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J. RESETTLEMENT ASSISTANCE TO RETURNING PERSONS EVACUATED BY GOVERNMENT EXCLUSION ORDERS

I. Background of Relocation Program for
Persons of Japanese Ancestry.

A. Revocation of Restrictions on the West Coast

Public Proclamation No. 21, dated December 17, 1944, has been issued by Major General Henry C. Pratt, Commanding General of the Western Defense Command. This proclamation revokes the mass exclusion orders under which persons of Japanese ancestry were evacuated from the Pacific area in 1942. The proclamation was effective January 3, 1945.

Section 8 of the Proclamation provides: "The effect of the rescission of Public Proclamation and Civilian Exclusion Orders in paragraphs 1, 2, 3, and 4 preceding, and the purpose of this Public Proclamation is to restore to all persons of Japanese ancestry who were excluded under orders of the Commanding General, Western Defense Command and who have not been designated individually for exclusion, or other control, their full rights to enter and remain in the military areas of the Western Defense Command. The people of the states situated within the Western Defense Command, are assured that the records of all persons of Japanese ancestry have been carefully examined and only those persons who have been cleared by military authority have been permitted to return. They should be accorded the same treatment and allowed to enjoy the same privileges accorded other law-abiding American citizens or residents".

War Relocation Authority, as the agency now administering the program for the relocation of the evacuated persons, has a continuing responsibility to facilitate the orderly resettlement of these families. The Bureau of Public Assistance of the Social Security Board, by agreement with the War Relocation Authority and State agencies, will provide necessary assistance to persons who return, until they are either self-supporting or are cared for through the types of public assistance to which they are eligible.

Persons of Japanese ancestry who will be leaving the centers can be generally divided into these groups:

- (a) Economically independent persons who resettle without assistance from any one.
- (b) Persons who will need no assistance except the leave assistance given by WRA.
- (c) Persons whose resettlement plans will depend upon prior assurance that there are available within the community adequate facilities to meet their health and welfare needs.

It is anticipated that all persons will have resettled and the centers closed by January 1, 1946.

B. Types of Problems Facing Evacuees on Leaving Centers

Traditionally, the Japanese have always helped one another through a custom of mutual aid - only a negligible number have ever received public assistance. This mutual assistance in times of need extended beyond the family group to include friends and others having a common bond of interest, similar occupation, etc. This history has made it very difficult for evacuees to understand or to accept public assistance; since it is something new to them, it is regarded with a great deal of

uncertainty. It is hard for them to recognize that financial assistance provided for their rehabilitation after they leave the centers is not what they have considered as "charity", but is an extension of Federal responsibility to help them in becoming self-supporting again.

Several years of restricted, institutionalized living, as well as the shock and losses due to evacuation, have made many evacuees lose their zest for beginning anew. Most of them have developed a feeling of security at the centers. They know what is available to them and what can be expected. They are not as certain about the outside, and either do not believe that financial help or medical care will be available to them, or resist differentiating themselves from others in their group by accepting such help. Some feel that they are too old to make a new start.

Some evacuees may have been affected physically or emotionally during residence at centers and may find it difficult to resume normal work habits. Special skills may be lost or efficiency reduced so that retraining may be necessary. Many of those who worked before in truck gardening and resettle in parts of the country unsuited to such occupation may have to adapt themselves to an entirely different type of employment.

Those who are potentially self-supporting, but have no resources, may need assistance until employment is obtained. Others may have resources, but since it may take some time until these can be made available, will need assistance in the interim. Although able to meet ordinary living expenses, some may need assistance in setting up a new housekeeping unit. Property may have deteriorated, been lost or destroyed, and essential replacements may be needed. There will be some persons who will be totally dependent upon public assistance or institutional care.

In addition to financial assistance, many evacuees may need counselling and help in readjustment in their former community, and probably even more in becoming reestablished in a new community. They may need help in advance planning for the reunion of family groups, in finding adequate housing, in financial planning, in obtaining medical and health services, in arranging for school facilities for children, or in personal or family adjustment problems.

C. WRA Assistance in Planning for Departure from the Centers

1. In order that the departure of evacuees from relocation centers will be on an orderly and planned basis, WRA is attempting to counsel with all evacuees at the centers in regard to their resettlement plans. Those who have sufficient resources to carry out their plans are free to leave the centers at any time; but those who will expect some financial assistance or other services, either in getting to their destination or after arrival, usually obtain WRA approval of their plan before leaving the center.

a. WRA Financial Assistance

The War Relocation Authority will provide transportation grants covering direct fare by coach to point of relocation for each evacuee, including parolees from Department of Justice internment camps now residing with their families at relocation centers. Where necessary WRA will also provide each evacuee with a grant consisting of \$3.00 a day while enroute to point of relocation, plus a maximum of \$25.00 to meet initial expenses at the point of relocation.

WRA will also pack, crate, and ship all household goods and personal effects, 1/ and commercial property 2/ to the common carrier depot nearest point of relocation from either a relocation center, or from storage in Government warehouses in the evacuated area. The only exception is that where property in a WRA warehouse is within reasonable trucking distance (approximately 25 miles) of an evacuee's point of relocation, the evacuee shall furnish his own transportation from such point to point of relocation.

The WRA will also pack, crate, and ship all household goods and personal effects from private storage in the evacuated areas to the common carrier depot nearest point of relocation, but will only pack, crate, and ship commercial property up to 5,000 pounds from private storage, subject to certification by the relocation officer serving the community in which the evacuee relocates that the use of such property is essential to the evacuee's successful relocation.

II - Assistance and Services Available to Evacuees in Communities

A. Scope and Purpose of Resettlement Assistance and Services

The Social Security Board, through State and local public welfare agencies, will provide resettlement assistance and/or services to evacuees after they have returned to their former community or have come into a new community, if they are in need of assistance in becoming reestablished, or if they are unable to become self-supporting and there is no other resource available to them. The term "resettlement assistance" should be used hereafter when referring to this phase of the enemy aliens and others program since most evacuees are American citizens. War Relocation Authority will also use this term when interpreting this program to evacuees.

Resettlement assistance, intended for purposes of rehabilitation, should be sufficiently flexible to permit meeting special needs of evacuees, or needs arising out of resettlement for which local resources are not available to them. Likewise, special problems relating to the consideration of resources may arise under this program which may require greater flexibility than is established by policy in relation to the regular programs. Resettlement assistance and/or services should be used as extensively as necessary in helping evacuees to reestablish for themselves a normal family life, and all the best skills in counselling and planning should be utilized in making their resettlement effective.

a. Use of Regular Welfare Programs

Resettlement assistance is available only temporarily to persons returning to their State of residence, since it is expected that financial assistance and other services, including medical care, will be available to them on the same basis as to other residents of the community. Where it seems evident that continued assistance will be needed, eligibility for the

1/ "Household goods and personal effects" - includes clothing, household furniture and furnishings, kitchen equipment and utensils, hand tools, and all other personal property not described as "commercial property" below, and not used in and about a profession, business, trade, occupation, or other commercial venture.

2/ "Commercial property" - includes merchandise, stocks, store or office fixtures, and equipment, boats, motor vehicles, farm and other machinery and equipment, church and religious property, and all personal property used in connection with a profession, business, trade, occupation, or other commercial venture.

regular categorical assistance programs or general assistance should be established as soon as possible. If immediate financial assistance is needed pending receipt of categorical assistance and if general assistance is not immediately available, resettlement assistance may be used during this interim period, not to exceed one month.

When an evacuee is eligible for and receives assistance under a regular welfare program in the community, in order to meet special needs resulting from governmental restrictive action, supplementary aid may be given under resettlement assistance to meet expenses involved in reestablishment of the individual family group.

Resettlement assistance, like other programs financed by public funds, should be available to all persons who are in need of assistance and/or services provided for this group and who are eligible; services should be available whether or not financial assistance is needed. While earlier policies of the War Relocation Authority permitted the return of evacuees to the relocation centers when they did not adjust in the community or met with difficulty, under present policies no return to a center will be approved for such reasons as the evacuee's ill health, or because he is unable to make a satisfactory relocation adjustment. It is, therefore, all the more important that resettlement assistance and/or services be available to all eligible persons regardless of the difficulty of their problems, and that all community resources be utilized to the fullest extent possible in facilitating the readjustment of evacuees.

B. Resettlement Assistance

1. Reestablishment of Household

- a. In the reestablishment of evacuees in a new community, it is obvious that many expenses may be incurred which are not likely to be necessary for persons who have been living in a community long enough to have residence and who are more likely to have access to other community resources. Likewise, many evacuees returning to their former communities of residence may find that their household equipment has been lost, stolen or vandalized.
- b. In line with the intent of resettlement assistance to facilitate the readjustment of evacuees, either in their former communities or in new communities, resettlement assistance may include provision for expenses incurred in the purchase of essential furniture, and other related costs of setting up a housekeeping unit in a new community, or in reestablishing a home in a former community. Such expenses may include essential furniture, bedding, cooking and cleaning equipment and supplies, or for replacement of any of these items, although only the minimum requirements/ housekeeping should be included. Where equipment and furnishings are obtainable, a lump-sum to cover the essential items may be given to the family to make its own purchases. It would be expected, in general, that for the average size family \$200-\$300 would be a suitable amount for these expenses. These figures would, of course, need modification for large families or for those who are completely destitute. Where possible, community resources should be utilized in making essential equipment available, and the services of other interested agencies coordinated with financial assistance and services provided by the public welfare agency.
- c. Because of the housing shortage, advance rent may also be provided under resettlement assistance, when necessary.

- d. When household goods and personal effects have been transported by the War Relocation Authority to the common carrier depot nearest the point of relocation, resettlement assistance, when necessary, may be used to pay for moving this property from the depot to the evacuee's home. In addition, when no other resource is available to meet this expense, payment may be made for packing, crating, and delivering goods to the nearest common carrier depot for shipment when relocated evacuees or voluntary evacuees wish to return to the evacuated area, or to resettle in another point outside the evacuated area.
- e. When a request is made for assistance in transporting property, the State Public Welfare Commission on request of County Public Welfare Commission will consult with the War Relocation Authority field office about the advisability of the evacuee's plan.
- f. Other types of property assistance will be available through the evacuee property offices and assistant solicitor's office in the evacuated area. Request for this service will be made by State Public Welfare Commission through the War Relocation Authority field office.

2. Clothing

- a. Additional clothing needed because of change in climate or work conditions may in some instances be essential to the rehabilitation of evacuees. Although evacuees received a small cash allowance for clothing at the center, they were usually not able to obtain more than the minimum essentials from the center store and, therefore, may not have appropriate clothing for colder climates or work activity when they arrive at their destination. Resettlement assistance may be used, where necessary, to meet such clothing needs. In addition to meeting initial clothing needs, resettlement assistance may also be used for continuing clothing needs.

3. General Maintenance

- a. While provision can be made under resettlement assistance to meet the special problems involved in reestablishing a family, if continuing assistance is needed for general maintenance, the Public Assistance Manual will be used as a guide in providing this assistance.
- b. The agency's standards and operating procedures in relation to resources may, however, need some modification until an evacuee's frozen assets can be liquidated, property released from storage and transported, etc. No resources should be anticipated from restitution for losses, since, at present, claims for restitution can only be presented to Congress. Assignments on property or insurance should not be required. Also, since the initial grant of \$25 given to the evacuee by the War Relocation Authority before leaving the center may be needed by the evacuee for immediate personal needs on arrival in the community, this money should not usually be considered a resource for reestablishment of the household or for general maintenance. Likewise, if the family has resources and there is evidence that they plan to use these resources for their reestablishment in business or in other ways to enable them to become self-supporting, such resources should be protected for this purpose and not required to be used for current maintenance needs. However, if the family has no specific plans for the use of its resources to facilitate rehabilitation, it should be expected that these funds would be used for reestablishment of the household or for general maintenance.

4. Assistance for Transportation

- a. Transportation grants for purposes of relocation will be made only once by the War Relocation Authority to each evacuee, except for persons who were properly reinducted into a relocation center prior to the lifting of the mass exclusion orders, or evacuees who relocated prior to January 3, 1945. When an evacuee has already relocated not far from a relocation center in order to be near other members of the family still in the center, and now wishes to resettle in a part of the country outside the evacuated area, resettlement assistance may be used to pay necessary transportation costs. Likewise, after an evacuee has relocated, and then finds that an additional move is necessary for his satisfactory reestablishment, and he is not eligible for a transportation grant from War Relocation Authority, resettlement assistance may also be used to pay such transportation costs. The evacuee's plan, however, should be discussed with the War Relocation Authority field office in his present community, and, where advisable, with the War Relocation Authority field office in the locality to which the evacuee plans to move. Where necessary, the same standard of subsistence grants provided by the War Relocation Authority, consisting of \$3 a day while enroute to point of resettlement, may be included.
- b. When visits to centers by persons outside are approved by both the War Relocation Authority and the county public welfare department, necessary transportation costs to and from the center plus subsistence costs enroute may also be provided under this program. These visits are limited by the War Relocation Authority to persons who have been accepted for service with the armed forces upon pre-induction physical examination, emergency visits because of serious illness or death of family members residing in centers, students at the end of a school or college term, and visits designed to assist in planning for the relocation of family members residing in centers.

5. Medical and Hospital Care

- a. When evacuees return to their State of residence, it is expected that medical resources will be available to them on the same basis as to other residents of the community. When evacuees resettle in other parts of the country, an effort should be made to secure the cooperation of other social agencies, hospitals, clinics, and institutions in the community in making their medical resources available to evacuees on the same basis as to other members of the community. Resettlement assistance may be used to pay for necessary temporary nursing home care pending acceptance into an institution or for convalescent care after release from an institution.
- b. When long-time care is involved, consideration should be given to a plan that will provide the best care for the individual. When a person prefers to return to his State of residence for medical or institutional care, the usual interstate institutional plan should be followed in arranging for transfer and in providing necessary transportation.

6. Burial

- a. The War Relocation Authority has furnished the following statement on the cultural and religious customs of the Japanese concerning the disposal of bodies:

"All religious groups among the Japanese, whether Buddhist, Protestant or Catholic, have strong cultural feelings about their ancestors. They do not necessarily go to the extreme of ancestor worship but they express profound respect for their ancestors. Memorial services for ancestors were held frequently among them and are an important part of the Buddhist religion. For that reason the families prefer to make arrangements for the disposal of the bodies of the dead.

"The War Relocation Authority regulations have recognized the religious, cultural, and sentimental reasons for returning the bodies of relatives who died outside the center, usually in California, to their relatives in the centers. The War Relocation Authority has permitted the families to determine the type of disposal the families preferred, i.e., cremation or embalming.

"The customs among the Japanese concerning cremation and embalming vary. In Japan those in larger cities invariably cremated their dead and kept the ashes. In the villages usually embalming was preferred.

"In the United States, both on the West Coast and now in the Relocation Centers, it is found that most families prefer cremation. However, those who came from Japanese villages where the custom was to embalm the dead preferred to do the same here. In the case of the Catholic Japanese their religion permits only embalming".

- b. Costs of Japanese funerals are usually greater than those for which public welfare agencies are accustomed to assume responsibility, often involving cremation, storage of ashes, religious services, etc. In addition to the usual burial costs provided for under other welfare programs, in line with the War Relocation Authority's policy which recognizes the religious and cultural reasons for maintaining the traditional custom with regard to Japanese burials, where the public assistance agency also recognizes that meeting these additional costs may be suitable in a particular situation, reimbursement for the full amount of the expenditure will be made.

7. Accounting Procedure

Refer to Pages 8 and 9 of the War Services Manual, June, 1943.

8. Recording and Reporting

For recording procedure, refer to Pages 10 and 11 of the War Services Manual, June, 1943.

The activities of each County Public Welfare Department under Assistance to Enemy Aliens and Others (Resettlement Assistance) will be reported monthly on Form WS-613 as outlined in the War Services Manual, June, 1943, Appendix IV. The Appendix contains a copy of Form WS-613 and instructions for completing this report, which is also mentioned in the body of the Manual on Page 11.

Form WS-613 will be submitted to the Division of Research and Statistics of the State Public Welfare Commission by the 5th of the month immediately following the month for which activities are reported.

III Utilization of Community Resources

A. Referrals for Other Services in the Community

All available resources in the community should be utilized in helping evacuees reestablish themselves. Where feasible, referrals for other assistance and/or services available in the community should be centralized in the local public welfare agency. This does not mean, however, that the county public welfare department will take on services or assistance which would ordinarily be given by other agencies in the community; however, the county office will act as a referral center so that the fullest advantage can be taken of all the resources in the community, without the individual having to go from one agency to another to seek the needed help. After discussion with the evacuee, the county public welfare department should make any necessary referrals to other agencies, hospitals, clinics, etc., in the community for supplementary services, whether or not financial assistance and/or services are being given by the public welfare agency. However, the county public welfare agency should retain the initial responsibility for follow-up of the case and, when necessary, for reporting back through the State Public Welfare Commission to the War Relocation Authority field office.

a. Red Cross

In many communities, the American Red Cross provides temporary financial assistance pending receipt of Servicemen's dependents allowances or while changes in status are being made. Many parents or other relatives who were in Class B while living in the relocation center, because part of their support was provided by the War Relocation Authority, may, when they leave the center, request the Office of Dependency Benefits to change their status to Class B-1 if they can prove dependence on the serviceman for their chief support.

In such instances, inquiry should be made to the local Red Cross Chapter about the availability of their assistance pending receipt of first check or increased check resulting from change of status. However, where such funds are not available from the Red Cross, resettlement assistance may be used pending change in allotment status, or for supplementary assistance, if necessary, after the full allotment is received.

B. Resources Available through Other Federal Agencies

1. In addition to resources available through local public and private agencies, consideration should also be given to the following potential resources from other Federal agencies:

a. War Relocation Authority Offices

1. Seattle Area Office

Mr. Harold S. Fistere, Relocation Supervisor
1531 - 3rd Avenue Building
Seattle, 1, Washington

2. Portland District Office

Mr. Clyde Linville, Relocation Officer
713 Bedell Building
Portland, 4, Oregon

3. Boise District Office

Mr. Ernest J. Palmer, Relocation Officer
328 Idaho Building
Boise, Idaho

4. Spokane District Office

Mr. William Moore, Relocation Officer
515 Realty Building
Spokane, 8, Washington

- b. Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Benefits
 - c. Servicemen's Dependents Allowances
 - d. United States Employment Service: Placement of evacuees in non-agricultural jobs.
 - e. Farm Security Administration or Farm Credit Administration: Provision of loans to evacuees who wish to reestablish themselves as farm operators.
 - f. War Food Administration: Recruitment of evacuees in the centers for farm labor.
 - g. Reconstruction Finance Corporation: Loans to businessmen to reestablish businesses.
 - h. War Production Board: Provision of priority equipment and materials necessary to reestablish business men and other persons needing equipment as a prerequisite to effective relocation.
 - i. Office of Price Administration: Allocation of rationed goods to former merchants to reestablish businesses and to bakers and other food producers.
 - j. National Housing Agency: Assistance in securing housing for evacuees.
2. If such resources are not readily available in the community, the county public welfare department will request further information through State Public Welfare Commission; this will be obtained by State Public Welfare Commission from the War Relocation Authority field office.

IV Procedure of Referral

A. Persons in Relocation Centers

The WRA area offices in Seattle and Salt Lake City will refer to the State Public Welfare Commission cases of families and individuals now in Relocation Centers. The case referral will consist of the original and two copies of WRA Form 390; original and two copies of narrative case summary; one Face Sheet Form 329, and whatever other pertinent economic and social information is available.

The referral received by the State Public Welfare Commission from WRA will be forwarded to the County Public Welfare Department; the referral will consist of the original and one copy of Form 390 and two copies of the case summary, and any other pertinent information received from WRA.

The county will process the case, indicating on the original copy of Form 390 their disposition of the case and will return this form to the State Public Welfare Commission.

The State Public Welfare Commission will review the recommendation made by the County Public Welfare Commission and will add further recommendation, and return original of Form 390 to the Area Office.

When the family is ready to leave the center, WRA District Office in Portland will notify the State Public Welfare Commission, and the State Public Welfare Commission will notify the county of the family's date of arrival in the county.

B. Relocated Persons Living in Oregon.

These persons will have been advised by WRA that if at any time they are in need of assistance or service, they should apply at the nearest public welfare department. Applications will be accepted from these persons for assistance under the public assistance program or resettlement assistance. They may either apply in person or be referred by District Office of WRA.

C. Other Persons.

Other cases not included above will be referred to the State Office by any county public welfare department to whose attention they come.

NOTE

The counties of Eastern Oregon were not included in the evacuated area and are under the administration of the Salt Lake City area office. The Boise district office of War Relocation Authority is responsible for the following counties:

Baker, Grant, Wheeler, Crook, Lake, Harney and Malheur.

The Spokane District office of War Relocation Authority is responsible for the following counties:

Gilliam, Morrow, Umatilla, Union and Wallowa..