

513

CORRESPONDENCE

INCOMING/OUTGOING

DEC. 1945

G-A

171

Copy to Mrs. Kingman

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

DEC - 3 1945

My dear Mr. Crotty:

I am not surprised to learn from your letter of October 31 that you have found the living conditions so unsatisfactory for many of the returned evacuees of Los Angeles County. Mr. Myer and I have been concerned about that situation for some time.

It has been difficult to locate really adequate living quarters for all the evacuees returning to that area because of the serious housing shortage which prevails there. The War Relocation Authority, confronted with the necessity of closing all the relocation centers before the end of the calendar year, has adopted a plan which is admittedly only a partial and makeshift solution. Certainly the projects such as the Lomita Air Strip are not suitable for long range occupancy and were, in fact, never intended for that purpose. They do, however, have the decided advantage of placing the evacuees in the community of their choice where they can seek more suitable and permanent accommodations in line with their individual needs, and where the dependent ones among them can be brought into personal contact with the representatives of the local welfare agencies.

By the time you receive this letter, the last of the relocation centers (as distinct from the Tule Lake Center) will have been closed. The two main jobs that lie ahead for the War Relocation Authority staff on the West Coast are (1) to help the people now living in the temporary projects such as the Lomita Air Strip in transferring to a better type of housing, and (2) to work with the welfare agencies of California in improving the services provided to dependency cases. The Authority is planning to maintain its field staff in the West Coast offices well into the spring of 1946 for the purpose of completing these assignments.

I earnestly hope that the Authority will have the support and cooperation of your committee in dealing with these problems so that the relocation program in Los Angeles County may be brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

Sincerely yours,

HAROLD L. ICKES
Secretary of the Interior.

Mr. Homer D. Crotty,
Chairman, Executive Committee of Los Angeles,
Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play,
Room 203, 465 California Street,
San Francisco 4, California.

December 5, 1945

Mr. Stuart Palmer
Assistant Director
American Education Fellowship
239 Fourth Avenue
New York 10, New York

Dear Mr. Palmer:

In answer to your request of November 20th for information regarding the work of this Committee, we wish to inform you that the Committee on American Principles and Fair Play is being dissolved this month.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Ruth W. Kingman
Executive Secretary

RWK:es



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Mrs Ruth W. Kingman
Exec Secretary Committee American
Principles & Fair Play
2287 Telegraph Ave
Berkeley 4 Calif

Dear Friend -

670 San Luis Rd.
Berkeley Calif
12-4-45

Thanks for sending me
notice of meeting 12-12-45 as I
do not expect to be present
I express my approval of the
suggestions that our major work
is done & the time to dissolve
this particular organization is at
hand. Much work remains however
in helping Japanese get relocated.
Cordially Wm. James

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

1201

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter

NL = Night Letter

LC = Deferred Cable

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TB28

T•JDB54 21 3 EXTRA VIA KY LN=NEWYORK NY 4 356P

MRS RUTH KINGMAN=

2287 TELEGRAPH AVE BERKELEY CALIF=

YOUR REPLY CAME TOO LATE SUGGEST FAIRPLAY COMMITTEE WRITE
PRESIDENT DIRECTLY OUR COMMITTEE EXPECTS LIQUIDATION
DECEMBER 31

MATSUMOTO.

As 5 390 Res

31

NO. TO: *Yusaka*
BY: *Ans* TO: *155* TO BE: *Mail*

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297 FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 10, N. Y.
TELEPHONE GRAMERCY 5-4658

Executive Secretaries
EDITH E. LOWRY
MARK A. DAWBER

December 10, 1945

Mrs. Ruth W. Kingman
Committee on American Principles and Fair Play
2287 Telegraph Avenue
Berkeley 4, California

Dear Mrs. Kingman:

Under separate cover we are sending you ten extra copies of
the summary of the conference on Japanese Americans and ten
copies of the attendance list.

Sincerely yours,

Toru Matsumoto

Toru Matsumoto, Director
Committee on Resettlement
of Japanese Americans

cec

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

20 WEST 40TH STREET, NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

LONGACRE 3-6890

Official Organ: The Crisis



Regional Office
Room 206, 12 Geary St.
San Francisco 8, California

December 12, 1945

Pacific Coast Committee on American
Principles and Fair Play

Mrs. Ruth W. Kingman, Executive Secretary
465 California St.
San Francisco, California

My dear Mrs. Kingman:

In the Directory of Agencies in Race Relations published by the Julius Rosenwald Fund, the Director suggests united action of groups organized to deal with problems in communities, and we are urged to use the Directory as a "source of useful contacts among organizations with similar aims and programs."

We should like to know the names and addresses of your representatives in the states of Washington, Oregon, California and Nevada. The West Coast Regional Office of the NAACP serves these states. We are anxious to arrange a meeting early in 1946 of interested groups and would appreciate your immediate response to our inquiry.

We feel we can be of mutual effective service in this post war period.

Sincerely yours,

N. W. Griffin
N. W. Griffin
Regional Secretary

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file
W.R.A.

Mr. Alfred J. Lundberg
Key System
Grove Street
Oakland, California

Encl 1

DEC 1

Dear Mr. Lundberg:

The War Relocation Authority is establishing a panel, from which the Director of the Authority may, from time to time, select three members to hold sessions as a Board of Appeals for Leave Clearance to consider the appeals of Japanese-American evacuees whose application for indefinite leave from a relocation center has been denied by the Director.

I should be happy if you would agree to serve as a member of that panel.

Leave Reg

Although a fuller statement concerning the Leave Regulations of the Authority and the procedure to be followed by the Board of Appeals for Leave Clearance will be later made available to the members of the panel, I should like to indicate here very briefly the general procedure to be followed. Under the Leave Regulations of the Authority any evacuee, whether citizen or alien, may apply to the Director for permission to leave a relocation center. That application is considered and an appropriate investigation is made. Information that is available in the files of the intelligence agencies of the Government is examined. The applicant is thereupon notified that his application for indefinite leave has been either granted or denied. The Regulations of the Authority provide that every applicant shall be granted leave as a matter of right where the applicant has made arrangement for employment or other means of support, where the community to which the applicant wishes to go is reasonably willing to accept evacuees, where the evacuee agrees to keep the Authority notified of his changes of address, and where the Director has no reasonable ground to believe that the internal security of the country would be endangered through the issuance of leave to the applicant. We are now providing that an applicant who has been denied leave -- and the denials, almost without exception, are due to a belief that the internal security

of the country would be endangered through issuance of leave, rather than through a failure to satisfy the other requirements as to employment, community acceptance and reports -- may appeal from that denial, and the Director will refer such appeals to the Board of Appeals for Leave Clearance. It is our plan to have the Board hold its sessions at the Tule Lake Center in northern California, at Newell, about 35 miles from Klamath Falls, Oregon.

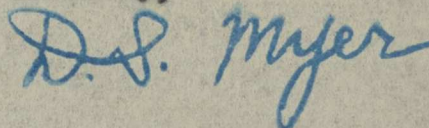
We have no way at present of estimating the number of appeals that will be made. It is our plan to call a meeting of the Board when a number of cases are available for consideration. The Board would then sit in continuous session at the Tule Lake Center, probably for about a week at a time, until all pending cases are disposed of. The Board will not have the power of final decision; it will make recommendations to the Director for disposition of the cases, but the Director anticipates that, in the absence of very strong reasons to the contrary, he will be guided by the recommendations of the Board.

It is our plan to pay a per diem compensation to members of the Board that will be adequate to pay for actual travel and subsistence expenses incurred. We are not planning to pay a salary in addition to these expenses.

If you find that you are able to spend an occasional week on our work but not more, I shall be happy to have you indicate that and we can make our plans accordingly. Before any convening of the Board, it is my plan to check with the members of the panel and select three members who can conveniently sit for the particular session of the Board.

I hope that you can find your way clear to accept membership on the panel. Will you let me hear from you at your early convenience.

Sincerely,



Director

December 14, 1945

Mr. N. W. Griffin, Regional Secretary
National Association for the
Advancement of the Colored People
Room 206, Geary Street
San Francisco 8, California

Dear Mr. Griffin:

We regret that we will not be able to meet with you in the meeting you are planning for early in 1946 of interested groups on the West Coast. The only reason that we will not be able to meet with you is that our Committee is bringing its work to a close next week.

Organized as an emergency group to support law-abiding persons of Japanese ancestry, particularly during the war years, we now feel that the greater part of our work is done and that other more permanent groups are now ready to take over what is left undone by shorter-lived agencies.

I have very much enjoyed meeting and working with Mr. Joseph James from time to time. I hope that being free of my work with the Fair Play Committee will allow me to put more time on some of the other programs that my husband, Harry Kingman, continues to be interested.

May I wish you the best of luck in your plans for developing additional "contacts among organizations with similar aims and programs."

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Ruth W. Kingman
Executive Secretary

RWK:es

December 14, 1945

Pfc. Ned Minamoto
1235 S. W. Alder
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Minamoto:

It is always good to hear from any of the men overseas. It is especially good to hear from anyone from the 442nd. So much of my time and interest have been devoted to affairs in which you men have a very deep concern, that it always affords me the greatest pleasure to hear personally from any of you.

The Fair Play Committee is satisfied that there are now several organizations and civic agencies up and down the Coast which are ready to champion the cause of the Nisei. These organizations and agencies are of a permanent nature and can contribute more, in the long run, than can our organization which was drawn together on an emergency basis at a time when other organizations were not ready to go the whole way.

Because we feel that the work will be carried on satisfactorily by other groups, it has been decided that the Fair Play Committee shall discontinue working as a committee and we will close our offices on December 20th.

I am glad that your letter came when it did as we still have on hand the material you have asked for.

Thank you again for your fine letter. I hope that you have all the luck in the world yourself and that your country, particularly that portion of it which is located on the Pacific Coast, will eventually afford you and your buddies the high place in our respect and affection which you have won.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Ruth W. Kingman
Executive Secretary

RWK:es

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PACIFIC COAST

Committee on American Principles and Fair Play

(INCORPORATED)

Headquarters: Room 203, 465 California Street, San Francisco 4

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Executive Secretary
MRS. RUTH W. KINGMAN
Office: 2287 Telegraph Ave.,
Room 215
Berkeley 4
Telephone: ASHberry 6214

December 19, 1945

Mr. Will C. James
670 San Luis Road
Berkeley, California

Dear Mr. James:

The enclosed minutes carry an account of the "Discussion on the Dissolution" of the Fair Play Committee.

We feel that you will be interested in these minutes, and will wish to go over them.

May I thank you for your interest and cooperation in the work of the Committee?

It has been a big job, and a satisfactory one which we have done. I am confident that it could never have been accomplished nor even undertaken without the support of the persons who make up our Advisory Board and Executive Committee.

It has been a privilege for me to work with and for such a Board. May I add my own personal word of thanks to you along with the gratitude of the entire membership?

Very sincerely yours,

Ruth W. Kingman

Mrs. Ruth W. Kingman
Executive Secretary

RWK:cs
Enc.

Hi, neighbor!

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Of The
PACIFIC COAST COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN PRINCIPLES AND FAIR PLAY
Held
December 12, 1945, Berkeley, California

Present: Dr. Paul S. Taylor, Mrs. Ruth W. Kingman, Miss Leila Anderson, Mrs. Mary B. Alexander, Dr. Galen M. Fisher. Visitor: Mr. Harry W. Kingman.

Dr. Fisher: The Sub-committee recommended that:

- (1) Effort be made to coordinate efforts of all agencies dealing with minority problems, including those of Japanese Americans.
- (2) Good-will of Fair Play Committee be transferred to any such organization as might result from efforts toward such coordination.

Motion made by Miss Anderson, seconded and carried, that recommendation of Sub-committee be accepted.

Financial Report by Dr. Fisher (Assistant-Treasurer). Cash on hand, December 1, 1945, \$1818.94. Agreement with Los Angeles to pay \$700.00 to meet their \$700.00 between September 1945 and December 1945. Met in full by both parties. Audit of Committee's books now being made, by Long & Wyman, of San Francisco, Will be available for closing of books. Columbia Foundation grant of \$700.00 for conferences not used in toto. Balance will be returned to Foundation. Only current bills outstanding.

Motion made by Mrs. Kingman, seconded and carried, that the Financial Report be accepted.

Report of Executive Secretary:

- (1) Account of New York Conference.
- (2) Report on Washington contacts.
- (3) Recommendation that office close in December.
- (4) Resignation offered, effective December 31, 1945.

Motion made by Dr. Fisher, seconded and carried, that Executive Secretary be instructed to make final contacts with federal agencies, suggesting to them that any concluding surveys they may make as to evacuee needs shall provide as complete a fiscal record as possible, this record to be made available for any possible future computation of evacuee losses.

Executive Secretary instructed to confer with the Executive Director of the Columbia Foundation concerning possibility of retaining remaining funds for future emergency purposes. California Councils for Civic Unity.

Discussion: Brought out the following points of agreement.

- (1) Proposal, as presented to 35 organizations, is considered workable.
- (2) Proposed organization is acceptable provided that the American Council on Race Relations, as guiding agency, will provide, in addition to counseling, clearing house, and other such special service, one staff member who can act as coordinator for the program.
- (3) Dr. Fisher should write a letter to the American Council on Race Relations, incorporating the foregoing points.

Dissolution of Committee

Discussion: Satisfaction was expressed in the work accomplished by the Committee.

- (1) Any tendency toward gradual weakening of Committee should be avoided.
- (2) The Committee should dissolve while it is still a live organization so that it will not lose its prestige.
- (3) Committee should be in existence as moral force.

Motion made by Dr. Fisher, seconded by Mrs. Alexander, and carried unanimously,
in recognition of the fact that the major contribution the Committee intended to make at its inception has been completed.

- (1) Discontinue active program, close executive office, as of Dec. 20, 1945.
- (2) Accept resignation of Executive Secretary, effective December 31, 1945.
- (3) Send out notices of this action to all Advisory Board members.
- (4) Send out news release, stating: (a) Office closure, Dec. 20, 1945, (b) Executive Secretary resignation, Dec. 31, 1945, (c) The Advisory Board and Executive Committee to disband at a later date.
- (5) News release not to be made until American Council on Race Relations feels that California Council of Civic Unity is on its way toward effective organization.

Motion made by Mrs. Kingman, seconded and carried.

- (1) Files and official papers of the Committee be transported to the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, there to be held for at least two years.
- (2) The ultimate intention is that all documents of historical value be placed in the Bancroft Library or other appropriate place.
- (3) The present Executive Committee hold itself ready to be called together to vote final disposition of such papers.

Motion made by Dr. Fisher, seconded and carried.

Granting Power of Attorney to Glen M. Fisher and Paul S. Taylor for purpose of signing statement re eligibility of contributors to exemption from income tax on contribution to Committee.

Dr. Taylor expressed deep appreciation of Committee of all of the effort and time given to its work by the Executive Committee, and spoke particularly of the work of the Executive Secretary. The members present joined Dr. Taylor in expressing the latter.

Dr. Fisher proposed that resignation of Executive Secretary be accepted with deep appreciation and admiration for effective service.

Meeting adjourned: 5:45 p.m., December 12, 1945.

results achieved by the
This Committee has been deeply gratified with the ~~progress of the~~
Japanese-American Student Relocation Council in placing Japanese-American students
in institutions of higher learning outside the restricted Western Defense area.
We have been correspondingly disappointed to learn that on June 4, 1943 twenty
institutions had been withdrawn from the approved list for the entry of such
students, the names of the institutions being contained in the "Master List of
Schools Having Classified Naval Activities Making It Undesirable That Japanese
Attend".

~~In respect to~~ If the only reason for the inclusion of
~~We venture to call attention especially to the two institutions~~
~~for women, Mt. Holyoke College, and Smith College, if the only reason for their~~
inclusion in this list is the presence of units of WAVES officer candidates,
we respectfully request that the order be reconsidered. It is difficult to
see how the presence of Japanese-American girls who had been cleared by the
thorough process followed by the War Relocation Authority, in collaboration
with the Naval and Military Intelligence and the F.B.I., could conceivably
constitute any danger to the WAVES. Furthermore, we are informed that those
two colleges are at liberty to employ instructors, gardeners, janitors and
maids, whether aliens or citizens, of Japanese extraction, whether aliens or
citizens, who have not had to undergo any such scrutiny as to their loyalty or
character.

Allow us to call your attention to two other considerations that
argue for the restoration of these colleges to the approved list, unless there
are other factors unknown to us which constitute a menace to national security.
The first is the record of the approximately one thousand Japanese-American
students who have already been relocated. So far as the War Relocation Author-
ity is aware, none of this large body of students has been accused of any subver-
sive conduct whatsoever; ~~but~~ on the contrary, they have ~~won~~, as a whole, won
a high reputation for their civic loyalty and academic fidelity. The second is
the fact that the War Department has admitted more than 9,000 young men of Jap-
anese ancestry into the armed forces.

We venture to hope that a similar reconsideration may also be given
to the other institutions in the list of June 4, 1943. Their elimination from
the approved list is a body-blow at one of the most important items in the
government's program for the relocation of the evacuated Japanese-Americans.

We present this petition with the firm conviction that even in time
of war it is of paramount importance that the rights of all citizens should be
scrupulously maintained, except as they may have to be temporarily curtailed in
the unquestioned interests of national security.

Dear.....

You may be familiar with most of the items mentioned in the enclosed summary of Activities in 1943, but seeing them in the mass gives a better idea of their cumulative effect. Even so, the most telling achievements don't appear at all, for they don't lend themselves to formal report.

The year's record proves the wisdom of having an Executive Secretary, and we were fortunate to secure one so able and discreet as Mrs. Kingman. She stands high in the esteem of important leaders both in Washington and along this Coast. But the brunt of the field fighting, so to speak, has been carried by our 800 members in a hundred communities. Pointed printed matter has provided ammunition. Not less than 100,000 pieces have been distributed. A pamphlet that surpasses "A Balance Sheet on Japanese Evacuation", in sales, as well as in effectiveness, is the oven-fresh "American Fighting Men Speak Out".

We have been ~~extra~~ careful not to demand too much of the time of yourself and other Board and Committee members. But we do now need your financial help. The budget for the ten months of 1943 was \$7000. For 1944, about \$8500 is needed. ~~If Board members all give an average of \$20. and if Columbia Foundation renews its grant of \$3,900, we can keep in the black. Last year you kindly gave.....~~

The fight will continue to be as hot as it was last year, even though significant gains have been made. The eagerness of the Army and other Federal authorities to maintain the constitutional principles for which we stand is our biggest asset.

Please respond at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,

We understand that members differ widely in resources and in the demands upon them, and would not presume to prescribe what each should do, but we hoped you might see fit to give. If the Board and Committee members are

Galen M. Fisher
Assistant Treasurer.