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OFFICIAL      DOCUMENTATION  
OF  
DISTRICT      ACTIVITIES

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HOWARD E. MATHER  
RELOCATION OFFICER

429 FULTON BUILDING  
PITTSBURGH 22, PENNSYLVANIA



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CULLUM ✓  
PAYNE  
FRANKEL  
NOBLE  
KATAYAMA

RECEIVED DEC 3 1945

HISTORY OF THE PITTSBURGH DISTRICT OFFICE  
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Howard E. Mather, Relocation Officer

The first attempt at relocation in Pittsburgh was made in March of 1943 by the American Service Institute at the suggestion of the Y.W.C.A. The matter was discussed in two meetings of the Board of the Institute. At the second meeting Colonel Shenkel<sup>\*</sup>, Americanizations Director for the American Legion in Allegheny, was present. He denounced the move, resigned from the Board, and went to the newspapers.

The early newspaper stories were a gross misrepresentation of the program. The photostatic copies of all of these clippings which are attached, refer to "Japanese Internees", which would give the public the impression that it was interned Japanese nationals in this country rather than Americans of Japanese ancestry whom the American Service Institute proposed bringing into Pittsburgh. Even then the opinions expressed in the newspapers were individual reactions for the most part, based entirely on this erroneous concept of the resettlement program.

Notable among those who declared themselves on this issue was Dr. John G. Bowman, Chancellor of the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Bowman expressed himself upon the basis of informa-

*\* an ex officer member of the board of  
the American Service Institute*



tion given him by Colonel Shenkel or others who were vociferous in their opposition. When the committee was eventually organized in Pittsburgh and the program correctly interpreted, Dr. Bowman became a member of the Citizens Resettlement Committee.

This emphasis on "Japanese Internees" and the strong opposition to it on the part of veterans organizations can be explained in part from disturbances in local plants resulting from the introduction of German prisoners of war as workers. There was considerable difficulty with the unions in the H. J. Heinz Co. food processing plants in the Pittsburgh area. This difficulty was apparently echoed in the opposition of the introduction of "Jap Internees" in the Pittsburgh Area. As a result of this difficulty with German prisoners of war in the H. J. Heinz Co. plants it was later found impossible to secure openings there for evacuees even though the food processing business would have been a natural for many of these people. Mr. H. J. Heinz, III, present head of the company, is a member of the board of the American Service Institute and a very broadminded citizen as well as leader in intercultural movements in Allegheny County. While he was personally very much interested and sympathetic to the resettlement program, and was one of the first to be suggested by sympathetic leaders here for membership on the citizens committee, he found it inexpedient to accept committee membership for the reason that he could not offer openings in his own plant to evacuees.



The fact that the early opposition in Pittsburgh was a matter of individual opinions and prejudices rather than community sentiment was demonstrated by the fact that the newspapers ignored the whole furore editorially, and there was no expression whatsoever on the part of organized groups against resettlement in the Pittsburgh area. On the other hand, several religious and social groups continued their interest and promotion of a War Relocation Office for Pittsburgh. In a letter to Mr. Robert M. Cullum, Relocation Supervisor of the Great Lakes Area, from Mr. H. J. Arnold, Chief of the Relocation Division, WRA, Washington, D. C., commenting on this early opposition, Mr. Arnold writes:

"While the newspaper clippings were vociferous, they actually express opinions and attitudes of individuals rather than broad community sentiment. Most of the statements were based on misunderstandings and distorted views of evacuees and the relocation program."

Later that spring Mr. Don Sabin, of the Washington Office of the WRA, came through Pittsburgh. From subsequent delay in opening the Pittsburgh Office it would appear that he did not feel that the time was ripe for the opening of a relocation office in this city.

In the spring of 1944, Rev. Shunji Nishi, of the Cleveland Church Federation, visited the WRA Area Office in Cleveland with a request from the Pittsburgh Church Federation for information and assistance in developing a relocation program in Pittsburgh. A plan was worked out in the Area Office for a meeting by Mr.



*data from above to P. Green*

George Trundle, Chairman of the Cleveland Resettlement Committee, with interested people in Pittsburgh. Following this meeting, a letter was addressed to the Cleveland Office by the Rev. Clem Bininger, Chairman of the Race Relations Committee of the Allegheny County Federation of Churches, exploring the possibilities of the opening of the War Relocation Office in Pittsburgh.

About the same time letters were also addressed to the Area Office by Miss Helen Green of the American Service Institute and Miss Grace Browning of the School of Social Work of the University of Pittsburgh, to the same end.

As a result of these expressions of interest from several Pittsburgh sources the Area Office contacted Rev. George Rundquist of the Federal Council of Churches, in New York City, and on July 19, 1944, Mr. Rundquist met Mr. Robert M. Cullum, Area Supervisor, in Pittsburgh, and a conference was held with Dr. William Lindsay Young, Director of the Conference of Christians and Jews, Mr. Maurice Moss, Director of the Urban League, and Rev. Clem Bininger. It was decided at this meeting that summer was not the time to start a movement for a relocation office in Pittsburgh because so many of the people in positions of leadership in the community were on vacation. However, it was the consensus of opinion that in the fall (1944) the Council of Churches should be asked to sponsor the organization of a community citizens committee. (Copies of early correspondence between the Area Office and Rev. Bininger and Dr. Arthur Kinsolving II, of Calvary Episcopal Church, now Bishop of Arizona, are attached hereto.)



960 Union Commerce Building  
Cleveland 14, Ohio

June 21, 1944

Mr. C. E. Binninger  
Second Presbyterian Church  
Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Binninger:

George Trundle, who as you know, is the chairman of the Cleveland Resettlement Committee, has told me of his recent visit to Pittsburgh and of the interest in relocation of Japanese Americans there.

We have been very much interested in the possibilities of relocation in Pittsburgh ever since the inception of the program. As you know, the first steps taken were not altogether successful, and since then our time has been fully engaged in sections ready to receive evacuees.

We are particularly glad, therefore, to learn that there is new interest in relocation in the Pittsburgh district. I would be happy to have suggestions from you concerning steps that might be taken and, in particular, what might be done by the War Relocation Authority at this time. I shall have free time shortly after the first of the month, and, if desirable, could spend a few days in Pittsburgh then. Whether it would be desirable for WRA to think in terms of opening an office, or whether the local group would prefer to handle the whole matter itself, could best be determined by such a visit.

George Rundquist of the Federal Council of Churches has expressed a willingness to spend time in Pittsburgh. I should leave it to the judgment of your group whether you would want him to come in, and if so, to determine the timing.

I am taking the liberty of sending you, under separate cover, an assortment of material bearing on the relocation program.

Sincerely yours,

/s/  
Robert M. Cullum  
Relocation Supervisor

C O P Y



THE SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Wilkinsburg  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Clem E. Binninger  
Minister

July 6, 1944

Mr. Robert M. Cullum  
Relocation Supervisor  
War Relocation Authority  
960 Union Commerce Building  
Cleveland 14, Ohio

Dear Mr. Cullum:

We are delighted to hear that George Trundle, chairman of the Cleveland Resettlement Committee, has reported favorably to you on his visit with us.

As you suggest we most certainly would like to have a visit from you, or from George Rundquist of the Federal Council of Churches, or from both of you. We feel it is very important to get off on the right foot this time.

You mention your being free during the early part of this month. I am wondering if you might be here for the next regular meeting of our Race Relations Committee of the Pittsburgh Council of Churches which is to be held next Tuesday, July 11, at 12:00 Noon in one of our colored churches, 2001 Wylie Avenue.

My Committee on Relocation is a sub-committee of the larger committee on Race Relations. Of course, we want to set up a citizens' committee in time.

Thanks for the literature which I shall distribute among the brethren. Hoping you can be here next Tuesday -- or at some other time, I am

Expectantly yours,

/s/  
C. E. Binninger

P. S. If you can't come, perhaps you might send us written suggestions concerning the steps you refer to in your letter.

C O P Y



960 Union Commerce Building  
Cleveland 14, Ohio

July 8, 1944

Dr. C. E. Binninger  
Second Presbyterian Church  
Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania

Dear Dr. Binninger:

Your letter of July 6 is at hand.

Unfortunately, matters have developed since writing you to fill my schedule for the next week. Much as I regret it, I shall be unable to attend your meeting on the 11th.

However, if nothing new comes into the picture elsewhere, I should be reasonably free in another week or ten days, and will keep in touch with you. I have written George Rundquist. If possible, I should like to visit Pittsburgh with him; his plans, therefore, will have some effect on mine.

Probably it will be best to wait for my visit before laying definite plans. In the meantime, it is to be hoped that interest will continue to broaden. The first steps are informational and best at not too furious a pace.

Since writing you, we have heard from Miss Helen Green. I wrote to suggest she get in touch with you.

Don't hesitate to let me know of anything we can do. If possible, we'll do it.

Sincerely yours,

/s/  
Robert M. Cullum  
Relocation Supervisor

C O P Y



SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Wilkinsburg  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

July 12, 1944

Clem E. Bininger  
Minister

Mr. Robert M. Cullum, Relocation Supervisor  
War Relocation Authority  
960 Union Commerce Building  
Cleveland 14, Ohio

Dear Mr. Cullum:

Thank you for your letter suggesting the possibility of your coming to Pittsburgh with Mr. George Rundquist of the Federal Council.

Our committee met yesterday and can report progress. I circulated the literature which you had previously sent and the men authorized me to write you suggesting that we would be available here if you could make it before July 20th, at which time several men are leaving on vacations and after which we will not be back until around September 11th. We realize that this does not give you much time and that perhaps you would prefer to arrange an appointment with us in the fall. We do want you to know, however, that we are anxious to have you here and that we will not do anything definite until we have had your advice.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Clem E. Bininger

C O P Y



960 Union Commerce Building  
Cleveland 14, Ohio

July 15, 1944

Clem E. Bininger  
Second Presbyterian Church  
Wilkesburg, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Bininger:

Your letter of July 12, has been received.

Last summer, when I was stationed in New York City, I found the absence of key people on vacation made it extremely difficult to extend our program. If many of the interested people are to be away from Pittsburgh during the remainder of the summer, I believe it would be inadvisable to attempt to set up a fully functioning program.

Even if the above is true, however, I feel it would be very much worthwhile if a preliminary exploration of the situation can be made now. I am planning, therefore, to leave Cleveland by night train on Tuesday, and will be in Pittsburgh on July 19. I will keep my time entirely open until there has been the opportunity for meeting you. Whether it will be desirable to stay over another day will depend upon the way matters turn out.

If you feel that this program will work out, I will appreciate your wiring me collect, and the same, of course, if the reverse is true. If imperative, I can set this ahead one day.

Sincerely yours,

/s/  
Robert M. Cullum  
Relocation Supervisor

C O P Y



WESTERN UNION

JULY 18, 1944

Robert M. Cullum  
The Relocation Supervisor  
War Relocation Authority  
960 Union Commerce Bldg.  
Cleveland

MEETING SET WILLIAM PENN GRILL 12 NOON WEDNESDAY 19TH

Clem Bininger

-----  
WESTERN UNION

JULY 18, 1944

Rev. Clem E. Bininger  
Second Presbyterian Church  
South Avenue and Mulberry St.  
Wilkinsburg, Pittsburgh, Pa.

YOUR WIRE RECEIVED. GEORGE RUNDQUIST, FEDERAL COUNCIL OF  
CHURCHES JOINING ME IN PITTSBURGH ON 19TH. MUST RETURN  
NIGHT OF 19TH.

Robert M. Cullum  
Relocation Supervisor

C O P Y



SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Wilkinsburg  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

July 19, 1944

Dear Mr. Cullum:

Thanks for your visit with us at lunch today.

As I came out of the parking lot across from the hotel, I ran into Dr. A. B. Kinsolving, II, on his way home from another meeting.

He was delighted to have a report on our meeting and, while agreeing that perhaps the Federal Council's approach should be to his larger committee on Community Relations, he seemed inclined to want to forward his "expected" letters to me. I told him that I was to receive copies and that the idea was for him to make some approach to the Council of Churches executive group, saying that his committee had been approached, etc.

This note, therefore, is to suggest that you make it plain to Dr. Kinsolving that the time has come to enlarge the committee with folk from the Council, both clergy and laymen, and with other liberal laymen and that key names would be appreciated.

In short, I got the impression that he might "pass the buck" back to me to handle during his vacation (which incidentally coincides with mine) and that what we really want to accomplish by writing him is to have a prominent man like him spread the developments thus far before the Council executive group. This will, at least, get the matter out of the sub-committee stage.

He was very pleased to hear that George Rundquist would make an approach to his Bishop.

Again, thanks and please excuse by "butting in" again, but I wanted you to know that Kinsolving knows our plans to broaden our base and should not be approached in such a way as to leave him room to "dump" the matter back in our small committee where it is now. He understands, of course, that we will want some larger group lined up for early fall contact and is anxious that his being away on vacation will in no way impede progress.

With every good wish, I am

Gratefully yours,

/s/ Clem

C O P Y



960 Union Commerce Building  
Cleveland 14, Ohio  
July 25, 1944

Rev. Arthur B. Kinsolving II  
Community Relations Committee  
Pittsburgh Council of Churches  
Calvary Episcopal Church  
Shady Avenue  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Kinsolving:

During the past several months there has been increasing evidence of favorable interest by citizens of Pittsburgh in the resettlement of Japanese Americans. As the agency charged with responsibility in this matter, we welcome this development.

While the lead is taken by WRA, the relocation program is developed in close cooperation with local social and civic agencies as well as Federal Agencies such as the War Manpower Commission, USES, National Housing Agency and the Social Security Board.

On July 8, 27,386 had left WRA centers on indefinite leave. 61,500 eligible for leave, remain. Experience has been that evacuees tend to go where others have located, with new sections filling up slowly. Whether a favorable response in Pittsburgh would result in a movement measured in tens or whether it might grow to a few hundred is problematical; the latter figure is most certainly a maximum.

In most of the cities where relocation has been successful, a committee recognized by WRA as speaking for the community on this problem, has been established by leaders in the fields of religion, business, labor and industry. In Cleveland, for example, the chairman is George Trundle of the Trundle Engineering Company. Such a committee gives substance to the relocation program as a community source of sound information and positive attitude. Independent of, but working with government, it strengthens this basically American approach to a vexing national problem.

The calling of such a committee into being is necessarily a community matter. George Rundquist, Executive Secretary, Committee on Resettlement of Japanese Americans of the Federal Council of Churches, has told me something of the work undertaken by the Community Relations Committee of the Pittsburgh Council of Churches. He suggests that your broad personal contacts would enable you to undertake such a task with every prospect of success.

May we call upon your help in this important work?

Sincerely yours,  
/s/  
Robert M. Cullum  
Area Supervisor

C O P Y



960 Union Commerce Building  
Cleveland 14, Ohio

July 26, 1944

Mr. Edwin G. Arnold  
Chief, Relocation Division  
War Relocation Authority  
Barr Building  
Washington 25, D. C.

SUBJECT: Pittsburgh Reconnaissance

Dear Mr. Arnold:

On July 19, Pittsburgh was visited. At my request George Rundquist came down for the day.

A little over a year ago, the American Service Institute made an attempt to set up a committee to aid resettlement. On the Board of the Institute were two gentlemen, one connected with the American Legion, the other with the VFW. Both were violently opposed. The project died before it was underway, amid considerable publicity. (See photostats attached.)

The American Service Institute is the Community Chest agency which works with problems of adjustment of the foreign born and their children. It was formed in 1941 by marriage of several organizations, the International Institute of the YWCA being one parent. The original suggestion that this group become interested came from the YWCA. Clearance was sought of WRA. While a definite commitment was avoided, correspondence indicated WRA acquiescence in this sponsorship.

In recent months there has been indication of a renewed interest in relocation. You had a letter from the Executive Secretary of the American Service Institute. We had correspondence with the Rev. Clem Bininger concerning the matter. George Trundle, Chairman of the Cleveland Resettlement Committee, was invited to Pittsburgh by the church group. Finally, Rev. Bininger invited WRA to discuss the matter with him and members of his sub-committee of the Pittsburgh Council of Churches, that on Race Relations.

Present at the meeting were Bininger, Dr. William Lindsay Young, Regional Director for the Conference of Christians and Jews, and Mr. Maurice Moss, head of the Pittsburgh Urban League.

It was felt that the earlier debacle was the result of inadequate groundwork, and that community acceptance might be expected to be favorable if a gradual and well-integrated approach were made. It was suggested, and both Mr. Rundquist



Mr. Edwin G. Arnold

Page 2

July 26, 1944

and I agreed, that a committee representative of the whole community would best serve this purpose.

Because of its interest and strategic position, we thought that the Council of Churches could best establish a provisional committee to seek personnel on the larger group.

The attached letter to Arthur B. Kinsolving II seeks to accomplish the first step in this program. Attached also is a letter received from Rev. Bininger.

Several of the most interested people, including Dr. Bininger, are to be away the rest of the summer. Fall seems to be as early as it would be feasible to get underway.

Contact was also made with Miss Mary E. Blake, assistant director of the American Service Institute. Miss Blake has spoken frequently to local groups concerning relocation. She agreed that the procedure outlined seemed sound and offered the full cooperation of the Institute.

While it will be necessary to delay until fall, I do expect to visit Pittsburgh again during August to discuss the matter with Manpower and Housing officials.

It is still too early to say how far we should go in Pittsburgh. The situation does seem sufficiently favorable to plan tentatively on opening an office there. My one big question is whether evacuees will be sufficiently attracted.

Sincerely yours,

/s/  
Robert M. Cullum  
Relocation Officer

C O P Y



On Tuesday, September 5, 1944, Mr. Robert M. Cullum visited Pittsburgh and conferred with the area War Manpower Commission officials. At this meeting he talked with Mr. Chapman Wright, Assistant Area Director, and Mr. Harry Kodinski, Information Specialist. This conference confirmed the existence of an acute labor shortage in Western Pennsylvania. However, both Mr. Wright and Mr. Kodinski were in agreement that a positive public information program would be necessary before it would be advisable to promote the employment of evacuees in Pittsburgh's industries. They gave every assurance of full cooperation of the War Manpower Commission when the time for resettlers had arrived.

Mr. Cullum decided definitely as a result of this conference that a War Relocation Office should be opened in Pittsburgh. Mr. Cullum and Miss Louise Noble of the social service staff of the Area Office visited Pittsburgh on October 24, to interview possible personnel for the position of Relocation Officer. They visited Dr. Wilbur Newstetter, Dean of the School of Social Work at the University of Pittsburgh, meeting there also other members of the faculty and staff of the School of Social Work, a Miss Wilson and Miss Grace Browning. Miss Noble also met with Miss Isabel Kennedy, Executive Secretary of the Council of Social Agencies, and Miss Margaret Rich, head of the Family Service Society. Contact was also

*Mr. Cullum, Mr. Mills, County Bureau of Public Assistance*



made with Mr. Joseph Crutchfield, head of the Pennsylvania Produce Company, and active in religious and civic affairs. Mr. Cullum and Miss Noble also met with the Committee of the Council of Churches.

Present at this meeting were Dr. Arthur Kinsolving II, Dr. Orva Lee Ice, Chairman of the Race Relations Committee of the Council of Churches, Rev. Clem Bininger, Dr. William Lindsay Young of the Conference of Christians and Jews, Mr. Maurice Moss, Director of the Urban League. The decision at this meeting was that the churchmen should request the Pittsburgh Council of Churches to officially endorse the resettlement program for the district and sponsor the setting up a broad citizens resettlement committee. (Copies of letters from the church leaders relative to the procedure are attached on pages immediately following).

Arrangements had been made through the Pittsburgh Office of Public Buildings Administration, for office space in the Fulton Building at Sixth Street and Duquesne Way. The original date for the opening of the office was set for November 20, 1944, but this date had to be postponed because of the failure to secure a relocation officer for the district.



THE SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Wilkinsburg  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

October 27, 1944

Council of Churches of Christ of Allegheny County  
Pittsburgh, Penna.

Gentlemen:

Last spring a group of local ministers requested your Race Relations Committee to study the matter of following the example of other major cities in cooperating with the United States Government in their attempt to relocate and resettle some of our American Citizens of Japanese ancestry.

Immediately your Race Relations Committee appointed a special sub-committee from their own number to study the work of other Councils of Churches and of other cities in this pioneer field of Christian democracy. In our study we have had the authorization and counsel of Mr. Robert Cullum, Supervisor of the War Relocation Authority Office for this district, whose headquarters is in Cleveland.

We are advised by the experience of other cities to get our church people behind the appointment of a Citizen's Committee composed of the leaders of religion, industry, business, labor, and social agencies. This Citizens Committee, then, as PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS would move forward with the authorization of the United States Government to secure employment, housing, community integration, etc., for those Japanese Americans the War Relocation Authority might see fit to send to this area.

Inasmuch as the Japanese American population in the U.S.A. is only 130,000 or 1/10 of 1% of our total population, the number placed in any community is not large. Buffalo, for example, the last War Relocation Authority office opened in this district, has only relocated 50 Japanese in the last year since its beginning.

Therefore,

1. Whereas we feel that the Council of Churches of Christ of Allegheny County should have some part in this governmental request for help in practicing Christian democracy.



Council of Churches

Page 2

Oct. 27, 1944

2. We, the undersigned, respectfully, submit the request that your Race Relations Committee be authorized to join hands with the War Relocation Authority Office in recruiting the above described Citizen's Committee at once.

/s/

A. B. Kinsolving II  
Chairman, Community Relations Committee

/s/

Orva Lee Ice  
Chairman, Sub-committee on Race  
Relations

/s/

Clem E. Bininger  
Chairman, Sub-committee on  
Japanese Relocation

C O P Y



Great Lakes Area  
960 Union Commerce Building  
Cleveland 14, Ohio

October 31, 1944

Dr. Arthur B. Kinsolving II  
Calvary Episcopal Church  
315 Shady Avenue  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Dr. Kinsolving:

Clem Bininger has just sent me a copy of the letter prepared for presentation to the Council of Churches in Pittsburgh. We are most appreciative of the support of your committee and feel that the program is moving forward soundly and expeditiously.

Inevitably, the evacuation brought damage to a very large number of loyal Americans. The vigor with which the larger American community moves to repair this damage is a real measure of its good faith. This is, I think, the essential of the program in which we are engaged. Its importance is to be gauged not only in the lives of the people with whom we are directly working, but also in the moral life of our country.

I have so arranged the commitments of the WRA area staff as to be able to have at least one officer in Pittsburgh at any time from the present on. We hope to be able to open an office with permanent personnel by the end of the third week in November. In the meantime, please call on us, if at any point our counsel may be useful.

Sincerely yours,

/s/  
Robert M. Cullum  
Relocation Supervisor

C O P Y



THE SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Wilkinsburg  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Clem E. Binninger  
Minister

November 15, 1944

Mr. Robert Cullum  
War Relocation Authority  
Cleveland  
Ohio

Dear Mr. Cullum:

Our sub-committee on relocation met with Mr. Ice at the Calvary Episcopal Church on Monday, November 13, and we have prepared the enclosed list of people we believe would serve on our Citizens Committee.

We are making these available to you that you might turn them over to your representative. We feel it is best not to approach these individuals until the Council of Churches meets to take action on the matter on Friday, November 24. Mr. Ice feels that there is no doubt but what they will approve it. This will be four days after the arrival of your man on the 20th but it seems to be the best we can do with the set-up here.

Our tentative plan is to work with your representative in contacting these people, getting them together for a preliminary session, using a temporary chairman until such time as a nomination committee suggests the name of a permanent chairman. In the meantime we would like the list of names and connections of the Cleveland committee that we might use (and your regular representative might use) in contacting these people here. We feel that if they see the type of citizen cooperating in Cleveland they will be more likely to go along with us.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Clem

C O P Y



Mr. Cullum and Mr. Harry Weiss, Reports Officer of the Cleveland Area Office, came to Pittsburgh to arrange for the opening of the office on November 16. Communication was made to the ministerial committee, and on November 17, 1944, the Executive Committee of the Pittsburgh Council of Churches met and unanimously endorsed the War Relocation program. The Executive Committee decided in order to head off announcement from unsympathetic sources of the institution of the program that the proposed opening of the WRA office be broken to Pittsburgh newspapers as soon as possible.

Accordingly, the next day, Mr. Cullum and Mr. Weiss met with Dr. Orva Lee Ice and Rev. Clem Bininger on the releases to the city papers. Contact had previously been made by the editor of the Cleveland Press with Mr. Edward Leech, Editor of the Pittsburgh Press, Scripps-Howard papers, in the interest of a sympathetic approach to the program. On Saturday afternoon, November 18, Mr. Cullum and Mr. Weiss had a conference with Mr. Leech at the Press Office and with Mr. Gilbert Love, Staff Writer of the Pittsburgh Press. This release appeared in the Sunday editions of the Pittsburgh Press and the Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph, local Hearst paper. It also appeared in the Monday Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

These newspaper accounts were universally fair. Within the next two weeks there were small expressions of opposition from veterans of Foreign Wars and other veterans organizations. Newspaper clippings from the local press in days following this initial announcement of the opening of the office are attached hereto.



During the week of November 20, a number of local contacts were made by Mr. Cullum. Among these contacts were meetings with Mr. James Allan and Mr. Ward Feitt of the Labor Division of the Pittsburgh War and Community Chest. Mr. Allan is official head of the department and representative of CIO, while Mr. Feitt is a representative of AFofL on the Chest. Mr. Feitt suggested a meeting with Mr. John Dorsey, President of the Central Labor Union, AFofL. A letter was written in line with this suggestion to Mr. Dorsey at the Central Labor Union, together with copies of War Relocation literature. (Attached hereto is labor contacts correspondence on following pages.)

It was reported that Mr. Dorsey introduced a discussion on the resettlement program at the meeting of the union and the program was approved.

At the meeting with Mr. Allan and Mr. Feitt in the Community Fund Office, Mr. Cullum was introduced to Mr. Howard E. Mather, Public Relations Officer for the Labor Division of the War and Community Fund. Mr. Allan recommended Mr. Mather for the position of War Relocation Officer in Western Pennsylvania. Upon conference with Mr. Cullum as to the details of the position Mr. Mather made formal application for the position, which was later approved by Civil Service and his appointment made effective January 1, 1945, although Mr. Mather gave active assistance in the Pittsburgh Office beginning about December 15.



Great Lakes Area  
960 Union Commerce Building  
Cleveland, 14, Ohio

November 23, 1944

Mr. John Dorsey  
President  
Pittsburgh Central Labor Union  
Keenan Building  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Mr. Dorsey:

I very much enjoyed the opportunity to talk to you yesterday. The relocation program moves ahead as it should, only when community leadership has full information. Of community groups, Labor's interest in the relocation program is certainly as great as any. I was, therefore, particularly pleased with your suggestion that our program might be presented to your executive committee some time fairly soon. When this is done, I should prefer to make a very brief statement, and then stand ready to answer whatever questions the members of the executive committee may have.

Under separate cover, I am sending along a few extra copies of "Fighting Nisei" with the thought that your people might find it of interest.

Sincerely yours,

/s/  
Robert M. Cullum  
Relocation Supervisor

C O P Y



429 Fulton Building  
Pittsburgh 22, Pennsylvania

December 15, 1944

Mr. John Dorsey, President  
Pittsburgh Central Labor Union  
Keenan Building  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Dorsey:

During these last few months citizens of Pittsburgh have evidenced an increasing interest in the relocation of evacuated Japanese Americans. No doubt some of this interest is due to the splendid military record being made by the 10,000 young men of Japanese descent who are members of the United States armed forces. Even though many of these entered the service directly from relocation centers, their record of courage and loyalty is outstanding. It is the families and friends of these young men who wish to again assume their responsibilities in normal American life.

In cities where relocation has been most successful a citizens' committee, recognized as speaking for the community on this problem, has been established by leaders in the fields of industry, labor, religion, civic groups and education. Such a committee is being organized in the city of Pittsburgh. Realizing that the Pittsburgh Central Labor Union has constantly stood for tolerance and justice for all races and classes, we are very anxious that you be represented on this committee.

We will greatly appreciate the appointment of two of your number for membership. The first meeting will be a luncheon one at the Roosevelt Hotel, on Wednesday, at 12:15, December 20.

Very sincerely,

/s/  
(Miss) Virgil Payne  
Asst. Relocation Supervisor

C O P Y



Mr. Mather had had a wide experience in public relations as newspaper editor and correspondent, Congregational pastor, high school teacher and assistant principal, and was Public Relations Director for the Western Pennsylvania Association of Congregational Christian Churches at the time of his appointment, in addition to his work on the Community Chest.

At this same time conversations were held with Mr. Joseph Crutchfield who asked that letters containing further information be sent him, with Mr. George Mills of the Allegheny County Department of Public Assistance, and with Mayor Scully of the City of Pittsburgh, all of whom expressed decided interest and sympathy for the program. Mr. Cullum was later introduced by the Mayor to Mr. George Fairley, Commissioner of Public Safety, who as a Director of Americanization for the Veterans of Foreign Wars had previously stated his opposition to the program. Mr. Fairley expressed himself as very much opposed to the plan of resettlement but arranged for a meeting with the Allegheny Council of Veterans of Foreign Wars for December 4. A very attentive hearing was given Mr. Cullum at this meeting, but under the influence of Mr. Fairley, an unfavorable resolution was passed by the council.

Mr. Cullum arranged a conference with Mr. James McDonald, Secretary of the Steel Workers Union, CIO, on December 5. Mr. McDonald was quite sympathetic with the program and arranged for Mr. Cullum to present relocation to the members of the



Steel City Industrial Union Council. Following his suggestion, Mr. Cullum met with Mr. Anthony J. Federoff, President, and Mr. Joe Goney, Secretary, of the Council, that afternoon, and a very attentive hearing was given the presentation, and when the council was pressed for a resolution commending the program, Mr. Federoff suggested that any such resolution was superfluous inasmuch as the CIO was openly on record as being opposed to any type of racial discrimination whatsoever, and was definitely back of the program as a matter of policy.

On assignment by the Area Supervisor, Mr. Carl L. Spicer, Relocation Officer of the Columbus District, Ohio, arrived in Pittsburgh on November 29, 1944, to take over the work for ten days. Mr. Spicer maintained the Pittsburgh Office during this interim, and continued the work of public relations and building up membership in the Citizens Resettlement Committee. He interviewed many community leaders, including Dr. Henry Hill, Superintendent of Schools; David McDonald of the CIO; Mrs. B. J. Hovde, prominent social and civic leader; Rev. John Coventry Smith, of the Mt. Lebanon United Presbyterian Church, who later became Chairman of the Committee; Dr. Raymond P. Kirk, President of Duquesne University; Miss Isabel Kennedy, Executive Secretary of the Council of Social Agencies; Assemblyman Homer S. Brown, prominent Negro attorney and leader; Rev. Thomas Quigley, Superintendent of Parochial schools; and a number of others.



Inasmuch as this ten days is fully covered in Mr. Spicer's narrative report to Mr. Cullum on December 10, that report is incorporated herein, together with a letter from Mr. Robert M. Cullum to Mr. Rex Lee, Chief of the Relocation Division of Washington, D. C., giving Mr. Cullum's impression of the progress of the Pittsburgh Office up to December 1st.

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December 10, 1944

TO: Mr. Robert M. Cullum

FROM: Carl L. Spicer

Dr. Young called Saturday and gave a resume of his work in talking to possible members for the committee. Mrs. Robert L. Vann, Treasurer of the Pittsburgh Courier has accepted. Mr. P. L. Prattis, Pittsburgh Courier, has also accepted. He has talked with Nathan Katz, Rev. Kerr, Mrs. Louis Reizenstein, and Henry Riddle. These last four would like to await developments before committing themselves. Their desire is to see if the other people accept. Grant is going to New York Sunday and will not return before Thursday. He has asked for a letter from our office Tuesday or Wednesday listing the names of the people who have accepted in order to show it to the four mentioned above. He is sure that it will carry weight. Young has not yet talked with Pat Fagan of the Teamsters Union or John Kane of the City Council. He will see them on his return from New York.

Rev. Clem Bininger called Saturday and gave the names of Rev. John Smith, First U. P. Church and Rev. Irving Murray, Unitarian Church. Both have accepted. Bininger talked with I. B. Stiefeld, Westinghouse, and Stiefeld suggested a meeting Monday at 2:00 PM. He wants to know more about the program. Meeting Monday at Union Bank Building at 2:00 PM. (Bininger and Stiefeld). Bininger has talked to several other people, but they are slow to make up their minds. Will have more dope on them next week.



TO: Mr. Robert M. Cullum

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Dec. 10, 1944

FRIDAY. I talked with Mrs. Hovde and gave her the names of Attorney Homer S. Brown, Oliver J. Keller and David McDonald. She is working on them over the weekend. She will report Monday.

She is also a good friend of Dr. Spencer. Appointments have been made (indefinite) Dr. Hill, Supt. of Public Schools, Wed. at 3:00 PM, Rev. John A. Ewers, Tuesday morning. We are to call before going out. Called T. R. Robinson, President of YMCA, but was unable to get hold of him.

MONDAY. Mrs. B. J. Hovde called and reported on contacts. She indicated that she would have to continue her conversation with Oliver J. Keller (it seems that Keller is desirous of getting more information about other papers that will be represented. She will report again in a day or so).

She has also talked with Homer Brown, legislater, and he had but one reservation, and that was to wait and see who else is giving support in the political field. He put it that he is a public servant, and she, Mrs. Hovde, said it would be the thing to see John Kane, Chairman of the Board of County Commission, and have a talk with David Lawrence, who can be located through the Democratic headquarters office. She hasn't been able to contact David McDonald. Dr. Spencer is a close friend of Mrs. Hovde, and we will talk with Dr. Spencer on his return to the city, which should be today (Monday).

This morning I confirmed the appointment with Mr. Stiefeld and am to see him at 2:00 PM, Room 1415 in the Union Bank Bldg. This morning I also made an appointment with Dr. Raymond Kirk, Duquesne University. Scheduled to see him Tuesday morning, at 10:30 AM.

Appointment with Mr. Stiefeld -- 2:00 PM Monday. Binger had arranged it. Stiefeld was cordial and we went over the program -- background -- how committees operated in other cities -- records -- placements, etc. He is interested but stated that he did not want to serve on the committee. His connection with Westinghouse seemed to be the principal reason. Saw possible complications arising. Suggested we try and get a member of the business family which was not a corporation such as Westinghouse, but where control was vested in the family. He also suggested we get Chamber of Commerce behind the program. This support, he felt, would carry others along.



TO: Mr. Robert M. Cullum

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Dec. 10, 1944

TUESDAY, December 5.

In meeting with Dr. Raymond Kirk, President of Duquesne University he indicated his willingness to serve on the committee subject to his knowing who the other members of the committee were. He said he would do all he could to help, but he did not want to get involved in newspaper publicity, such as broke over a year ago. He considers the subject a "hot potato" and is somewhat wary of being quoted in the newspapers. (Getting him on the committee shouldn't be difficult -- if we can show several other responsible civic leaders as appearing there.) He is young, approachable and essentially committed to the principles of the program.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7. Conference with Rev. John Ray Ewers pastor at the Christian Church, in regard to the committee. He is a liberal leader in the city. His position was similar to that of Rev. Kerr, in that he said he would like to see other church leaders and important ministers reported on the group before he made a decision about the committee. He specifically named Bishop Boyle, Rabbi Lichter, prominent Jewish leader, Rev. Kerr, Dr. Rabbi Rose, another Jewish leader, and Roy Bostwick, important layman in the community.

Each week on Wednesday noon there is a group of ministers around the city who meet for lunch. These ministers are members of prominent churches, and he suggested that we meet with that group or that it might be a good idea to meet with them and put the program before them. He would help make the appointment. On the whole, the problem was one that was new to him and he did not know particularly much about it, and I think he should be called again within the next week because he expressed a willingness to cooperate.

Dr. Henry Hill, Superintendent of Schools. Conference with Dr. Hill was satisfactory. He understands the program and said that he would serve on the committee provided he had the time and if he did not have the time, he would appoint his assistant. In case any families come to Pittsburgh and their children, he suggested that his office be notified so that the particular school in which they would enroll would receive explicit instructions from him in order that enrollment would be easy and routined and no difficulty would arise over it.



TO: Mr. Robert M. Cullum

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Dec. 10, 1944

Conference with Miss Helen Green in regard to other approaches of individuals in the community. Miss Green called Mrs. Hovde and talked about the progress made on committee members with whom she had been working. She said that Dr. Spencer had returned to the city and that she would see him on Wednesday afternoon or Thursday. She would then call in the results to our office or that if she was coming down town she might stop in. She seems to feel there will be no difficulty in securing Dr. Spencer's cooperation. She hasn't made any definite progress on the other members. She had nothing to report on Oliver J. Kellar and the acceptance of Homer Brown still hinges upon the attitude of David Lawrence.

I talked with Miss Green about Mr. Heinz and she has undertaken another approach in trying to set up an appointment for a representative of our office.

THURSDAY, December 7. Mrs. Hovde called in and reported that Dr. Spencer is perfectly willing to endorse the program, but at the moment he is ill with the flu and would appreciate not being called for anything for the next week or ten days. She also contacted Mr. Thomas and Dr. Ruttenberg of the Steel City Council.

Miss Green called and said that she had talked with Isabel Kennedy, the executive secretary of the Council of Social Agencies and explained the need to have Mr. Heinz on the committee because of his interest in the social agency, and Miss Kennedy said that she was going to see Mr. Heinz on Thursday and at that time she would attempt to arrange a meeting for Mr. Cullum and the representative of this office, Miss Kennedy and Mr. Heinz. Miss Green also suggested that Isabel Kennedy should be a member of the committee. Miss Kennedy is to call this office and give the time of the meeting with Mr. Heinz if it can be arranged.

Called Father Quigley, superintendent of parochial schools, for appointment. Appointment made for next Monday at 1:30 p.m. December 11.

Called Chancellor Bowman, University of Pittsburgh. Secretary is to call back Monday and give time for appointment. Not possible to see him this week.

Called Dr. Rabbi Lichter, Jewish leader, and he was away. His secretary said he would call our office tomorrow and give time of appointment.



TO: Mr. Robert M. Cullum

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Dec. 10, 1944

FRIDAY, December 8.

Had appointment with Rabbi Lichter and he accepted membership on the committee. He advised our office to confer with Dr. Friehoff, the leader of the Reformed Jewish wing, and he was sure that Dr. Friehoff would automatically give his time and he thought he would serve on the committee.

SATURDAY, December 9.

Conferred with Irwin Williams, the secretary of the YMCA. He thoroughly understands the program, has been on the West Coast, has been in Hawaii and he said he would be glad to serve on the committee. In case of jobs and boys' residence at the Y, he suggested that he would like to give his various staff members a little preparation so that the registration of boys, etc., would be accomplished evenly.

Miss Payne, I should like to recall here the importance of talking with Dr. Young before next week in regard to Rev. Hugh Kerr, Nathan Katz, Louise Reizenstein, Pat Fagan and John Kane, also telephone conversation with Mrs. Hovde concerning Homer S. Brown and Oliver J. Keller.

There is something that I forgot to tell you which is important. A young minister, Clem Bining, has been of great help to us here and has secured several members for the committee. He secured Rev. John Smith and Rev. Irving Murray. He also gave the name of a leading industrialist, I. B. Stiefeld, Vice President of Westinghouse. I saw Stiefeld and he did not want to take membership on the committee. He was quite definite about this although he will cooperate. Clem Bining is a very fine young man and I know that you will get a lot of information and help from him and he is approachable and can be reached on the phone at his home or in the parish. I conferred with Miss Green today and she said that she would be willing to assist with the placement of George and she didn't think it would be difficult.

C O P Y



429 Fulton Building  
Pittsburgh 22, Pennsylvania

December 8, 1944

Mr. H. Rex Lee  
Chief, Relocation Division  
War Relocation Authority  
Barr Building  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Lee:

Yesterday evening (December 7) I spoke to the Steel City Industrial Union Council. The introduction was cordial. In closing my remarks I suggested the use of a resolution by the council. The rejoinder of the present president, Anthony J. Federoff was that no resolution was necessary since support of a program such as ours had always been the policy of the CIO. To my direct question he stated that he would be very happy to be quoted at any time. No questions were asked but one of the brothers did get up and mention my former relations with the Amalgamated Clothing Workers. All in all it was a fairly successful evening.

The resolution passed by the A. F. of L. just came in and should be extremely helpful in securing a good reaction from the Central Labor Union here.

Our experience in attempting to set up a committee has been mixed. While there have been no negative reactions and none who have turned the proposal down, many seem fearful of taking a positive stand and are waiting until some outstanding figure moves ahead. We have two or three possibilities along this line and hope that shortly we will be able to go to work on the real business of securing job offers and getting together an information kit for the centers.

We have not yet secured a candidate for Relocation Officer here but do have one or two possibilities on which to work.

Sincerely yours,

/s/  
Robert M. Cullum  
Relocation Supervisor

C O P Y



On December 8, Miss Virgil Payne, Assistant Relocation Supervisor of the Great Lakes Area Office, WRA, came to Pittsburgh, and took over the Pittsburgh Office for the interim between Mr. Spicer's assignment and Mr. Mather's appointment. Miss Payne continued the work building up a committee and her time here was spent in an endless round of calls on religious, social and civic leaders in building up the resettlement committee.

Miss Payne arranged for the first luncheon meeting of the prospective committee members in the Victorian Room, Hotel Roosevelt, at noon on Wednesday, December 20, 1944, when over 40 community leaders, a general cross section of the city, with representatives of industrial, commercial, social and civic groups were present. The personnel at the speakers table is indicative of the wide representation and type of people responding to the presentation of the WRA program in Pittsburgh. Dr. A. B. Kinsolving II, Rector of Calvary Episcopal Church, largest of that denomination in Western Pennsylvania, and an active leader presided. At the Chairman's right sat Rev. Shunji Nishi, Nisei, Episcopal Clergyman on the staff of the Cleveland Federation of Churches. Following in order, were Mr. Robert M. Cullum, Great Lakes Supervisor, WRA; Mrs. Cornelius Scully, wife of the Mayor of Pittsburgh; the Very Rev. Cannon Edward M. Wilson, representing the Rt. Rev. Austin Pardue, Episcopal Bishop of the Pittsburgh Diocese; and Bishop James S. Straughn, Resident Bishop of the Methodist Area. At Dr. Kinsolving's left sat in order,



Mr. P. L. Prattis, prominent columnist of the Courier, the nation's greatest Negro newspaper; Mr. James Crutchfield, business leader; Pres. Henry Riddle, Western Theological Seminary (Presbyterian). Among other prominent religious and civic leaders present were Mr. Homer S. Brown, state representative and prominent Negro leader; Mr. Patrick Fagan of the War Manpower Commission; Miss Helen Green of the American Service Institute; Dr. Orva Lee Ice, of the Race Relations Committee, Pittsburgh Federation of Churches; Dr. Benjamin A. Lichter of B'Nai Israel Synagog; Mrs. Louis Reizenstein, civic leader; Rev. Theodor F. Stoerker, Pastor of the historic Smithfield Protestant Evangelical Church and leader of religion-labor conference; Dr. John C. Smith, Chairman of Social Action Committee of the Federation of Churches, Pastor of the city's largest United Presbyterian Church, and for 18 years missionary in Japan; Mrs. Clyde Watford, President of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; Dr. William Lindsay Young, former President of Park College, Kansas City, and Executive Secretary of the Pittsburgh Round Table, National Council of Christians and Jews.

The agenda of this meeting included a complete presentation of the work of the WRA from evacuation up to the time of the meeting, together with the present movement to assist in the resettlement of evacuees in Western Pennsylvania. Noteworthy at the meeting was the total absence of any spirit of adverse



criticism and the most sympathetic discussion of the opening of the work here. Mr. Pat Fagan of the War Manpower Commission assured the meeting that there were plenty of jobs for all comers to Pittsburgh, whatever their racial background, and that they could be placed through the regular channels of the United States Employment Service. The Chairman, Dr. Kinsolving, was authorized to select a nominating committee to make recommendations and nominations for the organization of a citizens resettlement committee at a subsequent meeting to be called at a time to be agreed upon.

#### MR. MATHER BEGINS HIS WORK

Howard E. Mather became War Relocation Officer of the Western Pennsylvania District on January 1, 1945. He had been active in the Pittsburgh Office, working with Mr. Cullum and Miss Virgil Payne during the last two weeks of December and had made numerous contacts in the building up of the citizens resettlement committee. Having been in the public relations work with the Pittsburgh Community and War Fund Campaign, and also public relations for the Congregational Christian Churches of Pittsburgh, Mr. Mather had already established connections and contacts with the local press. The Pittsburgh press had been unusually sympathetic to the program from the beginning. They gave considerable space to the appointment of the new relocation officer, including a picture. (See file of press clippings accompanying this history.)



The Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, District Office comprised the Pennsylvania Counties of Erie, Crawford, Warren, Forest, Mercer, Venango, Clarion, Jefferson, Lawrence, Butler, Beaver, Allegheny, Westmoreland, Washington, Fayette, Greene, Indiana and Armstrong; and West Virginia Counties of Marshall, Wetzel, Monongalia, Preston, Mineral, Hampshire, Berkeley, Morgan, Hardy, Grant, Tucker, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Randolph, Barbour, Taylor, Marion, Harrison, Doddridge, Tyler, Pleasants, Wood, Ritchie, Wirk, Calhoun, Gilmer, Braxton, Webster, Upshur, Lewis, Jefferson, Ohio, Brooke and Hancock.

Because of the time limit upon the WRA program confining the continuation of work to the calendar year 1945, it was impossible to work the West Virginia territory. Hence, aside from a little interested correspondence, this field was untouched.

Early in the history of the Pittsburgh District, Erie County was given over to the Buffalo District because of falling in the natural area of that office. Pennsylvania counties in which work was actually done and job offers opened were Allegheny, Mercer, Lawrence, Butler, Crawford, Washington and Beaver. These were all farm contacts, outside of Allegheny County, except one steel mill position at Sharon, Pa., when a Nisei man joined his brother and family, who were pre-war employees at Westinghouse here and found employment in a steel mill.

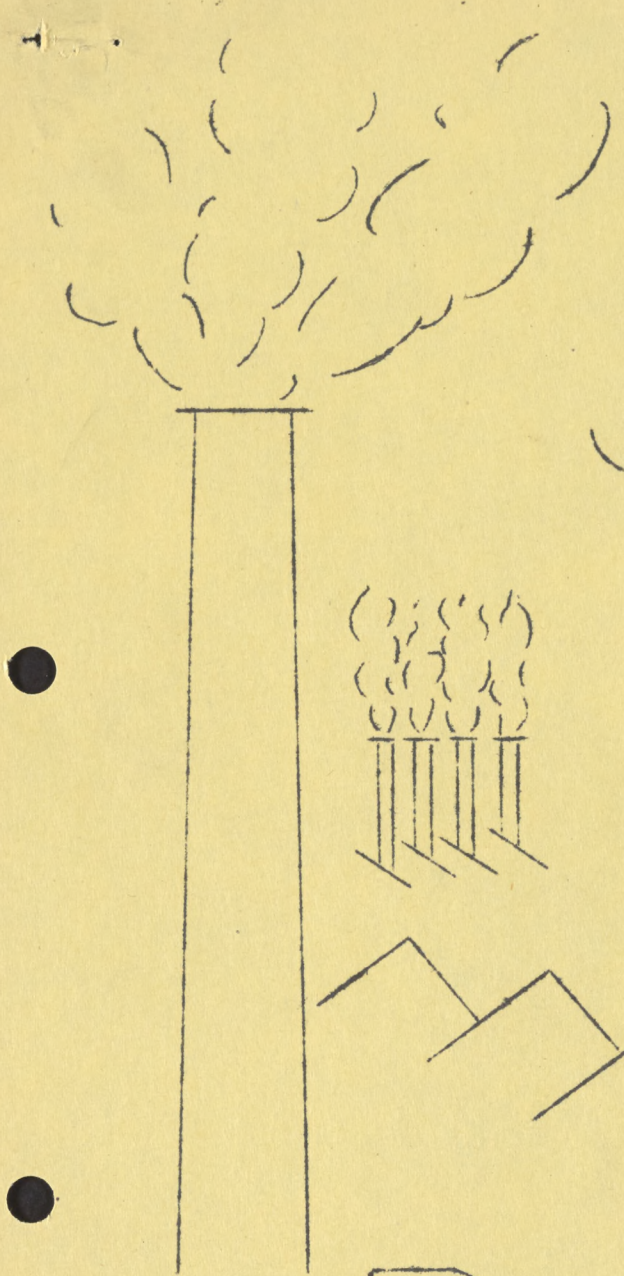


On January 16, 1945, appointment of Mrs. Mary Z. Payne as Clerk Stenographer in the Pittsburgh District, War Relocation Office became effective. Mrs. Payne gave very efficient and satisfactory service until June 16, 1945, when her husband returned from overseas service and it was necessary for her to terminate her service.

On June 21, 1945, Mrs. Mary D. Bercik's Civil Service appointment became effective, and from this time until the closing of the office on November 30, Mrs. Bercik was our efficient office assistant. Inasmuch as the district office listed but two personnel, the Relocation Officer and the clerk, all of the office detail fell upon the clerk stenographer. The Pittsburgh Office has been very fortunate in securing two people of such previous Government department experience who would come with us on this short-term basis.

The first work to be undertaken was the completion of the organization of the Citizens Resettlement Committee. Then the preparation of informational material about Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania for circulation at the centers; and third, the preparation of a bulletin of job openings in the district for transmission to the relocation officers at the centers. Copy of this original information broadsides entitled "Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania" is incorporated in the history on the following pages, and also copy of the first bulletin on relocation opportunities entitled "Jobs in Pittsburgh".





J O B S

I N

P I T T S B U R G H

P E N N S Y L V A N I A



WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
429 Fulton Building  
Pittsburgh 22, Pa.

Howard E. Mather, Relocation Officer

January 20, 1945

RELOCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Although opened only a short time, the Western Pennsylvania office has already received several attractive job offers. These will be found listed in some detail below. Sufficient interest has been displayed by leading residents of Pittsburgh to indicate that a wide variety of opportunities are in the offing.

Most necessary at this point is for the relocation officer to receive inquiries from evacuees with special interest. Any center resident who would like to see special efforts made to develop particular job openings should ask the center relocation program officer to communicate this desire to Mr. Mather.

HOUSING

Like other industrial centers, acceptable living quarters are not plentiful, but no serious housing difficulty is anticipated. Various government housing projects report low cost residential units available to families in moderate income brackets.

The estimated cost, throughout the city, for approved housing of the type acceptable to business people and junior executives in industry averages from \$10.00 to \$12.00 per room depending on the location in the city. While houses may be obtained by those with lower incomes at a per room cost of from \$5.00 to \$8.00, the general rental for a five room apartment in most sections will be \$30.00 to \$45.00.

Numerous reasonable price hotels and rooming houses conveniently accessible to downtown centers and railway terminals provide a pleasant reception for any relocatee arriving in Pittsburgh.



JOB OFFER DIGEST

<u>JOB</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
<u>ATHLETIC DIRECTOR</u>	<p>A Christian center in Weirton, W. Virginia, very near Pittsburgh, is in need of an evacuee to teach boys in craft and shop work, lead them in club activities and direct athletic programs. The young man should be a member of a Christian Church and come well recommended as to character.</p> <p>This center has paid as high as \$1700 a year plus living quarters which are provided in the center building itself. These living quarters are adequate for a single man or a family of two.</p> <p>Weirton is an industrial community with a cosmopolitan population. The employer who is the director of the center was a missionary in the Far East for six years. He has had some experience with persons of Japanese ancestry in this country.</p> <p>In addition to teaching shop and guiding athletics, the evacuee might be asked to teach Sunday school, if he desired to do so. In other words, there is a need for a well-rounded person of Japanese ancestry to assist the director. He need not be skilled in all of the mentioned fields so long as he can relieve the director of his duties in some of the fields.</p> <p>Here is an excellent opportunity for an evacuee to do a worthwhile job and at the same time to be in a position of quick acceptance in warm and congenial surroundings.</p>
<u>ATHLETIC DIRECTOR</u>	
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<u>STEEL WORKERS</u>	<p>Two steel companies in Pittsburgh are in need of a number of general workers. Pay is from 73¢ to 85¢ an hour with overtime after 48 hours. These companies are sister companies to establishments in Cleveland which long have used evacuee labor. Work being done is of essential nature requiring some physical exertion. In Cleveland, evacuees have done these jobs very satisfactorily and same can be expected in Pittsburgh.</p>
<u>STEEL WORKERS</u>	
<u>STEEL WORKERS</u>	
<u>STEEL WORKERS</u>	
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<u>ISSEI FAMILY</u>	<p>Excellent opportunity for a family of two or even three children where the parents can work as cook and general assistant in an old people's home in Pittsburgh. Very excellent housing is provided with full maintenance including board and utilities and heat plus \$150.00 a month. This would be an excellent chance for a family</p>
<u>ISSEI FAMILY</u>	
<u>ISSEI FAMILY</u>	



<u>JOB</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
<u>ISSEI FAMILY</u> (cont'd)	where the children were going to school. Pittsburgh is widely known for the caliber of its public school system and for its several leading universities and colleges.
<u>ISSEI FAMILY</u>	
<u>ISSEI FAMILY</u>	Here is another excellent opportunity for an Issei family as a janitor for the Manchester Congregational Church of which Mr. Mather, Pittsburgh relocation officer, was formerly the pastor.
<u>ISSEI FAMILY</u>	Job furnishes a 5-room brick house with all conveniences plus \$25.00 a month and calls for duties which are so light that the man in the family easily can hold a full time job somewhere else and do the church chores in his spare time. This house is located next to the church and next to Mr. Mather's own residence.
<u>ISSEI FAMILY</u>	Duties are very simple requiring only the cleaning of the church and preparing it for services. Jobs for other members of the family can be obtained readily by Mr. Mather.
<u>ISSEI FAMILY</u>	
<u>ISSEI FAMILY</u>	
<u>DOMESTICS</u>	As in other similar cities, innumerable opportunities are available for domestics. At the moment, a collection of such opportunities in one of the exclusive suburbs of Pittsburgh is being made in order to determine how large a group might possibly settle there where they can be within easy communicating distance of each other. More information will be forthcoming in the near future.
<u>DOMESTICS</u>	
<u>DOMESTICS</u>	
<u>DOMESTICS</u>	



The Reports Officer in Washington requested Mr. Mather, early in January, for an article for the WRA Information News Digest on the opening of a new WRA office. This was prepared and sent to Washington in February, 1945, and published in the March edition. A copy of this is also incorporated in this history in pages immediately following.



JOB OPENINGS IN PITTSBURGH

Before the Pittsburgh Office was officially opened, with the first discussions of possible resettlement in Western Pennsylvania, excellent job offers began coming in from farmers in scattered communities throughout the district. From this time on to the closing date of the Pittsburgh Office there has been a continuous stream of job offers coming in voluntarily. At all times during the year there has been a considerable number of these excellent openings so that had there been any considerable interest in relocation in this new district, several hundred evacuees could have been easily provided for, both as to positions paying reasonable wages and housing. Practically all of the farm jobs offered housing, in many cases fully improved modern living quarters, with wage scale running from \$75 per month on dairy farms, plus milk, eggs and produce to \$150 a month on suburban farms where there was some management responsibility. On the date of the closing of the Pittsburgh Office there were still in the files three excellent suburban farm jobs paying \$125 to \$150 per month, fully improved modern residence, in one case, partly furnished.

In the month of December, 1944, the first Japanese-American resettler, Mr. George Kimura, came into the WRA Office seeking employment. This gave the opportunity for a test case in the steel industry. Contacts were made with the local United States Employment Service, and he was immediately placed in the



McKees Rocks plant of the Carnegie-Illinois Steel Corp., without any evident difficulty or prejudice whatever. The only complaint as to his position was that the foreman and other workmen in the gang were too considerate of him to the point of embarrassment. In other words, he was treated too well by the workers. His relationships there from the standpoint of the mill were most satisfactory, and the industrial relationship department indicated their willingness to employ as many evacuees as might apply for work. Mr. Kimura remained in this position until he found it necessary to return to his family in Denver, Colorado, upon the death of his brother in action in the U. S. Army in Italy. Upon his return to Pittsburgh he made arrangements for entering the University of Pittsburgh to continue his studies.

There was another opportunity to test the reception of Japanese American resettlers in the steel industry in March when Mr. Masao Nozaki, of Colorado River, came to Pittsburgh. Again, through referral to United States Employment Service, Nozaki was placed immediately in the McKeesport plant of the Carnegie-Illinois Steel Corp., where he reported that excellent working conditions and reception were beyond complaint, and he gave satisfactory service on the job until family reunion plans took him elsewhere.

A number of other firms in the steel industry indicated their desire for Japanese American workers. Among the plants where we were not able to place anyone because of lack of job



seekers were the Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Corp., International Harvester Corp., Allis Chalmers Co., and inquiries came in from a number of other firms which, because of lack of personnel, we were not able to investigate fully. It can be said in truth that there was no lack of acceptance in labor and industry in the Pittsburgh District of the Japanese-American resettler.

While lack of resettlers seeking job openings did not afford an opportunity to test Pittsburgh's reception of workers in the smaller manufacturing plants not directly connected with the war effort, the War Relocation Officer was not successful in securing advance acceptances from any of these plants.

A. Mamaux & Son, manufacturers of canvas goods for civic and military purposes since the American Civil War, advertised daily on the radio for part-time workers, even for housewives who could spare a few hours a day, for assistance in the war effort, nevertheless, they absolutely refused to consider the employment of Japanese Americans. About a dozen other smaller plants of this nature, Ft. Pitt Bedding Company, A. Christian, Inc., Kress Paper Box Company, etc., all having AFofL unions and all desperately in need of help, refused to consider employing Japanese Americans.

This in the main seemed to have been the attitude of firms in which the AFofL unions were involved. The only exceptions to this rule were Mr. Nick Stirone, President of General Laborers Union, AFofL and Mr. Nick Lazzari, President of the Hotel and



Restaurant Workers Union, AFofL. Both of them showed a willingness to render assistance in the employment of Japanese Americans coming into the district.

The Hotel Roosevelt and Hotel William Penn indicated a willingness to employ Japanese Americans as cooks and general workers.

Beginning in April, 1945, there was considerable inquiry about the farm offers in the district. In April, Masaichi Fujita from Gila River, accepted a farm job in Sharon, Mercer County, Pennsylvania. In July, Shigero Ishimoto and family accepted a job on a poultry farm in Imperial, 35 miles west of Pittsburgh. In August, Kishitaro Fujihara and family accepted a job of the 1,000 acre farm of Mr. A. J. Williams, Regional Head of the OPA, at Centerville, Crawford County, Pennsylvania, about 125 miles north of Pittsburgh. These three families involved 25 individuals.

However, being so widely scattered, and there being no other Japanese-American families in the neighborhood, they stayed but a couple of months when the Fujita family went back to Arizona where their friends had resettled, the Ishimoto family found employment on a poultry farm in New Jersey where there was a considerable number of resettlers, and the Fujihara family found employment in Cleveland where there was an extensive colony of resettlers. While there were in each case other minor points of dissatisfaction because these positions were the first jobs accepted on coming out of the centers, and the evacuees found it difficult to adjust themselves to the normal way of life, the principal cause of dissatisfaction was the lack of companionship



of people of their own culture. Others who found employment in Pittsburgh are Mr. and Mrs. Toyoki Omori, from Granada, who came to Pittsburgh in May on family reunion planning to join their son and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Omori, who had been residents of Pittsburgh for six years and employed by Carnegie Tech. The senior Mr. and Mrs. Omori were employed by the Salvation Army Social Center in Pittsburgh in charge of the cafeteria where they are rendering splendid service and are very much liked by their employers.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Shimizu came from Tule Lake in July and accepted a position as caretakers at the Beth Shalom Synagog in the Squirrel Hill section. Mr. Masami Shusho came on in August from Tule Lake and accepted a position as a houseman in the suburban home of Mr. Adolph Hofmann, Pittsburgh businessman.

Many other families could have been placed in very desirable domestic jobs in Pittsburgh inasmuch as the wage scale was adequate and housing satisfactory, but for the fact that upon the date of the opening of the Pittsburgh Office most of the family groups left at the centers were older couples with several children. The domestic jobs invariably were for couples without children.

In summary, it may be asserted truthfully, that job offers and general industrial acceptance in Pittsburgh were all that could be desired. There were, of course, instances where employers were desirous of employing Japanese Americans, but where the



workmen in these small industries were unwilling to accept them. This, however, was not serious because we had no seekers for the jobs and the opposition could have been and would have been overcome had there been evacuees to place in these industries.

The most serious case of this kind was the offer of the Busch Nurseries, operating over 100 acres with considerable greenhouse space. They actually made application for 12 to 18 Issei or Nisei workers. They knew of the reputation of the Japanese Americans in California for proficiency in this type of work and were very desirous of getting them immediately. They offered a very fine California style ranch house, fully improved, as a residence for a family who would board two or three single workers. Other residence units, fully improved, were also available. This offer was open for two months but there were no takers. When we finally did have an inquiry and a possible acceptance, the other employees got together and informed Mr. Busch that if the Japanese Americans came on the job they would walk off. Inasmuch as we could not guarantee Mr. Busch any workers whatever, that the job acceptances were purely on a voluntary basis, and he was in the midst of the early summer busy season, this attitude on the part of his workers compelled him to withdraw his offer. This was the only case of its kind in the Pittsburgh District, and it could have been overcome if we had had two or three families available in the early spring when he first came in seeking workers.



*Pitts.*  
Form letter used in seeking job openings. Excellent results were obtained.

(date)

(Name of firm)

Gentlemen:

This Government agency is charged with finding employment for Japanese-Americans who were evacuated from the Pacific Coastal area in the early days of the war. Over two-thirds of these men and women are American-born citizens and almost all of them have sons or brothers serving in the United States armed forces in some theater of war.

The Government is interested in seeing these workers reabsorbed into the normal channels of American life at this time of acute labor shortage. Their loyalty and devotion to the American way is assured.

The Pittsburgh district office has been established to secure the resettlement of a limited number of these workers and their families in Western Pennsylvania. Among these people now resident at the relocation centers throughout the West are some who might fill your needs.

We note in (today's Pittsburgh Press) that you advertise for a (caretaker for your small country place.) It is quite possible that we might be able to assist you in finding the help that you need at this time. We would be glad to have an opportunity of talking with you about it.

If you are interested, you may call us at GRant 2962, extension 39 or 57.

Very truly yours,

/s/  
Howard E. Mather  
Relocation Officer //



PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES

From the very beginning Pittsburgh public and parochial schools, colleges, universities and seminaries gave assurance of a free acceptance of Japanese American students. When the Pittsburgh office was opened Tetsu Sugi of Colorado River was already enrolled and attending classes at the University of Pittsburgh. Later Mr. George Kimura and Miss Hana Eejima entered Pittsburgh University without difficulty, to continue their studies.

Every assistance was rendered the War Relocation Office by the Pittsburgh city schools, including examinations and aptitude tests in the case of two boys from Tule Lake who entered the Connelly Trade School here. From the very first the Board of Education gave assurance that they would go all out to insure proper acceptance to children entering the Pittsburgh schools from Japanese American homes.

This fall Matsuko Matsuno, who came to Pittsburgh from Hawaii, was entered at University of Pittsburgh, and Molly Ohashi from Colorado River, was admitted to the Pennsylvania College for Women. Both of these girls were in residence in the dormitories.

At the time of the closing of the War Relocation Office in Pittsburgh the greater number of evacuees resident in the community were enrolled as students in one or another of the educational institutions. The heads of all of the local institutions of learning are members of the Pittsburgh Citizens Resettlement Committee, several of them active in their assistance to evacuees.



There is another brief episode relative to the admission of Japanese American students at Pennsylvania State College, which while it lies outside of the Pittsburgh District, was covered by Mr. Mather upon request of H. Leon Yager, Relocation Officer, Philadelphia, Pa., through Mr. Cullum of the Great Lakes Area Office. There had been apparent discrimination against Nisei students at State College, at least none had been granted admission, although a number had made application.

In early April, 1945, Mr. Mather made the trip to State College, and by courtesy of the Office of Admissions, was permitted to see the file. He found that three young women and twelve men, all Nisei, had made application for current summer school sessions and all had been denied entrance. The immediate reason given for this denial was that State College was a small community exclusively connected with the state schools. There had been, from the beginning, great difficulties in the housing of students. This was more acute so far as female students were concerned because of the ruling that they must all live in dormitories. Dormitory space had been so limited for several years that it was necessary to deny applications from out of the state students.

When they were pressed, however, for the refusal of the twelve applications from Nisei boys, Dr. C. E. Marquardt, College Examiner, stated that it was the trustees action that no Japanese American student would be admitted to State College. A letter



was shown under date of July 11, 1942, from Dr. R. D. Hetzel, President of Pennsylvania State College, to Dr. Marquardt, in answer to his direct inquiry as to admission of Japanese American students, stating that after discussion of the situation, in absence of clear instructions from the United States Army, until a definite policy might be determined, applications for admission of Japanese Americans would be denied.

There had apparently been no definition of policy in the three years from July 1942 until the spring of 1945, and this ruling of the Board of Trustees and the Office of Admissions was still considered as in force.

Again, in the fall of 1945, upon request of the New York Area Office of the WRA, channeled through the Great Lakes Area Office, Mr. Mather was requested to make a specific investigation in the case of Mary C. Ono's application for admission to State College, which had been denied. Accordingly, on September 19, Mr. Mather again interviewed Dr. C. E. Marquardt at State College and found that it had been necessary, because of limited dormitory space, to deny admission to all women students not resident of the state. Dr. Marquardt stated that they were limited in the entire college to 10% out-of-the-state registration, and that they were unable to take care of more than a fraction of the state applicants.

However, on further conversation, it was revealed that in spite of the fact that they had now been advised officially of



the removal of all military restrictions since the May visit, the policy had not been changed relative to the admission of Nisei students "for fear of campus tensions and misunderstandings."

Under date of October 4, 1945, Mr. Nathaniel A. Snyder, Relocation Officer in Charge, Philadelphia, Pa., wrote Dr. Hetzel, after getting my report, and we quote a paragraph from his letter:

"Review of our records shows that Second Lieutenant Matthew Abrams of the Third Service Command's Security Intelligence Corps wrote you under date of June 14, 1945, that clearance for persons of Japanese ancestry to attend or be employed by educational institutions was no longer necessary. In view of this, we assume that the policy of Pennsylvania State College now is to accept Japanese American students without limitations or restrictions."

This apparently was completely cleared up, and in a letter of October 16, 1945, to Mr. Samuel R. Risk, War Relocation Authority, Philadelphia, Dr. Hetzel writes:

"The circumstances on which the decision of our Board of Trustees was based no longer exist and our policy governing the admission of students is now that in effect before the war."

Dr. Hetzel then sets further the physical handicaps of State College and the necessary limitations on enrollments from out of the state, and states that:

"With this very brief statement of the physical limitation on enrollment, may I say that the same policy which governs other applicants will apply to the admission of students of Japanese ancestry."



### RESETTLEMENT COMMITTEE

The caliber and type of personnel on the Pittsburgh Citizens Resettlement Committee is directly responsible for considerable of the good public relations and general acceptance of the Japanese American resettlers in Western Pennsylvania. The preliminary meeting in December 1944, has already been noted in the first pages of this history.

The organization meeting was held on Thursday, January 25, 1945, at which Dr. John C. Smith, Chairman of the Social Action Committee of the Pittsburgh Council of Churches and pastor of the city's largest United Presbyterian Church, was elected general chairman. Sub-committees were set up on Housing, with Mr. Clyde Watford, local real estate dealer and a member of the rent panel of the regional OPA and Mrs. Watford as co-chairmen; Public Relations, with Mr. Donald J. Howard, one of the secretaries of the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, as Chairman; an Advisory or Counselling sub-committee, with the Rev. Clem Bininger as Chairman; a private Business sub-committee, with Mr. John D. Beatty, Industrial Personnel Counsellor, as Chairman; a Labor Relation sub-committee, with Judge Kenneth Harkins of the Allegheny County Court, prominent in labor circles, as Chairman.

Vice-chairmen of the general committee represented a cross-section of community life. Mr. James Crutchfield, civic and business leader, head of one of the city's largest produce companies; Mrs. Cornelius D. Scully, wife of the Mayor of the



City of Pittsburgh, but in her own right a civic leader; David J. McDonald, John Dorsey and James J. McCormick, heads of CIO, AFofL and Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, respectively; and the Rev. Orva Lee Ice, Chairman of the Pittsburgh Council of Churches Race Relations Committee. 2

In the monthly report for January, the Relocation Officer in Pittsburgh made the following comment on the meeting:

"On Thursday, January 25, at a luncheon meeting, the Pittsburgh Citizens' Resettlement Committee completed their preliminary organization. While the attendance was considerably short of the previous meeting, the quality and great interest of all present was very gratifying. Several new contacts made during the course of the arrangements for this meeting will prove very worthwhile. I mention two of these in passing -- Mr. John D. Beatty of John D. Beatty & Associates, a cooperative industrial personnel agency in which about 200 local corporations are participating, manifested considerable interest in the resettlement program and volunteered every assistance that he and his associates could give us; and Mr. John M. Orr of the Philadelphia Company, connected with Allegheny County transit and public service corporations, a leader in every civic and philanthropic enterprise, accepted the chairmanship of the important Business and Employment Committee. On the whole, the action and spirit of the meeting was very gratifying and the business-like approach to the problems at hand gives every promise of results."

The two active groups, largely because of the small number of resettlers coming to Pittsburgh, were the Housing and Public Relations sub-committees. In February, the Housing sub-committee became active in attempts to secure a hostel for the community. At Mr. Mather's suggestion, contacts were made with the Board of Directors of the unused Gusky Orphanage, conveniently located in the City of Pittsburgh, and adapted to hostel use. In the narrative report for the month of March, the approach is briefly summarized as follows:



"The Housing sub-committee has reasonable assurance of securing the use of a large orphanage property in the City of Pittsburgh for use as a family hostel. When these plans are completed it will be possible to house a large number of evacuee families at one time in very comfortable surroundings. If it should be the Government policy to relocate family units in temporary quarters such as this, a number can be accommodated here.

"The War Relocation Office also checked on vacancies of family units in public housing projects in and near Pittsburgh. Mr. Ralph W. Harkins of the Public Housing Authority is a member of the Housing sub-committee, and reports a long waiting list in all housing projects under this authority."

In the meantime arrangements had been made with the Allegheny Branch of the YMCA, North Side Pittsburgh, whereby any Japanese American man coming into the city seeking employment or desiring to resettle here would be accommodated at a special concession rate of \$1.00 a day. This branch of the YMCA is within walking distance of the WRA office although street car lines going by the door all come directly to the Fulton Building where the WRA Office is located. Several men were taken care of very satisfactorily here. This branch of the YMCA also maintained a list of acceptable rooming houses in their section of the North Side and on several occasions directed families to these available rooms.

In May, the Housing sub-committee completed the arrangements for the use of the Gusky Orphanage as a family hostel. The property was ideally situated for this purpose. A large building that had accommodated 200 orphans, fully equipped for immediate use, even to the kitchen utensils, dishes and linen for the beds. The buildings were remote from the street in a 5-acre



plot of ground with pavilions and recreational grounds in the rear. The Board of Directors of the Institute very graciously made it available to the Resettlement Committee without cost for a definite period.

Financial support for the hostel was guaranteed by a very noteworthy contribution of whatever sums might be necessary up to \$1,000 by the Board of Home Missions of the United Presbyterian Church. Several hundred dollars in smaller gifts of money were also received from church and civic clubs toward the current operating expenses. *actually \$50.00*

In early June, when the public announcement was made of the opening of this hostel, a small group who call themselves the 26th Ward Citizens Committee, protested the use of the property for this purpose and took legal action seeking a restraining injunction. A full account of these proceedings will be covered under "Public Relations". This action on the part of this small group delayed the use of the hostel for about two months and greatly impeded the flow of possible resettlers to the district. It came just at a time when there was considerable interest in the splendid farm job openings here, and restrained the War Relocation Office from pushing the original plan to urge a number of family groups to come on for temporary residence in the hostel with a guarantee of suitable farm jobs.

In August, it was decided to proceed with the use of the hostel regardless of possible restraining action on the part of



the protesting group, and two families found temporary housing there. The protesting group immediately sought a court rejoinder barring this use, which the court threw out for lack of jurisdiction.

The hostel has been available since this time as need might arise, but owing to the fact that the greater number of evacuee families were returning to the Pacific Coast by this time, it has not been as fully used as the committee had hoped. Meantime, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Watford, the co-chairmen of the Housing sub-committee have given assistance to resettlers coming into the community in many ways. Some have been taken into their own large home for brief periods, others have been given assistance in the way of temporary furniture and utensils upon going directly into their own house at the place of employment, and still others have been well taken care of at the hostel.



PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr. Donald Howard, one of the Secretaries of the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, served as Chairman of the Public Relations sub-committee from the beginning. Mr. Howard was commended by the committee for his sympathetic interest in evacuee resettlement and his splendid work as public relations chairman.

Through the Chamber of Commerce organization, Mr. Howard was continually in contact with leading industrial and business men in the city. Through these contacts he did very much to assist in a true understanding of the problems of the Japanese Americans and the resettlement program for Pittsburgh. He arranged for a meeting of the Public Relations sub-committee, the Hostel sub-committee and War Relocation officers, together with representatives of the press in the Chamber of Commerce rooms at which time notice of the opening of the hostel was given the press. This was a splendid gesture and helped greatly in carrying the goodwill of the community and the press in subsequent challenges to the opening of the hostel.

Mr. Howard also took charge of the WRA display of pictures showing life in the relocation centers and the evacuees going forth and taking up their work in various fields of normal life. He secured newspaper publicity concerning the display of pictures and exhibited them in the lobby of the Chamber of Commerce and in the window of one of the banks in the golden triangle, which



is devoted each week to the display of various local hobbies or enterprises. These displays, together with the press notices, constituted an excellent education in center life and evacuee problems.

The other sub-committees were ready for work and the chairman equally as interested and sympathetic to the program but inasmuch as there was little movement of evacuees to the Pittsburgh District their services were rarely required.

For a general summary of the activities of the Pittsburgh Resettlement Committee during the spring and summer of 1945, the minutes of the committee at the end of the summer, meeting of September 11, follow in full.



Minutes of the meeting of the Pittsburgh Citizens' Resettlement Committee.

A meeting of the Pittsburgh Citizens' Resettlement Committee was held at 1:00 PM on September 11, 1945, in the conference room of the downtown YMCA. Those in attendance were:

Dr. Richard H. McCoy  
Dr. J. C. Smith  
Mrs. H. R. Tolliver  
Mr. Ralph A. Pannier  
Mr. Edward M. Wilson  
Mrs. F. L. Bradfute

Rev. David J. Wynne  
Rev. Clem E. Binninger  
Dr. Howard E. Mather  
Miss Louise M. Noble  
Miss Helen D. Green  
Mrs. Rosalie P. Scully

Dr. Smith reviewed the legal proceedings leading up to the court case which was tried yesterday, September 10, 1945. He informed the committee that the judges dismissed the case on the grounds that the common pleas court has no jurisdiction in a matter involving zoning regulations. It was Mr. Caplan's opinion that the report in the newspapers is correct that Mr. Van Kirk expects to appeal to the Supreme Court in Pennsylvania. Whether it will be argued or not is another question because in the normal processes of court the case will not come up until December or sometime the next year and by that time the WRA program will have been completed and there will be no further use for the Gusky Orphanage.

Mr. Wynne reported on the opening of the hostel. He stated that as he was on vacation he and Mrs. Wynne moved into the hostel and took charge when the Japanese-Americans arrived. He said the Ishimoto family of nine arrived on Friday afternoon, August 17, from the Viviano farm; the Fujihara family of fourteen arrived the following Sunday morning from Tule Lake Center and left on Monday morning. The other man who arrived with the Fujihara's, Masami Jimmy Shusho, was at the hostel a few days longer before he left to accept a position with the Hofmans. The Ishimoto family stayed at the Orphanage for a total of nine days before they were moved to the home of Mr. Alfred Dietze and the hostel was then closed. Mr. Wynne presented a check from the Ishimoto family in the amount of \$43.50.

Mr. Wynne stated he had contacted the leading citizens in the 26th Ward and they had called on the two families and were on hand to greet them. The children attended church on Sunday and also a picnic which was held on Sunday afternoon. He said that Mr. Pannier and other members of his church also spent a night at the orphanage assisting in operating it. Dr. McCoy stated that in addition to the \$43.50 received from the Ishimotos there was a sum of approximately \$140 in the treasury.



Mr. Wynne raised the question of who would be available to stay at the orphanage in the event that a family of Japanese-Americans arrived here. It was stated that Mr. and Mrs. Reith have volunteered their services in such an emergency.

Mrs. Tolliver requested information as to whether any Japanese Americans would be excluded from the West Coast and was informed by Miss Noble, Acting Relocation Supervisor of the Great Lakes Area, that all restrictions had been lifted as of September 4, and that these people are now free to go where they choose. Miss Noble also stated that there was a great movement to the West Coast but that some of the younger generation upon arrival were dissatisfied with the limited opportunities afforded them and were planning to return to the eastern section of the country. She said that all of the centers are going to be closed by December 15, and that those people who had not relocated by that time would be sent to the place of their legal residence.

Mr. Wynne stated that the orphanage would be very difficult to heat in the winter as the furnace was in poor condition. In addition, all of the house must be heated as there is no way in which some of the rooms could be shut off. The cost of operation would be very high. He inquired as to whether there would be very much more use for it and whether any other place could be found to house the Japanese-Americans who arrived in Pittsburgh. It was pointed out that movement to the Eastern part of the United States would be very small and that the WRA program was to be closed sometime around December 15, and that it was not too cold here until that time so that they could probably be sheltered at the orphanage until the close of the program.

Mrs. Tolliver raised the question of what would happen in the event Japanese-American families arrived in Pittsburgh after the Government's program was completed and the WRA office no longer functioned. Miss Noble stated that it was the aim of the WRA that when it moved out the committee could step in and be in a position to render all the assistance which would be required by the resettlers. She said that the committee would continue to exist and that it should acquaint itself with all social agencies here in Pittsburgh who would be in a position to render the type of help needed for any family group arriving in this district.

Miss Green stated that the American Service Institute would be available to give assistance when needed. Mr. Binger requested Miss Green to name a few agencies who could be contacted in the event dependency cases arrived. She stated that most of these cases should be cleared through the American Service Institute and they then would be turned over to the proper agency. It was pointed out that there is a Federal fund provided for furnishing assistance of this type to the Japanese-American resettlers.



Dr. McCoy stated that the greatest difficulty would be encountered with housing and asked Miss Green whether there were any agencies in Pittsburgh who were capable of assisting in finding suitable dwellings. Miss Green pointed out that when Mexican labor was imported into the city for work on the railroads several agencies were put to work to locate housing for them and that satisfactory arrangements were made. She said these people would be given the same assistance that is afforded other minority groups coming into Pittsburgh.

Rev. Wynne pointed out that perhaps when the WRA program closes large family groups would not leave their homes until a suitable dwelling had been found for them by a member of the family already located in the town and that the committee's services in this respect might not be requested.

Several members inquired whether there was any way of knowing how many families would be coming East and Miss Noble answered that an analysis of the present plans for relocation of every family now living at the various centers is being made and that as soon as she receives it she will present it to the committee.

Miss Green stated that the Kingsley House would be available to both single men and women and they should be sent there when they arrive in Pittsburgh. The Gusky Orphanage would then be used solely to house family groups.

The fine support given by the Pittsburgh newspapers, and the Post-Gazette in particular, was cited by several members. It was noted that the Public Relations Sub-Committee be delegated to send a letter to the Post-Gazette expressing its appreciation of the stand taken by the paper. Miss Noble stated that Mr. Godfrey Frankel, Reports Officer, was to be detailed to the Pittsburgh Office during the week of September 24, and that he would be glad to help in preparing the letter.

The Public Relations Sub-Committee was also instructed to send a letter of commendation to the Gusky Orphanage people for their splendid stand, as it was pointed out that they could have withdrawn from their offer when opposition developed. Mr. and Mrs. Watford were also to be commended for their fine work in getting the hostel in order for occupancy.

It was suggested that a mimeographed report of all the activities of the committee up to date be sent to each member



of the committee in order that each member may be fully acquainted with what is going on and that in the future each member be furnished with a copy of the minutes of each meeting.

Miss Noble, Acting Relocation Supervisor, commended the Committee on the excellent work, support and leadership during the recent issues over the use of the Gusky Orphanage and expressed the appreciation of the Great Lakes Area and local office of the War Relocation Authority.

It was decided to call another meeting sometime in October.

Upon motion of Rev. Wynne, seconded by Dr. McCoy, the meeting was adjourned.

Howard E. Mather  
Secretary

By Mary D. Bercik  
Stenographer



It has been the consensus of opinion among civic, religious, and social leaders interested in interracial relations that the work of the War Relocation Office in Pittsburgh, and of the causes involved, has been well worthwhile for the general promotion of a better understanding and more tolerant attitude on the part of the people and the district relative to minority groups.

Pittsburgh is a very cosmopolitan city with major racial and national groups from most every section of the world. Nevertheless, relationships between these national groups has left much to be desired. Intolerance, bigotry, race and national discriminations have been very strong in this section of Pennsylvania. The work, therefore, of the Relocation Officer in Pittsburgh, has been largely one of public relations. Note has already been made of the great contribution by the Citizens Resettlement Committee in this direction. The sympathetic attitude of the press which was unanimous in support of the resettlement program has also been noted.

During the ten active months that Mr. Mather has been in the office, he has been in continuous demand as a speaker before religious, civic and social groups throughout the district. In addition to the numerous small informal discussions in many places, Mr. Mather made 56 formal presentations of the resettlement program. Two of these were on the air. There were numerous showings, both by the Relocation Officer and by others, of the film "Challenge to Democracy" and the record of the 100th Battalion of the 442nd Regiment, in Italy. He was the speaker at youth rallies of the



churches, youth summer school sessions, service clubs, fraternal groups and schools.

Three of the outstanding presentations were before the entire student body of both junior and senior high school students at West View High School, in a suburban Pittsburgh community, where over 400 boys and girls heard the story and saw the films. The second was the meeting of the Hungry Club, Pittsburgh's outstanding civic forum, when not only Mr. Mather, but Mr. Robert M. Cullum, Area Supervisor and Rev. Shunji Nishi, Nisei Christian pastor, addressed the meeting which was broadcast; and third, the weekly luncheon club meeting of Syria Temple (Shriner) at the Hotel William Penn, where over 250 civic, business and religious leaders were present.

Members of the Citizens Resettlement Committee, both pastors and laymen, were also many engaged in this type of good work of which the office had no reports.

The very best job of public relations was made possible by the opposition of the 26th Ward Citizens Committee to the use of the Gusky Orphanage property as a hostel. The vicious attack of this small group focused attention upon the Japanese American problem and the press stories of their action to bar the opening of the hostel brought forth from many sources and many quarters a strong and determined support for the WRA program as well as a general education in amicable race relations. Several new members



were added to the Citizens Resettlement Committee, mostly residents of the 26th Ward, as volunteers in protest against the action of the 26th Ward Committee. Among those were three clergymen living in that section -- Rev. David J. Wynne, Rev. C. Lloyd Daugherty and Rev. J. A. Kestle and Mr. William Turner, Adjutant of the American Legion Post, and several businessmen.



COOPERATION OF AGENCIES

The response of social and governmental agencies, county, state and nation, has been all that could be desired in the Pittsburgh District.

First and foremost of these has been the American Service Institute, which agency was the first to move toward the securing of a War Relocation Office in Pittsburgh. Miss Helen Green, Executive Secretary, and Miss Mary Blake, who was assigned as contact person for WRA, have from the first had a full grasp of the entire relocation and resettlement problem. WRA has leaned very heavily upon them for assistance which was always forthcoming. The very nature of this institution makes it a natural for the type of work that War Relocation is trying to do. The best summary of the work of this agency is published by the Institute itself in a leaflet "What We Are... What We Do..." which is quoted herewith:

"The AMERICAN SERVICE INSTITUTE

... is a social agency which coordinates services for people of foreign background, and helps to integrate the foreign-born into the community as a whole.

... gives service to individuals, organized groups, social agencies, churches, and schools to achieve the following purposes:

To increase intercultural co-operation and understanding among the people of Allegheny County ...

To help overcome prejudice and discrimination because of differences in nationality, race, and religion ...

To promote understanding of the contributions of all peoples to America ...



"... and how we do it ...

1. Community Education. The American Service Institute sponsors and conducts conferences and institutes on intercultural education; provides consultation to social workers and teachers who wish to learn about nationality groups or minority problems; acts as a resource to community groups in the field of intercultural education. Materials on these subjects are prepared by the agency for the use of the schools, social agencies, church and civic groups.

2. Individual Service is given to persons who need technical help in relation to immigration, naturalization or clarification of their status as aliens. This service is given in cooperation with the U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

3. Information Service provides facts on the history, customs, and contributions of the various cultures in the community; interprets alien regulations and citizenship procedure; supplies statistics on the foreign-born. A file of volunteer interpreters and speakers is maintained for the use of social agencies, schools, and community groups."

By action of the Citizens Resettlement Committee and the approval of the Area Office of the WRA, the American Service Institute will act as the continuing agency in Western Pennsylvania for WRA.

Among the outstanding services rendered by the American Service Institute to the WRA in the early days of the Pittsburgh program was the publication for circulation to all on their mailing list of persons interested in intercultural relations, of one issue of their newsletter devoted entirely to information about the War Relocation Authority and Japanese-Americans. A copy of this news letter follows.



# AMERICAN SERVICE INSTITUTE OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY

## *News . . . Letter*

Vol. V No. 4

February 1945

### JAPANESE-AMERICANS

Dillon S. Myer, Director of the War Relocation Authority, in a speech before a joint meeting of civic organizations in Salt Lake City last spring said, "In a nation composed of people who have sprung from all the other lands of the earth, it would be rather surprising if the great bulk of the population had a well-founded understanding of any of the minorities who make up the group as a whole. But I doubt if any minority group is more widely misunderstood these days than the people of Japanese descent who make up about one-tenth of one per cent of the nation's population. One in a thousand. This one person, with his Japanese face, his yellow skin, his characteristic name, looks different from the other 999. Because he is different outwardly, many are willing to believe he must be different inwardly, in his beliefs and loyalties." Because we believe that many of the readers of the News-Letter have been following the developments of the W. R. A., and others have not had occasion to know some of the pertinent facts about Japanese-Americans, we are devoting this News-Letter to a short history of events which have directly affected one-thousandth of our nation. In addition, we are enclosing a supplement which describes the W. R. A. program in Pittsburgh and the work of the Pittsburgh Citizens' Resettlement Committee, a recently organized committee with the purpose of aiding the government in the gradual evacuation of the relocation camps or centers and the dispersal of these people throughout the whole of the United States.

### WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE

Before December 7, 1941, approximately 112,000 people of Japanese ancestry were living in the coastal states of Washington, Oregon, and California. About two-thirds of them were born here and, therefore, were American citizens and are called Nisei. The remaining one-third, born in Japan and ineligible for naturalization according to law, are called Issei. By far the majority of both groups had given up all thoughts of ever returning to Japan, and those born here were American in customs, habits, and interests.

The Issei were a late immigrant group which arrived here between 1900 and 1910. Since most of these immigrants were men who brought their wives here some years later, the second-generation group or Nisei did not appear until about 1920. This rather unusual pattern has produced a generation of elderly fathers, middle-aged mothers, and quite young children. By the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor, the second-generation group was only beginning to assume a leadership role in the Japanese communities. Its status was so precarious that the events of December 7, 1941 produced a shock which had important social implications. Both groups were concentrated and segregated geographically and by occupation.



Almost 50 per cent of those gainfully employed were in agriculture; another 26 per cent were in the wholesale and retail trade; the remaining majority were domestics with a small scattering of professional people such as doctors, lawyers, teachers, social workers, and ministers. Geographical and occupational segregation were not the only forms of segregation which existed. There was a deep social cleavage between them and the other residents of the Pacific Coast area. Although this cleavage had become less severe in the years immediately preceding 1941, it was evident enough to reverberate in what Carey McWilliams has called a "social earthquake" upon the declaration of war. He goes on to say, "This (social cleavage).... is the basic social fact, which precipitated the mass evacuation of the West-Coast Japanese--which has been accurately described as 'the largest single forced migration in American history.'"

#### EVACUATION

Immediately after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the F. B. I. began its huge task of investigating all enemy aliens and within a few weeks, several hundred of the alien Japanese suspected of having strong ties with the Japanese homeland were picked up and sent to detention stations or internment camps.

Certain pressure groups started a campaign for evacuation of all Japanese-Americans during the weeks in which the Army and other government agencies were trying to solve the problems which the declaration of war had brought to the West Coast. These pressure groups had a long history of distrust of the Japanese, and hatred, which had been generated through fear and economic competition, finally broke all bounds. In the meantime, the Western Defense Command was established and the West Coast was designated as a military zone. The Department of Justice issued an order for the removal of all "enemy aliens" from certain zones such as airports and harbors. Subsequent reports by the F. B. I. have proven that there were no acts of sabotage committed in Hawaii or on the mainland of the U. S. by Japanese-Americans. On February 19, 1942, the President signed Executive Order No. 9066 which provided for the establishment of military areas to be decided by the War Department. General F. L. De Witt was authorized by Mr. Stimson to carry out the order. Two Military Areas were designated, and through a series of 108 separate orders, General De Witt ordered the evacuation of all Japanese from these zones. During part of the month of March 1942, all people of Japanese ancestry were urged to evacuate voluntarily. After hastily selling their businesses or arranging for friends to keep the businesses going, about 8,000 people started to move away from the restricted zones. At the borders of some states, they were met and told to go back or keep moving to another state, so this plan did not work satisfactorily. By March 29, all voluntary evacuation was prohibited as the Army had its own plan for evacuation.

Local control stations were set up and evacuees reported there for registration and instructions for proceeding to assembly centers. Here they were also told that the government would help them in settling their affairs, but in the confusion and stress of the moment they did what they could for themselves which resulted in incalculable financial losses. Soon the evacuees reported to the assigned assembly center which, in many instances, was the stable in county fair grounds or the stables belonging to some of the famous race tracks in the West. For several months these bewildered, troubled, and disillusioned people lived in the assembly centers until more permanent structures could be secured. For the first time in American history more than 100,000 people had been moved into restricted areas and were under military guard. More than 70,000 were American citizens who had committed no crime. Yet, instead of rebellion, it has been reported that there was no single instance of lack of cooperation and, in fact, many of these people helped with all sorts of work that had to be done.



RELOCATION CENTERS

By November 1942, the civilian agency of the government called the War Relocation Authority, had set up ten centers scattered throughout Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Idaho, and Utah. About 110,000 people were lodged in these centers which were built along the same plans as army camps. Evacuees were housed in barracks where each family had a room measuring twenty by twenty-five feet. There were no partitions and only the necessities of cots, mattresses, and a stove were provided. Evacuees were allowed to bring only "hand luggage" so it has been through great ingenuity that these bare rooms have become "home" to 100,000 people. Evacuees are fed in central mess halls and use central laundry buildings, public latrines, and showers. The food cost per person is 45 cents or less per day and all rationing regulations are observed although evacuees hold no ration books. In many camps, where the land can be irrigated, the evacuees have grown up to one-third of the food requirements, thus bringing down the daily expense per person per day to 31 cents.

In addition to the bewilderment and concern of being uprooted from home and business, the evacuees have had to cope with inactivity to a certain extent. Almost every one who can work has a job. Although, no individual enterprise is allowed, there is work to be done in the fields, the kitchens, mess halls, and offices. For such work, the Government pays at the rate of \$12 or \$16 per month. For professional services of doctors, nurses, teachers, etc., the most that can be paid is \$19 a month. Clothing must still be bought and other essentials can be ordered from mail-order catalogues.

Even during the spring of 1942, requests for laborers in agriculture began to pour into center offices, and furloughs for work were permitted under strict regulations. The philosophy and hope of W. R. A. had been that eventually these people would be released to go to various parts of the U. S. A. While plans for release were being evolved, life in the centers went on and many social problems developed. Recreation space was limited; young people had little opportunity to lead anything like a normal social life, and they were almost frightened by being segregated in a totally Japanese atmosphere when they had grown up associating with Caucasian young people in public schools and colleges.

Along with these innocent citizens, there were trouble-makers and some "incidents" developed. The dangerous Japanese had already been interned in special camps, but there were some people so dissatisfied and bitter that they finally rebelled. These incidents were given much publicity and the facts were never interpreted by the press. They were the result of an accumulation of small grievances but in only two instances was there violence. Already the wheels were moving to produce a way of separating trouble-makers from loyal law-abiding citizens and the Japanese were more anxious than any one else for this to happen. A general registration of all persons in the center over 17 years of age was made. Those who were unable to swear unqualified allegiance to the United States were segregated. Now there are some 18,000 persons in the Tule Lake Segregation Camp, but 28% of these people are children under 18 years of age who went there with their parents.

On January 28, 1943, the President announced that the Army had decided to form a Japanese-American combat team on a volunteer basis. Previously, the Nisei had been classified as ineligible for military service. With the President's decision, this stigma was removed and today there are more than 8,000 Japanese-Americans in the Army. The 100th Infantry Battalion fighting in Italy was singled out for special praise by General Mark Clark. Out of 1300 men in this unit, nearly 1,000 Purple Hearts have been awarded. Their activities are still a military secret, but many Nisei are serving in the armed forces in the Pacific area where their knowledge of the Japanese language is invaluable.



### RESETTLEMENT

Early in 1943, the W. R. A. opened employment offices in strategic cities throughout the Middle West and a real campaign to resettle the Japanese-Americans throughout the country was launched. The young Nisei welcomed this opportunity to live in new surroundings, and it is they who have been the first to leave the centers on permanent leave. Now more than 35 thousand evacuees have been permanently resettled, but with the end of 1945, it is hoped that all of these evacuees will have found their place in the normal stream of American life. In February of 1944, the W. R. A. became a part of the Department of the Interior and through increased efforts since then it is hoped that W. R. A. will be able to close its office doors by the beginning of 1946, and this unique and unhappy incident in American history will be ended. Although the Government feels its responsibility for the problems which evacuation and relocation have produced and is making every effort to help in resettlement, it is a job which cannot be done by government alone. In every city where any number of evacuees have been resettled, a community or citizens' committee has been established to aid in the adjustment of the newcomers. Active in starting such committees are church organizations, social agencies, and interested individual citizens who know the social climate of each city. When W. R. A. closes its doors, it is such committees which will carry the responsibility for continued adjustment of Americans of Japanese descent. Sub-committees of such groups are helping in the areas of employment, public relations, social adjustment, and housing and hospitality.

In the Chicago district, approximately 6,000 evacuees have settled; several hundred are in New York City. Cleveland has more than 2,000. All of these people have filled real employment needs in the communities and in all instances the community has been enriched culturally and socially. In addition, these communities have been able to feel that they were doing their share in helping people who are victims of this war. In President Roosevelt's message to Congress in September 1943, he said, "In vindication of the very ideals for which we are fighting this war, it is important to us to maintain a high standard of fair, considerate, and equal treatment for the people of this minority, as of all other minorities."

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## PITTSBURGH AND ITS PLANS FOR RESETTLEMENT OF PEOPLE OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY

During the spring and summer of 1944, a sub-committee of the Race Relations Committee of the Pittsburgh Council of Churches began to work with the Great Lakes Regional Office of the W. R. A. The Regional Director made several visits to this city and contacted key people in industry, employment, social, and civic fields to determine whether or not Pittsburgh and the surrounding area were receptive to the resettlement of Japanese-Americans. Through the work of the committee of the Council of Churches, a group of civic leaders who were interested in this problem was organized in November. This committee requested the W. R. A. to set up a local office here and to staff it with the hope that within a few months the resettlement program could begin.

Mr. Robert M. Cullum, Area Director, pointed out that it was probable that very few people of Japanese ancestry would ever come to Pittsburgh, because now that the program has been going on for some time, the most courageous and adventuresome young people have already found work and homes in other parts of the United States. He predicted that the largest number of resettlers for this area, in all probability, would be 200 and that most of them would be older people who might be absorbed in domestic and yard work. However, opportunities in industry and business might attract the remaining skilled young people if their parents, too, could find homes and employment.

By December 1944, an office had been set up in Room 429, Fulton Building, and Mr. Howard Mather was appointed W. R. A. Officer, January 1, 1945. This office is the headquarters for all of the government assistance to people of Japanese ancestry who may eventually come to Pittsburgh and the surrounding area. Mr. Mather has a two-way job of finding placements for people and then circularizing the centers and locating possible applicants. When an evacuee decides to leave camp and accept one of the jobs, the government helps him to start out his new life after a final check on his resources and plans.

When the evacuee arrives here, the W. R. A. office will assist him in making contact with the employer, but it is the responsibility of the Citizens' Committee to help him to adjust socially. For this purpose, five sub-committees have been set up. They are Housing and Hospitality, Advisory, Employment and Business, Public Relations, and Labor Relations.

With the December announcement that the West Coast area had been re-opened to people of Japanese ancestry, it was thought that there would be a rush Westward. That this has not been the case is due to many factors, among which are: a feeling of numbness and indecision on the part of those who remain in the centers; much of their property and business has been lost, and they do not know how to start over again; there is fear that they will not be welcomed or even comfortable there again; an emotional resistance to leaving the comparative security of the centers has developed and now for these people the idea of resettlement must be made attractive.

Mr. Mather reports that several good jobs have been offered to either Issei or Nisei and that conditions in general are favorable, but he predicts that it will be some time before many resettlers will be here.

In the meantime, the Citizens' Committee is going ahead with general plans under the chairmanship of Rev. John C. Smith and Mr. James S. Crutchfield, first vice-chairman.



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Pamphlets and Releases from W. R. A. Office, 429 Fulton Building, Pittsburgh  
Grant 2962, Ext. 151

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Supplement to NEWS-LETTER, published by American Service Institute of Allegheny  
County, February 1945, Vol. V, No. 4.



The Allegheny County Council of Churches working through their various counties as well as individual pastors have rendered an outstanding service to relocation. The Board of Education of the City of Pittsburgh, Dr. Henry C. Hill, Superintendent, the Salvation Army, have all given much assistance.

The Pittsburgh chapter of the American Red Cross has been most cooperative both in the way of personal service to evacuees and, outstanding, the loan of furniture and bedding from their flood relief pool to resettler families until their own furniture might arrive.

Travelers Aid has been on the lookout at the Pittsburgh railroad stations to spot resettler families and notify the War Relocation Office or the Chairman of the Housing Committee by telephone immediately, day or night, that arrangements might be made for their care.

The U. S. Employment Service has rendered a very notable service both in the way of advising the War Relocation Office on certain type of job openings and in the actual placement with a minimum of delay of resettlers coming into the community.

Mr. Pat Fagan, War Manpower Commission head in the district has been an active member of the Resettlement Committee and has been instrumental in securing the full cooperation of the United States Employment Service at all times. There has always been a contact person in the Department assigned to Japanese American problems who has been most sympathetic and who has gone beyond



the requirements of duty in rendering assistance. The Department of Public Assistance throughout Western Pennsylvania has shown an ever ready willingness to assume its full responsibility.

Early in 1945, conferences were arranged by Miss Louise Noble of the Great Lakes Area WRA staff, through the state office Department of Public Assistance, Harrisburg, with the county key people of the Department of Public Assistance in all of the counties of the district. At these conferences there was a general discussion of evacuation and its consequences, and the resettlement program, including the early closing of the centers, and the proper Department of Public Assistance procedure in cooperation with Social Security under Pennsylvania State Assistance Laws. This ground work was so well laid that in no instance was there any difficulty in securing the required assistance. The social agencies were likewise supplied with full information as to the evacuation and resettlement programs and stood ready to render whatever assistance they might be called upon to give. However, because of the small number of evacuees coming to Pittsburgh there were few occasions to call upon them for service.

The federal, state and city housing agencies and authorities were most cooperative and sympathetic to the program. Evacuees, of course, must fulfill all of the requirements for admission into this type of housing the same as any other



citizen, but assurance was given that they would have been accepted in due course had there been sufficient number coming to this section seeking residence.

The Farm Emergency Employment Agencies in several counties of Western Pennsylvania were likewise sympathetic to the program of resettlement, and in several instances came to Pittsburgh seeking Japanese American farm help. Outstanding in this group were the Farm Emergency Employment Offices in Butler and in Mercer Counties. In both of these counties there was a backlog of farm job openings right up to the time of the closing of the WRA office. There are several other items in the work accomplished by the War Relocation Office in Western Pennsylvania that are covered in Mr. Mather's final report to the Pittsburgh Citizens Resettlement Committee and included elsewhere in this history.



THE BATTLE OF THE HOSTEL

Immediately following the press stories of the proposed opening of the Gusky Orphanage property as the Pittsburgh Hostel of the Resettlement Committee, opposition began to assert itself on Pittsburgh's North Side. The attitude of the North Side Chamber of Commerce was not cooperative, at least the President, Mr. C. E. McGlaughlin, who was present at the meeting in the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce office when Mr. Donald Howard, Chairman of the Public Relations sub-committee, made the announcement to the press, was the first to voice resentment at the use of a North Side location for hostel purposes. He was very cautious in his remarks and, among other things said "Of course, we can't fight the United States Department of the Interior."

It is to be doubted that the North Side Chamber of Commerce would have gone on record in support of the opposition of some of their members, but there is little question that aid and comfort was given the protesting group in the 26th Ward by certain groups and individuals in the North Side Chamber of Commerce.

They also had initial support from political leaders, outstanding among these being Judge William McNaugher, who was quoted by the protesting 26th Ward Citizens Committee as being on their side. When later events showed how weak the opposition was there was a reversal of attitude on the part of several political leaders, not only in the Ward but in the City of Pittsburgh and County of Allegheny.



In an attempt to head off undesirable developments, members of the sub-committee on Housing of the Citizens Resettlement Committee, representatives of WRA, and the Board of Directors of the Gusky Orphanage, met with Mr. Warren Van Kirk, Attorney, and Mr. David Hendershaw, Chairman, of the protesting 26th Ward Committee in the office of Mr. Louis Caplan, Attorney for the orphanage. At this meeting there was a general discussion of the purposes and aims of the resettlement committee in the opening of the hostel. It was emphasised that the resettlement program was but for the year 1945, and that the hostel was to be used as a temporary shelter for evacuee families coming into Pittsburgh in search of employment, and that the average stay per family was two or three days.

Although the meeting was called at the suggestion of Attorney Warren Van Kirk to try to arrive at an understanding, the representatives of the opposing group stated blandly that they had only come to find out as much as they could about the hostel plans and not to try to arrive at any understanding that would involve their approval of use of the orphanage in any way for the purposes of resettlement. They did not want Japanese Americans coming into the 26th Ward and they were not going to compromise on the issue. They announced their intention of proceeding with a mass meeting to protest the bringing of Japanese Americans into the 26th Ward.



Accordingly, on Friday evening, June 29, this 26th Ward Citizens Committee, which according to their story, sprang into existence spontaneously to oppose the bringing of "Japanese" into the community, called a protest meeting at the American Legion Hall on Perrysville Avenue, at which meeting representatives of the Resettlement Committee and WRA were to be permitted to state their case.

Accordingly, Dr. John C. Smith, Chairman of the Resettlement Committee, Dr. William Lindsay Young, Executive Director of the Conference of Christians and Jews and Allegheny County Chaplain of the American Legion, Mr. Robert M. Cullum, Area Supervisor, WRA, and Howard E. Mather, Pittsburgh District War Relocation Officer, attended the mass meeting. The temper of the meeting was positively vicious and it was evident that representatives of race baiting elements from a wider territory than the 26th Ward gathered to get in this opportunity for action.

Dr. Stanley Brooks, active in intercultural relations in the city and staff writer for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, who represented that paper at the meeting stated that he saw people there whom he recognized as being present in other sections of the city at meetings of similar nature.

Mr. David Hendershaw, 26th Ward Committee Chairman, called the meeting to order and apologized for the posters advertising the meeting. The posters read "26th Ward Citizens Committee Meeting, Friday, June 29, American Legion Hall, Perrysville



Avenue, to protest the house of Japanese at Gusky Home". He said that this poster should have read "Japanese Americans" and not "Japanese" but he had not seen a proof from the printer. Statement of the purpose of the meeting was made and then representatives of the Resettlement Committee and WRA were introduced.

It was almost impossible for them to secure a hearing because of the jeering and booing of the crowd. It was a demonstration of democracy at its worst. This protest meeting and its jeering and booing and discourtesy to invited speakers and its resolution that the meeting go on record against the use of the Gusky Orphanage or any other location in the 26th Ward for the use of Japanese Americans, touched off a barrage from the press of the entire city. These accounts were universally sympathetic and all of the papers gave support to the resettlement committee. The account of this meeting in the Bulletin Index, Pittsburgh's weekly news magazine, incorporated immediately following in this record; also the principal story from the Sun-Telegraph. Other newspapers gave comparable space but with fewer pictures and less display.



This publicity aroused public opinion on behalf of the Japanese Americans and the Pittsburgh resettlement program. Good Citizens of the 26th Ward, unquestionably an overwhelming majority, resented the speaking of this small group in the name of their ward. Communications began pouring into the WRA office and to the press in favor of the program and a better expression of American tolerance. The local newspapers carried in their correspondence sections over 50 of these letters in the succeeding month. The letters published were in general sympathetic to the Japanese Americans, overwhelmingly so. There were also a small number of letters in opposition and in defense of the protesting committee. However, only the Sun-Telegraph -- Hearst paper -- permitted any of them to get into print, and then only two or three were published. The Press and the Post-Gazette refused to publish letters contrary to our democratic way. Fair examples of these letters follow.



THE PITTSBURGH PRESS

Monday, July 2, 1945

Letters to the Editor --

OPPOSITION TO JAP-AMERICANS PROTESTED

Majority Would Welcome Jap-Americans, She Says

Editor,  
The Pittsburgh Press

We have been residents and property owners in the 26th Ward for almost 30 years, and I am writing this to tell you that all the residents of the ward do not feel as do members of the 26th Ward Citizens Committee on the question of housing Japanese Americans.

If a poll were taken, I think you would find the majority on the other side.

Members of this committee have made an issue of a matter that could have been settled without any difficulty or undesirable publicity. One argument against the housing here was that the women and children of the district would not be safe. After the furore, the chances are the Japanese-American women and children would not be safe from the "patriotic" Americans.

MARY M. BRUNER

3254 Orleans Street

C O P Y



PITTSBURGH POST GAZETTE

Tuesday, July 3, 1945

THE PEOPLE SPEAK

A department of letters in which  
Readers Express their views

SETTING AN EXAMPLE

Editor,  
The Post-Gazette

My head is bowed down with shame for those Northside people who have organized opposition to their fellow-citizens of Japanese descent moving into the neighborhood. Nobody can honestly say that Hitler is dead or defeated; he lives on in triumph unless the really American residents of Pittsburgh rise up in shocked indignation on behalf of the Japanese-Americans brought here.

Where are the priests and preachers? Why are they silent and why are their congregation members allowed to organize against democracy without being severely and publicly rebuked by the religious leaders? What about the Democratic and Republican political candidates who claim to be absolutely devoted to democracy, to say nothing of Christian ideals?

Our country presents an embarrassing spectacle to the rest of the United Nations, with disgraces like this local one, and senators filibustering on the FEPC. What to do with Germany and Japan? I suggest that first of all we offer them a decent and respectable example of how a nation's people ought to behave in the world.

A. BOOKER

Pittsburgh, Pa.

C O P Y



Both the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and the Pittsburgh Press gave editorial support to the Resettlement Committee in the orphanage issue. A sample of this support is reproduced here from the Pittsburgh Press of August 20, 1945

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#### WHERE IS OUR TOLERANCE?

SOME people, residents of the neighborhood in which the old Gusky Orphanage is located, have gone to court in an attempt to prevent the temporary accommodation of a few Nisei.

The court, on a legal point, declined to grant an immediate injunction. The question of the court's jurisdiction will be argued in September.

But all of this, it seems to us, is beside the point.

In a sense this is a social problem. And while social problems of necessity, in many cases are settled in the courts of law, we don't think this is an issue for a court of law. It is more an issue of national obligation -- an obligation owed the Nisei by the people of America.

Nisei are, as we say, Japanese-Americans. That is, they are Americans of Japanese ancestry. Just as others of us are Americans of Polish ancestry, or Jewish, or Mexican, or Scotch, or German. Whatever the ancestry, they are Americans.

In this country, Americans are Americans -- and to hell with ancestry.

In this country, there are many Americans of German ancestry. But we didn't run to the courts to keep them out of any special neighborhoods. Italy was an enemy, but we didn't run to the courts to get an injunction against Americans of Italian ancestry.

\* \* \*

These people, Nisei as they call them, became a special problem after Pearl Harbor because mixed among them were Japs -- not Americans, but Japs.

But the Americanism of the Nisei has been proven. If it hadn't been, they still would be in internment camps.



WHERE IS OUR TOLERANCE? (continued)

The sons of these people fought and died in our war -- for us. Because they looked like Japs, some of them were used in the Pacific for the most dangerous jobs in the war. They were assigned to infiltrate Jap lines for espionage purposes. This they did with great success. But when they returned to American lines they were in grave danger of being shot -- because they looked like Japs. And Yanks were accustomed, by necessity, to shooting Japs and asking questions later.

all of the Americans of Japanese ancestry -- Nisei, if you please -- who were assigned to this ticklish job were volunteers. They weren't compelled to take these assignments. They asked for them.

\* \* \*

If a man is an American, he deserves to be treated as an American. His ancestry is not to be held against him. That's one of the things we fought a war for.

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The general consensus of opinion of those in Pittsburgh active in intercultural affairs and interested in democracy at work is that this challenge to the Resettlement Committee and the attendant publicity has reacted very strongly in favor of the WRA program and the Japanese Americans, and has been instrumental in accomplishing a broader attitude of understanding and tolerance in race relations generally.

Mr. Harbaugh Miller, Pittsburgh attorney and member of the Citizens Resettlement Committee, assisted by Mr. Louis Caplan, attorney for the Board of Directors of the Gusky Orphanage, upon request of the committee became the legal counsellor.



On July 6, 1945, on action in equity by Mr. Warren Van Kirk, council for the opposing group, the attorneys for the Resettlement Committee appeared at Common Pleas Court in the chambers of Judge McNaugher. The Judge undertook a mediation roll, supposedly to help reach an understanding and effect a possible compromise. It was made to appear at this hearing that opposition to the use of the Gusky Orphanage property as a hostel might be withdrawn if certain guarantees were forthcoming from WRA and the Resettlement Committee. All of these guarantees had previously been stated as facts in discussions with the group. They involved the limiting of the number of people to be taken care of at the hostel at any one time to two or three families, guarantees that the property would not be used as a hostel beyond the spring of 1946, and that it would not be used as a permanent residence for Japanese Americans.

A delay was granted for the further discussion of this understanding with members of the 26th Ward Citizens Committee and here the matter stood until the hostel was put in use by the committee in July 1945.

It soon became apparent to the Committee that all of these discussions with the 26th Ward Citizens group were simply attempts on their part to delay the use of the property as a hostel, and a decision was reached to proceed with the opening of the hostel.



On August 17, the family of Mr. and Mrs. Shigero Robert Ishimoto were taken to the hostel. On August 20, a second family of 14 was taken to the hostel. This made a total population at the hostel of 24.

The Pittsburgh press were alive to the news value of the coming of the first Japanese American families to the hostel. Pictures of the hostel and the families in residence there were printed in the Monday editions of the Sun Telegraph and in the weekly edition of the Pittsburgh Courier. The Pittsburgh Press and the Post-Gazette carried sympathetic stories on the opening and the first Japanese American families given hospitality.

Immediately thereafter the attorney for the 26th Ward Committee filed an injunction to restrain the Resettlement Committee from the use of the property as a violation of city zoning ordinances. Certain references in their original complaint to the possibility of the hostel being a nuisance were deleted in the papers filed. An immediate hearing before three Judges was held on the injunction and the injunction was dismissed upon motion by Resettlement Committee attorneys Miller and Caplan "for lack of jurisdiction". Threats of the 26th Ward Citizens Committee to appeal this verdict have so far not materialized and it would be impossible for them to get action on the part of the courts before the final closing of the hostel and discontinuance of the WRA program.



The ending of the case was, therefore, not only a legal victory for the Citizens Resettlement Committee, but a great moral achievement in the community through favorable publicity received and the better understanding on the part of citizens generally. Intercultural relations have benefitted in the city and a broader spirit of tolerance and understanding has resulted.



## FINAL CHAPTER

Interest in resettlement, except for a few scattered cases from Tule Lake ceased in the Pittsburgh District in late September. It was decided, therefore, that coterminous with the closing of the centers, the Pittsburgh Office would close and the closing date was definitely set by Mr. Robert M. Cullum, Area Supervisor of the Great Lakes Area, in conference with Mr. Howard E. Mather, War Relocation Officer for Western Pennsylvania, as November 30, 1945.

Accordingly, a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Resettlement Committee was called Wednesday, November 7, in the downtown YMCA, in Pittsburgh, and the closing plans of the WRA announced. It was the decision of this Executive Committee meeting with WRA representatives to recommend to a meeting of the entire resettlement committee to be called on Monday, November 19, that the American Service Institute, Miss Helen D. Green, Executive Secretary, be the continuing agency in Japanese American assistance and counsel in cooperation with the Resettlement Committee and the Area Office of WRA, which would continue, in all probability, until early summer.

Accordingly, a luncheon meeting of the Citizens Resettlement Committee was held at 12:15 PM on Monday, November 19, 1945, in the Topaz Room of the Hotel Henry. Those in attendance were:



Rev. John C. Smith  
Dr. Howard E. Mather  
Mr. Robert M. Cullum  
Miss Louise M. Noble  
Miss Helen Green  
Mr. James S. Crutchfield  
Mr. Clyde Watford  
Mrs. Lilian K. Watford  
Mrs. Yuki S. Katayama  
Mr. Ralph A. Pannier  
Mr. Homer W. Clark  
Miss Lenore E. Taylor  
Mrs. Elisabeth L. Doty  
Dr. O. M. Walton  
Mrs. H. R. Tolliver  
Mr. William H. Turner  
Mr. Harbaugh Miller

Rev. David J. Wynne  
Dr. C. Lloyd Daugherty, Jr.  
Dr. William L. Young  
Mr. P. L. Prattis  
Mr. George Kimura  
Mrs. Hildegard Dietze  
Mr. O. J. Schwarm  
Major Herbert G. Sparks  
Dr. Henry A. Riddle  
Miss Marguerite S. Strother  
Miss Marjorie Collins  
Dr. Richard H. McCoy  
Rev. Edward M. Wilson  
Mr. Patrick Fagan  
Mr. T. A. Robinson  
Mr. Louis Caplan

Dr. Smith presided at the meeting. He called upon Dr. Mather, who made the following report of WRA activities:

In accordance with the original plan, the district WRA offices will close within this calendar year. The Pittsburgh Office will close November 30. I came with the Pittsburgh District Office as Relocation Officer just after the organization of the local office of January 1st, so that I am now completing 11 months of service.

The splendid start of the Pittsburgh Office has been largely due to the cooperation of a number of social, civic and religious agencies. The WRA program called for the fullest possible utilization of such agencies and the local office neither had the personnel nor the facilities for doing the work itself. We are particularly grateful for the cooperation of the American Service Institute, Allegheny County Council of Churches, Board of Education, the U. S. Employment Service, the city, state and federal housing agencies, Travelers' Aid, the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Department of Public Assistance, Mr. Mills in Allegheny County and also Mr. Roger Orman in Mercer County. We wish also to express our appreciation of the splendid support and assistance given us by organized labor, and particularly, Mr. Anthony Federoff of the CIO and Mr. Nick Lazzari of the AFofL Restaurant Workers Union. We wish to note also the general policy of organized labor to render every assistance to the Japanese American resettlement program.

During the past six months since the Pittsburgh resettlement program was under way the local WRA office has given specific assistance to 26 individuals and family groups. This assistance has been job investigations, transportation to place of residence, and rendering such service in the local



community as securing ration books, getting children enrolled in schools, etc.

During the past year the local Relocation Officer has addressed 56 groups and gatherings on the Japanese American evacuation and resettlement. In 11 of these presentations the film "Challenge to Democracy" and the war record of the 100th Bn., 442nd Reg. were shown. These meetings included church youth rallies, young peoples summer school sessions, church school groups and missionary societies, the assembly period in the public schools, service clubs, interracial groups and civic organizations.

In addition to the work done in the Western Pennsylvania District I was on special detail at Rohwer Relocation Center, McGehee, Ark., during the month of May. During this period I interview over 50 families and was instrumental in relocating 4 families in Michigan, 3 in Erie County, Pa., and 2 families came to Pittsburgh after my return as a result of these interviews. In the course of the service rendered to resettlers in Western Pennsylvania the relocation officer has traveled over 6,000 miles during the past 6 months using the Government automobile.

Public Relations contacts in Pittsburgh have been particularly good. Noteworthy is the full support and sympathy given the program by all of the local newspapers; the general caliber and cooperation of members of the resettlement committee has also contributed greatly to this public relations program, especially Mr. Donald Howard of the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, for public relation contacts that have very valuable.

In addition to this specific work of the relocation office we have been instrumental in settling a number of misunderstandings relative to the program. There were protests from organized groups in Tarentum and McKeesport over the "proposed use of Japanese laborers in the steel mills." The report in these communities was that steel companies were going to be allowed to bring in mass laborers of Japanese American extraction to compete in the labor market. Delegations from both of these communities came into the office and the entire program was explained to them with the result that the matter was dropped.

While we have not accomplished very much in the way of resettling Japanese Americans in Western Pennsylvania, a great good has been accomplished by the general program and publicity in the interests of better cultural understanding and race



relations. While we do not have very many resettlers in Western Pennsylvania it must be understood that the opportunities were here and had the center residents wished to avail themselves of them there were attractive jobs for many families and individuals in many lines of industry and commerce. The groundwork was well laid, acceptance in this community, in the schools and in general in industry was assured all who might elect to come and was found for all who did come.

Professor Everet Dakan of the Area WRA staff, told me at the last Area conference in Cleveland, "the groundwork was probably better laid in Pittsburgh than in any other office in this area. Had it been done sooner there would doubtlessly have been a large number of resettlers coming to Western Pennsylvania. The fact that the work was nearly over before the Pittsburgh Office was opened accounts for the small number of evacuees coming to Pittsburgh.

The laying of this groundwork was a job that could not be done under a year in itself. Under the resettlement program the local office had to sell its community and its opportunities to the people residing in the centers. This was our first job in Pittsburgh. When our office was opened Cleveland already had over 1,600 evacuees in its area, Chicago had over 7,000 in residence and so on throughout the larger cities in the nation. It was the tendency of the resettlers to pyramid where other groups of resettlers were already living. Very few were willing to go out into a new community where they would be by themselves. Most of the evacuees now in Pittsburgh are young people who have come here to attend schools or universities. Our colleges and universities are to be complimented on the splendid way in which they have cooperated with WRA. Aside from these young people there are 3 or 4 families working in Western Pennsylvania.

It is necessary that some agency of assured continuity act as a continuing agency upon the closing of the WRA office on November 30. It will be the duty of this agency to render whatever assistance it may be called upon to render resettlers now in the community or to newcomers of Japanese American ancestry who may come in from other cities. It is recommended by this office as well as the executive committee of the Citizens Resettlement Committee that the American Service Institute be designated as a continuing agency in Pittsburgh for WRA. The very nature of this agency having to do entirely with cultural and interracial relations makes it the logical successor to WRA.

It has been a year of very pleasant contacts and enjoyable work, and I wish once more to express my appreciation of the assistance given by individual members of the committee and by the active sub-committees in instituting and maintaining the program in this district.



Dr. Smith next made a report of the committee's activities. He stated that during the period since it was organized only one member had resigned from the committee when its policies were under attack but that the 26th Ward controversy had resulted in several new members from the 26th Ward who were in sympathy with the program and who offered their services in any way they could be used. He mentioned in particular a member of the American Legion, Mr. William Turner; a 26th Ward businessman, Mr. Ralph Pannier; a pastor of a church in the district, Rev. David J. Wynne; and also Dr. C. Lloyd Daugherty, who is a pastor in a downtown church but who lives in the 26th Ward.

He stated that one of the things that has encouraged him very much was the way in which other groups in the community have assisted the committee. He told of the Gusky Orphanage people who gave us the use of the orphanage absolutely rent-free and fully equipped so that all we had to do was move in, and when the crisis came and court suit was brought, not only against the committee but against the orphanage people, for a restraining injunction against its use, they stood by us and upheld everything that we have fought for. Mr. Louis Caplan, attorney for the Gusky Home, was presented to the committee members.

Dr. Smith also reported for Mr. Donald Howard, Chairman of the Public Relations committee, who was unable to be present at the meeting. He recalled that it was Mr. Howard who had arranged a meeting with representatives of newspapers when the opening of the Gusky Home was planned and of the favorable reception given us. He also pointed out that Mr. Howard had arranged for a display of Japanese American activities in the lobby of the Chamber of Commerce Building for a period of several weeks last summer. He commended Mr. Howard and other members of the Public Relations committee for the fine job of publicity which they had done.

Dr. Smith also stated that there were other sub-committees who have not had an opportunity to work as there was no particular need for their services. Mr. Harbaugh Miller, attorney who represented us in court was called upon to report.

Mr. Miller stated that it was a great privilege to work as counsel for this committee and that the Gusky Orphanage had done us a great service by offering the services of Mr. Caplan, one of the ablest attorneys in Pittsburgh. Since the original attempt to enjoin us from the use of the Gusky Orphanage had failed, he anticipated no more trouble.



The Housing sub-committee, of which Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Watford are co-chairmen, was next called on for a report. Dr. Smith pointed out that they did practically all the work and at times have even made their home available when necessary to house the evacuees. The actual day by day work has largely been due to the efforts of the Watfords.

Mr. Watford reported that the committee has been greatly helped and its work made much simpler due to the active co-operation of quite a number of people, and that regardless of the type of service needed someone was ready to assume it. He stated that on a number of occasions we had to use a trailer or a truck and that these were put at our disposal without cost, all of these things having been given in the spirit in which this whole committee has functioned. You will be interested to know that in this period of time we had 34 different people coming into the hostel. At the present time there are two different families in the hostel. While the hostel opening was delayed for several weeks in an effort to untangle the legal aspects, at no time have any people come into Pittsburgh with no place to go. There were a number of people who had offered the use of their homes so that at no time would we have been hard pressed for a place to house the evacuees had it become necessary.

He stated he appreciated all the commendations heaped on the co-chairmen of the housing committee, but that credit should also go to friends of the committee, mainly, Mrs. Louis Reizenstein and Mrs. Alfred Dietze, who donated their services at the orphanage for a period of time. He stated that several ministers also brought down overalls and washed windows, scrubbed floors and did all the heavy work in getting the hostel in operation.

Dr. Richard McCoy, Treasurer of the Resettlement Committee, then made a financial report. He stated that there was a total income of \$450 from 8 different contributing groups, plus one or two individual gifts and that this amount also includes direct payments from the Japanese Americans who were housed at the orphanage. We have spent approximately \$435 during that same interval for labor, cleaning, repairs, food, etc. We now have on hand \$16.90 and two unpaid bills. The money on hand is sufficient to cover the bills. Dr. Smith pointed out that there was still a fund of \$1,000 which the committee may draw on should the need arise.



Dr. Smith reported that the WRA office in Pittsburgh will be closed as of November 30, 1945, and that the centers will be closed by that time and the great majority of the people from the centers will have been relocated. We do not anticipate that very many more will be coming to Pittsburgh, but there may be some families who will arrived here and who will need assistance. In an executive committee meeting held November 7, the following recommendation was passed:

"On motion by Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Watford, it is recommended to the general committee that the American Service Institute be designated the continuing agency, in cooperation with the Area Office of the WRA, upon the closing of the district WRA office on November 30, and that the Citizens Resettlement Committee hold themselves in readiness for whatever assistance the American Service Institute may call upon them to give."

After due discussion it was moved and carried that the recommendation of the executive committee be adopted.

Miss Helen Green of the American Service Institute was present and expressed the willingness of her agency to accept the work.

Dr. Young stated that this meeting should not be disbanded without giving credit to Dr. Smith and Dr. Mather for their excellent leadership, as he said the committee is only as good as its leaders, and it was largely through their efforts that the committee could accomplish as much as it did.

Dr. Smith pointed out that the committee is not disbanding but that it will still be called upon for assistance on many occasions. This committee will function the same as before as a coordinating committee except that it will work with the American Service Institute instead of the WRA.

Mr. Crutchfield announced that the actual work in helping some 26 families resettle in this district was small, but that the greatest service rendered by the Committee was its exhibition, right in the midst of war, of the obligations and rights due a minority group which had been so much prejudiced against. He also stated that the greatest asset we could have had was the conflict with the 26th Ward as it was a test of the attitude of the Pittsburgh district as a whole. The help given the few Japanese Americans was of small value, but the tolerant attitude it brought in the thinking of the Pittsburgh people was of a very great service which too few realize.



He called attention to the fact that the action of the press in coming to the defense of the Japanese Americans was much more effective than if the Japanese Americans had been claiming their own rights and that the small group in the 26th Ward had been thoroughly shamed by its unamerican attitude. We do not have to talk about the rights and obligations to minority groups, but if they can feel they can depend upon us to assist them in settling in this great nation of ours we can greatly simplify the problems we have in assimilation of various groups.

Mr. Robert M. Cullum, Area Supervisor, Cleveland, was then presented. He noted briefly the history of the WRA in Pittsburgh and closed his remarks:

"If I had a decision to make to open an office here in Pittsburgh on the basis of what has happened in Pittsburgh, I would do it again. I am not saying goodbye because the work will go on. I may not see some of you again, but it has been a pleasure working with you. I think you've done a great job and I know the work is going on."

Howard E. Weather

Nov. 30 1945



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, District

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR 1945

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR 1945	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
A. New arrivals	-	-	1	2	5	-	11	15	4	1	
B. Estimated total population	-	-	1	8	13	11	22	36	31	18	
C. Resettlers First Visits:	-	-									
1. From Centers	-	-	3	2	5	-	11	-	4	-	
2. From other districts	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
3. Persons alone	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	4	1	
4. Family groups	-	-	-	1	2	-	2	1	-	-	
5. No. persons in family groups	-	-	-	2	4	-	11	14	-	-	
D. Action on Relocation Summaries:	-	-									
1. Pending 1st of month	-	-	-	3	1	1	3	-	-	-	
2. Received during month	-	-	3	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	
3. Plans returned to Area Office	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	
4. Plans completed by relocation	-	-	1	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	
5. Plans pending end of month	-	-	4	1	1	3	-	-	-	-	
E. Family Reunions by WRA	-	-									
1. Number discussed	-	2	1	3	2	-	1	-	2	-	
2. Number from centers reunited	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	
3. No. leaving dist. for reunion elsewhere	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	9	14	
F. Evacuee Requests for Service:	-	-									
1. Medical (write agency)	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	
2. Employment	-	-	4	7	5	7	4	4	-	-	
3. Housing	-	-	-	1	3	-	4	2	12	1	