flexibility.

MAEZAKAR

The Block Managers through their Assembly and Town Hall continued to perform the function of representative government at this center. This body was concerned with many minor problems of center operation as well as questions affecting language schools, private enterprises, relocation, and recruitment of workers.

MINIDOKA

Several difficult questions were negotiated with the administration during this period. These included, discharge of all evacuee employees of the Community Activities section, the construction of the gymnasium, the disposition of the emergency crew, and the closing of the mess halls. Since most of these problems affected all or a large portion of the community, the period of negotiation was lengthy and time consuming. The Council protested the summary dismissal of Community Activities employees, negotiated the conditions of employment and supervision for the gymnasium construction, and recommended the modification of the order affecting mess hall operations. These negotiations were unsuccessful from the Council's point of view. A stalemate developed in the gymnasium negotiations with the result that all construction stopped. An entirely new Community Activities staff was recruited under administration direction. Organizational changes included replacement of Block Managers by Block Clerks and the appointment of a Fair Employment committee and a Manpower Commission.

ROHWER

The major problems of the Council included organization of community efforts for providing sufficient fuel for the winter months, recruitment of nurses' aides for the hospital, construction of additional drainage facilities, encouragement of further opportunities for meeting problems of youth, and serious consideration to relocation. The fuel problem was successfully met by a system of volunteer labor recruited from each block. An attempt was made to secure one nurse's aid from each block to work in the hospital. Support was given to the establishment of a youth center and increased activities for youth groups. The Relocation Planning Commission was re-activated with reconsideration of the larger problem of the Japanese in America.

TULE LAKE

No further attempts were made to establish a representative Advisory Committee. The Block Managers' organization gradually took on responsibility for representing the community and as a liaison group with the administration. The central staff was reorganized in July, and its name changed from "Civic Organizations" to "Block Managers Headquarters". Under this new arrangement, it organized the selection of a committee as spokesmen for Japanese Nationals, was concerned with many physical improvements within the center, held weekly meetings at which serious administrative officials appeared, and sponsored sending presents to Japanese prisoners of war. Evidence of the increasing importance of the Block Managers' organization was seen in its willingness to serve as a channel of communication for new policies and procedures arising as a result of opening of the West Coast.

STKIMBALL

2/14/45