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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON

January 25, 1943

Mr. L. E. Bennett
Project Director
Gila River Relocation Center
Rivers, Arizona

Attention: Dave Rogers

Dear Mr. Bennett:

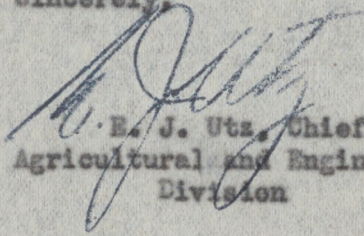
We have been receiving from time to time the Semi-monthly Crop Progress Report, the Foreman's Weekly Report, and the Tally-out Reports showing produce delivered to the warehouse. It will not be necessary to send us these reports in the future since the monthly report, Form WRA 123, if carefully prepared, gives us all the essential information. We want to continue to receive the invoices showing shipments to other centers.

The reports which you have sent us in the past on Form 123 have been very helpful. In some cases it may be desirable to divide the information for certain crops called for in part I of the report. For example, if part of the acreage of a certain crop was planted considerably later than the rest or differs widely in condition, estimated production, or harvesting date from the rest, it may be desirable to report this on a separate line. This should not be carried to extremes, however. Probably in but few cases should more than two or three lines be used for a particular crop unless there were a number of widely spaced succession plantings. In most cases only one line is needed.

As you have done in the past, it is well to include any additional narrative or statistical statements which will help give a clear and concise picture of the situation.

We therefore believe that the monthly reports, so prepared, together with the invoices of shipments to other centers, will furnish us with all the information we need.

Sincerely,

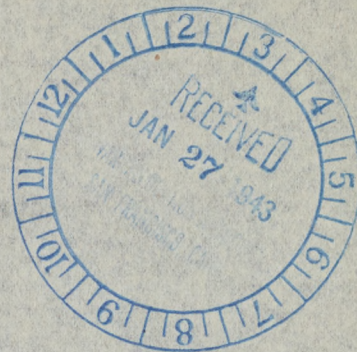

E. J. Utz, Chief
Agricultural and Engineering
Division



cc: R. B. Cozzens ✓



cc: B. B. Corbett



[Handwritten signature]

WASHINGTON
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Gila

Gila River Project
Rivers, Arizona

PDO

February 6, 1943

Provisional

AIR MAIL

Mr. Dillon S. Myer
Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Myer:

The attached letter is a direct confirmation of the fear I expressed in our San Francisco meeting regarding the mass movement of technical personnel in the hospital and other divisions of our organization to the net factory and from there to relocation.

With Doctor Furuta enlisting in the Army and the staff going to the net factory we would like to have immediate information as to what procedure we may follow to replace persons of long technical training. You will remember that it was suggested in the meeting, and I believe you were there, that some plan should be made to hold evacuee technical personnel as I felt very certain these important persons could not be replaced with appointed personnel because of the great demand for technicians. We discussed increased pay for such personnel, but no serious consideration was given to the problem.

We are confronted with the loss of the younger doctors to the Army, as well as Doctor Furuta who was in charge of the laboratory. I have no alternative but to permit the transfer of these people to the camouflage factory to earn money for relocation, unless some general plan is developed which will make it practical for them to stay in their present positions.

We will please discuss this matter with Doctor Thompson and see if some arrangement cannot be made to retain essential technical persons.

Sincerely yours,

L. H. Bennett
Project Director

Attachment

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
GILA RIVER PROJECT
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM
RIVERS, ARIZONA

Health Dept.

February 6, 1943

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. L. H. Bennett
Project Director

SUBJECT: Transfer of Medical Personnel to Camouflage
factory.

This morning I received a request from all key laboratory personnel to be released from the hospital department to go to the camouflage factory. Included in this group are Miss Fujii, our only licensed laboratory technician; Mr. Nakamura, who does all the serological work including the water and milk analyses which is essential to project sanitation; Mr. Fujihara, our only qualified chemist; the remaining personnel being laboratory assistants who have received various degrees of training under the aforementioned persons.

If these people are lost from the hospital, it will mean essentially the closing of our laboratory, since the persons remaining do not have qualifications to do the work, either accurately or satisfactorily. It is beyond me how we can give necessary medical care which the government wishes to provide, if these people are released from our department. It is not possible to replace these individuals with other evacuees, since the training is of a specialized type and takes many years to acquire.

The laboratory in medicine these days is as important as the surgery or any one of the wards. The health of the whole project population will suffer tremendously, if not disastrously, if we are forced to give up our laboratory facilities. My responsibility under such circumstances would be carried necessarily beyond any just limits of reason. I must, therefore, pass this responsibility into your hands.

I realize that the cause of these evacuees is entirely justified, but I do not feel that I should release them when I realize how seriously their going will affect the medical care of the evacuees. Inasmuch as I see no reason why all our doctors and nurses cannot do the same thing tomorrow if they desire to do so, this whole situation involves a question of policy and a

procedure of tremendous and far-reaching importance. Some policy must be adopted immediately in order to adequately control a medical situation which might develop to the utter detriment and disaster of the health of our evacuee population.

Inasmuch as the monetary value is the only reason why such specially trained individuals are going to the camouflage factory, the solution, it seems to me, lies in the adjustment of the wages of these individuals, so that they may be able to carry on with their present duties until such times as replacements for them can be found from other sources. In the meantime, the problem remains acute, and in my opinion, demands immediate action.

I would appreciate your reaction to this problem at the earliest possible moment.

/s/ Jack C. Sleath MD

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

RESTRICTED
FOR PERSONAL ATTENTION

Feb. 8, 1943

Mr. L. H. Bennett
Project Director
Gila River Relocation Center
Rivers, Arizona

Dear Mr. Bennett:

We have recently received information that at the Gila Center, and possibly at some other western centers, orders placed with the Quartermaster depots for beef have been filled with shipments of ham and bacon. This evidently indicates for the moment, at least, that ham and bacon are more plentiful in the markets in which our meats are purchased than is fresh beef.

We have, however, had such wide-spread and bitter criticism on the use of ham and bacon that we were obliged to issue an order on January 23 that no more ham and bacon be purchased.

We obviously cannot solve our public relations problem by reporting that the Army substituted ham and bacon for beef, if that is the case.

We should like to know, first, whether the information we have received on this point is correct. In the second place we would like to suggest that your Project Steward, Project Procurement Officer, or some other responsible representative of the center, take advantage of the first opportunity to talk over this problem with the Quartermaster Corps officers who handle our meat orders. On the one hand, the Quartermaster Corps has done an outstanding job of keeping the food moving into our centers at a time when it is not generally easy to procure. We do not wish to take the position which would discourage the Army's helpful attitude. On the other hand, we should try, by working with the Army representatives, to make substitutions where necessary which will not complicate our own public relations problem.

Please let us have your comments on this situation at your earliest convenience.

Very truly yours,

/s/ D. S. Myer
Director

GILA

CONFIDENTIAL

Memorandum

Date: 2/3/43

To: Mr. Barrows

From: P. H. MacLachlan

Mr. Harding received a Personal letter from Mr. Keadle, Gila and I thought you might be interested in a paragraph:

"Week before last, we were unable to get beef and what does the Quartermaster do but send us a carload of ham and bacon. Don't know what to do with all of it. I was in hopes of getting rid of it all before the Senator pays us a visit. But again, on February 5th, there was no beef and they are sending us another carload of ham. So what the hell are we doing to do if the Quartermaster sends it to us when beef is unavailable."

Also stated that food costs per person so far averages .34.

CONFIDENTIAL

Feb. 15, 1943

Gila

K162

Mr. L. H. Bennett
Project Director
Gila River Relocation Center
Rivers, Arizona

Dear Mr. Bennett:

I have your letter of February 6 relating to the use of mounted Internal Security Officers at your project. I was very much surprised at a portion of your recommendations in view of our discussions in San Francisco.

At that time I stated to you there would be no objection to the use of horses where they can be made available in patrolling the project. I do have a definite objection to your proposal that you hire a special force of administrative police to patrol administrative warehouses and the area occupied by appointed personnel. I think I stated at San Francisco, and, if not, I will state it here that if you cannot get the evacuees to accept a major responsibility for the protection of the whole project, including the warehouses, you will never be able to hire enough police, mounted or otherwise, to prevent stealing from these warehouses. The moment we assume full responsibility for this phase of the program, we put up a challenge to the evacuees which, in my opinion, is very dangerous. I can almost see the boys of high school age making a game out of dogging lariats in the warehouse area.

The employment of not more than 12 non-evacuee Internal Security Officers at your project is authorized under the present policies of the War Relocation Authority. This means that you would be authorized to employ not more than six or not less than three for each unit. These men, however, are to be employed for the purpose of recruiting, training and supervising an evacuee force and for the purpose of maintaining an adequate set of records, maintaining proper liaison under the supervision of the Project Director with the intelligence agencies, local and state civil authorities, and carrying out certain functions for which evacuee police may not be well adapted. The policy statement covering these points has been formulated within the last few days and I hope will be in the field within a week. I would suggest that you proceed under these policies rather than hire special guards for the warehouses and administrative quarters.

I note that you have asked for approval, in addition to the employment of nine patrolmen, for the purchase of night sticks and at some later time for the purchase of guns and tear gas bombs. I have no objection to the night sticks, but it is my opinion that the Military police patrolling the areas have all the tear gas bombs and guns that will be necessary at Gila River or any other relocation center.

Yours very truly,

/s/ D. S. Myer
Director

Gila

Chronological

FEB 15 1943

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. L. H. Bennett ✓
Project Director
Gila River Relocation Center
Rivers, Arizona

Dear Mr. Bennett:

I have your letter of February 6 with a copy of Dr. Sleath's memorandum to you of the same date relating to the transfer of medical personnel to the camouflage net factory.

7 Dr. Sleath's memorandum certainly confirms our judgments of some weeks ago relating to the unsoundness of having two rates of pay within War Relocation Centers. This memorandum would indicate that your project will be in continuous trouble if the camouflage net factory continues to operate on a large scale over a very long period. From the standpoint of the relations of WRA with the outside public and from the standpoint of the professional future of the technicians involved, I am convinced that a move from the laboratories and hospitals to the camouflage net factory would be almost fatal.

I realize that there is great temptation on the part of these professional people to move into the other field to make money to assist them in their relocation. On the other hand, if it became known generally that they were willing to jeopardize the health of the community because of their personal interests in times like these, their opportunity for outside relocation would be practically nil. Furthermore, it would be the type of thing WRA would never be able to explain to members of Congress or to many other people outside relocation centers.

It should be quite evident to you and Dr. Sleath that the cure for this problem is not increased wages for doctors and technicians. That would lead to a situation which would be much more impossible than the present one unless it were possible to increase everyone's wages. As you know, that is not possible under our present budget.

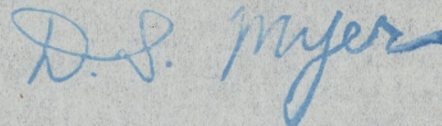
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and I doubt if it will be possible under our budget for the coming fiscal year. If these people insist upon resigning and taking positions in the camouflage net factory, I presume we should indicate to them what it might mean to them and the WRA, but not refuse them the opportunity if they still care to transfer.

In order to solve this problem, my only suggestion is that you recommend to us how many positions you will need to fill from Civil Service and what grades you wish to recommend for these positions. We will give consideration to your needs as soon as your recommendations are received.

It happens that Dr. Thompson is in the field at present, so it will not be possible to discuss the matter with him until he returns.

Sincerely,



Director

CC: Leland Barrows
John Provinse

DSMyer:FEW 2/15/43

FILE COPY

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON

February 18, 1943

*Gila
reports
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Air Mail

Mr. L. H. Bennett
Project Director
Gila River Relocation Center
Rivers, Arizona

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Enclosed is an advance copy of Administrative Instruction No. 14 (revised.) We are sending you this copy by air mail in advance of regular distribution in order that you may comply to the provisions relative to certain reports which are required by March first. These reports, as you will note, are: first, the report on the proposed crop production program and, second, the kind and amount of vegetables needed in addition to those grown on the area.

We have Mr. Korn's letter of January 25 in which he states that the proposed program which was prepared in this office and submitted to you with our letter of January 6, was satisfactory with the exception of the acreage of Chinese cabbage. It will not be necessary, therefore, for you to submit in full your vegetable production program for 1943. We would, however, like to know whether you have been able to make any further arrangements about obtaining Chinese cabbage seed.

The proposed schedule which we sent you did not include feed and other crops. We would, therefore, like for you to inform us as to the feed and other crops which you are planning to produce on the area this year.

It is necessary that you submit the report of the kinds and amounts of vegetables, by months, which you will need in addition to those produced on your area. You will recall that included with the schedule which we sent you on January 6 was our estimate of the total amount of produce which you might need from other areas. It is probable that this should be revised. Furthermore, these amounts were not broken down by months. Would you, therefore, please report this as called for in this Administrative Instruction? Since it is necessary that we make arrangements as soon as possible for this production on other areas, we will appreciate your report by March first.

Sincerely,

E. J. Utz
E. J. Utz, Chief
Agricultural and Engineering Division

cc: R. B. Cozzens ✓

Enclosure



*Gila
ag*

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON



[Handwritten signature]

cc: R. B. Cozzens



WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
WASHINGTON

109

MAR 23 1943

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

This will acknowledge your letter of March 4th and thank you for your population reports covering the month of February. The evacuee roster supplementing these reports has been received and it will help greatly in setting up our Master Locator File. I hope, also, that you can proceed promptly to prepare and submit to us admission and departure advices covering the period from the beginning of your project to February 1st.

We note that in the March 2 report you will transfer from the "General" category those evacuees volunteering for translator jobs in the Army last November and will thereafter include them under Item IV, 3. C., Vol. Armed Forces. This is in accordance with our intention.

With respect to evacuees whom you have transferred to hospitals, insane asylums, or county jails, please list these in Section IV under "short term" or "indefinite leaves" depending upon the character of leave permit which you have issued covering their cases. Please include an appropriate explanation under remarks. Section IV is intended to provide at all times an accurate summary of the number of evacuees who are not in actual residence each night at the Center.

Sincerely yours,

D. S. Myer

Director

cc to San Francisco



WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON

April 9, 1943

*Gila
reports
gen*

Mr. Leroy H. Bennett
Project Director
Gila River Relocation Center
Rivers, Arizona

Dear Mr. Bennett:

This will acknowledge your letter of April 2 advising us that you have received copies of the report forms sent you several days ago and verifying the number of copies of each form.

Because we are now revising these administrative report forms and expect to have the revised copies in your hands within the next few weeks, we have sent out all the old forms that we had left in our stock room. This accounts for the fact that the number of copies for the different forms varies to some extent. We sent only Part 1 of WRA Form 119 because Parts 2 and 3 are rather obsolete. We were short on Part 1 of Form 124 and Form 120 and Form 123 and if the new revised forms do not reach you by the end of this month it may be necessary to submit the April Report from these Division in type-written form. We shall, however, do our best to have at least some of the revised forms sent so as to reach you before the end of the month.

Sincerely yours

M. M. Tozier
Acting Chief
Office of Reports

cc: Mr. R. B. Cozzens, San Francisco ✓



WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Gila River Project
Rivers, Arizona

109

May 31, 1943

Mr. L. T. Hoffman
Acting Project Director
Gila River Project
Rivers, Arizona

Dear Mr. Hoffman:

The following report is a result of observations made during our visit to the Gila River Relocation Center, May 27 to 31 inclusive. It deals with the activities of the Procurement Section and its personnel.

Personnel

We were quite surprised to find that Mr. Caldwell had left and that the Procurement Section was now staffed as follows:

Mr. Herman Ott
Mr. Marlowe Bemis

We were also impressed by the fact that the establishment of a procurement office in Phoenix was no longer contemplated. These facts make it a very simple matter to staff your Procurement Unit in accordance with the allowable positions in the revised organization chart. From all appearances Mr. Ott is qualified and already cleared by Civil Service for appointment to the CAF-11 position. Mr. Bemis is also a natural for the CAF-7 position. This, of course, leaves a CAF-9 vacant and we would like to recommend that this position not be filled until we have visited Manzanar, Tule Lake and Central Utah Centers. We make this request because of the possibility that some of these centers may have to reduce its procurement personnel to conform to revised organization chart allowances and it is very probable that a good man can be procured for the CAF-9 position at Gila by transfer.

General Impression of the Procurement Sections' Operations.

It is apparent that Mr. Caldwell, his staff, and



RBC

P.M.

his immediate superior were well versed in good procurement practices and as a result, the type of documents turned in were in especially good order. The detail so often missing in procurement documents, was entered and adequate registers for their location and follow-up are being maintained. The attitude of the present procurement personnel is especially commendable in that they are not "set" in their ways, but realize that procurement during war times is a constantly changing business and that procedures will, from time to time, need to be changed to meet varying conditions. Administrative Instruction 42 (revised) has been written to provide ways and means of carrying out the present procurement policy of the War Relocation Authority which emphasizes:

1. Requisitioning and purchase through other Agencies of the Government as much as possible and the minimum of local purchasing.

At the present time, your center is not utilizing the other agencies as much as possible, but a gradual switch to CAS for administrative supplies is noted. Of course, the Quartermaster and Market Center of the Army have been used for all subsistence purchases for some time, and it is strongly recommended that full advantage be taken of our opportunities to procure other operating and maintenance supplies in the same manner through appropriate agencies. In order to assure successful operation when buying through other Government Agencies, it is essential that the Center adopt a policy of:

Advance Requisitioning

This plan places a dual responsibility upon the procurement section because it calls for purchase control as well as acquisition. The procurement section will need the full support of the administrative staff to bring about the preparation of advance requisitions, by Division Heads, for all staple items. Administrative Instruction 42 (revised) suggests a method of approaching this problem, and it is strongly recommended that some system be established to carry out its intended purpose.

Priorities

Apparently the application of priority ratings is well under control insofar as procurement is concerned.

We have made no attempt to check upon the use of materials obtained by the applying of ratings. It is strongly advised that the Public Works Division continue to control the ratings granted on P-19-h certificates for specific PD-200 construction jobs. We believe that Mr. Taylor is very well versed on this subject and his interpretation of L-41 and other limitation orders should be solicited before any construction not specifically authorized is under-taken. The procurement section should, however, continue to keep the records on ratings applied.

The system of applying ratings for the purchase of Maintenance, Repair and Operating Supplies is due for a change July 1, 1943 and instructions for getting these items will be issued by the Washington Office before that date. The Procurement Section should take full responsibility for the control and recording of all priority ratings from Maintenance, Repair and Operating Supplies.

Records

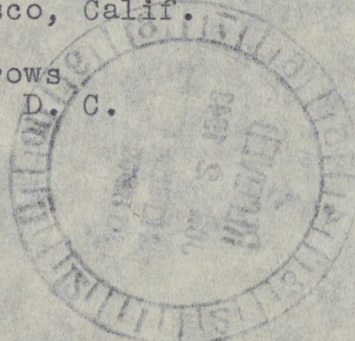
The system of Registers and Control Cards that are being maintained on requisitions, purchase orders, contracts, GEL's and priorities are especially good and the administrative personnel and procurement staff are to be commended on setting up and maintaining a system which is consistent with good procurement practices and Washington Office instructions.

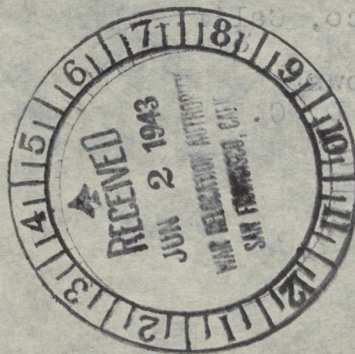
Very truly yours,

Hall Stenz
Procurement Officer

cc: R. B. Cozzens ✓
San Francisco, Calif.

Leland Barrows
Washington, D. C.





San Francisco, Cal.
J. E. Corcoran
Deputy Director
Washington, D. C.

CONFIDENTIAL

AIR MAIL

GILA
June 8, 1943
R. R. R. R.
<4>

Mr. Dillon S. Myer
Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Myer:

Yesterday Mr. Terry and I called upon Governor Osborn, State Corporation Commission, Attorney General, United States Attorney, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and G-2. We discussed four problems: (1) the subject of relocation in Arizona and the attitude of the Governor's Committee; (2) the order of the State Corporation Commission rescinding its permit for the Gila River Cooperative; (3) the new law covering transactions with Japanese within the state of Arizona; and (4) the opinion of investigating agencies as to our conduct at Gila River and subversive activities within the Center.

We stated to Governor Osborn that the newspaper publicity placed by his Committee indicating that large numbers of evacuees were being released for employment in Arizona is erroneous; that we had permitted only nine evacuees indefinite leave, of whom five were domestics and two were on farms as laborers. In addition, twenty-two had been released on seasonal leave to Glendale; these are required to return at the end of the season. The Governor stated that he had been informed that hundreds were entering Arizona and asked how this could be in the face of our statement. We then told him the only other way the evacuees could enter Arizona, except through leave from Gila River and Poston, was when citizens on indefinite leave went to an eastern state and returned to Arizona. We also stated that we doubted if our records indicated any such cases from Gila River. The Governor said that he had an agreement with Mr. Eisenhower by which there were to be no more Japanese in Arizona than were residents before the war. He gave us a long story on the difficulties that state had had with Japanese over a number of years; he said that he felt the law enforcement officials within the state could not cope with the violence which would develop if more Japanese were allowed to stay within the state. He further said that your letters to him on the subject of his agreement with Mr. Eisenhower were not satisfactory and he believed that you should clarify your understanding of that agreement. He further stated that his Committee was non-political (he did not say that it was all vegetable growers) and contended that the Committee was only working for the good of Arizona and was trying to avoid incidents which would lead to violence. After more than an hour's conversation, we assured him that until there was some further clarification we would not issue any more indefinite leaves for Arizona, nor would we issue any seasonal leaves.

He asked that we very carefully consider all publicity given to the subject of release of the disloyal and the changes from "no" to "yes" answers. We assured him that we had not allowed anyone to leave who had answered "no" to the loyalty question and if we do so in the future we will be very careful that any such evacuee is doubly investigated as to past record and his present attitude. Therefore, I have asked our Employment Division and Leave Section to be extremely careful, not only about the release of anyone who may have answered "no" but about everyone else. This may slightly slow down relocation, but unless you feel my attitude is wrong, I will proceed

on the basis of safety.

Finally the Governor agreed to send the Chairman and Secretary of his Committee to Rivers for a discussion of the entire matter. We asked that after this discussion--in fairness to the War Relocation Authority and the Japanese--and before any stories were published the Committee be required to check with us as to the authenticity of the data contained in the stories. We brought out the fact that these incorrect stories and undemocratic attitudes were broadcast to Japan and injured Americans over there. We believe we accomplished at least a better understanding with the Governor and that we will be able to do some good with his Committee.

On the second point Mr. Terry is writing Mr. Glick quite fully. The Governor's opinion was that the Commission pulled this as a political stunt. It looks that way to us as they issued the order on a Saturday noon; did not sign it; left and city; and instructed the stenographer who was to make mimeograph copies that there was no hurry about completing them. They will not return until Friday, June 11. We read the order and its villification of the War Relocation Authority and Japanese beginning with Pearl Harbor. They did bring out some very damaging statements presumed to be evidence from a transcript of testimony of Ralph Merritt indicating that he was urging changes from "no" to "yes". There were also many others. The Governor and the Corporation Commissioners are not friends; the Attorney General was not consulted and the whole matter looked like a publicity stunt. Through Mr. Flynn, the United States Attorney, we secured the name of a prominent lawyer who stands high with the Federal Court under whose jurisdiction it will be heard if we have to go into court.

Under the new law restricting transactions with Japanese, the Committee has been approaching all kinds and sizes of merchants indicating that fines will be assessed where the law is infringed upon; this is so wide-spread that it is almost impossible for a Japanese to purchase anything in nearby towns, and in addition has built up resentment towards the Japanese on the part of clerks, service employees, et cetera. After talking to the Attorney General, Mr. Terry asked the Governor to have the Attorney General render an opinion on three points contained in the law; this the Governor agreed to do as we took the position that the intent of the law was to restrict the purchase of property, such as residences and farm land and not to completely eliminate the purchase of small items, such as yard goods, furniture, et cetera. In talking with Mr. Flynn about this subject he stated that it was just a part of the Committee's action which was, of course, controlled by the vegetable growers.

Because there is a possibility that I may be called before the Dies Committee we were interested to learn how the investigating agencies felt towards Gila River and to determine whether or not in their opinion investigation of subversive activities within the centers was their responsibility. Mr. Coulter, Investigator in Charge of the Phoenix office, agreed that investigative work was their responsibility and that our function was merely to cooperate with them and supply such information as we might collect. He further stated that we had cooperated and that he knew of no reason why the Federal Bureau of Investigation should have any complaint about our staff or its actions.

We then talked to Major Hughes of G-2 and received the same opinion. The point was brought out, however, that the responsibility for the loyalty of Japanese we released on indefinite or seasonal leave was our responsibility;;

this, of course, we knew but we wanted it repeated. We assured Mr. Coulter that we would use every means to determine the eligibility for leave before permitting any evacuee to go out from Gila River.

Finally, let me say that the temperature of Arizona climatically is becoming very warm and the attitude of the people is steaming at even a higher rate. Unless otherwise directed we are going to be very careful and conservative for the next few weeks as we believe by following a conservative program we will improve public opinion and discredit some of the uninformed who are making derogatory and destructive statements.

Sincerely yours,

L. H. Bennett
Project Director

Gila River Project
Rivers, Arizona

PDO

AIR MAIL

CONFIDENTIAL

June 17, 1943

Mr. Dillon S. Myer
Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Myer:

This letter will comment upon the letter written to Colonel Scobey by an undisclosed person on this Project.

When Colonel Scobey was here he was very complimentary and friendly with the Japanese veterans, and according to Dr. J. T. Koseki, who worked in the cutting room of the net factory, he asked him to write direct if he learned of any difficulties within the net factory.

On May 6 Doctor Koseki wrote a letter directly to Colonel Scobey and had the letter typed by Gilpin Sessions; copies were made for Harold H. Burton, United States Senator from Ohio, the "Fox" who is a Mr. Windwell, Safety Engineer for USED at the net factory, Gilpin S. Sessions, and Robert A. LaBaron, who was formerly our Reports Officer and who made the bad statements at the Senate hearing. A copy was finally sent to the Dies Committee on May 17. According to Doctor Koseki the only copy he sent was to Colonel Scobey. The responsibility for the others apparently lies with Sessions. We are attaching a copy of the letter.

When we questioned Doctor Koseki about the letter he stated that the day he wrote it he was very much depressed about the politics among the net factory workers. When asked why he did not report such things to the Administration he stated "I didn't think about it."

The USED Engineer refused to permit Mr. Sessions to enter the net factory area and brought Windwell into this office where he was questioned; he absolutely denied any association with Sessions or with Doctor Koseki. The USED Engineer then told him to "mind his own business."

Regarding the unsigned part of the communication, you will remember that I had copies of the letter and the unsigned portion in Washington and you reviewed them.

3 - Mr. Dillon S. Myer

Under paragraph No. 1, it is true that an effort was being made to require the net workers to pay a larger percentage of earnings to the community fund. The amount requested by the Council was 35 percent not 50 percent; the amount actually paid to the community was very much less than 35 percent.

Under paragraph No. 2, neither Hossman or Marx were employed by us as regular employees; Mendel Lieberman, as you know is no longer here; Mr. Hoffman actually organized the veterans group and was its original head (he is not a communist); Morton J. Gaba is gone, but Mr. Wolter is by no stretch of the imagination a communist. Of all the allegations made by Doctor Koseki regarding the Administration not wanting to work with the Legion, Colonel Scobey, of course, knows this is incorrect as we probably pointed to the veterans during both of his visits here. We did object to some of their actions during the registration as we had very definite information that in some cases they were urging evacuees to answer "no" to the loyalty question. We could produce evidence to substantiate this statement.

Regarding paragraph No. 3, as you know, Harry Miyake was constantly working for the good of the Center. His only interest in the net factory was the fact that under the higher wage scales paid it was creating ill feeling on the part of some of the community. With this you are personally familiar.

On paragraph No. 4, the case of Wada who was lost on the desert presented a rather difficult problem. Miyake asked me if he could have trucks and 100 workers to search for Wada. I agreed to this, but instead of organizing 100 workers, Miyake mustered almost everyone in the Center, including net factory employees who were allowed to go by Mr. Reynolds. When I heard of the situation I called Miyake in and very severely criticized him, with the result he went out and returned a great many of the people to their jobs.

As I wrote you the other day, we have checked Sessions with the FBI, ONI, and G-2; all of whom feel about him the same way we do. In addition they do not feel there is any special subversive activities in Rivers and have either written or expressed their responsibility for knowledge of subversive activities here.

This morning the Dies Committee has announced over the radio that Rivers is the worst Center from a standpoint of subversive activities.

The court reporter who took the testimony for the Dies Committee has stated to Mr. Terry and me that the only adverse testimony given the investigators was made by Sessions and Koseki.

Sincerely yours,

L. H. Bennett, Project Director

Attachment

Office of Secretary of War
Washington, D. C.

Dear Colonel Scobey:

When you were visiting here in February you instructed me to let you know the name of any person or persons who said anything against the Camouflage Net Factory or who tried to keep it from operating.

Since that time very much has happened. Certain individuals whose names will appear later have opposed the Camouflage Net Factory and worse than that large groups of men who no doubt are guided by Tokyo influence have openly and boldly voted to ask that the Camouflage Net Factory be closed. They have intimidated Japanese who have been working at the Camouflage Net Factory and they have gone so far as to bring political pressure on Caucasians who are apparently not brave enough or loyal enough to oppose their political pressure.

These men who are opposed to our War effort were very quiet when the F.B.I. took twenty-eight agitators from our Camps. But little by little they became bolder and bolder and they put in tricky Oriental politics on these Caucasian Officials of the Camps who either do not understand the indirection of Oriental pressure action or who do not care to be honest and bold in defiance of the Pro-Axis Saboteur.

As you know I am Commander of the local ex-Service Mens' Club. I am a Christian. I am an American of Japanese ancestry, born in Japan and educated both in Japan and in the United States. My college work is all American. I remind you of this so that you will know that I understand both the indirection of Oriental politics as well as the American political situation here.

I work constantly with a Caucasian friend, a former officer with our armies in Europe who lived with Japanese for years and with me understands these round about ways that the Pro-Axis politicians use that it seems they do not realize that they are being duped.

Please, Colonel Scobey, do you have a man who understands these things also who can see thru these tricks like I do and realize that they are all for the purpose of ruining the War Effort.

The presence of the disloyal Evacuees with the loyal workers is every minute a source of uncertainty and potential sabotage. The disloyal on the least excuse say "lets go home"; this is almost a continual chant and finally it influences many others. There have

been several occasions when the workers have quit due to influence when they should have stayed and worked.

On a separate sheet is a list of names and series of events which has led to serious loss at the Camouflage Net Factory and which is not corrected will soon lead to a complete breakdown of our Net Factory.

When Camouflage Net Factory loses a days work, it means that there is a loss of one million square feet of nets. This would mean protection for perhaps a thousand soldiers or many Batteries of American lives. I am a soldier and I keep these things always in mind and so do the Comrades who work with me. It makes us very despondent when we see politicians give in to tricky Pro-Axis groups and when from any cause our Camouflage Net Factory is not running full strength.

I am an Evacuee and I have been and am still doing all that I can to counteract the influence of the Pro-Axis power in this Camp. No matter what the American politicians may tell you, the Pro-Axis power is stronger than the average American realizes. Records of this fact are listed by the score in the files of the Secret Service of the United States, the F.B.I. OWI and army Intelligence. I do now know if they would let you see them but they are there. I have myself worked on and made reports which prove my statements. Other Comrades have worked on them too.

I am writing you this letter because I have used every way I know to get help for the full time operation of the Camouflage Net Factory. I have given these thoughts each one to a friend who has typed this letter for me and has helped me in the English construction of it.

Thank you for any help you may give to keep the Camouflage Net Factory operating and help us win the War.

Sincerely,

Dr. J. T. Koseki

COPIES:

Captain Harold H. Burton, U S Senator from Ohio and Veteran
from France and Belgium.

"The Fox" U.S.E.D. Safety Engineer Camouflage Plant.

Gilpin S. Sessions, Old Soldier from France Belgium.

Dr. Koseki, File

Mr. R. A. LeBaron, OWI Old soldier from Europe in World War I
Dies Committee at Rivers Hearing 5/17/43

T E L E T Y P E

Rivers, Arizona
June 23, 1943

TWX PHX 90/ Relay War Relocation Authority Wa/

Dillon S. Myer
Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington, D. C.

Retel June 23, Provincie. Total war bonds
and stamps purchased all ^{evacuees} ~~residents~~ since in-
ception of Center, \$10,925.00

LHB Bennett
L. H. Bennett

cc: Consens
San Francisco

RHc



Handwritten signature or initials, possibly "J. H. ..."

Handwritten initials or mark, possibly "J. H. ..."

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Gila River Project

Rivers, Arizona

TELETYPE

June 30, 1943

Dillon S. Myer, Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington, D. C.

Attention: John H. Provine

Reurtel June 26 evacuee personnel April 1st judo 7,
sumo 11, engelkai 14. Reduced to 2 each judo and sumo and 4 for
engelkai as of July 1st. No kendo. No other expenditure except
small lumber purchase for sumo pit. Buddhist priests 5 in Butte,
3 Canal.

L. T. Hoffman
Acting Project Director

HWWolter:ey

cc: Cozzens ✓





GILA RIVER PROJECT
RIVERS, ARIZONA

PDO

189
General
File

Mr. Dillon S. Myer, Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington, D. C.

JUL 5 1943

Attention: Mr. John H. Province

Dear Mr. Myer:

In response to Mr. Province's letter of June 9 and in line with our previous organization plan, we have combined the library services at Gila under the direction of our trained librarian. In general, the community library will have modern fiction, current periodicals, newspapers and such reference books which are not in use in the high school. The high school library will restrict itself to the books required for their courses. The Adult Education Library will be combined with the community library and closely coordinated with the newly begun Relocation Library.

All of these facilities will have a cross index of technical books and a title and author cross reference of all others. In this way, the community library at Canal may be called upon to furnish books to the Butte High School, for example, and vice versa. The spirit of cooperation is excellent, and although the work involved is of long duration, we hope to have the complete set-up running smoothly with all indexing done sometime during the summer.

In line with Administrative Instruction No. 73, we have also reduced our Community Activities staff for judo, sumo, goh, shogi and similar activities to one supervisor in each camp. We are at the present time, trying to establish a branch of the Cooperative Services to handle the instruction in these subjects and instruction in classical dance or other purely hobby or cultural groups. Very small charges will be made in order to pay for the instructors. The Community Activities Section will maintain a supervisor for this work and the Community Activities Executive Committee plus one member of the present Cooperative Board will, I hope, constitute the Cooperative Committee in charge of this branch of activities cooperatives.

As you no doubt know, the establishment of such new services requires a tremendous amount of time and background work. This arrangement considerably reduces our staff on Community Activities. We also plan to have all activities in which finances are involved such as movies, dances, etc. supervised by the Cooperative Committee. You will be interested to know

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that the majority of these suggestions have come from the members of the board themselves and they are now "carrying the ball." I am very proud of their cooperative spirit.

No doubt you have heard about the medical and safety situation in the community. At the present time, we are planning and putting into operation, a block nurse program in various sections of the community where the members sometimes meet at the Block Managers' office, in a corner of a recreation hall, or in an apartment. We are planning to set up first aid stations which will be serviced by trained people 24 hours of the day. The locations will be so staggered that each set-up will take care of approximately three or four blocks. They will be supplied with such equipment and supervision which will make it unnecessary for the large number of cuts, bruises, and some of the chronic cases to make the trip to the Out Patient Department. You will remember that our Out Patient load has averaged something like 6,000 patients per month. I believe we can reduce this to somewhere in the neighborhood of 2,000 and then begin toward developing a more closely coordinated hospital plan.

One of the positions which is assigned to the Community Management Division after July 1st causes me considerable concern. I would very much appreciate a statement of the functions of that office and the extent of its authority. The present encumbering of the position here gives every indication of needing strong supervision and until I know what it is about, I feel very much at a loss. If I understand it correctly, a false move on his part might jeopardize our relations in many ways. He is at the present time in California working out some sort of a deal on disposing of farm property. Am I correct in assuming that the Property Officer shall not engage directly in such transactions, but shall try to act as a contact person for the seller and the buyer? Inasmuch as he represents the government, I feel that should he try to engineer direct sales, he would be making the government responsible for something which it should have little or nothing to do with.

The Juvenile Guidance Council which we have been working on for some time is, in my opinion, operating very smoothly. The cooperation is excellent. I am looking forward to one other step in our youth work--a step similar to that of the Boys' Junior Republic, but I am not optimistic that this can be worked out before fall. It has not been until recently that leadership has been voluntarily coming forward and offering its services.

I also have a letter from Mr. Baker in regard to the Boys and Girls Week and am happy to report that the celebration was gratifying beyond my greatest expectations. The baseball game between the University of Arizona and the Canal All-Stars had to be cancelled because of transportation difficulties and that was the only reason for its cancellation.

We are planning a tremendous Fourth of July celebration for the Butte community and a smaller one for Canal. The enthusiastic response of the young people is very indicative of the spirit of the entire community. In fact, if segregation were authorized and we could remove a few of the present residents, we could safely say that Gila River is an All-American project.

Dr. Young
I have turned over to Dr. Walter much of the work involved in the Yes and No answers on the Army Questionnaire. We are trying to do a triple job on that; first, to indicate whether the request is justified; second, whether the request is purely opportunistic for purposes of leave; and third, whether the refusal of such a request is also a recommendation for Segregation. The reports to the national director will include a complete stenographic report of the hearings, a summary of the opinions of the committee, and a recommendation for further action.

We have also received your curriculum bulletin entitled, "Education for Relocation." We have recently sent in our chart requesting the position of Assistant Superintendent of Education. We wish particularly to have Dr. George F. Young take over the educational program for relocation in coordination with the Adult Education program. This is a big job and because of limitations of the Employment Office staff, I feel that we need a very strong person to direct it. I feel positive that Dr. Young is a valuable asset to the project, gets along well with people, and can take a very progressive point of view for the re-education, retraining and personal development of every person in the center.

We have a Relocation Committee working in line with the instructions from Washington and will send reports to you from time to time. They will very shortly make a report on the family distribution and requirements for relocation. Enclosed is a chart of the family distribution in both Butte and Canal communities. You will notice that a large majority of the families have four or more members and that resettlement on a family basis is our greatest problem.

We are looking forward with great expectations to the arrival of our Medical Social Worker. I sincerely hope that she has psychiatric training. There are definite indications that the process of evacuation and the present difficulties have thrown many people off balance. Unless we plan constructively, I am afraid that we will be sending a considerable number of people to mental institutions.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

L. T. Hoffman
Acting Project Director

HWalter:ao
cc: Cozzens ✓

TOTAL NUMBER OF APARTMENTS IN EACH DIMENSIONAL GROUP

NUMBER OF OCCUPANTS IN EACH OF THESE VARIOUS SIZED UNITS

TOTAL: occupied
3 5 1 1 1 7 2 136 480 41 7 109 28 206 18 8 1053

EVACUEE HOUSING-----CANAL COMMUNITY-----May 1943

#933

TOTAL NUMBER OF APARTMENTS IN EACH DIMENSIONAL GROUP

NUMBER OF OCCUPANTS IN EACH OF THESE VARIOUS SIZED UNITS

| | | N O. O F. B E A M S | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----|-------------------------------|----|----|----|---|---|----|----|-----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|---|-----|-------|--|
| | | 13 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7½ | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4½ | 4 | 3½ | 3 | 2½ | 2 | 1½ | Total | |
| O C C U P A N T S | 13 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| | 12 | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| | 11 | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | |
| | 10 | 1 | 2 | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | 5 | |
| | 9 | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | | 5 | | | | | | | | | | 9 | |
| | 8 | | | | | | 2 | | 21 | 2 | | | | | | | | | 25 | |
| | 7 | | | | 1 | | 3 | 1 | 26 | 22 | | | | | | | | | 53 | |
| | 6 | | | | | | | | 33 | 114 | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | 149 | |
| | 5 | | | | | | | | 27 | 182 | 3 | | 4 | | 1 | | | | 217 | |
| | 4 | | | | | | | 1 | 19 | 121 | 22 | 7 | 32 | | 6 | 7 | | | 215 | |
| 3 | | | | | | | | 4 | 30 | 15 | | 49 | 18 | 77 | | 1 | | 194 | | |
| 2 | | | | | | | | | 8 | | | 21 | 4 | 113 | 14 | 5 | | 165 | | |
| 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | | 8 | 4 | 2 | | 16 | | |

TOTAL: occupied

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|-----|----|---|-----|----|-----|----|---|--|--|--|------|
| 3 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 136 | 480 | 41 | 7 | 109 | 28 | 206 | 18 | 8 | | | | 1053 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|-----|----|---|-----|----|-----|----|---|--|--|--|------|

NUMBER OF OCCUPANTS IN EACH OF THREE VARIOUS SIZED UNITS
 TOTAL NUMBER OF APARTMENTS IN EACH DIMENSIONAL GROUP
 TAVOITE HOUSING---GENERAL COMMUNITY---1943

443

| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | 72 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 79 | 80 | 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 86 | 87 | 88 | 89 | 90 | 91 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 | 97 | 98 | 99 | 100 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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August 10, 1943

Conversation With Bennett

Bennett called, said he was very anxious to get intouch with Colonel Fiero and to be sure to let him know what his plans are, if we hear.

Bennett is quite upset about the Budget - says that they had cut out a number of positions and left them short. He said he had just written a letter to Mr. Cozzens explaining at length about Waterhouse; he said he could not hire him except on a temporary basis because of lack of funds.

Bennett is anxious to see Bob about several matters in the near future. He would like to know what Bob's plans are and whether there is any chance that he is coming down to Gila, or would it be convenient if Bennett came up here. He plans to drive over to Los Angeles soon with the Terrys. He might be able to come up here from Los Angeles on the train.

Philip J. Webster

Handwritten signature

TELETYPE

109
Rivers, Arizona
August 14, 1943

Teletype Message No. _____

TWX PX 90/RELAY TO WRA WA/

Dillon S. Myer
War Relocation Authority
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Duncan Mills

Reurtel of August 10th. Following is the information
you requested.

Number of meals served during June is 1,195,792 and for
the month of July 1,229,897.

Estimated point requirements for period of September 1
through October 31 on processed foods are 132,000 points, for
meats 1,579,108 points, and for sugars 52,200 pounds.

Unable to give estimated point value of meats to be
slaughtered until slaughter permit is granted. We have suffi-
cient supply of beef and approximately 5,000 pounds of pork to
be slaughtered weekly.

L. H. Bennett

L. H. Bennett
Project Director

cc: Cozzens ✓



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AUG 16 1954

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AUG 16 1954
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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WASHINGTON, D.C.

Cogener ✓ 109

August 19, 1943

Leroy H. Bennett, Project Director
Gila River Relocation Center
Rivers, Arizona

Dear Mr. Bennett:

May I express my sincere appreciation for the many courtesies and the excellent cooperation which I received from you and your staff during my recent visit to the Gila River Relocation Center. I feel that the discussions in connection with the inspection of the various phases of the work in the Operations Division were helpful in clarifying many of the issues, and, I believe, in offering a solution for those problems. While my visit was really too short to go as thoroughly into some of the questions as would have been desirable, I think we did hit the high spots, and were able to cover most of the problems that were perplexing the staff. This letter will be in the form of a discussion and confirmation of the conclusions which we reached, and such follow-up work as I have been able to accomplish since returning to Washington.

One of the items which was concerning a number of the Operations sections was the question of evacuee labor. The quota of positions which had been set up for your center reduced the number of evacuee positions very considerably. In discussing the number of men needed in the agricultural phase of the work, Mr. Rogers and Mr. Doucha agreed to make an analysis of the minimum requirements, in order to carry on the agricultural program. Since returning to Washington, I have received a copy of Mr. Rogers' analysis, and find that the minimum number of workers required was only slightly above that set up in the schedule of employment for the center. I think Mr. Rogers has made a good analysis of this work, and would consider the 680 men which he has shown as the minimum number necessary entirely in line.

I have discussed the question with the people working up the quotas in this office, and they are agreeable to the modest increase which is suggested. This number, of course, includes quite a few men who are actually doing construction work on the livestock buildings, so that as far as the farm is concerned, the original number was really somewhat in excess of Mr. Rogers' analysis. The ten per cent so-called emergency employment is intended to meet your needs in agriculture over and above this minimum number.

In checking over the budget figures which have been submitted to each of the centers, I find that no provision was made in the budget for the employment of this ten per cent emergency labor group. I understand also that this allotment of these funds will be made immediately to each of the project directors, so that they may

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administer, from the project director's office, the use of this emergency labor. Ten per cent on your center would amount to approximately 420 men, which would be sufficient in the peak periods to bring the number up to the 1084 men which Mr. Rogers indicates he needs during the height of the harvest season.

It was my recommendation, in discussing this question with Mr. Douche, Mr. Rogers, and others, that your construction work utilize as much of this labor pool as possible during the next two months when the agricultural work is at a minimum. During December and January, which I understand is the peak period for harvesting, most of the labor pool will be available for crop production. Naturally Divisions other than the Operations Division will at times require a certain amount of the emergency labor. However, it was anticipated that the bulk of this labor would be needed within the Operations Division throughout the year. The purpose of not dividing the funds for this emergency labor group among the various Divisions was to give the project director an opportunity to utilize this additional labor where it was most needed within the relocation area.

I also discussed the labor situation in connection with the making of the ship models, and find that there was no intention of actually limiting the personnel in this shop. Consequently the number of persons to be employed in this work has been raised from 29 to 50, which is slightly above the number employed there at the present time. If orders are received and materials available so that a larger number than this can be effectively employed, it is the intention to approve an increase in employees up to whatever number can be effectively used.

While we are on the question of Industry, your recent telephone call indicated that Mr. Julius was not returning to the project. You will recall that I reviewed the Form 57 for a new man which you had under consideration, and indicated that his experience would be entirely satisfactory for such a position. In the meantime, we have been requested by your office to indicate such approval. I asked Mr. Duncan Mills, Personnel Officer, to wire the project approval on the strength of my review of the candidate's papers.

A wire was received requesting assistance in the purchase of wire brads and brass wire for the ship model shop. This has been referred to the Training Aids Section of the Bureau of Naval Personnel, and they have promised to procure these items immediately, and have them delivered to the project at the earliest possible moment. No request has yet been received from your project relative to bandsaw blades and certain other items which the shop foreman indicated were badly needed, and which your procurement people had been unable to purchase in the local markets. I would appreciate having information as to whether or not the glue and wood have been received. I asked Lieutenant Atchley to follow up on the orders as soon as I returned to Washington, but have had no word as to whether the materials have been received or not.

Lieutenant Atchley informs me that they hope your project can proceed promptly with the orders which have been placed. Certain other

models, orders for which they will submit very shortly, may need to take precedence over the original order, because of the urgent need in the Training Aids Section. Work should proceed, however, on the present order until Lieut. Atchley requests some other priority in production.

I was glad to see your administrative housing nearing completion, and hope that progress will not be impeded. I feel that it is very essential to have as large a number of the staff housed on the center as possible. Completion of the livestock buildings, particularly the poultry and hog buildings, should be effected at an early date. The small amount of labor required for this work should make it possible to secure such completion in the very near future.

I presume that by this time the packing shed is nearing completion. After discussion with both Mr. Doucha and the agricultural staff, it was decided not to build the loading platform at Serape, but rather to use the present warehouse built by the Engineers at the siding as both a loading and unloading platform. Some remodelling of the warehouse will also permit the building to be used for short-time storage of either incoming or outgoing shipments. A certain amount of grading, together with some road construction, will be required to give ready access to the warehouse building. It probably will be advisable to extend the one end of the platform forty or fifty feet in order to give an opportunity for some direct loading. A minor amount of grading along the track would also allow direct loading and unloading from cars to your trucks.

One problem in connection with the use of this warehouse was the lack of any type of lighting facilities. It was the opinion of your staff that gasoline lanterns would be very satisfactory if such could be obtained, or the possible installation of a small lighting plant if one could be found on surplus. In looking over the surplus list on my way back from visiting your project, I found that your project had on the surplus list eleven generators for Coleman lamps, as well as a portable lighting plant, electric, with Diesel power plant, six horsepower, 850 revolutions. I am wondering if this piece of equipment is still on the project, and if it is, it might be installed in the warehouse and used as a temporary lighting setup rather than to extend the electric power line approximately a quarter of a mile to the warehouse.

Since returning to Washington, I have been unable to secure any more information as to whether or not the camouflage net buildings have been actually transferred to you. I presume, however, that the transfer will eventually be effected. I made several recommendations to Mr. Doucha relative to the use of these buildings for equipment shops, agricultural warehouses, and the like. While these buildings will provide a very considerable amount of space, remodelling should be kept to a minimum consistent with the uses to which they are to be put. I do not believe it will be necessary to do any remodelling on the particular building which will be used for the housing of agricultural equipment. The one to be used for seeds and livestock feed will need to be enclosed, in order to protect the seed and feed from the elements and against any possible thievery.



The two buildings which are proposed to be used as garage and equipment shops will need to be enclosed and adequately protected. I believe that careful analysis should be made of the amount of space required, particularly for offices, parts room, and the like, and no more space used than is actually needed. The cutting shed can be used for maintenance building, carpenter, plumbing and electrical shop. The one toilet building will make a very satisfactory dispatcher's office, and probably could also house the cost accounts and records unit. The large sixty by four hundred foot warehouse should be adequate to house mess operations, much of your general warehouse property, and allow a considerable balance for the housing of construction and maintenance materials.

A WPB-617 should be submitted at the earliest possible date covering the changes to be made in all of these buildings. In submitting your justification for this remodelling, be sure to indicate the particular new construction which will not be required as a result of remodelling the camouflage net buildings. Include in this list also such buildings as the warehouses now being used for the ship model work, for dehydration, and the like, which we can assume, I believe, would have required new construction had the warehouses not been made available through the use of the camouflage net buildings.

Mr. Doucha and I discussed the addition to the fire house at Butte Camp with Mr. Mauser, Fire Protection Officer. Mr. Mauser had developed plans for a sizable addition to the equipment stalls which would require substantial rebuilding of the whole front of the building and the installation of a sewer in front of the fire house. Mr. Doucha and I suggested a small extension on each side of the equipment stalls, which would permit the installation of doors, but would retain the present truck floor space and approach to the building. We recommended that the office be continued in the present dormitory extension, and that a new dormitory be built, approximately twenty by twenty-five or thirty feet, which would give adequate dormitory space for two companies. We believe that this type of remodelling would be satisfactory and adequate, and would cost approximately one half as much as the plan previously proposed.

In connection with the hog and poultry buildings, I would recommend the elimination of one of the warehouses at the hog farm, elimination of the colony type farrowing house, and that this material saved from these two buildings be used to build additional A-type farrowing pens at the hog house, and to build one additional laying house at the poultry plant. I believe that this will give you a much more effective livestock plant, with greater capacity, and at no additional cost.

Considering the difficulties which you are having in maintaining construction equipment, and the limited funds available for the employment of temporary personnel, I recommended the contracting of some of the work on your road to Serape. Since my return to Washington, I understand you have requested approval for contracting of the balance of this road construction in order to permit its completion before cold weather sets in. Due to the fact that the major part of this job is an equipment rather than a labor problem, I believe we are justified in handling this work on a

contract basis. It is my understanding that approval has been granted to contract the job.

It will be necessary, however, before you can advertise or enter into a contract, to have a wage determination from the War Labor Board, which will probably require at least ten days. Even though you enter into a contract for the completion of the highway, I would like to recommend that every effort be made to secure a tractor mechanic to put your broken-down equipment into operating condition, since it is so badly needed on both the farm and other construction and maintenance work. I have discussed this question with the Personnel Section, and they are investigating at present the possibility of employing a man in an unallocated permanent position, which would enable you to pay prevailing wages for this type of work. I believe that journeyman linemen are now being employed in this way, and it occurred to me that it might be possible for you also to employ a tractor mechanic under this procedure. As soon as definite determination can be made as to whether this is possible, the Personnel Section will communicate with you relative to procedures.

In the meantime, I suggested attempting to have certain of your heavy equipment repaired in commercial garages in Phoenix or elsewhere, which would help to solve your problem of securing repair parts, as well as get the equipment back into use more promptly.

I was glad to note the fine progress being made in the curtailment of unnecessary travel on the center. The use of stickers in each car indicating the mileage which that particular car could be driven during the month seems to be an effective way of controlling the use of equipment. When you have remodelled your camouflage net buildings and secure a better layout for your repair and segregation of automotive equipment near the repair shop, you should be able more adequately to curtail the unjustifiable use of equipment. No doubt Colonel Fiero and Mr. Wutschel will visit your center in the near future, and I am sure that they will be of great help to you and to Mr. Hanna in the organization of your transportation and repair setup.

Your center has made an enviable record in its agricultural program this past year. The production of almost half a million dollars worth of products, both livestock and crop, is no small accomplishment. I am particularly pleased with the production of vegetables and seeds. Vegetable seeds particularly are becoming increasingly difficult to obtain, and it seems to me that the various centers would do well to produce as much of their seed requirements as possible. This will not only insure desirable varieties and types of seeds, but will reduce our costs of production, which is an important item, since the Bureau of the Budget allowed us only a million dollars for agricultural production costs on the ten centers. From this million dollars production costs, we are to produce five million dollars worth of agricultural products.

In connection with agricultural production costs, I would like to point out the importance of a careful analysis of our livestock purchases,

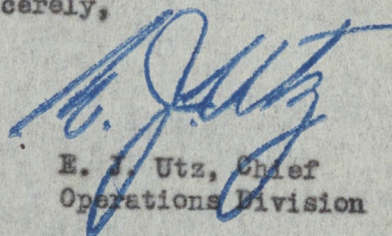
if we purchase hogs and beef cattle that require only a short feeding period until they are ready for slaughter, it would increase the amount of money required from this fund of a million dollars. I think you are following this policy quite carefully in connection with your feeder hog purchases, and would like to recommend that you give this adequate consideration in connection with purchase of feeder cattle also. Unless you require a limited number of animals to fit into your program for very early slaughter, it would seem desirable to buy the lighter types of feeder cattle, which will require a smaller initial investment.

I question the advisability of devoting land to the production of flax and possibly also to the production of cotton. Several of the other centers are finding it impossible to produce the types of vegetables in any satisfactory manner which we had originally hoped to produce on those areas. It may be necessary, consequently, to ask Gila and one or two of the other high-producing centers, to increase their production somewhat, and ship certain of these vegetables to the centers which do not have suitable agricultural land.

While I was at Gila, approval was given for the employment of an additional Assistant Farm Superintendent. With as many enterprises as are being carried out on the farm at Gila, it would seem advisable to organize the staff in such a way as to give maximum supervision and inspection to the daily operations on the farm. I notice in some of the reports that certain crops have produced poorly or have failed to produce, because of improper irrigation, too much irrigation, or similar reasons. Closer supervision of the farm operations should prevent some of these losses.

I want to congratulate you and your staff on the excellent record you have made this past year. I am sure that with the experience you have gained so far, you will be able to make even a much better showing during the present fiscal year.

Sincerely,



E. J. Utz, Chief
Operations Division

cc: Mr. Cozzens ✓

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM
GILA RIVER PROJECT
RIVERS, ARIZONA

August 21, 1943

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. L.H. Bennett, Project Director
SUBJECT: George Yamashiro
FROM: Fred J. Graves, Chief of Internal Security

Mr. George Yamashiro returned here recently from Leupp, Arizona, with your permission, for the purpose of getting married. Mr. Yamashiro promised Mr. Robertson, Project Director of the Leupp Center, and yourself that he would refrain from any anti-administration agitation while here and that he would conduct himself as a visitor and a gentleman. Literally, he was a visitor and could not have gained the impression that he was to remain here pending his transfer to Tule Lake.

Immediately following his wedding, Mr. Yamashiro began contacting his former constituents and demanding that they carry on the original program of the Gila Young People's Association and that they look to "Sensei" Ochi for guidance. "Sensei" (Leader) Ochi is posing as a Buddhist Priest at this center and is now under investigation by F.B.I. and this Department. A later report will be submitted dealing with Dojun Ochi. Among those receiving these instructions from Mr. Yamashiro was one Mr. Kaya, custodian of recreational hall number 54 and stencil cutter for the Japanese language section of our local paper. Mr. Kaya is a close personal friend of Mr. Yamashiro and will, no doubt, refuse to verify the foregoing.

On August 17, 1943, Ichiro Ogura, was arrested for disturbing the peace in the community hospital. Mr. Ogura was subsequently released upon his own recognizance to await trial. Mr. Yamashiro called upon Mr. Ogura and congratulated him for "asserting" himself and advised Mr. Ogura thusly, in substance; "Do not let them scare you with a threat of Leupp. Leupp is a swell place and you can do as you please there. Never forget that you are Japanese and can never be an American." This information was furnished by confidential informant, whom I shall designate as T2.

Another incident of recent date, with which you are thoroughly acquainted, is the reduction in personnel

and in this instance Mess Operations. Mr. Yamashiro called on several of the Mess Hall Supervisors and advised them, in substance, as follows; "You fellows will have to stick together and show them that you are organized. The only way to prove that you are organized is to go out together on a strike. This (reduction in personnel) is just another administration lie and is not necessary. If you let them get by with this, they will soon be cutting you down again." Mr. Yamashiro then extolled the virtues of Leupp Center. This information was submitted by confidential informant whom I shall identify as F1.

In addition I am informed from reliable sources that Mr. Yamashiro has been calling upon wives and sweethearts of men, transferred from this center to the Leupp Center sometime ago, and informing them of the privations suffered and prison regulations enforced at Leupp. This of course is inconsistent with his wother descriptions of Leupp and thus far I am unable to confirm the authenticity of this latter information.

On Friday, August 20, I discussed the conduct, as related above, of Mr. Yamashiro, with Mr. Paul Robertson, Project Director of the Leupp Center and Mr. Robertson informed me that he too had received information that Mr. Yamashiro had ignored his promise not to agitate further trouble during his visit here. Mr. Robertson and I both agreed that Mr. Yamashiro should be returned to Leupp and that another hearing and docket would not be necessary due to the present status of Mr. Yamashiro, who is here as a visitor and is still a resident of the Leupp Center. On the same afternoon, Friday, August 20, Mr. George Yamashiro, at the suggestion of Mr. Tuttle of the Social Welfare Section, came to my office in the Administration Building, where Mr. Robertson and I were in conference. I advised Mr. Yamashiro, in the presence of Mr. Robertson that he had betrayed the confidence of both yourself and Mr. Robertson and that it was definitely decided that he should return to Leupp, pending his transfer to the Tule Lake Center. I informed Mr. Yamashiro further that our actions were based on reliable information that he, Mr. Yamashiro, was agitating trouble in this center, which he had promised that he would not do, and that he could not be trusted to remain here longer. Your permission to transfer Mr. Yamashiro had been previously obtained. Mr. Yamashiro was advised that he was to leave for Leupp the following day which allowed him ample time for good-byes and packing.

Saturday morning, August 21, about 10:00 A.M. Mr. Yamashiro, in custody of my Assistant, Mr. Harper, left Rivers for Wickenburg, Arizona, where they will meet Mr. Robertson of Leupp. Mr. Yamashiro will from there accompany Mr. Robertson on to Leupp.

Fred J. Graves
Chief, Internal Security

[Aug. 23, 1943]

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
GILA RIVER PROJECT
RIVERS, ARIZONA

Reports Office

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Service

Mr. Robert B. Cozzens
Assistant Director
War Relocation Authority
461 Market Street
San Francisco 5, California

Dear Mr. Cozzens:

Nine boys have reported for active duty since our report of July 15. This brings to 998 the volunteers and draftees called to active duty whose relatives are living or have lived in Rivers.

Total casualties are as follows: 20 killed in action, 65 wounded in action, 1 missing in action and 1 prisoner of war.

Sincerely,

D M Todd

Douglas M. Todd
Project Director



Amish

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| Date ans. _____ |
| No reply nec. _____ |
| To file _____ |
| (NAME) |

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

7/10/68

Mr. Robert M. Conrad
Assistant Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
401 North Capitol
Washington, D. C. 20541
Dear Mr. Conrad:

I am pleased to have received your letter of July 10, 1968, regarding the matter of the investigation of the activities of the American Revolutionaries, Inc. (ARI) and its various chapters. The Bureau is currently conducting an investigation of the activities of the ARI and its various chapters. The Bureau is currently conducting an investigation of the activities of the ARI and its various chapters.

Sincerely,
Special Agent in Charge

Respectfully,
Special Agent in Charge



ARMY REGISTRATION

February 3.

News story, Irrigator: quotes from various nisei leaders who endorse the combat team.

Editorial, Irrigator: In spite of hardships suffered, if nisei are to "clinch the case" for themselves, there is no course but to enlist. Professions of faith in country make it a question of "Are we to eat our words, or are we going to make them good?" This is considered the acid test and to flunk it is to damn themselves and their posterity.

February 5.

Teletype: Gratification mingled with strong resentment of separate unit. Nisei leaders applaud opportunity for service. Majority happy over recognition, but want more details before committing themselves. Others more interested in going into war industry. Quotes from above editorial.

February 6.

Staff Digest: Highlights of staff meeting devoted to subject with announcement that registration is to be given No. 1 priority and nothing must interfere with its success.

Report No. 36: Many nisei aware that enlistment involves many difficult decisions centered in relationships between male nisei and parents, particularly in regard to parents' status in this country. Japanese fatalistic attitude toward war affects even nisei.

At a "trial balloon" meeting held before arrival of army team, evacuees indicated resentment toward implication that those not volunteering would be considered disloyal. General conclusion: government asking too much. Two men left angry after talk by assistant project director, and five men and numerous women were weeping. No hysteria or undue excitement.

February 10.

Report No. 40: First six blocks registered, about 350 a day, of whom about 80 are male nisei. Opposition seems to stem from older people who are afraid of future if son is killed. Some nisei feel they will wait for draft. Army explaining that draft would hinge on success of voluntary enlistment.

Several issei who favor plan have been more emphatic than representatives of Army or WRA in addressing meetings, placing responsibility for success of program on older people, pointing out that future welfare of their children depends on its success.

Twenty-five volunteers in first three days, of whom 16 live in section not yet registered. Many volunteers married men.

WRA Library Washington

February 13.

Report No. 41: Army registration took turn for better after question of selective service following the voluntary induction program was clarified. By this morning, there were 43 volunteers. Question 28 caused some confusion. Strong resistance by some who have reached point where they automatically resist any request or action by the government.

Manning of watch towers and installation of search lights unfortunate move at this time.

February 16.

Report No. 42: Growing success reported due in part to move toward frankness in presenting program. First step was explaining that regular selective service would probably not follow if voluntary program failed. Far-reaching consequences of failure of program pointed out.

As of noon, 75 had volunteered. Block managers asked Army team to reconsider eligibles in blocks already registered.

February 19.

Report No. 46: Total registration to date 4,926 in 25 blocks. About 1175 qualifying male s interviewed by Army team and of these 121 volunteered. Many undecided when interviewed, but later about 50% decided to volunteer and other half declined definitely.

No new points of resistance, although believed to be more in Buddhist group than in others. Cooperation being sought through ministers.

February 25.

Report No. 47. Registration completed. Any individual not signed up may do so in the leave office. Total registered from Feb. 8-25: 6866 of which 5326 were women and non-citizen males and 1540 were male citizens. Of nisei, 175 volunteered, but 30 more volunteered later, following the first two in a new series of four meetings called by the administration with the approval but not the participation of the Army team.

Each single male citizen ~~over~~ 17 or over sent an invitation by mail. Boy Scout Drum and Bugle Corps paraded through the blocks to announce the meetings. Principal speakers were project director, assistant project director, and boys who had already volunteered. Issue put before audience in very straight-forward manner - to insure the future rights of Japanese Americans.

Meeting of girl friends and other women connected with Army eligibles to get their support not successful.

Army team to remain until March 1.

Weekly report of March 6: Lt. Deane of WAACS spoke to about 325 Mar. 5, and about one-third indicated they would volunteer if they could.

Gila River Project
Rivers, Arizona

PDO

Mr. E. J. Utz
Chief of Operations
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington, D. C.

AUG 25 1943

Dear Mr. Utz:

I am just in receipt of your letter of August 19 and wish to say that instead of your appreciation for courtesies extended here, the shoe should be on the other foot and we should thank you for coming here.

Your suggestions appear to be very logical and some of them are already in effect. We have moved most of the food, clothing, and central warehouse materials into the main camouflage building, but have made no effort to remodel any of the other buildings. Work is progressing on the dairy, the packing shed is about completed, staff housing is moving slowly, and the school laboratories are under construction.

We trust you will be able to have a position allocated for a truck repair man at prevailing wages as this man is absolutely essential.

Yesterday we received our slaughtering permit and this afternoon Dave Rogers telephoned me from Phoenix that Toveren's had agreed to slaughter for us which relieves us of a great deal of difficulty right now.

We received approval for the employment of two electricians and one foreman carpenter to be added to the Public Works pay roll. We presume you were of assistance in this case and are very grateful the approval was given.

Evacuee employment is still a serious problem as our funds are not sufficient to care for many of the divisions even under the new employment schedule sent to Washington. We are trying to work this out with division heads in Washington.

Mr. Martin, the new Superintendent of the ship model factory, reports for duty on September 1. We feel very satisfied that he will do an excellent job. We are very short of materials for ship models and so

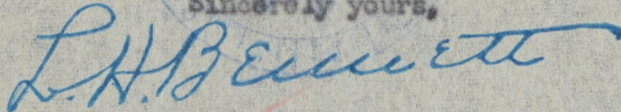
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far we have been unable to purchase poplar in this area and only a very small quantity of bass wood. Could you have the navy purchase some poplar and rush it to us -- a few board feet would solve our problem. Small supplies, such as paint, lacquer, bandsaws, et cetera are ordered but being slowly received. You can tell Lieutenant Atchley that we could produce a large number of models if they would send us materials, but that our local market is so nearly depleted that our Procurement Division finds it impossible to secure materials for our model production. We are willing but lack the items from which ship models are made.

I am routing your letter to the various persons involved and I am certain you will receive cooperation from all of them.

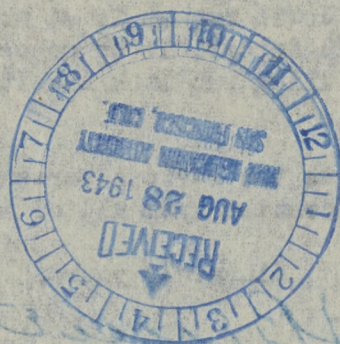
Sincerely yours,



L. H. Bennett
Project Director



CC - Mr. Gossens



Gila River Project
Rivers, Arizona

October 2, 1943

Mr. Dillon S. Myer
Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Myer:

Segregation plans, carefully prepared, culminated in the shipment of two train loads of evacuees on Friday and Saturday -- one train each day -- of this week. Train Commanders complimented the staff on the speed with which loading and checking was conducted. Time for loading and checking from the arrival of passengers at the train and completion of checking and signing of manifest averaged 35 minutes. The staff under direction of Mr. Shelly and Mr. Wolter assisted by Mr. Hanna, Mr. Chamberlain, and Mr. Keadle deserve great praise for they certainly left no part of the program unfinished. Community cooperation was also one hundred percent.

Considerable liquor was smuggled into the communities for parties resulting in the arrest of three persons for drunkenness and the manufacture and sale of liquor. These persons do not represent the real offenders. Considerable liquor is being shipped from Denver, Colorado and Glendale, Arizona to the depot in Casa Grande marked shoyu and soy sauce. Each shipment is made to a Japanese name which is purely fictitious. The liquor control division of the State of Arizona is investigating the shipments. Because we are not allowed to search vehicles we do not know how the liquor is being transported from Casa Grande to Rivers.

We are still having extreme difficulty with employment. Public Works construction has practically stopped and schools are not being completed. Trash and garbage disposal is not being handled, creating a fire danger. We have appealed to the new Council and Block Managers for support and believe that within a few days the workers will return to their jobs and forget the imaginary injustices caused by the timing of the reduction in employment.

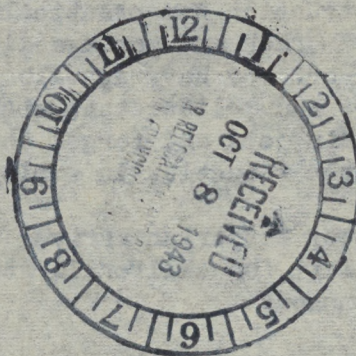
Doctor McSparran arrived October 1 and immediately applied for leave and left for California stating that this was by agreement with Doctor Thompson.

Sincerely yours,

L. H. Bennett
Project Director

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TELETYPE MESSAGE

Leroy H. Bennett, Director
Gila River Relocation Center
Rivers, Arizona

OCT 7 1943

Teletype Message No. ____

Retel of September 16, 1943, as follows: "Please add the following category to the weekly telegraphic report on leaves and population remaining at your center: 1. Total number of persons transferred from center to Tule Lake for segregation. This item will be necessary as long as there are segregation moves out of your center." In your weekly telegraphic report on leaves and population remaining at your center for week ending October 2 you did not include departures from your center for Trips 27 and 29 scheduled to leave Gila River on October 1 and October 2. Please resubmit weekly telegraphic report including segregees leaving for Tule Lake during week ending October 2.

B. R. Stauber

B. R. Stauber
Relocation Planning Officer

cc San Francisco ✓



13. H. [Signature]

W. J. [Signature]

Director, War Relocation Authority

San Francisco

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Mr. Cozzano
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SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, OFFICE
WHITCOMB HOTEL BUILDING

In reply, please refer to:

OCT 18 1943

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

Subject: Report on my visit of October 2-6 inclusive.

Dear Mr. Bennett;

I regret that this report has been delayed; however, my visit to your center was somewhat ill-timed coming as it did when your staff was so busy with moving segregates. I am also very sorry that Mr. Doucha was away at that time although the rest of the Public Works staff gave me all the time their duties would allow.

Several things, which in my opinion are important, came to my attention and, while I discussed them with the officers concerned, this is for the purpose of rounding them up for your information.

First, I learned that priority ratings are being extended for purchases contrary to WPB regulations. For instance, ratings allowed for purchase of high school material were extended to purchase pipe which will be used in expanding the fire system in the camouflage net factory area. Also, that galvanized metal air ducts were used in the dormitory building and priority rating extended to the contractor despite the fact that this type of air duct was definitely eliminated by the WPB order P-19-H. These specific instances, as well as probable misuse of the blanket priority for maintenance materials, led me to investigate and discover that your Procurement Section did not maintain adequate files and control over purchases involving priority ratings. I would recommend that the Public Works Section continue to maintain their records and files of these ratings, but that Procurement do likewise and exercise closer control of purchases where priorities are involved. After all, this procedure is outlined in the Manual and it is the Procurement officer who must certify to the records.

Along the same lines and to improve the operation of the center as a whole, I suggest that all concerned give careful consideration to planning the necessary construction and improvement work for the center. This, of course, is necessary toward preparation of budget



RBC

estimates and will be especially helpful to the Public Works Section in carrying out their work.

I discussed with Mr. Janeway the difficulty you are having with breaks in the sewage line. Rather than purchasing new pipe as suggested, I would recommend that the entire line from the stand pipe to the sewage disposal plant be uncovered and the joints in the pipe be reinforced with concrete or other bands. Perhaps a trenching machine could be rented to move most of the dirt, leaving the balance to be trimmed out by hand. This would seem a much nicer job than the present one of repairing after breaks, and more in keeping with conservation of critical material than the purchase of approximately 2700 feet of wood stave pipe.

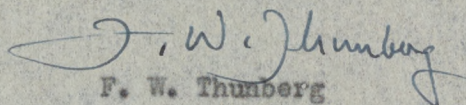
I noticed a large number of cars and trucks speeding along the project roads and also evacuees riding on tops of truck cabs. I realize the difficulty your project and others have in controlling this situation, but as an idea toward assisting the Transportation Section, I would like to offer the following suggestion. Since the officers of the Transportation Unit can not cover the field at all times, have all project officers note and report all violations as they see them in connection with their regular travels. It may be outside of their regular duties, but this sort of cooperation should assist the Transportation people. I expect that upon completion of your staff housing units the long hauls of employees to Phoenix and other towns will be reduced.

The staff quarters under construction presented a good appearance as did the dairy, flourine reactivating plant and the packing shed which had all been built since my last visit. It is hard for me to appreciate your painter troubles since all other projects seem to be able to train evacuees to do a good job of painting. The thought just occurred to me that there may be someone in your sign painting shop who could head up a painting crew and get proper results. While practically no work was being accomplished on the new high school building due to lack of men, the work done to date appeared very good. I suggested to Mr. Janeway that the long eave overhang be braced to the walls however. The grade of lumber available for the rafters is so poor that I do not believe the overhanging roof would last very long during a windstorm without some extra support.

The road work under contract appeared to be getting off to a good start. I see no good reason why that contract should not be completed on schedule. If the road work is extended in the future I would certainly recommend that the center do it with their own men and equipment as the work accomplished by WRA forces on the main road before the contractor took over indicates that we can do a workman like job.

In closing I would like to compliment the mess steward and his staff for the fine appearance of the staff mess hall as well as the quiet way their good meals are served. I appreciate all the cooperation extended by you and your staff during my visit.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'F. W. Thunberg', with a stylized flourish at the end.

F. W. Thunberg
Senior Engineer

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gm.

Gila River Project
Rivers, Arizona

Reports Office

OCT 19 1943

Mr. Dillon S. Myer
Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington, 25, D. C.

Attention: Mr. John C. Baker

Dear Mr. Myer:

In response to the call for a cotton picking crew, more than 300 of the Administrative and Educational personnel reported for duty on Friday afternoon. The total result was 3,530 pounds (one of the Administrative personnel had guessed the weight to be 3,501) of cotton picked. Individual results most noticeable were badly sunburned faces and other results reported were lame backs and decidedly sore muscles. Yet everyone reported that he had enjoyed the expedition and the experience, which with few exceptions, was a new one.

The forty-acre cotton field is one of the three war production crops. The others are sixty-six acres of flax and forty acres of castor beans.

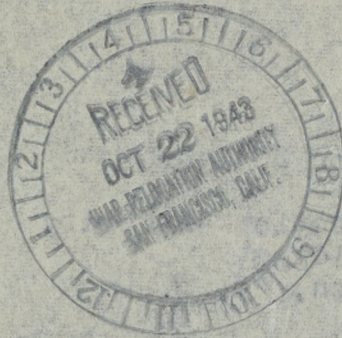
Very truly yours,

Hugo W. Wolter

L. H. Bennett
for Project Director

EC: R. B. Cozzens ✓

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[Handwritten signature]

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Gila River Project
Rivers, Arizona

NOV 1 1943

Mr. Dillon S. Myer
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
910 - 17th Street, N. W.
Washington (25), D. C.

Dear Mr. Myer:

Enclosed herewith in duplicate is the following reports
for the month of September, 1943:

Form WRA - 217
" " 216
" " 165
" " 196
" " 202

Statement of Comparative Mess Hall Food Costs
Statement of Comparative Mess Hall Labor Costs
Monthly report of Units and Mileage (or Hours)
by Types of Equipment.

Included in this report is \$184,817.86 worth of
documents including payrolls and withdrawals from storehouses
not processed during September by the Budget and Accounts Unit.

So as not to further delay this report it is submitted
showing a credit balance in Account No. 40-3530. This credit
will be redistributed on the same basis as the original dis-
tribution prior to the next report.

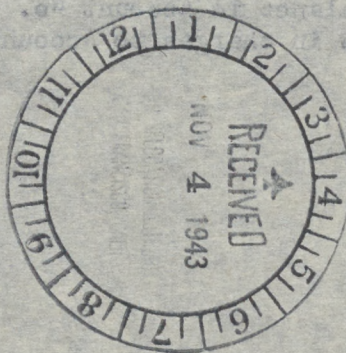
Credit balance in Account No. 40-4540 caused by trans-
fer of \$8,061.56 in charges to Account 40-5500.

Very truly yours,

L.T. Hoffman
Acting Project Director

Enclosure #7319

cc. Cozzens ✓



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TELETYPE MESSAGE

Mr. Leroy H. Bennett
Project Director
Gila River Relocation Center
Rivers, Arizona

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON

NOV 2 1943

Teletype Message No. _____

Re information and forms requested in the Segregation Manual, Page 15, Paragraph 5, Sections A and C. Only one Form ~~WRA~~ WRA 278 dated August 27 received. Please submit, by mail, forms and information requested. In addition, please teletype the following summary of segregees:

Group A. Total number of individuals segregated and sent to Tule Lake.

Group B. Segregees remaining at your Project because of illness or other reasons.

Within Groups A and B, give the number of persons in the following subgroups:

1. Repatriates and expatriates.
2. Family members of repatriates and expatriates.
3. Registration segregees.
4. Family members of registration segregees.
5. Other segregees.
6. Family members of other segregees.

The definitions of these subgroups are the same as those given in the Segregation Manual for Form WRA 278.

In addition, please submit the following:

1. Number of families with applications on file for family internment camp.
2. Total number of persons included in these families.
3. Were any of these persons processed for segregation? If so, how many were sent to Tule Lake in regular segregation moves?



cc - San Francisco

B. R. Stauber

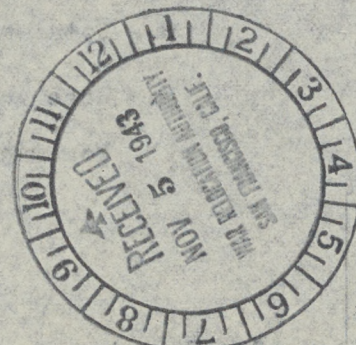
B. R. Stauber
Relocation Planning Officer

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON

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Gila River Project
Rivers, Arizona

Reports Office

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NOV 3 1943

Mr. Dillon S. Myer
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Attention: Mr. John C. Baker

Dear Mr. Myer:

We are sending the enclosed news items which have been released to the following Arizona newspapers: Arizona Republic, Arizona Daily Star, Coolidge Examiner, Casa Grande Dispatch, Mesa Journal Tribune, Coconino Sun and the K O Y.

We have sent a picture in which Sgt. Komoto is showing the Purple Heart to his small brother to the Arizona Daily Star (which has been carrying favorable pictures) and also to the Arizona Republic

Very truly yours,

L. T. Hoffman

L. T. Hoffman
Acting Project Director

Enclosure #6913

cc: R. B. Cozzens ✓

NEWS ITEM

November 2, 1943

Gila River Project Rivers, Arizona

One Jap sniper in the battle for New Georgia Island who tried his best to kill a Japanese American "doughboy" never lived to tell of his failure.

The Japanese American soldier, Staff Sergeant Kazuo Komoto, is back in America, again, for a slug from the snipers machine gun had shattered his knee. He visited his parents at the Rivers Relocation Center last week.

The Sergeant in recounting his experiment in the "toughest fighting in the world" said that he had been without sleep for a week, and had climbed out of his fox hole behind the front lines to rest. Some twenty minutes later the sniper, who had infiltrated and camouflaged himself in a tree opened on him and several other American soldiers near him. A few seconds later the sniper was riddled by American fire.

Later, on a hospital ship his commanding general presented him with the Purple Heart award. With a soldiers disdain for what he terms a "cripple's medal", Komoto shrugs off congratulations. His ten year old brother, Susumu, is palpably proud of it.

"You know," he confided, "getting wounded gives me an assurance that the American flag belongs to me--the red in it has been stained by my blood--and it belongs equally to countless others, of many races who have shed their blood for it.

N E W S I T E M - Page 2

Gila River Project
Rivers, Arizona

Our flag is as near to our ideal of democracy as anything can be".

Completely recovered from his knee wound, he is ready for action again. He wants to get on with the war to bring the final peace nearer.

* * * * *

Noriyoshi Masamitsu, a Japanese at the Gila River War Relocation Center appeared before the leave clearance board and was questioned in regard to his loyalty. In reply he pointed to the data in his personnel file. Recorded were four big proofs of his good Americanism. All of his sons are serving in Uncle Sam's Army since before Pearl Harbor. They are: Sgt. Thomas at Fort Riley, Kansas; Sgt. Kenneth and Pfc. Jimmy in Mississippi and Pfc. Bob in Minnesota. Although that data might be irrelevant in the leave clearance screening procedure the board decided that it didn't exactly hurt the record.

Father Masamitsu will be leaving for Chicago shortly where he already has secured employment through friends who recently went there to work. Before evacuation he lived in Delano, California,. In the spring of 1942 he was sent to the Fresno Assembly Center and then sent away from the West Coast with the 110,000 other persons of Japanese descent.

N E W S I T E M - Page 3

Gila River Project
Rivers, Arizona

Leave clearance hearings are being held for all residents at the Gila River Center. Each person's records at the Center must be checked with those of the F.B.I. and the War Department and okayed before he is eligible for leave.

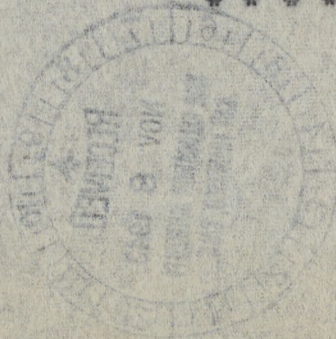
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With \$2,000 set as the goal, each resident worker at the Gila River War Relocation Authority is contributing a day's wage to the National War Fund Drive and the community chest campaign this week.

Voluntary solicitors will make a barrack to barrack canvass throughout the week, and "I have contributed" tags will be given to all who have given their shares.

The combined war fund and community chest drive is being backed by the Rivers Community Council and the block managers. The community chest fund will be used to help the youth organizations of the center, such as the Scouts and the Y groups to carry on their activities.

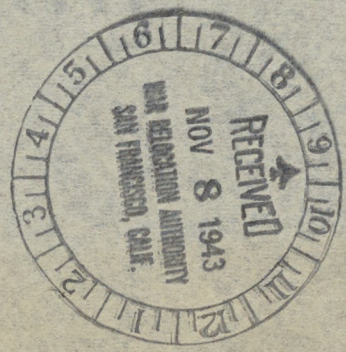
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NOV 8 1943
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

TO: SAC, SAN FRANCISCO
FROM: SAC, NEW YORK
SUBJECT: [Illegible]

[The following text is extremely faint and largely illegible due to the quality of the scan. It appears to be a memorandum or letter containing several paragraphs of text.]



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Gila River Project
Rivers, Arizona

Reports Office

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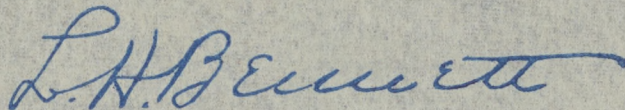
Mr. Dillon S. Myer
Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington, 25, D. C.

Attention: Mr. John C. Baker

Dear Mr. Myer:

The accompanying brief report is sent in
response to your request for information regarding
the summer camping program at this Center.

Very truly yours,



L. H. Bennett
Project Director

Enclosure #6924

cc: R. B. Cozzens ✓

SUMMER CAMPING PROGRAM AT GILA

The summer camping program was pretty much of a flop due to our relationships with the State of Arizona. Arrangements had been made for the use of the YMCA camp and the Episcopal church camp near Prescott to accommodate approximately 400 children. The Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Girl Reserves had organized their program and had set up leadership training courses. All of the physical arrangements had been likewise made so that all of these children could have camping experience. When Governor Osborn heard of our intentions, he objected very strenuously "for the safety of the children". The Episcopal church through Bishop Mitchell, YWCA, and YMCA brought pressure upon the governor but he was adamant. Because of this situation it was deemed advisable to cancel our arrangements. It was a great sorrow and distress to the youngsters.

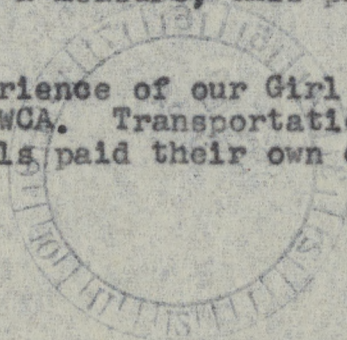
The Girl Reserves did attend the Girl Reserves' camp in Prescott for a period of ten days. They reported glowingly upon their experiences. Governor Osborn at that time severely criticized Rivers for permitting these girls to attend the Girl Reserves' camp.

Camp sites in this WRA area are very limited and there are no sources of water outside of the irrigation canal. There are no suitable camp sites where there might be some protection from the heat of the sun during the day. All camping would have to be done on the Indian Reservation.

Several hikes were organized by the Boy Scouts. They were in charge of Caucasian staff persons and they did not leave Government property. These hikes gave the Boy Scouts an opportunity to complete their first and second class Scouting tests. The use of transportation equipment for carrying necessary water supplies was forbidden by the ODT and therefore satisfactory arrangements were impossible.

A combined camp and summer school program was carried on under the joint auspices of Community Activities and Education. This included the program of crafts, sports, scouting, and other group work. In a measure, this program provided a substitute for camping.

The camping experience of our Girl Reserves was carried on with the Phoenix YWCA. Transportation was arranged privately by private cars. Girls paid their own camping fees of about \$12.00.



The Bureau of the Census has been authorized to conduct a study of the economic conditions of the United States during the year 1943. This study is being conducted in order to determine the effect of the war on the economy and to provide information for the government and the public. The study will be conducted in a systematic and scientific manner, and the results will be made available to the public in a timely and accessible form.

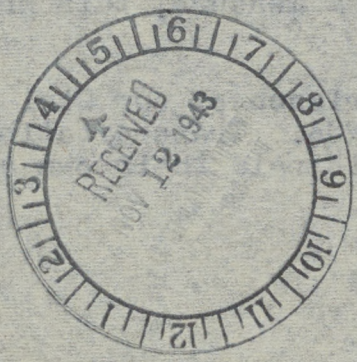
The study will be conducted in a systematic and scientific manner, and the results will be made available to the public in a timely and accessible form. The study will be conducted in a systematic and scientific manner, and the results will be made available to the public in a timely and accessible form.

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Gila River Project
Rivers, Arizona

Reports Office

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Mr. Dillon S. Myer
Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington, 25, D. C.

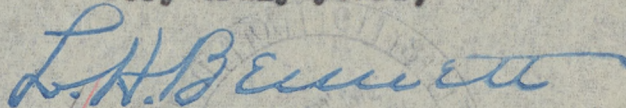
Attention: Mr. John C. Baker

Dear Mr. Myer:

Your letter of November 10 has been received in regard to WRA-121, Project Attorney Report, being omitted from the Monthly Reports.

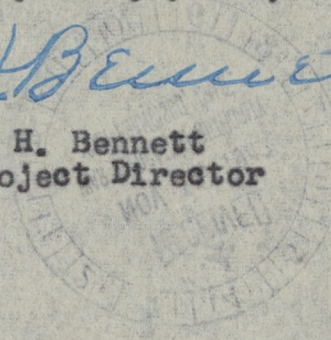
The Project Attorney, Mr. James H. Terry, has been unwilling to submit a report through the regular channels saying a full report was regularly submitted to his Washington superior. Mr. Terry is now in Washington and assured us before he left that he would take up the matter while he was there. Possibly you can contact him at your early convenience.

Very truly yours,



L. H. Bennett
Project Director

cc: R. B. Cozzens ✓



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Gila
you

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Gila River Project
Rivers, Arizona

PDO

November 25, 1943

AIR MAIL

Mr. Dillon S. Myer
Director
War Relocation Authority
Barr Building
Washington, 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Myer:

Immediately upon learning of the article published in the November 21 issue of the Los Angeles Examiner and San Francisco Examiner, we made an investigation of the claims set up by those papers and established authentic figures disproving all of them, or in one or two cases, determining the reason for the incidents.

We immediately recognized the source of the information as one Grierson, a world war veteran who was employed in the warehouse here. This chap had almost every medal which could have been awarded in World War I, and along with the medals, some of the disabilities that are the result of so much fighting. We do not believe that under normal circumstances he would have "gone off the beam" and made the statements he did. Probably he attended a Legion meeting in Los Angeles after the Tule Lake incident which excited him, and the result was an exaggerated story which finally reached the Tenney Committee.

I immediately telephoned Governor Osborn and Mr. Stauffer, publisher of the Arizona Republic and Gazette newspapers, and yesterday went in and had a visit with them and with the managing editors of the papers.

The Governor informed me that Mr. Tenney phoned him, asking that Arizona join with California in conducting an investigation. The Governor replied, and I quote, "Mr. Tenney, California placed their Japs in Arizona. Now that they are here, we are perfectly competent to look after them. We consider the Arizona camps well operated and not in need of any investigation, we do not want them made a political "football" or using them for publicity purposes, and unless you can give me some very exceptional reasons, I, as Governor, will not permit you to make any investigation in this state." He then told me that he had complete confidence in the administration of the Centers and in Wade Head and me, and that he would telephone the Arizona Senators and ask them to lend their support to his desire to keep the Dies Committee out of Arizona. He feels that at this time our public relations are in good order, and should not be disturbed by anyone.



Rise

Mr. Stauffer and his managing editors were of the same opinion. They have not printed one word about Poston or Gila, and stated they would not print anything unless they first checked with me in case Gila was involved. The Tucson papers have published nothing. The Arizona papers are not in sympathy with the sort of publicity that is being stirred up, and are not a bit backward about saying so.

Attached is a copy of some information concerning the claims of the Examiner, copies of which were supplied to the Governor and the newspapers, and gone over with them, point by point. In the main, it answers most of the points involved.

The accusation of strikes was particularly offensive to me, for we have never had a true strike since I have been here. We did have a threatened strike at the time of the mess hall reduction, but it amounted to only a few people staying out of a few mess halls for one meal. This was not a strike, but a result of a misunderstanding resulting from a mess hall supervisors meeting, together with pressure from a few persons who are now at Tule Lake.

The subject of potatoes and onions amounted to nothing whatsoever. As you know, we had a very difficult time handling the large quantities of potatoes and onions which ripened during the very hot period. We produced 476,000 lbs. of onions, some of which we consumed, others were shipped, and some dehydrated at the very tail end of the crop. In picking, we had some small, soft onions and had no other place to put them but on the desert, as they were not fit for consumption. The same problem occurred with the potatoes, but in the case of the potatoes, we sent some men out to resort the good from the bad and put them through the dehydrator. Even if we had not, the loss would have been almost nothing.

In the case of the dried prunes, the hot weather spoiled about 1500 lbs. and we had to feed them to the hogs. This may have been a result of overpurchase, altho Mr. Harding and Mr. Keadle, who prepared the report on food, are of the opinion that there was no carelessness in purchasing.

The subject of bootlegging is serious. Since we have been required to let every and all vehicles come in without search, we do have liquor coming in here. That which is coming in by rail we are able to stop at Casa Grande, but the portion which comes in by automobile or truck we have been unable to control. We have apprehended one bootlegger who was bringing it in on his garbage truck; he was a Negro.

On the subject of too many husband and wife combinations, I agree. However, due to the isolation of the place, it is very difficult for women without children to occupy their time unless they work. Also, on account of shortages of persons and the need for them in other places, we have felt that we were doing a service by utilizing the people we had on hand, rather than going on the outside and taking them from other employment.

Our automobile problem is serious. We have cut our mileage considerably and are right now developing plans to reduce the passenger car mileage by 20%. Again, isolation and the distance between the camps makes control difficult.

The statement that a medical officer was suddenly transferred from here was, of course, true, and there was a good deal of feeling among our staff that Dr. Collier was moved because he was "Cleaning up" the hospital. As a matter of fact, the evacuee hospital staff has functioned normally, and the claims made are greatly exaggerated.

The subject of the rotten fish is another great exaggeration. We did receive some fish, two or three boxes of which were bad. One of these went to the hospital, and Dr. Lawson, the dietician, made such a fuss about it that an immediate investigation of every box was ordered and only a small percentage condemned; the balance was accepted and used.

The story of the ice picks is well covered in the report, and of course, is ridiculous because we never had that many ice picks. The subject of hidden food is incorrect because there is no hidden food.

There is no part of Rivers about which we would fear an investigation. The community of Rivers is very much upset about the article, as they feel it is entirely unfair and uncalled for. I believe they feel it more keenly than the staff. All of us have honestly tried to do a good job and avoid any action which would become a subject for investigation, and I believe the justification of our position is the fact that the State officials of Arizona and the leading Arizona newspapers agree that Rivers is well operated and does not need the attention of any investigating committee.

Sincerely yours,

L. H. Bennett
Project Director

Enclosure No. 44271

cc: Mr. Cozzens ✓

Accusation: "...They have cached food supplies -- enough to last a month."

Answer: Food supplies are issued to each kitchen on basis of menus served daily. Menus are made three days in advance of serving. In addition, an inventory of staple articles is maintained in each kitchen storeroom and checked daily for control. At the end of each month this inventory is verified for surplus, therefore, with this control there can be no cache of food.

Accusation: "... They have on hand \$260,471 in rationed and unrationed food -- \$200 worth for every internee, including the children."

Answer: During the past six months the inventory of processed foods has been regularly reduced in accordance with requirements of the Office of Price Administration, and this is still in process to maintain a 45-day inventory. Perishable items vary from time to time and are always included in monthly inventory statements.

As of October 31, 1943, the staple inventory of rationed and unrationed processed foods was \$131,857.73.

Perishable foods inventory was \$19,592.71 as of the above date and included dairy products, meats, fruits and vegetables. Therefore, not by the wildest stretch of the imagination can the figure of \$260,471 be substantiated.

Accusation: "Thousands of dollars worth of meat and other ration goods are wasted by inefficient management and the sly sabotage of the internees..."

Answer: The above can be contradicted by the daily food costs per person of 43.7 cents for three meals per day in the month of October, 1943. The overall cost per person, per day, since the Project first opened in July, 1942, has been 37.7 cents. With rising costs of food products this certainly can repudiate any inefficiency in management or sabotage of evacuees.

Accusation: "...There have been strikes in many of the messes. The waste and losses are beyond the wildest flights of fancy."

Answer: The statement on waste and losses "beyond the flights of fancy" cannot be substantiated or proved by any reasonable evidence obtainable.

Accusation: "...About 85 percent of the kitchen workers are what is called 'no-no' boys!"

Answer: This accusation can be readily disproved by employment records which show that 98 men and women out of 1,500 fall within this classification.

Accusation: "...At least 100 large butcher knives and 800 icepicks have been stolen from the kitchen in the past 3 months."

Answer: This statement is false and can be proved so by records taken from material issuance tickets and inventory. To date, to equip and maintain 50 working kitchens and two butcher shops, 470 knives have been issued from the July 20, 1942 to November 23, 1943 period. Breakdown on issues follows: original kitchen equipment list called for six knives per kitchen; in butcher shops having 17 butchers, two knives were issued to each butcher. On the basis of 16 months of operation and the general wear and tear, an average of seven knives per month have been replaced. Before replacement is made, old knives are turned in.

The total number of icepicks issued over the same period was 158 and there has been no further issues.

Accusation: "...They demand and get meat twice daily and eggs once."

Answer: The evacuees receive the same identical ration points for food as is allowed the civilian population -- no more and no less -- and any modification or adjustment that effects the civilian population also effects the evacuees. Forty-eight points per month for processed foods and 64 points per month for meats, fats, dairy products and oils are allowed. Eggs are served five times per week, and one egg is allowed per person.

Accusation: "...50 sacks each of choice potatoes and carrots and 80 sacks of onions were dumped out in the desert to rot."

Answer: The only potatoes or onions that have been dumped in the desert were those which had been determined as unusable due to climatic conditions and could in no sense be charged to inefficiency. There have never been any carrots dumped in the desert.

Accusation: "...One steward last week accepted 4800 pounds of rotten fish which could not be used."

Answer: The above accusation is totally unfounded. Records to substantiate this are now on file in the accounting office of the Project.

Accusation: "...Did not keep the prunes and other dried fruits in the cold warehouse, so they became wormy and had to be thrown out."

Answer: Dried fruits -- prunes, apples and peaches -- in the amount of 1,500 pounds, were considered as unfit for human consumption. This was caused by weather conditions and insufficient storage space of the proper kind and not due to a lack of proper care or supervision.

Accusation: "Internees patronize a Caucasian bootlegger who provides liquor at \$6.00 a pint."

Answer: There has been only one instance of bootlegging in this Center, and that, well over a year ago. This person was apprehended and properly punished.

Accusation: "In the medical warehouse there are enough supplies to last 25 years. There are 60,000 rolls of adhesive tape."

Answer: According to present inventories, there are enough supplies in the medical warehouse to last approximately 90 days. Instead of 60,000 rolls of adhesive tape, there are approximately 6,000 rolls, or a difference of 54,000 rolls.

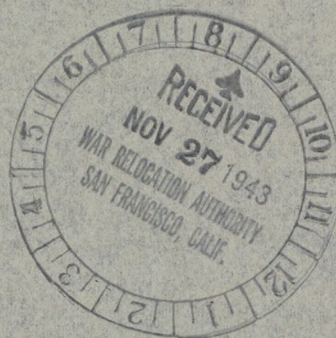
Accusation: "Many of the personnel here brag that all they do is draw their pay checks. Also, there are too many husband-wife combinations here for efficiency."

Answer: There is only a skeleton staff of appointed personnel employed on this Project, and a statement that all anyone is here to do is to draw his pay check is totally false. Due to isolation and housing facilities, it has been found both feasible and practical to employ husband and wife combinations, where both individuals are qualified. In no instance has the above-mentioned combination proved impractical.

Accusation: "Automobiles run all the time, as if it were still 1939...."

Answer: Gila River represents a city with an average population of 10,000. It is isolated to the extent that it is approximately 10 miles to the closest highway; the closest railhead is 18 miles distant. Obviously to feed and house this many people and carry on the normal activities of the above-size city it is necessary that automotive equipment be used.





December 1, 1943

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

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Pursuant to your request last May, Col. Fiero has inspected your project as to transportation and motor equipment, and the following remarks are for your information and I hope will be of some assistance in bettering the facilities, personnel and actual maintenance of equipment on the project.

As he sees the problems, perhaps the most aggravating one is the fact that the personnel in the Motor Maintenance Section is not adequate to do the job. Consequently, Mr. Hanna is not able to perform and care for all of the responsibilities that result. In the first place, a position has been set up for an assistant maintenance superintendent. It is understood that this man has been employed and is being paid by the Transportation Section as an Assistant Maintenance Superintendent; however, certain other duties have been given to him, which does not allow his efforts to be put forth for the Motor Transport and Maintenance Section. It may be somewhat questionable whether this man is qualified to greatly assist Mr. Hanna in the work he would otherwise assign him to. However, we believe Mr. Hanna has too large a job to try to do his own, and the Assistant Superintendent's job required. Therefore it would seem logical for a new man to be employed as Assistant Maintenance Superintendent, thereby taking the other man off the Transportation payroll and giving Mr. Hanna the services of a man experienced in motor maintenance work who could supervise and lay out the work in the various shops on the project with the end in view that the equipment can be placed in better operating condition.

The second personnel difficulty is that although the Motor Pool Supervisor is set up in job classification, Mr. Hanna has not had the use of a Motor Pool Supervisor but has had to do this work himself, which is a more than a full time job for one man. Col. Fiero talked with your personnel executive, Mr. Black, of the Personnel office last evening, who thought it would be possible to

Mr. L. H. Bennett
Page 2
December 1, 1943

transfer Mr. Goodman to the Transportation Section within the near future for duty. It is believed that Mr. Goodman will be able to supervise this unit of Transportation and take a considerable load away from the shoulders of Mr. Hanna, giving him more time to plan and administer all phases of the motor maintenance problem.

The new trip sheets for the Motor Pool unit will be mailed out to you approximately December 15, and we sincerely hope Mr. Goodman can be transferred to this office so that he can organize this Motor Pool and dispatching service at that time, if it is possible.

The final need, as we see it, is for Caucasian personnel in the three positions which we term (Foreman Mechanic). At present, you have two men employed who more or less fulfill this responsibility. It is believed that you will need a third foreman mechanic who is thoroughly conversant with heavy equipment repair. We all realize how difficult it is to obtain mechanical personnel at the salaries WRA is permitted to pay; however, it is believed that such men are available in the Denver region and that Mr. Gray in the Ordnance Office at Denver, or the Bureau of Public Roads in Denver may be able to offer information as to some of their previous employees whom they are releasing in the near future. Your Personnel Department can make a special effort to secure additional men. It is believed that a request to the Washington Personnel office for mechanic foreman positions with adequate salaries be set up and allocated to your project will help you in securing the necessary personnel.

With reference to your garage facilities, all in all your maintenance facilities are scattered over a very wide territory in your camp. With the small number of tools and shop equipment you have available to serve the small shops in both the Canal Camp and in the Butte Camp, a great hardship is worked on the Maintenance Personnel in doing a good job in their repair work. Col. Fiero has spent some time in going over the plans for a unit installation of all facilities in the camouflage area. He has recommended to Mr. Hanna and to Mr. Doucha the use of Building 5 in the camouflage area for the truck and passenger car repair shop. The reason for this is that it faces the area intended to be used for a motor park. It is quite necessary that cars to be repaired are placed on a line near there in plain view of the repair shop in such a manner that the Assistant Maintenance Superintendent (Shop Superintendent) can closely watch the accumulation of cars and trucks needing repair so that he may more properly repair those vehicles most needed for project operations, and to have the equipment at hand before him.

Mr. L. H. Bennett
Page 3
December 1, 1943

in one spot rather than scattered in several different locations of the camp. When you have a competent shop superintendent, his chief objective in his work will be to repair the greatest number of vehicles which stare him in the face constantly, so that the Motor Pool may have a greater number of operating vehicles available at any particular time. Each time that a mechanic or one of the evacuee mechanics has to go to some distance to bring in a vehicle for repair, it takes valuable time which could be otherwise spent in repair work. It is believed that the arrangement of the interior of the shop in Building No. 5 is planned so that it will prove adequate to maintain your equipment.

Sub shops at Canal Camp. Suggest only minor repairs be done where small parts common will be made available.

Mr. Hanna has plans for making building No. 6 a warehouse for parts, tires, oil storage, and the like. Building No. 7 he plans to use as a heavy equipment shop, and there will be plenty of space around this building in which storage of tractors and heavy equipment can be maintained. At present there are approximately nine tractors in building No. 5 in a status awaiting repairs. The parts are scattered all over the floor and subject to sand and dirt going into motors, which will greatly decrease the life of the equipment. Mr. Hanna has planned to enclose a room which will be relatively dirt-free for the repair of this heavy equipment. Until such time as the heavy equipment repair shop is made ready for use, it is recommended that whatever space in building No. 7 is to be used for heavy tractor repair that the ceiling be placed in that portion of the building so that it may be dust free. We should like to recommend the same procedure in the case of building No. 5 when it is completed as a truck and passenger car repair garage. I wish particularly to emphasize the need for concentrating the majority of your truck and passenger car repair work in this area in the earliest possible time. I realize you are short of construction labor, and that will undoubtedly take some time to complete as shop proper. However, please give this building the highest priority you can to secure as early completion of the unit as possible.

I have spent some time with both Mr. Hanna and your Maintenance administrative personnel; and while they are very short-handed in this category of help, I believe if the personnel department will energetically go after the personnel required, it would be a very great help to Mr. Hanna and that additional personnel for his section can be secured.

Mr. L. H. Bennett

Page 4

December 1, 1943

I further believe that without this assistance, the danger of Mr. Hanna's breaking down and being lost to the project is very imminent, to say nothing of the probability that your project will soon be out of operating motor vehicles.

I have enjoyed a great deal my visit to your project and the many courtesies you have extended to me while here, and I wish to reciprocate in any possible way I can. I will do what I can to emphasize the need for additional personnel in the Transportation Section on your project.

Very truly yours,

Erwin J. Utz
Chief, Division of Operations

December 3, 1943

Mr. L. H. Bennett
Project Director
Gila Relocation Center
Rivers, Arizona

Teletype Message No. _____

You are authorized to release extracted bullet requested by Army in connection with shooting of Satoeki Kira upon securing a receipt from the officer to whom the bullet is delivered. Please give us further report as you can about evacuee reaction to the affair.

Leland Barrows
Acting Director

LBarrows:ih

Belmont Bureau

Gila River Project
Rivers, Arizona

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DEC 4 1943

AIR MAIL

Mr. Dillon S. Myer
Director
War Relocation Authority
Bart Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Myer:

We teletyped your office last night that there was no particular community reaction to the shooting of Satoshi Kira by the Military Police.

The only persons who became excited after the incident were the Military Police who had hallucinations concerning a probable uprising, et cetera.

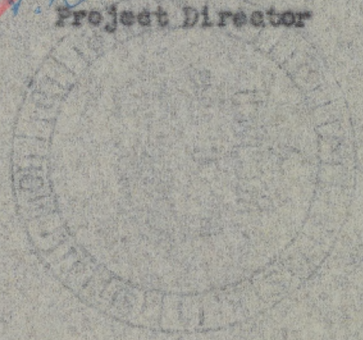
The community accepted the incident as one that was unfortunate, but has not attached any blame to the Center. We do not anticipate any further concern about it.

The boy is recovering rapidly, and, of course, when he is better it will probably be necessary to have an examination made in connection with his mental condition.

Sincerely yours,

L. H. Bennett
L. H. Bennett
Project Director

CC - Mr. R. E. Cozzens
Mrs. Ethel Fleming



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Mr. L. H. Bennett
Project Director
Gila River War Relocation Project
Rivers, Arizona

Dear Mr. Bennett:

I am sorry I have not written you before this thanking both you and your staff, particularly Mr. Huso, for the assistance which was so ably furnished to the Office of Price Administration. They have expressed their thanks to us, and I want the Placement Office to know that we appreciate the wonderful work which they did.

Very truly yours,

R. B. Cozzens
Field Assistant Director

RBCozzens:AO
12/9/43

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON

DEC 11 1942

Mr. Leroy H. Bennett
Project Director
Gila River Relocation Center
Rivers, Arizona

Dear Mr. Bennett:

This will acknowledge your letter of November 25 commenting on the various charges and insinuations made in the Los Angeles and San Francisco Examiners of November 21. We are glad to have the background information of the source of the charges as well as the facts on the claims which were made.

It happens that there has been no official investigation of these charges concerning the Gila River Center, but it was altogether within the realm of possibility that the recent hearings before the Costello Sub-Committee might have turned from Tule Lake to some of the other centers. Therefore, it was important that we have information on hand concerning all of the allegations which have been made. Your prompt action in getting the information into our hands is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

D. J. Myer
Director

cc: ✓ Mr. Cozzens



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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON

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