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GENERAL STAFF MEETING  
COMMUNITY WELFARE SECTION

December 26, 1942

CALL TO ORDER: Regular staff meeting was called to order at 9:45 A.M. by Mr. Yamashita.

INTRODUCTIONS: The following new staff members were introduced:

Mr. Kenji Fujii, Housing  
Mr. George Anamiya, Welfare  
Mrs. Edna Teshima, Welfare

BLOCK FIELD WORKERS: The original plan was to initiate home calls on this date, but due to the delay in mimeographing the List of Services, the calls will be postponed.

Regular General Staff Meetings will be held every Monday morning at 9:30. Also, a General Staff Meeting with a guest speaker will be held every Wednesday morning at 9:30. All Field Workers are requested to arrange their visiting hours so that they can be present at these meetings.

ASSIGNMENT AND TERMINATION OF WORKERS:

1. Reclassifications will be approved upon further substantiation from Form 26's or another interview.
2. Terminations will be issued for any reason tending toward inefficiency. A person cannot quit a job just because he does not like it.

GREETINGS: New Year messages were received and read from the Block Managers, and from Mrs. Yuki Katayama.

MISSING ITEMS: The Hospital reports that many articles are still missing from the search. Among these listed as missing are:

- 1 stretcher
- 2 pillows
- 4 hot water bags
- 1 ten-gallon pot and cover
- 1 tablespoon
- 54 cups

PURPOSE OF MEETINGS: The purpose of the general staff meeting is to present any questions we may have or to air complaints.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kiniyo Miyata



*Many  
Please read it*

GENERAL STAFF MEETING  
COMMUNITY WELFARE SECTION

January 4, 1943

CALL TO ORDER: The regular General Staff Meeting was called to order at 10 A.M. by Mr. Yamashita.

INTRODUCTIONS: The following new staff members were introduced:

Violet Takashita  
Kiyoshi Kinjo  
Mas Nakamura  
Arthur Oka

The following people were transferred from the Clothing Department staff to the Welfare Department:

Miss Adachi  
Mr. Miho  
Miss Hosaka  
Miss Shinoda

Miss Tamura  
Miss Tanaka  
Mr. Nakamiso

WEDNESDAY MEETING: Mr. Ernst has accepted our invitation to speak at the first of our weekly Wednesday morning meetings.

COMMUNITY SERVICES MEETING: Mr. Iiyama reported that recommendations were made for free shows for children, provision for photographs, forums, classes in photography if permission can be obtained, etc. Other subjects discussed were the formation of a PTA, Weekly Narrative Report, informing residents more fully as to Cooperatives, and the formation of a Red Cross.

KOSEI-BU: The new name for the Community Welfare Section in Japanese was announced to be Kosei-bu.

HOUSING: Kenji Fujii reported that no more moves can be made without opening up at least one more block. He requested the release of Block 1 to the Housing Department.

CLOTHING: Mr. Hoshida reported that three more orders are going out to be paid in cash. Others will be paid by check as it facilitates matters.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION: There is a new bulletin on the subject. Application must be made through the Placement Office. They are preparing a form. If one is sick, one can receive pay for 15 days. After that period, public assistance can be obtained. It has been asked that this be checked to see if it is possible to receive unemployment compensation after a 15 day period instead of public assistance.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kiniyo Miyata



*Miss Fumi  
to Kame Co  
Miss Kay Gamachi Co  
Mr. Hiro Bando*

GENERAL STAFF MEETING  
of the  
COMMUNITY WELFARE SECTION

January 11, 1943

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 9:50 A.M. by Mr. Yamashita.

WEDNESDAY MORNING SPEAKERS

Mr. Yamashita asked if the staff had enjoyed the speaker on our first Wednesday morning meetings last Wednesday, Mr. Ernst, and asked if the staff wanted this type of meetings to continue. Everyone did. He further stated that Mr. Hughes had been asked to speak to us on our next meeting and our invitation had been accepted. He read the letter of acceptance to all and asked that more questions be asked at the next meeting.

NEW MEMBERS

Two new members, Miss Kaneko and Mrs. Yamamoto, were introduced.

HOSPITALIZED MEMBER OF STAFF

Mr. Yamashita said that he went to see Hiro Katayama, a member of our staff, at the hospital. He stated that he had asked the Youth Division to prepare a letter to Hiro signed by the members of this Section.

FAMILY COUNSELLING DIVISION

Mr. Yamashita announced that the Family Counselling Division would hold a meeting right after the Staff Meeting and asked everyone in that Division to remain.

FILES

Mr. Yamashita said that he had been asked by someone in the Administration that we keep our files in better order.

MERIT RATING BOARD MEETING

Merit Rating Board Meeting was attended by Mr. Yamashita. A Program to be presented to the Administration was discussed at that meeting. He is to attend another one this afternoon.

REPORTS BY VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS

Mr. Iiyama reported on the various meetings he had attended which included: Community Service Staff Meeting, Health Center Meeting. He stated that 22 people had signed up for the Social Work courses. The names were handed in to Mr. Bell. He also asked that everyone



participate in the discussions at these weekly staff meetings.

Mr. Hamada, who attended the Personnel Committee Meeting, said the main purpose of the meeting was to find the right type of a person for each job. Certain data about each individual must be gathered for this purpose. Some committee members suggested that I.Q. tests be given. Mr. Hamada said he flatly refused on that matter. The members suggested another method of compiling this data which was to have the different Division and Section heads keep records for each individual in their department. Mr. Hamada is going to attend another meeting this coming Wednesday.

Miss Yoshida gave a report on the advancement of the Health Residence and Diet Kitchen matter. She stated that the survey had been completed and the Health Service Committee had a meeting last Wednesday to look over the report of the survey and to make recommendations. Block One is to be the location for the Diet Kitchen and the Health Residence. The buildings in this block are to be winterized as soon as possible.

Mr. Fujii gave a report from the Housing Department. He said that the matter of beddings is now being taken care of by the Block Managers.

Miss Hikoyeda gave a report for the Family Counseling Division. She stated that this last week four families had transferred to other centers. Three to Tule Lake and one to Wyoming. Miss Hikoyeda was asked by Mr. Aso as to who pays the traveling expenses of people transferring from center to center. Miss Hikoyeda stated that up to the present the government had paid but that a new bulletin had come out so she was not certain if the government would pay for people who wanted to go to another center for marriage or not.

Miss Altvater was asked to make a report from the Clothing Department. She stated that a new batch of checks were received by the Fiscal Department so everyone should get his clothing allowance some time this week.

Miss Yamashita of the Youth Division stated that she didn't think that the sending of a letter to Hiro Katayama was a good idea. She asked that all of his friends write him letters to encourage him.

Miss Yamashita said that about twenty students were leaving for schools before the end of this month.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

Mr. Iiyama discussed Unemployment Compensation and how and when to apply for it. Mr. Bando talked on the 15-day sick leave.

#### COUNCILMEN

The three newly elected councilmen who work in our Section--Mr. Hoshida, Mr. Fujii, and Mr. Sato--were introduced.



Mr. Johnson thanked the members of the staff for their cooperation during the past week. He asked that everyone participate in the discussions at the meetings. He inquired as to the blood donations and whether it was getting along well or not. Miss Takemoto stated that a hundred donors had already signed up.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Mitsuyasu



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GENERAL STAFF MEETING  
of the  
COMMUNITY WELFARE SECTION

January 13, 1943

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Mr. Yamashita at 9:45 A. M.

GUEST SPEAKER

The guest speaker was Mr. James F. Hughes, Assistant Project D Director.

INTRODUCTION

Mr. Yamashita gave a brief outline of Mr. Hughes duties before introducing him.

Mr. Hughes gave his opinion that the work of the Welfare Section has been underrated. He said his experience has been strictly along the operations or administrative line and that his experience with welfare has been mostly through contacts.

He stated that in the getting of food, etc., in September they had to plan 24 hours ahead of time; in November, they could plan about a week ahead; and at this date, they are looking ahead 30 days and it will probably be on a quarterly basis before long.

He is interested in the problems of the people. He further stated that nothing can be too difficult to overcome in order to assure an understanding among the Block Managers, Block Nurses, and the administration.

He went on to say that we all think that Topaz has had a fine record so far. He thinks we have overcome the individual crises that occurs from time to time and that a complete understanding exists between the appointive staff and the residents themselves. He gave all the credit to the residents.

Mr. Yamashita said that the administration deserves much of that credit also.

QUESTIONS

Mr. Yamashita asked for questions.

Mr. Kenji Fujii of Housing asked when the partitions are going to be put in.

Mr. Hughes replied that several things had come up to prevent the partitions being put up, such as coal shortage, labor trouble (shortage of it), scarcity of materials, etc. He stated that plans are made so that it will be begun in about a week.



Mr. Fujii asked if Housing could get Block One.

Mr. Hughes said that arrangements were being made so that Housing would get half of Block One in about 30 days.

Mr. Iiyama said that Mr. Hughes has been very cooperative and frank. He also asked that we be given priority on getting the buildings in Block One winterized and having furniture made for people who do not have any.

Mr. Yamashita asked whether the school building construction would be begun in the near future.

Mr. Hughes replied that the school buildings and the administration buildings would be begun as soon as essential equipment arrived. As yet, only the cement and roofing has been delivered.

Mr. Yamashita thanked Mr. Hughes in behalf of the Community Welfare Section.

Mr. Yamashita asked that the stools be put on the desks before leaving in the evenings to make it easier for the Janitor to clean up.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 A. M.

Respectfully submitted,

Teruko Mitsuyasu



GENERAL STAFF MEETING  
of the  
COMMUNITY WELFARE SECTION

January 20, 1943

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CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m.

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER

Mr. Yamashita introduced our speaker for today, Mr. Lorne W. Bell, Chief, Community Services Division.

SPEECH

The usual and trite thing to say this morning takes on good meaning when I say how I appreciate being here. This is the second of my very limited speaking engagements in Topaz. One is always complimented when one is asked to come and make a somewhat formal presentation.

The plan for this morning's presentation will follow along this line. We will make a few remarks then allow sufficient time for questions. The questions may either be directed to some of the comments which I may make which may need further clarification or a statement from your point of view on the state of the nation or the state of Topaz.

The situation in which we find ourselves is rather unique and more or less gives a back log for the comments this morning. I would like to tell you two or three personal experiences in the last few months.

A man came to my office not more than a month ago. I was talking with him regarding the role he was playing in the city here. I was talking to him regarding his training and background for the type of job he wanted to do when he said to me with tears in his voice, with considerable emotion, "Mr. Bell, I feel that I am a missionary." He was emotionally aroused about his sense of mission.

I was talking with another member of one of the sections regarding the effectiveness of his staff trying to help. Then he said, "Mr. Bell, if you just relax we'll get along all right." There are people in this center who are holding me responsible for the quality of performance in this section and the quality of performance in Community Activities. There are residents here who point their finger at me and say that the Community Activities Section is doing a bad job of it or that the Community Welfare Section is overstaffed. One finds oneself between the devil and the deep blue sea.



In one center an attempt was made obviously to do some staff upgrading and as the result a petition was signed by some twenty-five persons asking for that person's removal.

Another incident in this center, a resident came and dashed into Mr. Ernst's office talking about another resident saying, "I'll kill him! I'll kill him!" We grinned, but it was tragedy.

I mention these actual facts to try to review the backdrop, the problem which you people are dealing with in this center, of which you are well aware. There is more or less an emotional instability with people who have a sense of drifting. Ships without rudders--ships with fine motors, fine drivers, but no rudders. You are dealing with people who have a sense of wondering what it is all about in terms of religious concepts. Henry Tani described this emotion as "evacuation shock."

You are constantly asking, "What do the people expect from Welfare?" Welfare is people, not just typewriters and tables." The people are saying to you and asking, "What do we really want from Welfare?" I would be very foolish to attempt to tell you people how to do it this morning because that is your problem. I can simply say or make some observations as I have seen the more effective members of this group operate here in Topaz. I would say this that you people in this group are being more effective than others for the following reasons:

First, they are effective, you people are more effective than others because, first, you have an intense, sincere passion to serve the residents of Topaz. I would say that would be number one. But that is not the only characteristic of the person who is essential.

The second is an ability to get up above the problem and look down on it. It is very difficult. So easily we get into impersonal relationships and we become a part of the person's problems and we get emotionally aroused about it. Attempt to get the other people up above the problem and look upon it. That method is trying to be obvious about the problem or the issue or the concern.

The third is to have the ability to help the person work out his solution, not yours. An ability to work out for himself a solution that he has not thought of before.

I would say that the next characteristic most effective will be the ability to work with others of your own staff. Next to work with sections in other divisions.

It is so easy to become subjective. We become a part of the problem. We feel so deeply the problem that the person or client is feeling. Try to find out what is the principal issue--the principal fact of the matter. Try to get that person with whom you are working to see, what in the light of our issue is the best experience of other groups, of situations we can draw upon to help.



How to be objective on one end and yet have that person with whom you are working have the feeling that you understand. You do have a sense of identification and experience their troubles. We must have a real genuine understanding of people whether they be young or old.

I believe the degree to which we can work happily with residents in other sections will determine the degree to which we can work out other problems for people in this section. The next characteristic would be the understanding of and the knowledge of the ways to use the tools at your convenience.

The last characteristic of an effective worker in this section are those persons themselves, and this is the most difficult one of all, is to constitute a living example. Coupled with that, another characteristic is that some way or other each of us will want to work out for ourselves our own vision or own goal.

Another characteristic is the ability to be the forgotten person in the service to the community. We work with people and we help them find themselves and work out their problems then somehow or other the most successful will be those of us who can help those people and fade out of the picture quietly--that ability to be the forgotten person in working out the personal problems of the people. I would say this to you very humbly that this constitutes the measure of your responsibility.

I would say to this staff as a unit, this staff would move ahead when you people get agreements among yourselves as to standards. You will move ahead when from the group comes a well-developed plan of in service training.

There are principals that I felt it enough personally to be here in the central part of Utah. I can say quite humbly that we fall short, quite short. In back of the comments I have made lie these implications:

First, That people are important. Personality is of supreme worth. There is a "value" of supreme worth in personality.

Second, that in this situation here or other places, there is something happens to people when they participate genuinely in fellowship. No matter where you are even in Topaz when people participate cooperatively around a problem, particularly in respect to personality, there are values that apply to individuals there is a process of fellowship which is forming probably the most important things that will accrue.

Third, is the method of discussion, of free inquiry, of raising questions, frankly admitting when we don't know the answers. Out of that there is something very important.

And the fourth, I hesitate to mention because I represent to you people forces which have brought you here. Both here in this center and in the post-war era, if we are to live at all spiritually, we must have faith that there is a possibility of good society for the people, for all the people.



I would like to conclude and say this. My humble hope is that these remarks when recorded will also record a fresh commitment to lift ourselves and our work to the level of our very best. Living here in Topaz, this is a fact which we cannot avoid, will go the way you people in this room take it.

#### QUESTIONS

Mr. Bell said he would answer any questions we might want to ask, but before we had a chance to ask he answered the question of lumber and flooring.

Miss Kay Yamashita asked what the chances were of getting the equipment that is necessary in the highschools.

Mr. Ernest Iiyama asked if Mr. Bell could give us some of his experiences in conducting study classes for the staff.

Mr. Bell said that the matter of equipment falls in two main categories--industrial arts equipment and equipment for laboratory sciences. The problem is priorities. Trips have been made to little stores on the outside where people tried to buy small amounts at a time. The equipment has been ordered but again it is the problem of priorities and being able to get it. There are schools on the outside, in the first place, that cannot get their equipment either. Some people went to Eli and bought out a whole lumber yard. Every department and section feels this whole matter of procurement. One section chief said that the procurement department stinks. They are doing the best they can but it just isn't good enough.

Mr. Bell answered the matter of conducting study classes for social workers by saying that every situation is different. One idea is to set up a staff in service training committee of four or five of our best people and figure out the kind of things that our staff people would want to know about in terms of figures. How does one have a good interview, and how does one get rid of a person so that he likes it, are two good subjects.

Mrs. Kazu Iijima asked the reason for the lack of textbooks.

Mr. Bell said the main thing was that bids had to be sent to three different companies and when the bids came back, the order has to be sent out which takes much time.

Mr. Eiichi Sato wanted to know if we, the residents of Topaz, are recognized officially as the residents of Utah.

Mr. Bell replied that the only way he could answer that question was by giving us the facts of one case. The county school board can collect from the state \$25 for every resident of school age in the county. The county board thought they had a gold mine



in Topaz, but it was ruled that the school children here were not legal residents of this county.

Mr. Sato then mentioned the fact that we are still paying state taxes when we buy cigarettes and yet we are not considered as residents of Utah.

Miss Faith Terasawa asked what had happened to the official photographer idea.

Mr. Bell assured her that it may take three weeks or so but there will be a photographer in Topaz for residents to have commercial photographs taken.

Mr. Yamashita asked why the people of Topaz could not have their own cameras in here because he had heard that people in other centers were allowed to have them.

Mr. Bell replied that these other centers that allow residents to have cameras were not under the Western Defense Command.

Mr. Yamashita thanked Mr. Bell for speaking to us and mentioned the fact that he was aware that it is the mutual responsibility of the residents as well as the administration for the quality of performance in this section. He mentioned that it was rather belated but that he wanted to thank him for the reading matter which he sent to us. He also said that we will be looking forward to the next opportunity of inviting him to speak to us again.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Teruko Mitsuyasu



*Handwritten: Planning*

GENERAL STAFF MEETING  
of the  
COMMUNITY WELFARE SECTION

*Handwritten: File*

January 25, 1943

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m. by Mr. Yamashita.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Yamashita announced the fact that we will not be able to have Mr. Honderich for our next Wednesday morning meeting as planned because he will be out of town at that time. We are going to have Mr. Frank S. Twohey, Leave Officer, come to speak to us instead.

Mr. Yamashita stated that the Family Counseling Division would hold a meeting directly after the General Staff Meeting.

He went on to say that he has given considerable thought to how to make good use of the general meetings. There must be a lack of interest because so few people speak up from the floor and enter discussions.

REPORTS

Miss Chizu Kitano of the Family Counseling Division reported that that Division is still continuing with initial home calls and public assistance grants. They hope to have a case record for every family in Topaz. Transfers have been coming in quite regularly and quite a few results have been obtained as to transfers between centers.

Mr. Yamashita asked who would be interested in going out on permanent leaves. Very few hands were raised. He then asked how many had filed their Form 126. About 15 out of 60 in attendance raised their hands. Mr. George Takeda said that he had filed his about three months ago and his permit had come through and he could go out any time he got a job.

Mr. Johnson reported on a meeting he had attended last Friday regarding relocation. He said they had met with Mr. Twohey and Miss Ruth Griffin regarding new procedures that have been put into effect in regard to student relocation. When a person comes to apply for student relocation he will be turned over to the Youth Counselor who will fill out all application papers including Form 126, 120, 26, and personal interview form and then will send them down to Mr. Twohey's office. Mr. Twohey's office, in turn, will see that clearance is obtained from Internal Security before the papers are sent to Washington. The discussion will be continued on next Wednesday when Mr. Twohey comes to speak to us.



Mr. Yamashita asked Miss Altvater for a report from Clothing. He then mentioned that many people think that the Public Assistance grants should be retroactive to October 1.

Miss Altvater said that Public Assistance grants are not a retroactive proposition. If the need for assistance exists, it exists now. How could it be proved that the need existed in October, November, etc.? Mr. Aso mentioned a client of his who borrowed money at some time in the past and would need the money to pay back the loan.

Miss Kitano mentioned that in the case of a birth, the needs could be taken care of by means of a special grant.

Mr. Aso also mentioned the poor family whose father had died about a month ago and the family had to borrow money from a friend to buy flowers for the funeral, and asked if a special grant would cover that.

Miss Altvater asked if flowers were not included in the burial contract. Mr. Yamashita said it was not and mentioned the things that were covered, such as transportation to Salt Lake City for cremation and back to Topaz, etc.

Mr. Johnson said that the Family Counseling group were going to discuss Public Assistance grants later and he would make a report of the discussion at the next meeting.

Miss Nobu Kumekawa reported for the Youth Division, saying that from January, 27 students had been relocated to the Middle West and to the East.

Mr. Hoshida stated that he heard many Welfare people mention the initial clothing allowance calling it basic clothing allowance which is a misnomer.

Mr. Yamashita mentioned that Mr. Toshiro Nabeta had been appointed the Fire Safety warden for this building and asked him to make a report. Mr. Nabeta said that he had nothing he wanted to say at this time.

Miss Kitano discussed the Community Activities proposed reorganization. Mr. George Takeda said that Henry Tani had said that he will recommend that all the recreation halls in every block be given to the people for recreational purposes and for recreation alone.

Mr. Johnson stated that in regard to income tax returns, we are to send all residents who inquire about that matter to the Project Attorney's office.

Changing of family heads were discussed. Miss Altvater said that she would not change any until she had a personal interview with the persons involved.



Mr. Johnson discussed the blood donations. He said a memo had been received from Mr. Hughes saying that if any person wanted to go to the hospital for the purpose of donating blood he would be excused to do so without being docked. Miss Fumi Takemoto mentioned that about 100 persons had signed up.

Mr. Yamashita gave his opinion that all of us should have our blood typed for future reference, as in the case when we ourselves are in an accident and need the transfusion.

Mention was made of the statement made by Dillon S. Myer which was published in the Topaz Times.

Mr. Yamashita read a clipping from a newspaper entitled, "The Well of Loveliness."

Miss Amy Kajiwara read two memos which had been received from Mr. Ernst regarding hikes and outings. A limited number via trucks will be permitted on Sundays only to go out on educational trips only in westerly and northerly directions from the project. Requests should be made by Tuesday night preceding the Sunday which the trip is planned. Hiking trips are possible on Saturdays and Sundays of each week. All requests should be in the hands of the Community Activities Section before Tuesday night preceding the Saturday or Sunday on which the hike is contemplated.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Teruko Mitsuyasu



GENERAL STAFF MEETING  
of the  
COMMUNITY WELFARE SECTION

*File*

February 2, 1943

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m. by Mr. Susumu Yamashita.

NEW MEMBERS

The new members of the Family Counseling Division were introduced. They were Mr. Kay Hirao and Mr. Jimmy Kato. Mr. Yamashita went on to say that he couldn't introduce each and every member to them and asked them to get acquainted with everybody.

WORKERS WHO LEFT

Mr. Yamashita said that three workers from our department had left. Miss Martha Nozawa of the Youth Division left for a college in St. Louis, Mrs. Edna Teshima of the Family Division left for employment in Salt Lake City, and Miss Mitsuko Shimizu of the Housing Division left for Murray.

SICK LIST

Three people are on the sick list. Mr. Yamashita said Mr. Hiro Katayama is in the hospital and Miss Fumi Takemoto spoke up to say that he is much better and is going to be released soon. Mr. Ernest Iiyama is also in the hospital with a touch of pneumonia. Mr. Yamashita said that according to reports he was getting along all right. Miss Hayakawa has been confined to bed for about a week.

ABOLISHMENT OF MEDICAL DIVISION

Mr. Yamashita announced the abolishment of the Medical Division of the Community Welfare Division. Those people who have served in that Division will serve in other capacities probably in Youth Counseling or in the hospital.

SERVICE TRAINING COURSE

Mr. Yamashita announced that from Thursday this week commencing at 9:00 a.m. sharp the Service Training Course will be started in Block 2, Building 4, Apartment B, for those who are in the Family Counseling Division. Everyone without exception was asked to be there and on time.



Mr. Yamashita asked everyone to report to the reception desk each morning so that there would be no confusion as to whether a person was ill or out on field work.

#### REPORTS

Miss Chizu Kitano reported for the Family Counseling Division. She said that they were kept busy last week on repatriation and they are almost completed with that and also with a lot of public assistance grants. They also took care of some special cases that came up during the week. Miss Kitano said that she had attended a meeting with the Leave Officer. She said that when a person applies for indefinite leave the Leave Officer would ordinarily send us their names and we would make a report of findings on that person.

She said she also met with the hospital to try to get a closer working together with them. She also mentioned that the clerical staff had asked that the supervisors sign the papers before they are typed so that it will not have to be typed a second time.

Mr. Johnson emphasized the importance of all of us applying for clearance. He also mentioned the service training course and asked that everyone be prompt. Mr. Yamashita asked how many had applied for clearance already and only twelve raised their hands. Mr. Johnson suggested that a list of people who haven't yet made application for clearance be made and that an appointment for an interview be made for each one so that he would have to go.

Miss Kitano said they had a meeting on Wednesday afternoon on Family Life. A few representatives from education were present. One of the things discussed was the P.T.A. and their first meeting and how it should be handled. Many suggestions were given to Miss Mary McMillan but a definite conclusion was not reached.

Miss Kitano also reported on a meeting that was held in Mr. Bell's office on Tuesday. She said a report was given by Mr. Henry Tani on the "Prevention of Delinquency". Mr. Ted Lewis was asked to send a representative to these different committee meetings but he said as yet he hasn't enough personnel to do that. One of the questions asked was, "Why is the ratio of doctors here smaller than in other centers?" Mr. Bell replied by saying that other factors than the number of people had to be taken into consideration, as the factors of climate for the health and proximity to large cities and hospitals.

Mr. Fujii was asked by Mr. Yamashita to make a report of anything of interest to us that had been discussed in the Community Council Meetings. Mr. Fujii said that they are having difficulty getting a city council and city clerk so plans are to have a city commission system rather than a city manager system. It is still



in the tentative stage and will be discussed this afternoon. Mr. Yamashita asked if the constitution didn't have to be revised in that case and Mr. Fujii answered that the constitution was worded in such a way so that it doesn't have to be revised.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Teruko Mitsuyasu



WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Central Utah Project  
Topaz, Utah

May 15, 1943

COMMUNITY WELFARE SECTION

GENERAL STAFF MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: An informal staff meeting was called to order by Mr. Yamashita at 9:30 A. M. Since none of the prospective speakers were available for today's meeting, Mr. Lafabregue would take the place of the speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW WORKERS: Mr. Yamashita introduced three new workers: Miss Estuko Honnami and Miss Janet Nishiki of Clothing and Miss Kiyo Ito of Welfare Clerical Staff. One member from the Family Relocation staff, Miss Yoshi Tamura left for cannery work at Ogden.

The balance of the meeting was taken over by Mr. Lafabregue.

RELOCATION UNIT: Family Relocation personnel and furniture have been transferred in total and will be administratively responsible to the Employment Division which will take effect on Monday, July 19.

The purpose of the transfer is to synchronize the work of that office and more or less integrate the services under one Administrative Head for smooth functioning and expediting the service of relocation to the people of Topaz. We will continue to get copies of their work for our case records. We will be in a consulting and advisory capacity to the Relocation Office. Also they will have access to our files for any information that will be of value to them. Our other unit representatives will also be administratively responsible to the Relocation Office in their work regarding Student Relocation, Short-term leaves and the Ration Office.

APPLICATIONS TO HAWAII: Rumors have been in the air that the Welfare Office has been flooded with people who wish to go back to Hawaii. Many of the persons residing in Block I came to the Mainland with certain impressions that haven't been realized. Those from Hawaii in Block I came on a voluntary basis while some others apparently, came on request. They were presumably told that once on the Mainland, they would be more or less free to follow their heart's desire. When they came to Topaz and other relocation centers, they went through the process of registration and on the basis of that, their status were determined.

For those who were interned in Hawaii, it would most likely be more difficult for them to go back than those who were here prior to evacuation on the Pacific Coast and were never interned. Don't hold out too much hope but take their applications and those cases ~~that~~ seem to ~~come~~ come within the instruction will be submitted to Washington immediately. Those persons from Block I will also be submitted as a group to see just what the answer will be. If a family is involved, they should all be listed on the same application. A cover letter should be prepared for Mr. Ernst's signature.



**SEGREGATION:** Ever since the issuance of the Topaz Times regarding reassembling of people, this Center has been buzzing with questions and counter-questions. The problem is certainly not to be taken slightly. The points raised in Mr. Myer's latest release were:

The basic reason for segregation is to promote harmony along all the centers. People in the segregated center will presumably be of the same opinion. The center to be selected is yet to be designated and the movement of the reassembling is expected to begin about September 1st.

**REPATRIATES:** Those who wish to file applications for repatriation, as well as those who wish to decline will be permitted to continue to do so. We don't know what the policy is going to be regarding these applications. People who are applying simply to be with members of their immediate family should be advised to wait until a clarification is received.

**Mr. Hamada:** How long will it take, as people are getting nervous.

**Mr. Lafabregue:** There will be a meeting of all the Project Directors at Denver on July 26 and 27 where plans will be laid, the policy set and final instructions for the movement given them in detail so that when Mr. Ernst returns, we will probably have all the information. We should not discourage anyone from filing declinations or going on record that they wish to change their negative answers. There will be an opportunity of appearing for a hearing and getting their status changed on all those who wish to change negative answers.

To allay fears on the part of those being segregated, they should be advised that this new center will continue under WRA supervision, the exception being that the people will be restricted to the center, that is, no leave privileges will be given them.

**HEARINGS :** Those who answered the loyalty question in the negative, and those who said "yes" but gave it with a serious qualification will, without exception, be given an opportunity to say what their real wishes are at this time by appearing before the Hearing Board.

After segregation has been completed, the residents of the other centers will be eligible for leave.

In order to gather all the questions now in the minds of the residents here, as well as to clarify certain points in the segregation issue, a special department has been established in the Welfare Section at Rec. 23.

A comprehensive list of questions in the minds of the residents submitted to this Special Unit will be prepared and submitted to the Project Director which he will take with him to the Denver Conference.

**Mr. Hamada:** Many have the feeling that since they did not decline before June first that it is useless to try now. Also many seem to think whenever they meet any difficulty that the last solution to the problem is to repatriate.

**Mr. Lafabregue:** The greatest dilemma is faced by students who have filed for repatriation due to parental pressure and do not wish to be separated from their parents yet they have no desire to return to Japan. At the present moment, if anybody wishes to come in and change their answers, we will go through the process of recording their request. We will let them know later after we have the



answers as to what the next step will be.

About ten percent of the families have members going in different directions. In cases where Nisei wives of Issei husbands registered contrary to their husbands, those wives were called in and advised accordingly. Many changed their answers but others did not.

Mr. Yamashita: What step shall we take if a person wishes to change if he answered "no, no" and applied for repatriation?

Mr. Lafabregue: Welfare should take the declination and attach a statement why he wishes to decline, as well as his desire in regards to question 28. Advise them that as soon as we have received the answer from the Denver Conference we will notify them.

Mr. Takeda: What is the logical step in cases where a son has filed for repatriation, the mother has not, and whose interned father is expected to be paroled, all wish to be together?

Mr. Lafabregue: If the family wishes to be together, we should first ascertain what the son wishes to do. What is his real desire? Does he still wish to repatriate or does he now wish to decline? Presumably the mother is anxious to remain in America. Do we know what the father's wishes are? Has he filed for repatriation? If the father has not and the son cancels, there may be every hope that they will be permitted to go in a non-segregated camp. Here again we must wait for a decision on the Denver meeting.

special COUNSELING UNIT: A Special Counseling Unit within the Welfare Section has been formed with Mrs. Watson as head and the following workers assigned under her:

Mr. Sadae Hamada	Mrs. Masako Minami
Miss Yoshi Morioka	Miss Junko Hedani
Mr. George Aso	Mr. George Takeda
Mr. Eiichi Sato	

This new unit will aid the residents of this Center in counseling them in their questions and problems arising out of the announcement that segregation will take place beginning September 1. This will affect, for the most part, those residents who applied for repatriation or expatriation and who answered negatively to question 28 at the time of the registration.

WORK OF THE SPECIAL UNIT: A form entitled "Application for Hearing" has been made up and is to be mimeographed. This form is to be used by the workers for those residents desiring to change their answer or to decline repatriation or expatriation. To this form an interview sheet is to be attached. The interview sheet should contain the following three points:

- 1) Record of interview, showing person's request and worker's advice.
- 2) The problem that is presented from the interview.
- 3) Questions that are raised. This part is most important as these questions will be taken by Mr. Ernst to the Denver Meeting.



In order to expedite the work of this Unit, only one copy of the form and the interview sheet will be made up by the worker for each person interviewed. It was suggested by Mr. Lafabregue that a card file be set up of those people coming in. The problem raised and the action taken on each person would be recorded in this file.

Mr. Takeda, our Youth Guidance worker, will interview those persons under 17 years of age.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Michi Tao

Attachment



COMMUNITY WELFARE SECTION  
General Staff Meeting

May 17, 1943

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Yamashita at 10:15 a.m.

WEDNESDAY MORNING SPEAKER

Mrs. Yamashita asked whom the staff would like to have as speaker for this Wednesday's meeting. Mr. Theodore Lewis of Internal Security, Mr. Mike Maruyama of the Community Council and Dr. Simpson were suggested. Mr. Sato said that Mr. Maruyama would not be able to come because he was leaving for Salt Lake City Wednesday morning. It was decided that Mr. Lewis would be asked and if he were not able to appear Dr. Simpson would then be asked to speak.

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT OFFERS

Mr. Yamashita asked if all the staff members have been looking at the "private employment offers" sheets circulated in the office from time to time. He also said that after the bulletins were circulated, they were posted on the bulletin board in case anyone might have missed seeing them.

VITAL STATISTICS

Mr. Yamashita read the vital statistics which Mr. Yoshida of the Funeral unit had prepared. This report is as of May 15. Since September there have been 18 deaths of male persons and 12 of females. There was also 1 death in an internment camp of a person related to a resident of this center and 1 death in the San Mateo Hospital making a total of 32 deaths. On the other hand, there have been 75 births--43 boys and 32 girls. There have been 50 marriages in Topaz. The population of the center as of May 15 was 7,668. The original population was around 8,400. It was pointed out that although many people had left the center on indefinite leaves, approximately 250 people had come from Hawaii in the meantime. From these figures, it was estimated that about 1,000 people left the center on indefinite and temporary leaves.

COUNCIL NEWS

Mr. Sato was asked by Mr. Yamashita if there had been any developments which came up for discussion in the Council meetings that will be of interest to the Welfare staff.



General Staff Meeting (Welfare)--2  
May 17, 1943

Mr. Sato replied that there had not been any except for the hospital issue which has been going on for quite a while and the amendment of the constitution recently effected making isseis eligible for election to office in the Council.

#### REPORTS

Mrs. Watson reported that Mr. Bodine of the N.S.R.C. has been here and is interviewing high school students.

Mr. Yamashita said that at the cabinet meeting which was held last Saturday one of the main subject of discussion was the matter of relocation. He added that the "Relocation Committee" consisted of the administrative officials and representatives of the different sections. This Committee formulated a plan to hold meetings from week to week to give instructions to the people going outside. He also said that it was the plan of the Committee to get every person who is going out to relocate himself to attend these meetings in order to better educate or acquaint himself with what to expect and to prepare himself as to how he may behave in the outside world, etc.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Teruko Mitsuyasu



WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
Central Utah Project

July 8, 1943

COMMUNITY WELFARE SECTION  
GENERAL STAFF MEETING  
WITH GUEST SPEAKER

\* \* \* \* \*

CALL TO ORDER: At 9:15 A. M., the General Staff Meeting was called to order by Mr. Yamashita.

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER: Mr. Russell Bankson, Chief of the Project Reports Division was introduced to the staff with a short commentary on his background before coming to Topaz. Mr. Bankson was formerly a City Editor of the Spokane Chronicle and the feature writer in the "Spokesman Review" as well as a contributor of articles to different magazines in the country. He is also the author of several books.

FUNCTION OF THE REPORTS DIVISION: The job of the Project Reports Officer is to create good public relations. This Division is divided into four units:

1. Topaz Times, best known and most widely read, as well as the most concentrated newspaper in the country. The papers of the ten relocation centers (3200 copies in Topaz) are distributed to all parts of the country.

The center newspapers are practically the sole source of news outlet and all news items that appear in the Topaz Times becomes center-wide news for the very reason that it is the medium of news distribution in this area. If a n error is made, it is most forcibly brought home to us. Since the older Issei have practically no other source for Japanese language news items, this section is intensely perused.

2. Historical Unit: This group spends time gathering all the interesting facts about this Center and recording them in report and documentation form which are on file both in Topaz and in the Archives in Washington and in the end will complete the history of Topaz. We would like to think that when this Center is all over, the buildings torn down and the desert spread over on this spot, that all which will be left are the historical facts which have been written. It will only be a memory and in time, even memories will fade.



Every worth while information all over the Center are gathered and documented so that in time this can be the referring basis in writing books on the evacuation. This evacuation is something that never has happened before in America and never will happen again, I am sure. It is going to be the subject for great study and we are helping Washington to build it up.

3. Photographic and Clipping Bureau: The Reports Officer is the official photographer of the Center. His duty is to document, in pictures, all of the interesting and worth while things that happen about this Center. Examples are such events as the first Topaz High School commencement and the induction of the new Council.

Also a number of newspapers are subscribed from the outside in the different areas within the general reach of the Center and those columns are watched carefully for any news that has to do with the centers or the Japanese within that territory. Sets of clippings are sent to the Washington office and a scrap book is prepared for the files here. Through these clippings, we are prepared for the files here. Through these clippings, we are able to follow the reactions of the outside, which makes it possible for us to watch the trends in the situation in different localities. For example, in the Salt Lake Area the attitude is very healthy and good, regarding the evacuation and the Japanese. Whereas, in the Spokane area, the attitude of the people in that area was such that a ruling was made that no Japanese laborers would be permitted to work on the railroads. This meant that better public relations was needed to break down that attitude and change it.

Contact with the influential people who really did not understand what the evacuation was all about was needed and after Mr. Bankson's trip there, they did get the picture of it by seeing pictures, exhibits, etc. They thought all Japanese were Japanese, and should not be allowed to work in that locality. In the latest clippings of the Spokane papers and reports of the Relocation Officer, the attitude has changed and they are encouraging more and more Japanese-Americans to help alleviate the farm shortage. There is a fine reception in that area now. All they needed was understanding of the relocation program and public relations heaped to break down resistance.

4. Collection of news for outside centers: Perhaps, all the desirable news of the Center is gathered. A reporter watches the news in the Times and many stories that we publish are re-written and sent out to the newspapers. By controlling the news through one channel, it is handled clearly and honestly. Unlike the outside papers in a big city, a reporter on a newspaper gathers the news and writes it according to the attitude of the editor of that paper. In other words, while reporting may be perfectly honest, it is very easy to stress a particular point and make it a little sensational or what we call, "colored" news. The paper here does not attempt to color the news by stresses facts that will not be detrimental. There are times when stories are not favorable but the truth must be told such as the Wakasa case and last week's eleven men who were transferred to Leupp/



If told honestly, it certainly would not hurt the Center in Public relations.

The Project Reports Officer and the Project Attorney are the only two decision chiefs in the whole Center who answers directly to the Project Director and to no one else. They are attached to the office of the Project Director for the use of every person of every section or unit within Topaz.

Any interesting facts in your work or situation should be recorded for the files and if necessary, a reporter will be sent out to "dig" into for the matter.

Another important phase of this Division is publicity for events, groups or organizations, as well as the relocation program. The main purpose is to gather anything that can be of direct benefit to the cause.

QUESTIONS:

Mr. Yamashita: Do you distribute the Topaz Times outside the Center.

Mr. Bankson: We consider the Topaz Times one of the best of the center papers. We have a selected mailing list that gets every issue of the paper and that list includes about 300 names of persons and institutions who will be excellent contacts. Also copies are sent to certain university libraries and prominent citizens in the nation, as well as to persons at public offices and other types of business where the names have been given to us by a member of the appointive staff and frequently by a resident. Every issue is sent so that they can see what sort of Center this is.

Mr. Yamashita: Do you send copies to organizations or institutions who are not sympathetic to us?

Bankson: Yes, we have a number of places that we know have not been sympathetic, but by sending the paper they will read some of the data that should certainly be of some help.

Yamashita: In instances where incidents are involved, so you send your reporters to the individuals for the story? It was told that no one came from Internal Security since the incident occurred on Sunday night.

Bankson: The source of the news of this nature is usually gathered through the Internal Security.

Hoshida: That's the tie-up of the English and Japanese versions which are sometimes slightly different.

Bankson: I am not proficient in Japanese; I only know three words which means I can't check on the translations but I have three Issei leaders, all university graduates, who have been doing their honest best. There may be some very minute variances where one person may use a slightly different translation in the way of expression.



GENERAL STAFF BUSINESS MEETING

INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF MEMBERS: Mrs. Watson introduced Masao Ashizawa who is handling the job-finding end of the Student Relocation Unit.

Miss Hideko Yago started work as a clerk at the Ration Office yesterday, July 7th.

PICNIC: The picnic will most likely be held on the Project where there are trees and some water. Miss Amy Kajiwara and Mr. Tosh Nabeta are in charge of the final arrangements.

CARNIVAL REPORT: Mr. George Takeda reports that of the smaller concessions, Welfare's booth was one of those at the top, clearing at least \$40.00 net. The entire gross income was \$3,273.00 and the net income was about \$2,000.00

TRAVEL FUNDS: Issuance of Travel Grants have been suspended temporarily. ~~people now as the new budget is not available until the 26th~~

REMINESENCING WELFARE SECTION: Mr. Lafabregue gave a brief resume of how Welfare developed from two single apartments in Block A and the gradual expansion to Rec. 30 and 23 as well as the office in Administration B; how at one time Welfare pioneered the services of the Project Attorney, Travel Passes, Evacuee Property, Insurance and legal matters, which were delegated to their present departments. Mr. Lafabregue also advised the workers that if at any time, an assignment is given them which they feel might be jeopardizing due to difficult situations, he would like to have that worker express his predicament.

"The service of the people come first and secondly, we must come first and secondly, we must be concerned with our staff."

RETURNING TO HAWAII: Washington has advised that a person from Hawaii has the possibility of returning upon application and approval of the Provost Marshall. Information will appear in the Topaz Times and applications will be taken at Welfare which will be submitted to the Washington Office.

REPATRIATES AT ROHWER: Mr. Lafabregue, in answering the query which Mr. Yamashita raised regarding the Repatriates in Rohwer advised that no one knows when there will be a second sailing to Japan but that the WRA is in close contact with the State Department and thus far, the date has not been set, although there are favorable indications.



**YWCA CONFERENCE:** Miss Amy Kajiwara gave a brief report on her recent conference at Ski Lodge. There were 41 delegates with nineteen nisei girls, ten of whom were from the other six relocation centers. As a result of the conference, the "Y" has come to understand the evacuee relocation program and a resolution was passed whereby they will assist the girls in finding jobs, housing, etc.

It was suggested that the girls going out from the Centers should write letters contacting the "Y" of that particular city, which they plan to relocate, for this assistance."

**COUNCIL REPORT:** Mr. Hi Bando reported that a committee was appointed by the Chairman to discuss with the Project Director, the matter of advising the residents several weeks before segregation is to take place in order to avoid last minute confusion and delay; also to assure orderly groupings and train schedules similar to that arranged when we left Tanforan.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:45

Respectfully submitted,

Michi Tao