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COPY

INCOMING TELETYPE

WRA ROHWER
J F RAINS

12:29/12:20-44

51981

REURTEL 12-26-44 PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO TOPAZ COMMUNITY COUNCIL. ROHWER COMMUNITY COUNCIL STRONGLY RECOMMENDS TO HAVE ALL CENTER CONFERENCE AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE.

HOFFMAN

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
MANZANAR RELOCATION CENTER

In reply, please refer to:

Manzanar, California

December 29, 1944

Hoffman
L.T. Hoffman, Project Director
WRA Delta, Utah

Dear Sir:

We have received your wire sent on December 27, 1944, and will act accordingly.

The Block Managers' Assembly is the representative of the evacuee residents of Manzanar. They will meet on January 5, 1944 and take the matter up.

We will notify you as soon as any definite decisions are made.

52059
Yours truly,

Frank Yasuda
Frank Yasuda
Executive Secretary
Block Managers' Assembly
Town Hall

FY--ta

cc: to Mr. Ralph P. Merritt



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

December 15, 1944

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director, FBI

Dear Sir:

The following information was received from the
Los Angeles office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation
on December 14, 1944:

Very truly yours,
Special Agent in Charge

Respectfully,
Special Agent in Charge



00: 20 11 11: 00

Manzanar, California
January 5, 1945

Mr. Ralph P. Merritt
Project Director
Manzanar, California

Thank you for referring the communication from Mr. L. T. Hoffman of Topaz Relocation Center to the Block Managers Assembly. Acting in the capacity as a representative group of Manzanar evacuees, the proposal of the Topaz Community Council for a all center conference was studied and given much consideration at the meeting held on January 5, 1945 at Town Hall.

As a result the majority of the members present have decided that there does not seem to be the need for an All Center Conference. Without further clarification of the object of the conference, Manzanar will not send any delegates for such a conference held at this time.

I hope that you will be kind enough to convey this decision to Mr. Hoffman, Project Director at Topaz Relocation Center.

Very truly yours,


Kiyoharu Anzai
Kiyoharu Anzai, Chairman
Block Managers Assembly



JAN 8 1945

Mr. Luther Hoffman
Project Director
Central Utah Relocation Center
Topaz, Utah

Dear Mr. Hoffman:

The following exchange of teletypes between the Project Director at Poston and the National Director is sent for your information and guidance:

Incoming -- Duncan Mills to the Director

"Community Council requests your approval of proposed conference of representatives from all relocation centers to be held here early in February. Proposed invitation states as purpose of conference 'to study ways and means of assisting evacuee community in their future plans'. I am requested to extend you an invitation to attend. Shall be pleased to have your reaction as soon as possible.

Outgoing -- Director to Duncan Mills

"Reurtt December 23 National meeting evacuee representatives. Please inform council and other interested residents that WRA regards with favor the idea of an evacuee-sponsored national meeting to discuss future evacuee problems but cannot officially sponsor such a meeting or assist in defraying expenses incident thereto. Such meeting should not be held at any relocation center but rather at some outside point convenient to all centers. After meeting place and time have been decided, WRA will assist wherever possible in making physical arrangements and arranging hotel accommodations. Director and such other WRA representatives as can be relieved from other duties at time of meeting will be glad to participate in discussions on invitation of the program committee. Community Councils or other interested groups at any center should feel free to communicate with interested representative groups at other centers in completing necessary arrangements. Copy of this exchange of teletypes is being sent to other project directors for their information and guidance."

Sincerely,

52418

John H. Rovine
Acting Director

2481 8 WAL



Handwritten signature in blue ink, possibly 'D. W. ...'

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

WTASB

[Faint, mostly illegible typed text, likely a letter or report, covering the majority of the page.]

HEART MOUNTAIN RELOCATION PROJECT

Heart Mountain, Wyoming

January 9, 1945

Mr. Masaru Narahara
Chairman, Community Council
Central Utah Relocation Project
Topaz, Utah

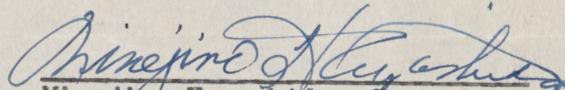
Dear Sir:

Your communication respecting the proposal for an all Center Conference, has been received by us through our Project Director, and our body unanimously accepts your invitation and recommends immediate action.

The Study Committee for the opening of the West Coast was organized here November 30, 1944. It consists of a Councilman and two Representatives from each Block. To date our plans are almost completed for presentation at the proposed Conference.

Kindly notify us the time and place, also the names of Centers who have accepted.

Yours very truly,



Minejiro Hayashida, Chairman
COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Heart Mountain, Wyoming

3-Copy

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Y

INCOMING TELETYPE

WRA HEART MOUNTAIN 1/13-1/13-45 52504
GUY ROBERTSON

REGARDING EXCHANGE OF TELETYPES BETWEEN JOHN
PROVINSE AND DUNCAN MILLS SENT TO ALL PROJECT
DIRECTORS ABOUT EVACUEE NATIONAL CONFERENCE
HEART MOUNTAIN COUNCIL SUGGESTS TOPAZ COUNCIL
SPONSOR THE CONFERENCE ALSO SUGGESTS CONFERENCE
BE HELD SALT LAKE CITY UTAH WITH THREE TO FIVE
DELEGATES FROM EACH CENTER. TENTATIVE DATE
FEBRUARY 1 1945

HOFFMAN

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Central Utah Project
Topaz, Utah

January 17, 1945

MEMORANDUM TO: Poston Community Council

SUBJECT: Reply to Topaz Community Council recommendation for all center conference

FROM: Topaz Community Council

GRANADA No official reply but on Nov. 26, 1944 - Mr. Ed. Kitazumi, Chairman of Granada Community Council made a personal trip to Topaz requesting the opinion of Topaz Council on all center conference and also made suggestion for realization of same.

GILA January 8, 1945 - Teletype - Favors all center conference.

HT. MOUNTAIN January 9, 1945 - Letter - Accepts invitation and recommend immediate action.

MANZANAR Received January 15, 1945 - Letter - Does not seem to be the need for all center conference - without further clarification of the object of the conference - will not send delegates.

MINIDOKA December 28, 1944 - Teletype - Agreed upon the desirability of having inter-center conference.

POSTON No official reply as yet
Official WRA communications mentions Poston's request for official WRA approval of having all center conference in Poston.

ROWHER December 29, 1944 - Teletype - Strongly recommends all center conference.

Topaz Community Council recommend conference be held in Salt Lake City tentatively on week starting February 5, 1945. There has been a suggestion that this conference be held if possible on the West Coast. San Francisco has also been suggested. There are three reasons given.

1. All center conference
2. Delegates may report actual conditions of West Coast relative to acceptance of returning evacuees.
3. Possible for delegates to investigate individual properties and community acceptance for their return at their (individual requesting investigation) expense. These investigations to be made prior to conference with the cooperation of WRA.

We suggest delegates spend two days in preparation of conference program. Three to four days for official general discussion and decisions. Reserve the second day of the official conference to meet with WRA officials.

Heart Mountain suggests Salt Lake City, starting February 1, 1945. We would appreciate your suggestions as to time and place which would be most advantageous and beneficial to each center and its residents.

Masaru Narahara, Chairman
Community Council

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
GILA RIVER PROJECT
RIVERS, ARIZONA

January 18, 1945

Mr. Masaru Nakahara, Chairman
Topaz Community Council
Topaz, Utah

Re: Teletype
Dated 12/26/44

Dear Sir:

The Butte Community Council of Gila River Relocation Center at its last meeting had decided to act upon Heart Mountain's original proposal of All Center Conference and send our representatives at the time of its meeting.

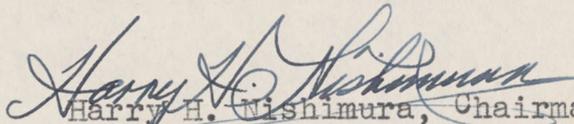
The Council is of the opinion that such a conference would be of mutual interest and benefit for the welfare of the evacuees as important problems and questions are arising since the opening of the West Coast announcement. The Butte Community Council would like to have more available information in this matter, as to the tentative program, the agenda, the place and the date of the conference.

When the Heart Mountain Community Council is notified of the other Center Community Councils' decisions as to whether they approve of the proposal, we believe that a centralized place and definite date be set.

May we be notified timely as to the developments, reactions or suggestions of other Centers.

If we could be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to write.

Very truly yours,


Harry H. Nishimura, Chairman
Butte Community Council

cc: Heart Mountain
Community Council

COMMUNITY COUNCIL OFFICE
Minidoka Project
Hunt, Idaho

January 24, 1945

Mr. Masaru Narahara, Chairman
Central Utah Community Council
Topaz, Utah

Subject: Inter-center Conference

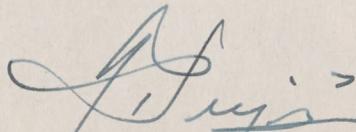
Dear Mr. Narahara,

We are in receipt of your letter of January 17, 1945, with your proposed recommendations, that all center conference be held in Salt Lake City, tentative date set for the week starting February 5, 1945.

In view of the seriousness of the problem, we are in the opinion that any hasty undertaking is not desirable, and an ample time be given to each center for following reasons: (1) to make a careful analysis of the situation; (2) to determine the concrete problems; (3) to prepare a complete report of findings based upon facts; and (4) to draft possible recommendations and suggestions, that are to be submitted at the conference by each respective delegate, representing their center residents. Furthermore, the question that we are facing with, concerns all of the residents in every center, and it is imperative that all the center delegates be represented and participate in the conference without fail. It seems that both Manzanar and Poston, who are not in favor of sending their delegates, have lack of understanding of the purpose and importance of this conference, and we would suggest that you make further explanations in an attempt to persuade their participation in this conference.

Therefore, we strongly recommend at this time, that the date of conference be set at least a month later, and give each center sufficient time to prepare necessary materials to be presented at the conference. As to its place, we feel that Salt Lake City is just as good as any other place. Please let us hear your comments.

Respectfully yours,



Y. Fujii, Chairman
Minidoka Community Council

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
MANZANAR RELOCATION CENTER

In reply, please refer to:

Manzanar, California

January 31, 1945

Mr. Masaru Narahara, Chairman
Topaz Community Council
Topaz, Utah

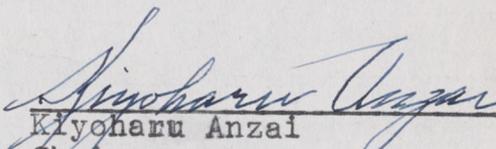
Dear Mr. Narahara:

In reply to your memorandum of January 17th, I regret to inform you that Manzanar is unable to send any delegates to the all center conference.

I am vitally interested in the subject matter to be discussed and I would like very much, a copy of the minutes for my personal file, if this is not asking too much of you.

Thanking you for your kind invitation and wishing you the greatest of success in your forthcoming conference.

Yours very sincerely,


Kiyoharu Anzai
Chairman
Block Managers Assembly
Town Hall

KA--fy



WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT
TOPAZ, UTAH

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO:

PD

February 3, 1944

Topaz City Council
Topaz, Utah

Attention: Dr. George Ochikubo, Chairman

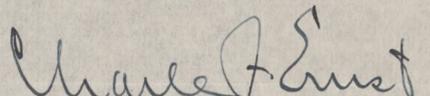
Dear Mr. Chairman:

Please find enclosed a letter to the Council from John H. Provinse, Acting Director of the War Relocation Authority which has to do with the Conference of representatives from the various centers.

I notice in the last paragraph that Mr. Provinse mentions that "thought and effort should be given to develop the kind of agenda that will be most profitable."

If I or any member of the administrative staff can be helpful in this matter, kindly feel free to call upon me.

Sincerely yours,



Charles F. Ernst
Project Director

Enclosure



WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON



JAN 29 1944

Central Utah Community Council
Central Utah Relocation Project
Topaz, Utah

Through Mr. Charles F. Ernst, Project Director

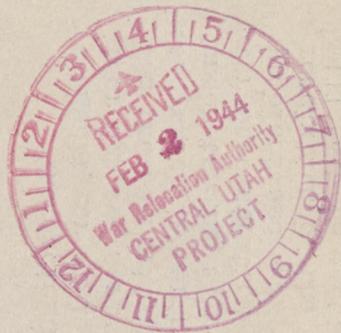
The suggestion has been advanced on several occasions that a national meeting of representative evacuees be called to discuss problems of mutual interest to WRA and evacuees. The Director's letter of October 28, which discussed the developing relocation program, included a request that serious consideration be given to such a national meeting and asked for comments and suggestions. The replies from several projects were favorable to such a meeting.

Interest continued to develop, and in December a number of Community Councils passed and forwarded to Washington resolutions requesting that such a meeting be called. It was recognized that a meeting of representative center residents and officials of the Authority could do much to create better understanding of the mutual problems which we face and might have far-reaching constructive results. It was with this in view that the decision was reached to call a meeting for the latter part of January in Chicago with each center represented by two delegates and a limited number of representatives from various field areas. The announcement was directed to the Community Councils of the various centers, giving the time and place, requesting a list of questions, and stating that the Authority was unable to pay delegate expenses.

The replies to this announcement raised a number of points that indicated there was need for additional time for the development of a meeting that would achieve the desired objectives. Several of the Councils made strong representations that the Authority should defray delegate expenses. Some replies requested additional time to frame the questions, and one center suggested the conference be postponed for several weeks to permit fuller discussion. It became evident that additional time was needed to permit crystallization of the objectives and program of such a meeting.

The decision that the expenses of delegates should be met by the community or at least through non-governmental sources, was made only after thorough and serious consideration. It is essential that both the evacuees and the Authority maintain a position that in terms of critics is unassailable, and which in terms of the American public and Congress will result in understanding approval and support. There is probably no finer opportunity for demonstration of the serious intent of the evacuees to face their problems and work out their destiny than a national meeting initiated by resolution of the Community Councils and financed by the communities. It will have to continue to be W.R.A. policy not to defray the expense of such a conference.

29739



When we asked ourselves what purpose such a meeting should serve, we came to the conclusion that it should be phrased in the broadest possible language. The many anxieties and uncertainties which the evacuees feel individually and in the group could be encompassed under the general heading of the future of all persons of Japanese ancestry in the United States. There is no delusion that one or many meetings could dispel all these anxieties, but it was hoped that through the opportunity to discuss fully the manifold problems which the evacuees are facing some mutual agreement could be reached on the nature of the problems and of action that could alleviate or help remedy the situation.

Delegates would undoubtedly wish to present from their point of view the many and complex problems facing the evacuees. Family adjustment, economic security, social acceptance, and the post-war world would all come in for their share of discussion. There should also be constructive discussion where plans and programs could be proposed that would work to remove as many as possible of the hindrances which the evacuees saw facing them.

Since these problems are also of primary concern to the Authority, there would be an opportunity for mutual exchange of constructive ideas. An opportunity would also be afforded for a statement of our relations with Congress and the American people, the expenditure of money and the legal controls and responsibilities which we must carry. A review of the legal standing of the evacuees as presently interpreted by the courts could be given. The limitations which surround any federal program and their specific application to the program of the War Relocation Authority could be presented.

After such a meeting the delegates should be able to return to their centers with a much clearer idea of the nature of the problems facing the evacuees and to inform their communities of these problems. Officials of the Authority would have at first hand and in an organized manner the nature of the problems as seen through the eyes of the center residents. Finally, both the Authority and the evacuees should be able to develop mutual understanding and combine in joint action against the obstacles which presently prevent many from making a clear decision about the future.

It is not now possible to set a date when we may meet. In the meantime thought and effort should be given to develop the kind of agenda that will be most profitable. We will assume the obligation of preparing some material and shall act as a clearing house for prepared statements of problems etc. which are sent to us.

Sincerely,

John H. Province
Acting Director

29759

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Central Utah Project
Topaz, Utah

February 7, 1945

TO: Gila, Granada, Heart Mountain, Minidoka,
Poston, Rowher Community Council and
Manzanar Block Managers Assembly

FROM: Topaz Community Council

SUBJECT: All-Center Conference

Place: New Grand Hotel
377 South Main Street
Salt Lake City, Utah Phone 45501

Time: Feb. 16th to 22nd

Tentative Schedule:

Feb. 16 & 17 10:00 a.m.	Pre-official conference, program preparation, and discussions
Feb. 18 (Sunday)	Possible trip to points of interest
Feb. 19 9:00 a.m.	Official conference open- ing <i>Japanese Church</i> <i>246 So - Church 1st</i>
Feb. 20 9:00 a.m.	Mr. Dillon Myer and other WRA Officials
Feb. 21 9:00 a.m.	Official conference
Feb. 22 9:00 a.m.	Official conference

Masaru Narahara, Chairman
Community Council

Copy to all centers

Central Utah Project
Topaz, Utah

Community Gov't.

February 8, 1945

Mr. Itaru Kubota, Chairman
Poston Community Council
Poston, Arizona

Dear Mr. Kubota:

Our teletype of February 1st, should be corrected in part as follows: INTER-CENTER CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT SALT LAKE CITY FROM FEBRUARY 16 TO 22 INCLUSIVE.

Our desire as in our letter of January 17th, is to have February 16th and 17th set aside for preparation of the conference program. Three to four days for official conference on discussions and decisions. If it is possible to finish business on the third day then the conference will end on the 21st.

We have assurance from Mr. Myer that he will attend our conference on the 21st.

Gila - four delegates, Heart Mountain - five delegates, Rohwer - three delegates, and Topaz - five delegates to the conference. Granada and Minidoka will attend.

We understand that Heart Mountain Community Council has sent their proposed agenda to all centers and that you are one of the recipient.

Our problems are identical in view of the lifting of army order and the new W.R.A. policy in closing these centers. Our Council is working on the following three basic issues:

1. Request to keep these centers open for the duration and/or until such time when all avenues of resettlement presented by the W.R.A. can be accepted by the residents.
2. To request to the W.R.A. that more consideration be given to those that desire to resettle. The present grant of \$25.00 plus transportation and subsistence

is not sufficient to assure any residents the ease of mind to think and plan constructively for their future. Also the assurance of federal assistance until such time as evacuees are able to re-establish themselves.

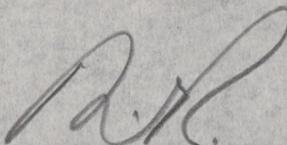
3. That W.R.A. to use their good offices to assist the group that desire to resettle who were formally engaged in agriculture and other private enterprises. This group requires long term federal loans to enable them to re-establish themselves as near as possible to their former status.

Along with the above requests, we believe there are number of local center problems that can and must be discussed, also any informations or any difficult problems that were settled would be of interest.

We know that your fullest cooperation will be given in making this center conference a success but at this time may we formally request the same. Hoping to see you and the delegates in Salt Lake City on February 16th.

Very truly yours,

TOPAZ COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Masaru Narahara, Chairman
Community Council

We have made reservations for 4 Portland delegates

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

HEART MOUNTAIN RELOCATION PROJECT
HEART MOUNTAIN, WYOMING

In reply, please refer to:

HM:PM:R:JC

February 9, 1944

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

FROM: Thomas T. Sashihara, Chairman
Heart Mountain Community Council

SUBJECT: National Evacuee Conference is Necessary.

After reviewing your letter of January 29th, Heart Mountain Community Council unanimously agreed to send delegates to the National Evacuee Conference. Our share of the expense shall be born by our community. However, a majority of the Councilmen expressed their preference of holding the proposed conference at one of the centrally located Relocation Centers rather than in Chicago. Granada was suggested as the most feasible place.

The reasons for this are twofold:

1. It will affect considerable saving in expense.
2. Greater number of days could be allowed for the conference and, consequently, more thorough discussion could be had.

It is believed that some Centers are reluctant to send delegates because of the expense involved. If the Conference is held at Granada this objection becomes negligible. For instance, the expense of sending two delegates from Heart Mountain to Chicago would involve an outlay of about \$400.00, whereas to Granada the amount will be reduced to less than \$100.00. A proportionate savings are possible for all other Centers. It is hoped that the expense becomes no longer a problem for those Centers which are hesitant at present.

The second reason is more important than the consideration of expense. In Chicago, it would be impractical to hold a meeting for more than one week. In Granada we could spend as much time as needed.

The problems to be discussed are of such magnitude and complexity that ample time would be required. No delegate should be denied full time for deliberation of his argument. Best possible result could not be attained by cramming discussions in short period of time.



We believe that at least two weeks are required to bring this Conference to a successful conclusion. We suggest that the first week be devoted exclusively to the Conference of the evacuee delegates. The viewpoint and objectives of evacuees should be thoroughly discussed and crystalized before discussing them with Washington Officials, the meeting of which is suggested for the second week.

Summarizing the above we suggest as follows:

1. Name: The National Evacuee Conference.
2. Objectives: To discuss evacuee problems and to seek best possible means of rehabilitation for evacuees.
3. Number of delegates: Two from each center.
4. Place: Granada Relocation Center, Amache, Colorado.
5. Dates: March 6 to 11 - Conference of evacuee delegates only.
March 13 to 17 - Joint Conference of evacuee delegates and War Relocation Authority Officials.

The foregoings are merely suggestions with the hope that every center will more readily participate. However, Heart Mountain Community Council went on record that it will send delegates regardless where and when the Conference is called and regardless of expense. The main thing is to call the Conference and call it as soon as possible.

Your immediate reply on the foregoing matters are requested.

A copy of this letter is being sent to every center.

Yours very truly,

/s/ Thomas T. Sashihara

Thomas T. Sashihara, Chairman
Heart Mountain Community Council

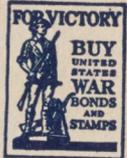
RYK:mt

cc: Denver Office
cc: Colorado River Rel. Ctr.
Manzanar Relocation Ctr.
Central Utah Rel. Ctr.
Minidoka Relocation Ctr.
Granada Relocation Ctr.

cc: Rohwer Relocation Ctr.
Jerome Relocation Ctr.
Gila River Rel. Ctr.
Tule Lake Center

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON



Office of the Director

FEB 10 1945

Mr. Masaru Narahara
Arrangements Committee All-Center Conference
Central Utah Relocation Center
Topaz, Utah

Dear Mr. Narahara:

It is with real pleasure that I have accepted your invitation to attend the all-center conference in Salt Lake City. It is my hope, and I know that it is also yours, that from these discussions there will come for you and for us a clearer picture of the situation and what can be accomplished.

The progress made in the restoration of full rights to aliens and citizens, over the past two years, has been remarkable. The opening of the West Coast is a cause for congratulation. The outstanding record of the Nisei in uniform and the cooperative attitude of most evacuees is, in large measure, responsible for these gains. We must allow nothing to happen that will impair the public understanding that has been developed.

We, in the War Relocation Authority feel it as our major responsibility, in cooperation with you, to meet the problem of the reintegration of the evacuees into American life. I am concerned, as I am sure you are too, with the urgent need for our young people to resume life in normal communities. They have been subject too long to the narrow and artificial life of the past two and one-half years. I am also aware that the parents and older people are thinking about economic security. There has been no period in recent history when there are so many employment opportunities as now. For those who are sick or aged or for other reasons cannot seek productive employment, assistance is available through permanently established social agencies.

Finally, I believe you should know that in accomplishing the task of working out the individual cases of the thousands of families in our centers, we will have the cooperation and good will of many Federal, state, and private agencies. Working together I feel confident that we will accomplish the objective in which all of us are interested, the successful and satisfactory readjustment of every evacuee family into American life. It is this problem of the ways and means of assisting the center residents to move back into normal communities that I consider to be the most important task before us.

Will you convey to the delegates at your first meeting my sincerest wishes for a successful conference. I am looking forward to the opportunity for discussions with the assembled group.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

D. S. Meyer
Director

*Red
2/12/45
MJA*

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Central Utah Project
Topaz, Utah

Community Gov't.

February 10, 1945

Colorado Times
Denver, Colorado

Dear Sir:

We cordially invite your representatives to attend the official meetings of the all-center conference which is to be held at Salt Lake City commencing February 16th to 22nd.

February 16th and 17th will be for the preparation of the agenda and program. The official conference will be from February 19th to 22nd. Mr. Myer and other W.R.A. officials will attend on the 21st.

Your fullest cooperation will be appreciated in making this important all-center conference a success.

Very truly yours,

TOPAZ COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Masaru Narahara, Chairman
Community Council

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Central Utah Project
Tropaz, Utah

Community Gov't.

February 10, 1945

The Utah Nippo Corp.
161 W. South Temple St.
Salt Lake City, Utah

Dear Sir:

We cordially invite your representatives to attend the official meetings of the all-center conference which is to be held at Salt Lake City commencing February 16th to 22nd.

February 16th and 17th will be for the preparation of the agenda and program. The official conference will be from February 19th to 22nd. Mr. Myer and other WRA Officials will attend on the 21st.

Your fullest cooperation will be appreciated in making this important all-center conference a success.

Very truly yours,

TOPAZ COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Masaru Narahara, Chairman
Community Council

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Central Utah Project
Topaz, Utah

*also To Colorado Times
Utah Nippo Corp.*

Community Gov't.

February 10, 1945

Rocky Shinpo
Denver, Colorado

Dear Sir:

We cordially invite your representatives to attend the official meetings of the all-center conference which is to be held at Salt Lake City commencing February 16th to 22nd.

February 16th and 17th will be for the preparation of the agenda and program. The official conference will be from February 19th to 22nd. Mr. Myer and other WRA Officials will attend on the 21st.

Your fullest cooperation will be appreciated in making this important all-center conference a success.

Very truly yours,

TOPAZ COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Masaru Narahara, Chairman
Community Council

PROPOSED CONFERENCE OF NINE RELOCATION CENTERS
Evacuees' Future at Stake!

* * * * *

Apathy, if not direct opposition, is indicated in certain quarters toward the proposed conference of nine relocation centers. A misunderstanding as to the purpose of this conference is to be blamed for such attitude. As far as I can determine, the chief objection is voiced as follows: "The conference is called by the W.R.A. in order to devise ways and means of expediting the W.R.A. relocation policy which was handed down to us arbitrarily." This voice argues farther, "Since the meeting is called to facilitate the W.R.A. policy, the expenses should be borne by the sponsor. Otherwise, we need not send any delegate."

The owners of such voice are usually persons who have not as yet recovered from the original indignations of evacuation and still carry "chips" on their shoulders. They have not as yet fully discovered that W.R.A. is the agency to serve evacuees and its aim is identical with the interest and welfare of the people. However, W.R.A. is not without fault, for it created among certain quarters a suspicion and sometimes resentment by arbitrary handling of many problems. So far, all W.R.A. policies were "handed down" to us. Relocation is the all-important problem to every evacuee with his future at stake. Yet relocation policies were formulated by Washington officials without any consultation of evacuees. I am not discussing the merit or demerit of these policies, but merely stating that the method employed in arriving at these policies was not democratic, but dictatorial. Therein lies the chief cause for suspicion and resentment.

However, the W.R.A. is not deaf to any constructive suggestions. And we sensed recently a marked tendency on the part of W.R.A. officials desiring greater evacuee participation on all matters affecting their welfare. Therefore, the Heart Mountain Community Council believes the time is ripe to call a conference of evacuee representatives with W.R.A. officials to discuss various matters of the center and to formulate or modify the policy regarding relocation. To avoid misunderstanding, it should be borne in mind that we, not the W.R.A., were the ones who originated the idea of the conference.

Now let us turn our discussion to the purpose of this conference. Although the meeting is proposed primarily to discuss relocation, we are not forbidden to discuss any other matters concerning us. This conference will be the first real opportunity the centers have had individually and jointly to air their grievances and to express their opinions in the presence of the head of the W.R.A. Such an opportunity must not be passed up. Many centers problems can be discussed for our mutual benefit. A federation of nine centers may be proposed to foster a solidarity among evacuees to unify our common interests, and to afford us a clearing house for exchange of information and ideas among all centers.

The most important job to be accomplished is the formulation of an over-all policy for our rehabilitation. The present W.R.A. policy of relocating evacuees on job basis is good as far as it goes. But, as facts indicate, the rehabilitation via this method touches only certain percentages and is impractical and even impossible for the largest percentage of evacuees.

The recent announcement of selective service again puts a different slant on the whole relocation problem. From the standpoint of public relations, this is important news to Nisei, but from the relocation point of view, a complete collapse of the present relocation policy seems imminent.

A man awaiting his induction will no longer be interested in relocation. Aged parents who are planning to go out when their son establishes himself in suitable employment will be forced to abandon their plan, for the breadwinner will almost surely be inducted.

A successful relocation can only be accomplished in family groups. Many plans for group relocation on farms are being advocated by various people. At the coming confab these plans should be scrutinized carefully. Many worthwhile suggestions are likely to come out. We may be able to formulate a master plan by which farm relocation may be facilitated.

Proposed Conference of Nine Relocation Centers

Various means of helping independent business men should also be reviewed. In conjunction with the existing W.R.A. field offices in various cities, a department devoted to business survey should be created. Among the evacuees there are many business men who have had experience in dealing with Caucasian patrons. A very large number of the people were engaged in hotel, grocery, dry cleaning, restaurant and other businesses and were catering to the American public. If proper survey is made and information imparted as to the various business opportunities in various relocation areas, many business men may be helped to relocate.

A certain percentage of evacuees will not be able to relocate under any plan for the duration. Certainly the agenda should include a discussion of the ways and means of rehabilitation for this group.

The average age of issei is said to be sixty. It is too much to ask a person of sixty to rehabilitate himself in a strange community with the handicap of language and with the status of enemy alien. Realization of these facts are essential in planning their rehabilitation program.

The January 1st issue of the Saturday Evening Post gives an interesting account of a project undertaken by the State of Vermont in rehabilitating wounded soldiers and handicapped people. Arts and handicrafts are the means employed. A remarkable success is reported, which gives us an idea that a similar project might be undertaken at our centers.

It is an accepted fact that the Japanese are naturally artistic and very skillful with their hands. Arts and handicrafts may be the God-given answer. The prospect of starting such a project in the centers is not unlikely if we obtain the cooperation of the W.R.A. I believe there are almost unlimited demands on the market for handicraft products. After the war, it may be developed into a larger field of manufacturing.

I believe that farming and manufacturing have the greatest possibilities for the future of our people. The racial feeling will always exist; the anti-sentiments cannot be changed radically even after the return of peace. In farming and manufacturing, the evacuee need not come in direct contact with the public; his chief concern is to produce the best possible product at the cheapest possible price.

If the past experiences are to be used as a criterion, our future will not be bright as employees. The racial characteristics will invariably work a handicap in getting promotion. With the signing of peace treaties, millions of ex-soldiers and defense workers will be hunting jobs. We will be the first ones to be discharged when such time comes. Of course, there will be certain exceptions, but generally speaking, our future prospect as employees is very black indeed. I do not wish to be a pessimist. But we must be realistic in planning our future.

As far as I can see, the only possibility for a minority group which is more or less ostracized lies in independent undertaking, such as farming and manufacturing as mentioned before.

It is needless to say that the independent undertakings require backing of capital. As \$16.00-a-month wage earners, we are not even qualified to talk about financing. However, if we are to make a long-range plan of our future, financing should occupy an important place in such a plan. And even under the present circumstances, I see a possibility of starting our own financial institution.

All centers have consumer cooperative businesses which are markedly successful. In Heart Mountain last year, the net earning was slightly over \$100,000.00. The aggregate net earning of all the center co-ops would amount to around a million dollars a year. These earnings are now being returned to the consumers as patronage refunds. A way could be devised to set aside certain portion of this money for the establishment of our own bank to finance our own rehabilitation.

Many people talk about possible reparation on damages incurred by the evacuation. Some hinge their entire hopes on possible government assistance. We may be able to get reparation at the end of the war. If there is a legal basis for demand-

Proposed Conference of Nine Relocation Centers

ing such reparation, we should plan proper legal steps at this conference. But we cannot plan our future on such uncertainties as reparation or government aid.

I am a firm believer in the axiom, "Heaven helps those who help themselves." Our plan of rehabilitation must be based on this principle.

Now let us summarize the foregoing points in outline form which may be used as tentative agenda:

1. The center problems
2. Review and discussion on present policy of relocation on "job basis".
3. Family and group relocations
4. Ways and means of assisting business men for relocation
5. The rehabilitation of the people who are unable to relocate.
6. Arts and handicrafts as possible means of rehabilitation.
7. General policy as to the future of Japanese in United States.
8. Establishment of financial institution.
9. Establishment of Federation of Nine Relocation Centers.

Any one of the above topics is important enough to call a conference, but I am aware of the limitations of a conference, and we cannot possibly find answers to all the problems. The conference will be a success even if we are able to take but one single step in the right direction.

The problems to be discussed are our own. Our future is at stake. The matter of who pays the expense is insignificant in comparison with the purpose. Every evacuee should support this conference without reservation.

Thomas T. Sashihara
Chairman
Heart Mountain Community Council

ALL CENTER CONFERENCE
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

February 18, 1945

Rev. C. H. Terakawa
247 West First South
Salt Lake City, Utah

Dear Rev. Terakawa:

On behalf of the All Center Conference now in session (February 16 to 22 inclusive), I have been delegated the honor of inviting you to attend our Open Meeting to be held Wednesday, February 21, 1945, from 1:30 p.m., in the Conference Room of the Y.W.C.A., 306 East Third South, Salt Lake City, Utah. A number of the outstanding friends of Japanese and Japanese American residents of this country are being asked to participate in the informal discussions at this meeting, which will be attended by Mr. Dillon S. Myer, National Director of the War Relocation Authority.

We are thirty delegates representing the residents of seven W.R.A. Relocation Centers, gathered to discuss the manifold problems of center residents, in connection both with relocation and the announced closing of the centers by January 2, 1946.

We will appreciate your every effort to accept this invitation, as we sincerely feel that your presence will contribute substantially to the success of our conference.

Yours very sincerely,



Masaru Narahara, Chairman
All Center Conference

ALL CENTER CONFERENCE
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

February 18, 1945

Mr. Larry Tajiri
Pacific Citizens
Beeson Building
Salt Lake City, Utah

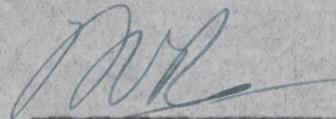
Dear Mr. Tajiri:

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Yours very sincerely,



Masaru Narahara, Chairman
All Center Conference

ALL CENTER CONFERENCE
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

February 18, 1945

Mr. Saburo Kido
Japanese American Citizens League
Beeson Building
Salt Lake City, Utah

Dear Mr. Kido:

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Masaru Narahara, Chairman

All Center Conference

ALL CENTER CONFERENCE
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

February 18, 1945

Miss Pierce
YWCA
306 East Third South
Salt Lake City, Utah

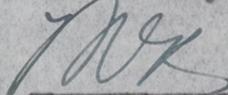
Dear Miss Pierce:

On behalf of the All Center Conference now in session (February 16, to 22 inclusive), I have been delegated the honor of inviting you to attend our Open Meeting to be held Wednesday, February 21, 1945, from 1:30 p.m., in the Conference Room of the YWCA, 306 East Third South, Salt Lake City, Utah. A number of the outstanding friends of Japanese and Japanese American residents of this country are being asked to participate in the informal discussions at this meeting, which will be attended by Mr. Dillon S. Myer, National Director of the War Relocation Authority.

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Masaru Narahara, Chairman
All Center Conference

ALL CENTER CONFERENCE
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

February 18, 1945

Mr. Arthur Gaeth
Citizens Committee for
Constitutional Rights
1877 Harvard Avenue
Salt Lake City, Utah

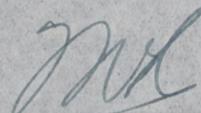
Dear Mr. Gaeth:

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Yours very sincerely,



Masaru Narahara, Chairman
All Center Conference

ALL CENTER CONFERENCE
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

February 18, 1945

Chief Justice Wolfe
Utah State Supreme Court
Capitol Building
Salt Lake City, Utah

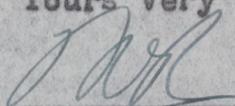
Honorable Chief Justice Wolfe:

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