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Third All Center ENTERPRISES CONFERENCE

MINUTES

December 4-5-6-7, 1944

Rivers, Arizona



FEDERATION
OF CENTER BUSINESS
ENTERPRISES

GUESTS, W.R.A. OFFICIALS, AND DELEGATES FROM
RESPECTIVE CENTER BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

Mr. James L. Shelly	Acting Assistant Project Director, Gila Project
Mr. Neil MacNeil	Head, Business Enterprises Section Washington, D. C.
Mr. Otto Rossman	Senior Business Enterprises Advisor New York, New York
Mr. E. H. Runcorn	Field Supervisor Washington, D. C.
Mr. Lionel N. Perkins	Superintendent, Tule Lake Business Enterprises Section, Newell, California

AMACHE COOPERATIVE

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>FORMER RESIDENCE</u>
Mr. Tomozo Tomio	General Manager	Los Angeles, Calif.
Mr. James J. Hikido	Treasurer	San Francisco, Calif.
Mr. Akira Inaba	Executive Secretary	Fresno, Calif.

TOPAZ COOPERATIVE

Mr. Sasato Yamate	President	San Francisco, Calif.
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POSTON COOPERATIVE

Mr. Suekichi Amano	Treasurer	Los Angeles, Calif.
Mr. Seiichi Honda	Chief Accountant	Corona Del Mar, Calif.
Mr. Paul C. Takeda	Executive Secretary	Los Angeles, Calif.
Mr. Toshiichi Nakagawa	Buyer	Freedom, California
Mr. Yasoichi Kanagawa	Director	Fresno County, Calif.

MINIDOKA COOPERATIVE

Mr. Heitaro Hikida	President	Seattle, Washington
Mr. Rikimatsu Hatate	General Manager	Seattle, Washington
Mr. Yoshio Urakawa	Executive Secretary	Seattle, Washington
Mr. Yoshio Hara	Chief Accountant	Seattle, Washington

MANZANAR COOPERATIVE

Mr. Koichi Ozone	Director	So. Pasadena, Calif.
Mr. Tom Fukushima	Director	Florin, California

HEART MOUNTAIN COOPERATIVE

Mr. Genichiro Iwasaki	Chairman	Hollywood, Calif.
Mr. Ted Okumoto	Chief Accountant	Hollywood, Calif.
Mr. Henry T. Horiuchi	General Manager	Culver City, Calif.

NEW YORK, N. Y.

Mr. George Morey	Buyer	Los Angeles, Calif.
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GILA RIVER COOPERATIVE

Mr. Kinshachi Shibuya	President	Sacramento, Calif.
Mr. Teizo Yahanda	Vice-President	Monterey, Calif.
Mr. Bunji Ikenoue	General Manager	San Francisco, Calif.
Mr. Jim Kai	Chief Accountant	Santa Rosa, Calif.

DECEMBER 4, 1944

MONDAY

I. REGISTRATION --

Place: Butte High School, 15-D
Time: 8:30 - 9:00 A. M.
Chairman: Miss Alice Yamasaki

II. MORNING SESSION --

Temp. Chairman: Mr. Tokuyoshi Kawasaki
Time: 9:00 - 11:45 A. M.
Place: Butte High School, 15-D

- (a) GREETINGS by Mr. T. Kawasaki,
Executive Secretary
- (b) Introduction of Delegates
- (c) Message - Mr. James L. Shelly,
Ass't Project Director, in charge
of the Community Management
- (d) Message - Mr. Neil MacNeil, Head,
Business Enterprises Section,
Washington, D. C.
- (e) Report from New York Office --
Mr. George Morey, Head Buyer
- (f) Election of Chairman

III. AFTERNOON SESSION --

Place: Butte High School, 15-D
Time: 1:30 - 4:30 P. M.

- (1) Report -- Liquidation
Mr. Otto Rossman
Senior Business Enterprises Advisor
- (2) Preparation of Agenda
- (3) Selection of Committees -- Liquidation
Place: Butte High School Homemaking
Room
Secretary: Mr. Yoshio Urakawa
- (4) Report and Discussion on New York Office
Mr. George Morey, Head Buyer

Place: Conference Room
Secretary: Mr. T. Kawasaki

IV. "WELCOME BANQUET" --

Place: Canal Dining Hall #4
Time: 7:00 P. M.
Toastmaster: Mr. T. Yahanda

- (1) Opening Address -- Toastmaster
- (2) Introduction
- (3) Message of "WELCOME"

Mr. Leroy H. Bennett
Project Director

Mr. K. Shibuya, President of
Board of Directors
Gila River Cooperative Enterprises, Inc.

Mr. J. Fukushima, Representative
Community Councils

Mr. A. Aoyagi, Representative
Block Managers

- (4) Response --
Delegates' Representative
Mr. Sasato Yamate, President
Topaz Consumers Cooperative Enterprises,
Inc.

DECEMBER 4, 1944

I. REGISTRATION

Registration of WRA Officers and Delegates from various Center Business Enterprises took place at the Conference Headquarters, Butte High School Homemaking Room (16-DD) at 8:30 A.M., under the Chairmanship of Miss Alice Yamasaki.

II. MORNING SESSION

Temporary Chairman, Mr. T. Kawasaki, Executive Secretary of the Federation, presided the Morning Session which started promptly at 9 o'clock. The contents of Mr. Kawasaki's greeting is as follows:

Mr. Shelly, Mr. MacNeil, Delegates and Friends --

On behalf of the Federation, I extend my hearty greeting to you all.

Some of you have travelled hundreds of miles under adverse travelling condition and I know you're tired; nevertheless, your facial expression indicates the courage and determination, and I respect your attitude and effort.

In preparation of this conference, I owe one hundred percent cooperation and assistance from the officials of both Administration and Gila Cooperative Board of Directors and members. I am very grateful to them.

I trust that each and every one of you will participate fully in making our Third Enterprise Conference a successful one.

Best Wishes and Good Luck.

Preceded by the trio string ensemble and followed by message given by Mr. James L. Shelly, Acting Assistant Project Director, in charge of the Community Management of Gila River Project. Complete message is attached with the minutes of the conference.

Mr. Neil MacNeil, Head Business Enterprises Section in Washington, D. C., delivered a very inspiring message. The resume of Mr. MacNeil's message is also attached with the minutes of the conference.

Mr. Lionel Perkins was called, by the Chairman, to state briefly the reasons of non-attendance of Tule Lake Delegates at this conference. The explanation were fully accepted by the delegates. The following official letter from Mr. Kazuji Kamiya, Executive Secretary of the Tule Lake Cooperative Enterprises, Inc., was received by Mr. Kawasaki.

November 29, 1944

Mr. Tokuyoshi Kawasaki, Executive Secretary
Federation of Center Business Enterprises, Inc.
c/o Gila Rivers Cooperative Enterprises, Inc.
Rivers, Arizona

Dear Mr. Kawasaki:

Acknowledged your letter of November 24, 1944. The ever attached attitude toward the Tule Lake Cooperative Enterprises, Inc., shown by you is greatly commendable and we are thankful.

I regret that my former notification on the unability of our cooperative to attend the meeting which is to be held at the Gila River Center for the period of December 4th to 7th inclusively was not fully outlined to

the point of attaining your full understanding.

The consensus of opinion of the Board of Director and the executives was that due to the prevailing sentiment of center residents, it was unwise to send representatives to the conference. This camp as you know differs from the rest of the camp and no one is permitted to leave out of the premises. However, Mr. Lionel Perkins recently appointed Auditor-Supervisor of the Tule Lake Cooperative Enterprises, Inc., has been instructed from Washington to attend the meeting and he will be arriving there soon. Your hospitality shown toward him will be greatly appreciated.

I trust that you would understand the circumstance and that we are in no way uncooperative but the best of luck of the coming conference is extended to you. Kindly convey this matter to our fellow delegates of the Federation of Center Business Enterprises, Inc.

Cooperatively yours,

TULE LAKE COOPERATIVE ENTERPRISES, INC.

/s/ Kazuji Kaniya

Kazuji Kaniya, Executive Secretary

INTERMISSION

Delegates were invited by the Homemaking Class of Butte High School at 10 o'clock, for a cup of coffee; which was enjoyed by everyone attended.

THE OUTLINE OF THE NEW YORK OFFICE AND ITS FUNCTIONS Mr. George Morey.

Mr. Morey, representative from the New York Office, explained briefly an outline of the New York Office, its functions and its policy. This report is to be given briefly in this meeting. The mechanics and details were discussed in the committee meeting.

In order to understand the operation of the New York Office, the background was given. The office was established as a result of a need at the first conference of the Business Enterprises, which was held in Chicago in September of 1943. The basis for the establishment were in two fold:

First, to obtain those goods desired by the residence of the Center which can be classified as the "hard-to-get" items.

Secondly, to obtain those items classified as real necessity goods which are not provided by the WRA in its policy.

The merchandise classified as "hard-to-get" include such items as electrical goods, hardwares, shears and those articles which the residents desire but cannot obtain. The real necessity goods are such goods as soaps, underclothing, outerwear, and such goods as are needed in our daily life. Some of these goods are available in small quantities on the allotment basis; however, most of these allotments are based on the purchases or for the year 1941, since most of our cooperatives were established in 1942. Many of these allotments are not applicable.

Originally, there were three Buyers stationed in New York; however, in January of 1944, Miss Kawashima of the Poston Center found it necessary to resign because of illness in her family. At present Mr. Takiguchi and Mr. Morey are stationed in New York with Mr. George Ishiyama, Mr. Beltt and Miss Stewart of the WRA Staff.

At the outset, each cooperative decided to deposit \$500.00 in the Pool Fund to be involved and to be used as a deposit to hold merchandise. It was rather difficult to do much business with a Pool Fund of this size as a fund, such as this is not applicable to the New York Market methods of doing business, and appeal was made for increase in these deposits; and as a result, our Pool Fund now totals \$11,850.00. This figure is exclusive of the \$150.00 from each Center that is deposited for expense.

A Pool Fund of the former amount is not applicable because -- first, there is a definite shortage of the desired goods; secondly, most of the cooperatives have been established rather recently, and as a result credit ratings were unknown. At present statements are issued every month to Dunn Bradstreet and the National Association of Creditman, etc. As a result credits have been extended in an increasing amount.

New York is the largest market in the United States and Buyers from all parts of the country gather to fill their needs. Even the large firms are now buying small quantities wherever they can get them. As a result competition is severe. It is important that in all cases we be prepared to pay cash and merchandise which is desirable for resale in the Center Cooperatives.

In order to obtain these scarce goods, we must purchase them immediately on sight. Experience has shown us that in the cases where offers are made and orders are received, the goods are no longer available.

In this connection Mr. Ishiyama requested that all centers comply immediately with any request for information such as purchase records and allotments, as these figures are quite necessary in order to please any case for an additional supply of the desirable goods.

As of October 31, 1944, during one year's operation, about 970 separate purchase orders have been written to aggregate a total of \$214,500.00. Roughly the type of merchandise purchased is tabulated:

Candy	\$3,300.00	Domestics	\$11,800.00
Electrical Goods	9,700.00	Foods	450.00
Hardware	3,130.00	Infants' Goods	11,780.00
Kitchenware	3,200.00	Men's Wear	27,890.00
Oil Cloth	630.00	Pins	4,960.00
Sewing Supplies	904.00	Shoe Polish	1,407.00
Soap	412.00	Stationery	760.00
Women's Wear	11,800.00	Cotton Yardage	57,400.00
Rayon Yardage	15,800.00	Wool Yardage	8,000.00
Yarns & Supplies	9,560.00	Miscellaneous	17,100.00

Some of the problems encountered in New York were then discussed. The principle difficulty is that of obtaining cotton goods, although spun rayons and mixtures are now in the market. The advantage of the New York market is that a great number of manufacturers are located in this area resulting in a larger quantity of manufactured goods; however, these manufacturers compete to obtain the supply if they are not too concerned about the price they pay.

Mr. George Ishiyama has gone to Washington to appeal to the O.P.A. 4-A release on the cheaper shoes now being stocked in the cooperative stores in order to liquidate this unsaleable item from the respective cooperative stock.

The underwear situation is also a difficult one. Through Mr. Ishiyama we have taken an appeal to the Office of Civilian Requirements of the WPB and fortunately they have given a release on some material to be processed into these garments. Also before the WPB today, there is a request for rough flannel yardage to cut 400 dozens pajamas. It is necessary that should this material be obtained that it will be made up and cannot be sold as yardage.

Possibly the entire cotton goods shortage can be attributed to center major facts: (1) The Brokers have made sufficient money during the past year and are not anxious to sell more goods, as this will result in an increased income tax. They would rather keep this material as inventory pending the beginning of the year. (2) The Bankhead Bill which has provided the Spinners of cotton, an increase in their selling price commensurate with the increase in the cost of labor involved. The converture, however, was not given an increase in his selling price and has appealed to the OPA for an increase. At present many of the converters are holding the goods -- others will sell on the basis of an escalator which provides for an increase in price should the OPA uphold the appeal. These are some of the major problems encountered in New York.

Mr. T. Kawasaki, Executive Secretary, made full explanation of the program sheets which was already distributed to the delegates at the registration time, and various announcements were made properly and recommended the delegates to follow very closely to the Agenda of the conference.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Floor was opened for nomination of Chairman, and Mr. Sasato Yamate, President of Topaz Cooperative Enterprises, was nominated for the Chairman. Mr. Kinhachi Shibuya, President of Gila River Cooperative Enterprises, was also nominated. The result of the election were as follows:

5 votes for Mr. K. Shibuya
2 votes for Mr. S. Yamate

Mr. Shibuya was elected and took the chair. Mr. Shibuya said that this was the first experience as a chairman of such an important meeting and asked full cooperation of the delegates.

Morning Session ended at 11:45.

III. AFTERNOON SESSION

PLACE: Butte High School, 15-D
TIME: 1:30 P. M.

All delegates were present and the meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Kinhachi Shibuya.

Mr. Otto Rossman, Senior Business Enterprises Advisor, was called to make a report of Jerome liquidation. Complete report is attached with the minutes of the conference.

ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEES

The following delegates were named as the Liquidation Committee:

ALACHE	Mr. J. Hikido Mr. A. Inaba
GILA	Mr. K. Shibuya Mr. J. Kai
POSTON	Mr. P. Takeda Mr. S. Honda
MANZANAR	Mr. T. Fukushima

HEART MOUNTAIN	Mr. T. Okumoto
TOPAZ	Mr. S. Yamate
MINIDOKA	Mr. Y. Urakawa
	Mr. H. Hatate
	Mr. Y. Hara

Above Liquidation Committee met in Butte High School Homecoming Room and proceeded with the discussion of the liquidation problems. Mr. Yoshio Urakawa acted as secretary to the committee. Mr. Shibuya, who was asked to preside the meeting, conducted round-table discussion. The complete minutes of the Liquidation Committee meeting, prepared by Mr. Yoshio Urakawa, is attached with the minutes of the conference. Another group consisted of following delegates: met at the Conference Room (15-D) for report and discussion of New York Office, by Mr. George Morey, Head Buyer. Mr. T. Kawasaki acted as the secretary to the committee. The following delegates were named as the committee for the "NEW YORK BUYING OFFICE AND ITS MANAGEMENT."

Mr. Tomozo Tomio	Amache	General Manager
Mr. Tokuyoshi Kawasaki	Amache	Executive Secretary, Federation of Center Business Enterprises
Mr. Bunji Ikenoue	Gila	General Manager
Mr. Henry Horiuchi	Ht. Mt.	General Manager
Mr. Genichiro Iwasaki	Ht. Mt.	Chairman of Trustees
Mr. Koichi Ozono	Manzanar	Director
Mr. Heitaro Hikida	Minidoka	President
Mr. Suekichi Anano	Poston	Treasurer
Mr. Toshiichi Nakagawa	Poston	Buyer
Mr. Yasuichi Kanagawa	Poston	Director
Mr. George Morey	New York	Head Buyer

Mr. Bunji Ikenoue was elected as the Chairman of the committee to preside the meeting. The complete minutes of the committee is also attached with the conference minutes.

M E S S A G E

Mr. James L. Shelly
Acting Assistant Project Director - Community Management Division

Mr. Kawasaki, members of the WRA staff, Cooperative Delegates, Members of the Gila River Cooperative Association and Friends --

Yes, I've been associated with the cooperative for some time. If you don't mind, I will be seated since it's a small audience and I will be more comfortable. In fact, I have been associated with the cooperative since its inception. I arrived at Rivers the same day that the first load of evacuees came to the Project -- July 20, 1942. I arrived as the Superintendent of the Community Enterprises. For two years it was my pleasure to assist in the starting of the enterprises, to help in the educational program from which developed the cooperative, to watch the relationship developed between the community and the delegates, between delegates and the Board, between Board and Management, and between the management and its personnel. That development, I believe, has been at all times outstanding from the standpoint of relationship between the people and the administration and in the development between the relationship, between the Board of Directors and the organization and its members and patrons. It gives me personal pride to have been associated with that development, and it is for that reason that I am particularly happy to welcome the representatives of practically all the relocation centers, with the exception of Rohwer, all are represented, and especially to welcome you to Gila because of my interest in the cooperative and the business enterprises on the Project.

While you are here considering the effort of the business enterprises of the cooperatives, you will want to bear in mind that you are in a very trying position. You represent in excess of five million dollars a year business. You represent an excess of 60,000 patrons. You have the disadvantage of being the representative no one can compete with. If you are in the business to make money, this would be a very desirable position. From the standpoint of a cooperative with the principle function of giving service, it is a very difficult position to be in because regardless of how good your service is or how reasonable your prices are, you have the disadvantage of having your members unable to understand the fact that outside prices have gone up, quantity has gone down, service is bad, etc. The people to whom you are rendering service in making available merchandise on a non-profit basis cannot fully appreciate how good of a job you are doing.

On the other hand, the fact that you have a monopoly may tend to cause you to become careless. Often it is competition - to make your stores attractive that make us insist the prices at which we buy the merchandise must be right. It is very important that management recognize the handicap in which you operate in monopoly. The advantage is both good and bad. It is quite important that you people, while in discussion this week, remember that you do have a monopolistic hold; therefore, you have a much greater responsibility to your communities. It is important that your price be high in order that you make a profit because the profits are for the good of the community. It may be better to operate on a more slender margin and give your people whose income is very small per individual the immediate advantages of low prices and increase purchasing power thereby. We realize that prices in the long run are not so important since the excess is returned to patrons in proportion to patronage; however, it is important that we operate economically, so that our man-power is held to the minimum consistent with good service and also it is important that we hold our prices down as dividends are slow in being returned to the membership.

On the other hand, you must consider that you have a grave responsibility with reference to the eventual liquidation of these business enterprises. If your margins are too small and your reserves can not be built, you will not be able to liquidate to the best advantage -- as we have been in the process of building up

reserves for a period now in excess of two years, I feel that we have been justified in charging competitive prices. Most of you now have very substantial reserves, so that should you be required to liquidate over a Board of few months, you will be able to pay all the outside creditors, including the revolving funds and certificates; and you will be able to absorb any losses due to losses on furnitures and fixtures. In addition, you should be able to return substantial amounts to members, so that I feel that with good reserves and with your good strong cash positions it may be well for you gentlemen to consider as a general policy for all the members of this association; that of very severely restricting your gross operating cost, and of trying to operate as economically as possible, and of planning in the future to return very little in the way of patronage due to reduced current sales prices. I am trying to say possibly several association here could reduce the gross margin 10% and would be just as well off in the long run with the members. It is something to consider.

I think that if in any place the cooperatives of the War Relocation Authority, as such, have failed, it has probably been in their educational program. I would commend your serious consideration of manners and means of getting to the people an understanding of what cooperatives mean, not only here, but what they can mean to them on the outside. We, as an additional program goes, have put forth quite a bit more. We have had papers, published reports, etc. We have had additional advices, published financial statements. I have felt always that we were never quite doing the job that we should in any place beyond our Block delegates. I feel that here we have had good results in having active participation in discussion and criticism in committee work by delegates and, of course, the Board of Directors have been here exceedingly active with the organization without any interference with the management. I do not feel that we have had the block discussion participation with members and prospective members that would be most desirable. You can appreciate that with relocation coming up and with your leaders constantly relocating that it is exceedingly important that all members have some understanding of the operation of cooperatives, and that they be given an opportunity to know the working relationships between the Board of Directors and the management; and they have the understanding of the finances of the organization and the purchasing policy. If not, they do not have the time for new members to become acquainted with the policies and the cooperative will operate under severe handicaps. We have been fortunate in Gila that our General Manager has been with us from the time of incorporation and from few months before that time we have had in Gila only two General Managers. We think we are exceedingly fortunate. On the other hand, we have had quite a number of Assistant General Managers, the people whom we were getting ready to step into the position of General Manager have relocated. We have had five Assistant General Managers. We have had three presidents of the Association, two have relocated. From the standpoint of Cooperative, unless we do something to take place of the General Manager -- unless the delegates do something to train the people, the cooperative will suffer; and since the cooperative represents the 60,000 people of inventory of \$90,000.00, we must do something through our Educational Program -- something to train people to take care of these cooperatives.

This may be a little bit out of place, but I would like to urge the cooperatives to adopt some policy with the relation of relocation. I think that the cooperatives through innumerable business contacts throughout the country could do a great deal to find positions for people who are working in the co-op. I think your contacts through your retail connections could find jobs, not only in cooperatives, but in all types of business; and I think cooperative should adopt the policy of encouraging the people to go out.

I had not intended to discuss at such length but this is a serious conference; and it is a great honor to Gila to have you here. As Assistant Project Director, it is my privilege to assist any of you while you are here; and I extend my personal welcome to each of you on any problem, personal problem, on which you could be assisted by the administration, to call on me at my office. As

past superintendent of the cooperatives, I am very glad to have you people here; and for any assistance and suggestions that you consider I might be able to give after you have observed the project, please feel free to call upon me, as I am still greatly interested in the cooperative.

RESUME OF MR. MACNEIL'S MESSAGE

DATE: December 4, 1944, 10 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room, 42-15-D

I want to say how much we appreciated the splendid reception accorded us by Mr. Bennett and his staff, the Gila Cooperative and your capable Executive Secretary, Mr. Kawasaki. This is my first visit to Gila and I am greatly impressed with its beauty and atmosphere.

We should not misunderstand this conference. We are going to discuss and prepare for the inevitable job of liquidation. But we are going to do this, not because we expect to liquidate tomorrow or the following day, the following month, or the following year. We are going to talk about liquidation because it is good business to prepare and get ready for an inevitable job.

You know there is a great deal of talk in some centers about the closing of the centers. Some will persist in laying down a smoke screen of rumors about this matter. This sort of thing is unfounded, it is tormenting, it is pure guess work, it is not good. It leads to uneasiness among the residents. Unfortunately, an important number of people will probably get the impression that since we are here to discuss, among other things, the liquidation job ahead, there may be something to those rumors which say in effect that the centers are to be closed in June, July, August, this year, or next year.

This, we really want to emphasize--we know nothing about the closing of centers. We shall be told, all of us, when the time comes by the project directors. Disregard everything you hear in this connection until an official announcement is made. We shall be given ample time to arrange our business enterprises affairs.

When you return to your centers, do what you can to discourage all of this loose talk about the closing of centers. Tell your members that there is no connection between the closing of centers and our liquidation discussions here at this meeting. Tell them that we have discussed liquidation because it is just good business to prepare for a task which we know will confront us at some future date, but we do not know when we shall be faced with this job of liquidation. Tell them that it is only good business to make our organizations more efficient and that, at this time, we are only concerned with the liquidation of our bad business.

Under the heading of bad business, we have such things as dead or slow-moving stock. We have obligations hanging afire, such as payment for the use of Government equipment, trucks, passenger cars, desks, etc. It is good business to dispose of slow-moving or dead stocks. It is good business to meet our obligations now and not find ourselves confronted with them at the time of liquidation. It is good business to see to it that any outstanding amounts owed to us are followed up and payment made. We have the time now to put our houses in better order with the least possible loss. Let us take full advantage of that time.

I feel that we should also consider very carefully at this meeting the future of your Federation. The Co-ops have played a vital part in the over-all program of the War Relocation Authority. They are important. But Co-ops may be important to you long after the Authority, itself, has liquidated. Your Federation might be an invaluable instrument of the future. I don't know. But we should all consider the future of the Federation. The whole program of the War Relocation Authority represents a lot of thought and the exercise of good minds. It may well be possible that some of our experiences can be utilized in the post war period. Again, I don't know. Let us consider the useful value of our Federation.

As from the first of the new year, we hope to be able to provide the enterprises with a field service as contemplated during the course of our field conference in Washington last June.

You will recall that you were to have the services of a field man for two, two weeks' period each quarter. However, the Tule Co-op had an unfortunate experience which necessitated the services of Mr. Rossman and Mr. Currie for an indefinite period. We fell heir to some staff problems also. We lost our very good friend, Mr. Richardson. We lost Mr. Elberson, and it was necessary to detail Mr. Currie to Tule Lake for several months. Yes, we had our headaches, but, I think, or at least I hope, that all the projects will receive equal attention after the new year.

We shall be available at all times during this conference. Please feel free to call upon us at all times. It is customary to speak Japanese most of the time. During such periods, it will only be necessary for you to revert to English when you have any questions to ask us. We are here to work with you and be of all possible assistance.

Finally, I just want to say how much we appreciated your invitation to attend this conference. I commend very highly the splendid preparatory job done by Mr. Kawasaki and his capable staff. It will serve as a good example for all of us to follow during the course of our work ahead. I thank you.

LIQUIDATION OF JEROME COOPERATIVE

Report by Mr. Otto Rossman

DATE: December 4, 1944, 1:30 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room, 42-15-D

I have been requested to report briefly on the problems faced by the Jerome Cooperative during the process of liquidation. The Jerome experience may, or may not, be of value to other organizations when they will be confronted with the task of closing their businesses. There may be no similarity of conditions as to size of inventories, element of time, markets, or other factors. However, we may benefit considerably if their mistakes can be avoided. I made the final audit for Jerome and copies of the audit report have been mailed to all centers. I shall be glad to discuss it in detail with any of you after this session, and a copy will be made available to you if you wish to examine it.

I shall summarize on the blackboard the statement of liquidating operations, as well as the balance sheet, as of the closing date of the Cooperative, showing the assets turned over to the trustees to meet liabilities remaining outstanding. The announcement of the center closing was made on February 26. The stores were operated until April 15, and the final liquidation was completed May 31 on which date all matters were turned over to the trustees for completion.

BALANCE SHEET May 31, 1944

<u>Assets:</u>		<u>Liabilities:</u>	
Cash	\$28,650.00	Accounts Payable	\$ 1,850.00
Receivables	2,650.00	To members	
Truck	<u>650.00</u>	(final equities)	27,300.00
		Unpaid Expenses	1,300.00
		Trust Fund	<u>1,500.00</u>
	\$31,950.00		\$31,950.00

STATEMENT OF LIQUIDATING OPERATIONS From April 1 to May 31, 1944

<u>Merchandise:</u>		<u>Loss</u>
Cost of Goods	\$31,669.96	
Received from Sale	<u>28,490.34</u>	\$ 3,179.62
<u>Equipment:</u>		
Net Book Value	9,348.07	
Received from Sale	<u>7,643.60</u>	<u>1,704.47</u>
	Gross Loss	4,884.09
<u>Expenses:</u>		
Salaries and Other Expenses	7,251.97	
Reserve for Expenses after 5/31	1,639.38	
Trust Fund	<u>1,500.00</u>	<u>10,391.35</u>
	Net Loss	\$15,275.44

The District of Columbia Cooperative Association Act, under which the Jerome Cooperative was incorporated, requires the appointment of three trustees to complete the liquidation, and to assume responsibility during the three year statute of limitation period for the protection of members and creditors. From this balance sheet, you will observe that \$31,950.00 in assets were turned over to the trustees to meet an equal amount of liabilities, including \$1,500.00 trust fund for compensation and expenses of trustees to complete final liquidation.

All stores and services were operated with normal margins

and expenses up to March 31. For a period of half a month to April 15, the stores were operated at closing out prices. All departments were closed at that time and the remaining inventories, as well as equipment, were disposed of outside of the center.

Some difficulty was experienced with certain commodities, especially drugs and shoes. Large quantities of drugs were returned to wholesalers who in turn refused to make cash refunds but issued credit memorandums, which had to be sold to private druggists at discounts from 20 to 30 per cent. Odd lots of shoes with incomplete size runs and low quality shoes were sold to neighboring stores and in Little Rock. For this they were given clearance from the O.P.A. office in Little Rock. The closing out sale resulted in a gross loss of \$3,179.00.

Normal depreciations had been written on equipment up to March 31, at which time the net book value was \$9,348.00. They received \$7,643.00 from the sale of equipment resulting in a loss of \$1,704.00. A great deal of equipment was sold to other center cooperatives at prices approximating book values. Such equipment as counters, shelving, and display tables, which had been constructed in the center, could not be sold, having only use value to the Cooperative.

After closing of the stores on April 15, the Rohwer Cooperative operated a branch in Jerome for 60 days, supplying the needs of the residents until the center was closed. They enjoyed a considerable volume of business during this period.

Expenses during liquidation were rather high, totaling \$7,251.00. The Board of Directors had decided to continue the staff on the payroll as long as possible, which was not altogether necessary during the period when there was no compensating revenue. Several hundred dollars worth of supplies previously inventoried had to be written off completely and contributed substantially to the loss.

I am in agreement with Mr. MacNeil on present policy for the cooperatives on liquidation. The time is too indefinite, and, at the moment, the primary task is to liquidate only the bad business, make our organizations efficient for a sounder financial position. I would suggest as an immediate step the appointment of committees whose job would be:

1. Careful examination of inventories to determine what commodities are considered "dead stock";
2. See that merchandise is dated when received to facilitate weeding out slow-moving items;
3. Arrange special sales in the centers;
4. Arrange to sell outside of centers those items that cannot be sold within the centers;
5. Return goods to wholesalers or exchange for staple goods;
6. Examine all long term purchase contracts.

When the time arrives there will be certain legal and other necessary steps toward liquidation but at this moment we should not put too much emphasis on this phase of it. Sufficient notice will be given to enable the cooperatives to plan their liquidation carefully in order to keep the loss at a minimum. Together with the Project Director, it will be necessary to plan the continuation of service after the cooperative is closed. It may be handled through the continuation of the Federation as an instrument to furnish these services, as well as to assist in the liquidation procedure; it may be possible to have other cooperatives operate a branch as was the case in Jerome; or possibly a concession may be granted to a private merchant.

The cooperative will need approximately 60 days in which to wind up its affairs after the stores have been closed, and

essential goods must be made available to residents during that period.

In each case, liquidation procedure is governed by laws of the states in which the enterprises are incorporated. The usual requirements are: passing a resolution to dissolve, notification to Recorder of Deeds, Bureau of Internal Revenue, all state and local tax agencies, etc. In addition to legal requirements, it will be necessary to notify all creditors, terminate agreements, terminate affiliations with other organizations. It will also be necessary to have a complete audit of liquidation transactions and to furnish an accurate report to the membership.

For the moment let us concern ourselves only with the immediate tasks. Let us strive for efficiency and soundness. We owe it to the residents.

LIQUIDATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES

DATE: December 4, 1944, 3:30 P.M., December 5 - 8:30 A.M.
PLACE: Home Economics Room, 16-DD

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kinhachi Shibuya
SECRETARY: Mr. Yoshio Urakawa

THOSE PRESENT: All Committee Members

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. MacNeil, Head, Business Enterprises
Section, Washington, D. C.;
Mr. Rossman, Auditor-Supervisor;
Mr. Runcorn, Field Supervisor; and
Mr. Perkins, Business Enterprises
Supervisor, Tule Lake

In the absence of the permanent chairman, the secretary acted as the temporary chairman.

The chair entertained nominations for the position of permanent committee chairmanship. Mr. Hatate nominated Mr. Shibuya. The above nomination was seconded by Mr. Yamato. Mr. Hikido duly moved that the nomination be closed and it was seconded and carried.

There being only one nomination for the chairmanship, the temporary chairman declared Mr. Shibuya, the permanent Chairman of the Liquidation Committee by unanimous acclamation.

Mr. Shibuya took the chair.

The Chairman entertained from each center delegates its individual positions, conditions, or opinions relative to the preparations being made on its eventual liquidation.

MINIDOKA -- Since July, the reductions and elimination of all possible and potential dead stocks are being undertaken. Inventory has drastically been reduced. It is therefore well prepared and still in the process of making itself ready for liquidation.

AMACHE -- It is practically in the same position as that of Minidoka.

TOPAZ -- The Cooperative at present is well and sound both in inventory and in its financial structure.

HEART MOUNTAIN -- Have a little in slow-moving stocks. The Merchandise Committee, however, is at present engaged in the preparation of a series of inventory checkings and sales to meet the eventual liquidation.

POSTON -- Had usually carried inventories to the amount of \$150,000; however, by the end of October the above had been reduced to \$110,000.

Due to additional Christmas shoppings, at present the above inventory has shown the increase to \$130,000. Since Poston is composed of three separate camps, it is obvious that the reductions of inventories to any drastic amount, although very desirable, is more than difficult. The possibility of reducing such inventories would be in the elimination and the consolidation of the stores and shops wherever found feasible.

GILA -- The committee, also, like the other centers, is preparing itself to face the liquidation problem. Inventories have been reduced from \$100,000 to \$80,000. There are only a few slow-moving commodities.

MANZANAR -- The problem of liquidation is comparatively a new thought.

The board as well as the management has not been made

aware of the acuteness of the problem. We find, at present, a few slow-moving stocks, and since our problem itself is quite new, request is made to the delegates of the other centers to extend cooperation in the disposal of same. The present inventory is estimated to be around \$66,000. There have been no steps taken to date in the attempt to dispose of any of the slow-moving or dead stocks.

TULE LAKE -- Its Cooperative is very much concerned with the problem of liquidation. The estimated present inventory is \$150,000 out of which \$35,000 to \$50,000 are dead stocks. Among the dead stocks, about 50% is composed of "water softeners" which are commodity used prevalently only in Tule Lake, it is in no position to request any assistance from other centers in the disposal of same.

In reducing and eliminating the list of larger loss at the time of liquidation, Mr. Rossman pointed out that each center cooperative should, from now on, write off from the books the values of equipments, shelves, counters, and the like, which eventually would be a total loss. Supplies also are liable to take a large loss and that in order to avoid it, such supplies should preferably be charged to general expense. He also pointed out that as a conference body, the committee members should concentrate discussions on the immediate steps that each center cooperative could take rather than to wait until the very last moment and then find ways and means of liquidating to the best advantage. To such end he recommends that:

1. Disposal of dead stock.
2. Special sales to center residents.
3. Sales to outside of the centers
 - (a) Return to wholesalers
 - (b) Exchange with other commodities
4. Examine the long term purchases and contracts and cancel the same wherever found advisable.

Discussions followed. Suggestions were advanced that each center should, by means of communication, inform each other and also submit lists of slow and dead stocks and try to exchange or otherwise assist in the disposal of same.

There being no further time for additional discussions, the chairman adjourned the meeting until 8:30 tomorrow morning.

DATE: DECEMBER 5, 1944, 8:30 A. M.
PLACE: Conference Room, 15-D
THOSE PRESENT: All Committee Members
OTHER PRESENT: Mr. James Terry, Project Attorney
Mr. James L. Shelly, Acting Assistant
Project Director

Due to the resignation of Mr. Shibuya as permanent committee chairman, Mr. Kawasaki, acting as the Temporary Chairman, requested the nomination from the floor. Mr. Okunoto nominated Mr. Yamato, and was seconded by Mr. Honda. Mr. Hatate moved and was duly seconded and carried that the nomination be closed. The Temporary Chairman declared Mr. Yamato to be unanimously acclaimed the Chairman.

In order to study the legal aspects pertinent to the liquidation process, the committee decided to request the presence of the Project Attorney, Mr. Terry.

While awaiting the arrival of Mr. Terry, an informal discussion was held relative to the immediate steps to be taken in the disposal of surplus goods and commodities. The suggestions brought forth at the previous session pertinent to the exchange of goods, idea was brought to the fore. One suggestion was made that such exchanges and trades of goods between centers should be based upon the cost-price basis.

After further discussions, the committee unanimously re-

solved to recommend to the general assembly, for its consideration, the passing of the following pertinent agreements:

1. That direct inter-center exchange of goods and commodities be established through means of circular letters; such goods to be offered on or not to exceed the maximum basis of cost price, and that responses to such offers be made without undue delay on the part of the recipients.

2. Each center cooperative should make every effort to return or exchange slow-moving and dead stocks to the outside wholesalers.

3. Inter-center exchange of information be constantly maintained relative to the potential channels available in the disposition of surplus commodities and goods.

The questions of how to accommodate and extend service to the center residents in the interval period between the closing of the cooperative stores and the completion of evacuation and exodus of the center population was discussed. To recognize and to allow outside private enterprises to operate within the gap of time specified in the above would ultimately invite the danger of excessive and exorbitant prices, thereby benefiting only the outside merchants and depriving the residents of whatever meager savings that they do possess. Such step, obviously, is inadvisable and contrary to the best interest of the community.

A suggestion was made as to the feasibility of an establishment by the Federation members of an outside cooperative who will take over such services and also assist in the processes of liquidation of that particular center cooperative.

Another suggestion advanced was that in the event that centers are to be closed one by one, the nearest center cooperative remaining should come to the assistance of the liquidating association and establish a branch store or stores to enable the residents the means and the services for their daily necessities.

At this time, Mr. Terry was requested to elaborate on the legal aspects pertinent to and attendant to the processes of liquidation. The substances of his talk were as follows:

1. The prerequisites to easy liquidation is to have and to maintain a sound financial as well as structural status.

2. Methods of distributing patronage refunds must be sound.

3. From the standpoint of legal technicalities, the incorporation of an outside company to shoulder the burden of liquidation is very much ill advised. It not only is the sound but unnecessary. There are too many questions of various tax problems involved and there will be no end to possible troubles arising.

4. Trustees for liquidation must be appointed and they be compensated in proportion to or comparable to outside salaries by the board resolution. Such compensations may either take the form of a flat and fixed amount or on commission basis. Such commission basis will be computed on the basis of the amount of take in and the amount to be paid out.

5. Settlement of all existing liabilities and debts.

Mr. Terry also added that in the disbursement of funds, the following procedures must be followed:

1. Pay all debts.

2. Pay all Patronage Refunds.

3. Repay membership shares.

4. Pay whatever remaining funds to all members in proportion to their patronage or else donate the entire remaining amount to charity or some other deserving cause.

In the legal procedures to be followed, he pointed out that:

1. The State in which the cooperative is incorporated must be notified of the dissolution;
2. Get tax waivers from the state and counties;
3. Notify all creditors and also insert notices in newspapers;
4. Have outside auditors make final audit before distribution of refunds.

There being no further time for additional discussions, the Chairman adjourned the meeting until 1:30 P. M.

On the question of liquidation expenses involved and also on the expenses to be voted for the Trustees as their compensation, the consensus of the committee's opinion was that it is a matter concerning only the individual cooperatives.

There being no further matters to be discussed, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 2 P. M.

DECEMBER 4, 1944

AFTERNOON SESSION

Following Delegates were selected to discuss on the subject of "New York Buying Office and its Management.":

Mr. Toriozo Torio	Anacho	General Manager
Mr. Heitaro Hikida	Minidoka	President
Mr. Koichi Ozone	Manzanar	Director
Mr. Henry Horiuchi	Ht. Mt.	General Manager
Mr. Suekichi Arano	Poston	Treasurer
Mr. Toshiichi Nakagawa	Poston	Buyer
Mr. Yasuichi Kanagawa	Poston	Director
Mr. Genichiro Iwasaki	Ht. Mt.	Chairman of Trustees
Mr. Bunji Ikenoue	Gila	General Manager
Mr. George Morey	New York	Head Buyer
Mr. Tokuyoshi Kawasaki	Anacho	Executive Secretary, Federation of Center Business Enterprises

Mr. Bunji Ikenoue, who was unanimously chosen as the Chairman of group, presided the entire meeting which started at 3:25 P. M.

Mr. George Morey, appointed first from the Committee, made following requests:

POOL FUND

Mr. Morey stated that at present there is \$11,850.00 in the Pool Fund. Because of the shortage of funds which occurs from time to time, the Buyers in New York lose the opportunity to make good buys; and because the remittances from the respective Centers are not forthcoming within the specified time, the Pool Fund becomes such that the Buyers must withhold orders.

Mr. Morey requested that respective Centers forward him the bank draft or telegraphic money order for immediate circulation of cash. He stated that the certified check is not acceptable for an immediate fund in New York banks, and the money is detained for 15 days even if it is certified.

In reference to the bank account in New York, he stated that joint bank account under the name of Federation of Center Business Enterprises was preferred by the ~~Associated~~ Bank, rather than to have joint bank accounts under separate names of the Cooperative. He stated that since a majority of the Federation members did not authorize him to change the bank account, it is now handled under the name of the Federation of Center Business Enterprises. Mr. Morey reiterated that there is a minimum charge of 25 cent per check for discount on each check, and requested the Center Cooperatives to send one large lump sum check, instead of small checks. In reference to withholding tax, the legal department in Washington has advised New York Office that this matter could be determined with the Collector of Internal Revenue and information has been obtained.

INQUIRY

Mr. Morey requested each Center Cooperative to send inquiries in the nature of an order and try to give flexibility in that order, so that the Buyer will be able to use his discretion when he sees fit to buy -- he may be able to obtain it without hesitation. He stated that the New York market is very peculiar in the respect that new Buyers are seldom able to obtain goods unless through the "back door" through the courtesy of his friends.

CLAIMS

Mr. Morey stated goods are usually bought with samples, but it so happens that jobbers may send substitutes intentionally or unintentionally, so if the Center Cooperatives receive the goods without claim, it may encourage the seller to repeat the habit of

sending substitutes. Mr. Morcy encouraged each Center to send claims immediately upon receipt of goods which are not up to par. He also emphasized that new claim blank forms will be sent to each Center and requested that each Center to fill the name of the Cooperative, case number, the freight bill, and certified invoice to be sent to New York Buyers together with the goods. After lengthy discussion, it was decided by the committee to recommend to each Cooperative to reimburse the money which was spent for deposit in purchasing the goods immediately upon receipt of teletype from New York. In reference to the Pool Fund, the committee recommended that the amount of the Pool Fund for respective Center Cooperatives should be left to the respective Centers depending upon the amount of purchases done monthly by respective Centers and suggested that 10% of the total yearly purchase should be deposited in New York as the Pool Fund. The committee also recommended the New York Buyers to suggest to each Center the amount of additional funds should New York Buyers find it necessary.

The consensus of the committee was to give more flexibility to the Buyers in New York for purchases and try to use the Buyers' discretion in the matter of small items. Also, the committee felt that should damaged goods be received, they should notify the New York Office immediately and try to send a sample of the damaged or inferior goods together with the claim so that New York Buyers will file the claim for proper adjustments.

As there was no other matters pending for this subject, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 P. M.

DECEMBER 5, 1944

TUESDAY

I. MORNING SESSION --

Place: Butte High School, 15-D
Time: 8:30 - 11:45 A. M.

(a) Liquidation Committee Meeting
Place: Homemaking Room

(b) Pending Business with WRA
Place: Conference Room
Secretary: Mr. T. Kawasaki

II. AFTERNOON SESSION --

Place: Butte High School, 15-D
Time: 1:30 - 4:30 P. M.

(a) Liquidation Committee Meeting
Place: Homemaking Room

(b) Pending Business with WRA
Place: Conference Room
Secretary: Mr. T. Kawasaki

III. ENTERTAINMENT - MODERN

By the talents of Butte
Through the courtesy of Community
Activity Service.

Place: Butte Amphitheatre
Time: 6:30 P. M.
Co-Chairmen: Mr. G. Endo
Mr. W. Kawata

DECEMBER 5, 1944

"PENDING BUSINESS WITH THE W. R. A."

Following committees met at the Honoring Room under the Chairmanship of Mr. Bunji Ikenoue at 8:30 a.m.;

Mr. Neil MacNeil Chief of Business Enterprises,
W. R. A.

Mr. E. H. Runcorn Field Supervisor

Mr. Tomozo Tonio	Amache	General Manager
Mr. Koichi Ozono	Manzanar	Director
Mr. Heitaro Hikida	Minidoka	President
Mr. Henry Horiuchi	Ht. Mt.	General Manager
Mr. Suokichi Arano	Poston	Treasurer
Mr. Toshiichi Nakagawa	Poston	Buyer
Mr. Yasuichi Kanagawa	Poston	Director
Mr. Gonichiro Iwasaki	Ht. Mt.	Chairman of Trustees
Mr. Bunji Ikenoue	Gila	General Manager
Mr. Tokuyoshi Kawasaki	Amache	Executive Secretary
		Federation of
		Center Business
		Enterprises

Mr. Bunji Ikenoue stated that the purpose of the committee meeting was to discuss some of the pending business with the officials of W.R.A.

CHECK CASHING FACILITIES

First problem brought for discussion was the matter of "Check Cashing Facilities to be Provided by the WRA to Each Center Cooperative." Mr. Kawasaki explained to the committee the negotiation which has been going on for some time with WRA and on progress. He stated that since the evacuees are receiving \$12, \$16, and \$19 wages, plus clothing allowance of \$3.75, and it so happens that checks are issued in very small denominations: and because of the fact the Cooperatives have to maintain some income to offset the expenditure of the facility of the service, the Cooperatives were forced to charge 3 to 5 cents per check or other method of rates which unnecessarily affected the evacuees financially. Since most of the checks which have been cashed at the check cashing service were of Government issues, we felt justified in asking for assistance. Mr. MacNeil replied that he has already referred the matter to Mr. Province, Head of Community Management in Washington. Mr. MacNeil was of the opinion that WRA may not be able to provide check cashing facilities but will be able to pay the salaries of clerks or to provide space and other things of that nature toward expense.

After due deliberation, the committee decided to have Mr. MacNeil teletype to Washington recommending WRA to pay:

- (1) The expense of salaries for two clerks;
- (2) The space, 8x20, and the insurance on theft and burglary, for the amount of \$10,000;
- (3) The bond for each employee for the amount of \$10,000.

It was also recommended that additional employees be provided for those camps which have two or more separate camps.

DOMESTIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Mr. Kawasaki explained to the committee that the establishment of Domestic Employment Service by the Cooperatives of respective Centers created unnecessary bad reputation for the Cooperatives. He pointed out that the lack of information, planning, and cooperation from the appointed personnel were the main causes for the failure of this program; however, the Enterprises of respective

Centers are trying their utmost to cooperate with the officials of WRA to carry out the function of this department.

The Tule Lake Cooperative has already been excused from Washington to terminate Domestic Employment Service.

Mr. Hikida, President of Minidoka Cooperative Enterprises, explained that the Board of Directors, after receiving instructions from Washington, referred the matter to membership-at-large and tendered the decision of the Congress of Delegates which resulted almost 2 to 1 ratio in favor of not having such Domestic Employment Service under the supervision of the Cooperative. Since then, WRA has not given official notification; consequently, Minidoka Cooperative does not maintain Domestic Employment Service. Mr. MacNeill explained the significance of having Cooperatives of respective Centers in maintaining Domestic Employment Service. Due entirely to tremendous increase in the practice of private enterprise, it was pointed out that this means of service from the Cooperative is the best way to discourage such practices.

After due deliberation, the committee decided to recommend Washington Office to find the ways and means to hold the Enterprise free from liabilities of legal suit or other unfortunate incidents due from employee's carelessness or accident.

It was brought to the attention of entire Delegates at later date that Gila Cooperative already has forms provided for Domestic Employment Service releasing Cooperative from any legal entanglement. The form is as follows:

RELEASE AGREEMENT
(Domestic Service)

In consideration of the agreement of the Gila River Cooperative Enterprises, Inc., to furnish to me and for my benefit and for the benefit of the members of my immediate family living at the Gila River Relocation Center workers to perform domestic service of whatsoever nature in my home or such other place as I may designate at said Relocation Center, including, but without limitation as to the type of service, housemaids, cooks, child nurses, general houseworkers, cleaners, and "sitters" for rates of pay which shall be established from time to time and placed in effect at said Center by the corporation, I hereby agree to release and do release the corporation from any and all liability, claims, demands, suits and actions whatsoever, which may arise from furnishing of such services and the furnishing of workers to perform such services, whether the same be for personal injuries, property injury, loss, damage, or destruction, affecting my person or property or the person or property of any member of my family or other person who shall be in or upon any property within my possession or control at the time such services are being rendered, and whether the said personal injuries, property injury, loss, damage or destruction shall result from the willful or negligent act of the corporation or any of its servants, agents, or employees or from circumstances beyond the control of the corporation or from any other cause whatsoever; I hereby further agree to indemnify and hold harmless said corporation from any claims, demands, liability, suits, or actions for any injury or loss arising out of or resulting from the furnishing of such domestic services to me and my family by the said corporation.

Subscribed by me under seal this _____ day of _____

1944.

L. S.

Witness _____

UNIFORMITY OF RENTAL AGREEMENT ON TRUCKS

This problem was brought from both Minidoka and Heart Mountain Cooperatives, due to the fact that they are not receiving cooperation from the respective Projects in renting trucks for the use of the Enterprises. The consensus of the Delegates were that WRA should rent each Project Cooperative at least one truck to each camp, exception of Gila and Poston Cooperatives where they maintain two or more camps be allowed to have more than two trucks. Mr. MacNeil promised that he will teletype Washington recommending the Delegates' request. However, he pointed out that some Projects have been utilizing WRA trucks and tools and etc. without any rental agreement, which, according to Mr. MacNeil, is the weakness of the Enterprises. Mr. MacNeil recommended that each Enterprises should have a clear understanding with the WRA in reference to rental of various items in order to protect the interest of Enterprises.

UTILIZATION OF REPORTS DIVISION OFFICE

Mr. Kawasaki explained the recommendation of Mr. MacNeil in reference to the Federation participating in furnishing the monthly article to be embodied in an information periodical for circulation for the appointed staffs at all Projects. Mr. Kawasaki thought that the idea was seemingly satisfactory; however, he thought it would "carry more weight" if the authority was granted from all the Project Enterprises in reference to the article handed over to Washington. But unfortunately, the opinions from each Cooperative were not in uniformity. Mr. Kawasaki felt that there will be misunderstanding among various Cooperatives of respective Centers should the article be written by someone representing the entire Center Business Enterprises. Mr. MacNeil further explained that this should be a useful channel through which we can bring our problems in accomplishing effectively some of the most important issues of the Cooperative of respective Centers. He further stressed that in this way, we are rendering the various Cooperatives a distinct service by improving relations through a better understanding.

After much discussion, the committee decided to bring the issue at the general assembly should the Executive Secretary felt it necessary to receive further deliberation of the general assembly.

Mr. MacNeil and Mr. Runcorn were dismissed at this point, so that they will have time to prepare the teletype in order to have the reply be sent from Washington, D. C., prior to the closing of this conference.

The floor was opened for free discussion and exchange of information. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

DECEMBER 6, 1944

WEDNESDAY

I. MORNING SESSION --

Place: Butte High School, 15-D
Time: 8:30 - 11:45 A. M.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(a) Report - Liquidation Committee
Meetings

II. PICTURE --

Place: High School Auditorium
Time: 1:30 - 2:30 P. M.
Chairman: Mr. Y. Sato

III. AFTERNOON SESSION --

Place: Butte High School, 15-D
Time: 2:30 - 4:30 P. M.

(a) Report -- Liquidation Committee
Meetings

IV. ENTERTAINMENT - CLASSIC

By the talents of Canal
Through the courtesy of Community
Activity Service.

Place: Canal Community Stage
Time: 7:00 P. M.

CO-CHAIRMEN:

Mr. S. Nakatani
Mr. T. Fujimoto

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES

DATE: December 6, 1944, 8:45 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room, 15-D

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kinhashi Shibuya
THOSE PRESENT: All Delegates

The chairman, Mr. Shibuya, presided at the meeting.

REPORT -- LIQUIDATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Mr. Yamato, Chairman of the Liquidation Committee, was asked to give a report on this meeting which is as follows:

"Good morning, everybody. As Chairman of the Liquidation Committee, I have been placed to make a report on the forthcoming contemplated liquidation. We have been very fortunate, indeed, to have been able to receive plainly thoughts from Mr. Rossman on the Jerome Liquidation. It has been a very vital basis of consideration. The committee met twice. We had a thorough discussion on the definite aspects of liquidation.

The committee felt there were three main thoughts that should be given weight:

1. Merchandise, how we should dispose of the merchandise when liquidation comes;

2. The legal aspects of the liquidation.

In order to take care of these two important aspects of liquidation, we should set up a machinery for liquidation.

After thorough discussions, we have arrived our thoughts to two points--(1) when center business enterprises are closed one by one, (2) when business enterprises of different centers are obliged to close about the same time.

From these two ways of closing the business enterprises, we have touched on four points. When center business enterprises closes one by one we have had a very lengthy discussion and reached:

1. Assistance by neighboring cooperatives. That is, the neighboring co-op which is to remain for a longer period of time is going over to the one which is to be closed and give assistance whatever they can, particularly during the period of the last few months when liquidation has been accomplished and center residents require minimum service.

2. Assistance through a central organization by organizing an outside Federation. That is something similar to one of a permanent nature.

In conclusion we should have legal advice from the Project Attorney. We were very fortunate in being able to have the service and advice from Mr. Terry. He had touched on the legal aspects of liquidation. It was very much along the lines of Mr. Rossman who had suggested it at the previous meeting. His thoughts were the Co-op should contact the Project Attorney for his service as it is always available.

He said that first consideration of the legal aspect of liquidation was that to make a report to the State Corporation Commissioner for the contemplated liquidation and when the acknowledgment is received from the state in which organized, then make a report to the State Corporation Commission in which state the Business Enterprise is located. That is, in the case of Anache, there is no other corporation commission, but where the cooperative is organized under the District of Columbia and they obtain the acknowledgment, they should report to the state.

How the assets of the corporation should be disposed? He had said that under the District of Columbia law the procedure is established, other state's corporation debts should be paid, the patronage refunds should be paid, then membership, and if there is a surplus fund, it should be paid back to the patrons in accordance with their patronage of the past year or you can choose to donate the final assets if there are any to any charitable organization.

In the case of merchandise liquidation, many suggestions were offered:

1. Assistance from neighboring cooperatives.
2. Organize permanent Federation, etc.

Mr. Terry advised us to try to avoid these two methods because there may entail legally unfavorable situations. We must have license if we are to do such.

Organizing permanent Federation through which to make final liquidation was inadvisable as it may have many legal problems. His suggestion was for each Center Business Enterprises to do the very best they can to tackle their own program. The committee had a thorough discussion on the legal aspects on which we have to rely on the Project Attorney.

Disposition of merchandise. Conclusions were and recommendations are as follows:

1. Inter-exchange of goods by different Co-ops. That is if the Co-ops are to liquidate one center at a time.
2. Try to sell to outside markets and when the closing center has information as to Buyers, that information should be passed to other center cooperatives.
3. To sell back to wholesalers if possible.

Mr. Shelly's thoughts were that if every Co-op keeps his merchandise in sound position, not to keep dead stock but to keep on moving, keep our hands clean, then the liquidation program would be easy.

RECOMMENDATION -- WRA ACCOMMODATION AFTER CO-OP LIQUIDATION

The report being concluded, Mr. Shibuya took over the meeting for recommendations on some of the afore-mentioned suggestions.

Mr. Urakawa said that during the interval period, the liquidating cooperative would like the WRA to find means of carrying the services at minimum prices to the residents. He emphasized that we should protect the interest of the residents.

It was unanimously agreed that the government should find means to service the residents' needs or have a government owned store.

The body then proposed to have a Resolution Committee. Each center should have one representative. This committee is composed of the following:

Amache	Akira Inaba
Heart Mountain	Ted Okumoto
Manzanar	Tom Fukushima
Minidoka	Yoshio Urakawa
Poston	Paul C. Takeda
Topaz	Sasato Yanate
Gila	Kinhachi Shibuya

Mr. Yanate then spoke about the three recommendations.

The secretary of the Liquidation Committee read from his minutes the following:

1. That direct inter-center exchange of goods and commodities be established through means of circular letters; such goods to be offered on or not to exceed the maximum basis of cost price, and that responses to such offers be made without undue delay on the part of the recipients.
2. Each center cooperative should make every effort to return or exchange slow-moving and dead stocks to the outside wholesalers.
3. Inter-center exchange of information be constantly maintained relative to the potential channels available in the disposition of surplus commodities and goods."

Mr. Tonio from Amache gave a report on how he disposed of the dead stock at Amache.

The idea of having an agreement binding all Center Cooperatives on the recommendations was abandoned in favor of having a definite understanding from all Co-ops.

REPORT -- LENDING BUSINESS WITH W.R....

A report on "Lending Business with W.R...." was given by Mr. Ikenoue. The following topics were discussed:

1. Check cashing business -- expenses involved, space rental, bonding cashiers.
2. Domestic Service.
3. Rental of Trucks.

The following teletype was sent to Mr. Provinse in Washington requesting decision on certain requests for assistance in the check cashing service and also in regard to the use of WRA equipment for the Co-op:

TELETYPE

Rivers, Arizona
December 5, 1944

John H. Provinse
Chief Community Management Division
War Relocation Authority
Washington, D. C.

RE CHECK CASHING SERVICE. DELEGATES REQUEST WRA ASSISTANCE TO EXTENT OF SALARIES OF TWO CLERKS C RATING FOR EACH PROJECT WITH FOUR CLERKS FOR POSTON AND TULE LAKE. REQUEST ALSO INCLUDES FREE RENTAL ON SPACE UTILIZED FOR THIS PURPOSE BY EACH CO-OP TO EXTENT OF 8 FEET BY 20 FEET. IN THE LIGHT OF PROJECT DISCUSSIONS FEEL WE SHOULD ALSO AUGMENT THIS PROPOSED ASSISTANCE BY MAKING AVAILABLE GOVT CLR USED FOR BANKING PURPOSES ON A RENT FREE BASIS TO COOPS. MINIDOKA, HEART MOUNTAIN AND POSTON PROJECTS NOT RENTING TRUCKS TO ENTERPRISES. DELEGATES FEEL WRA SHOULD RENT EACH PROJECT COOP ONE TRUCK AND RENT GILA AND POSTON ENTERPRISES TWO TRUCKS BECAUSE OF EXISTENCE OF MORE THAN ONE COMMUNITY AT THOSE PROJECTS. I CAN DISCUSS GILA AND POSTON NEEDS WITH PROJECT DIRECTORS BUT WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR GOOD OFFICES INsofar AS MINIDOKA AND HEART MOUNTAIN ARE CONCERNED. DELEGATES WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON REPLY BY TELETYPE BEFORE CONFERENCE TERMINATES.

Neil MacNeil

The domestic service issue was discussed and the problem of insurance to cover liability from accidents. An exhibit of the waiver used by the Gila River Cooperative is to be presented.

The meeting was adjourned to reconvene at 1:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 6, 1944

AFTERNOON SESSION

TIME: 1:30 P. M.
CHAIRMAN: Mr. K. Shibuya

Delegates from all centers present.

Meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 1:30 P. M.

Mr. L. H. Runcorn was called upon to give a report of a meeting held by the W. R. A. Field Personnel attending the conference. Mr. Runcorn stressed the importance of the Federation in the building of these cooperatives. He stressed the importance of planning for the eventual liquidations of the Center Cooperatives and gave three main points wherein he believes the Federation could aid such liquidations:

- (1) The Jerome experience as evidenced by the report.
- (2) The coordination of information relative to the liquidation of the co-ops.
- (3) The prevention of the drain of financial resources from the centers by authorizing the Federation to operate in the center instead of private enterprises during the interval between final liquidation and closing of the center.

It was Mr. Runcorn's suggestion that certain educational funds be allocated and expended to strengthen the Federation. He felt that it would be wise to use such funds to send a Fieldman, such as Mr. Kawasaki, to the various centers to disseminate the information secured from other cooperatives.

Mr. Runcorn also felt that the Federation could be a great aid in this liquidation process by helping in some way to carry through the three year period, required by law in most cases, for Trustees.

He gave the following suggestions as a possibility for strengthening the Federation for the important part it could play in the operation of the Cooperatives until liquidation and also in the period thereafter:

- (1) It would be necessary to strengthen the structure in order to provide a strong organization for its future work.
- (2) It will be necessary to provide a Board such as by the delegate system. By-Laws would be necessary, and the Board could choose from among its members a President, a Vice-President, and an Executive Secretary.

Mr. Runcorn's suggestions can be summed up with the following; that the Federation was an outgrowth of a need and it has, during the past year, been able to coordinate many of the activities of the several center cooperatives. He feels that by strengthening this body, it can carry on to and after its members, the center cooperatives, are dissolved.

(Resume of Mr. Runcorn's recommendation is attached.)

Mr. Rossman, Senior Business Advisor, was then called on to present a few suggestions on the part the Federation could play. He is of the opinion that an established Federation would have the resources and power to carry through the liquidation period and the required interval after liquidation on a consolidated basis rather than for each center to try to do the job by themselves. He suggested that funds to operate the Federation could come from the various cooperatives as an allocation from these funds which would normally go to individual Trustees.

The meeting was continued with discussion as to the pros and cons of using the Federation as Trustees for the liquidated cooperatives. It was suggested that a committee be created to study this problem. It was found that it would be rather difficult for any evacuee committee to determine what plan would be rather difficult for any evacuee committee to determine what plan would be the most advisable for the liquidation since, that committee would not have all the information with particular regard to the legal technicalities, and it was decided that Mr. Terry and Mr. Rossman be asked to attend the General Assembly to explain some of these problems.

The meeting was adjourned to reconvene at 8:30 A. M., December 7, 1944.

SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING OUR FEDERATION

By Mr. E. H. Runcorn

DATE: December 6, 1944, 1:30 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room, 42-15-D

In our own little meeting this morning, Mr. MacNeil, Mr. Rossman, Mr. Perkins, and I discussed several topics, but our general feeling was that one in particular might very logically be given emphasis at this time. This is the matter of what is to happen to the Federation of Center Business Enterprises. Whether any definite action is taken or not, the Federation will be affected by the indifference or the interest shown at this conference.

In the first place, we have not achieved sufficient continuity from conference to conference for the Federation. I find, for instance, that Mr. Rossman and I am the only ones among the personnel staff who have been privileged to attend all three of the conferences, and Mr. Inaba from the Granada Center and Mr. Kawasaki, Executive Secretary of the Federation, the only delegates who have had that same opportunity. The Federation was imperfectly launched in Chicago more than a year ago. Instead of bylaws, mere buying contracts between the buying office and the various Co-ops were prepared at a later time. At the second conference in the Granada Center last spring, the life of the Federation was merely extended for another six months period. So, it is quite obvious that it is well to raise the question of what is to happen to our Federation.

It would seem to us that the primary purpose of the Federation is to act as a co-ordination agency to the end that the cooperative enterprises and their members in each center may be served better. This co-ordination function is threefold in our opinion.

First, it is designed to facilitate the securing of goods and perhaps the exchange of goods for the purchasing department of each Co-op. It was thought that New York would be a convenient location because it is closer to the sources of supply, particularly of dry goods.

Second, there is the possibility that the Federation may be of use as a co-ordinating agency at the time of liquidation, whether this occurs center by center or simultaneously in all of the centers. The Federation could be of assistance in assuming the responsibilities during the required legal period of three years subsequent to the actual closing of each cooperative.

Third, and perhaps most important of all, the Federation could do much to co-ordinate and promote educational activity both now and in the future. It has been our hope that you might establish your own cooperative field man to implement these various phases of this co-ordination function. For the price of one employee from the educational fund of each cooperative, a great deal could be accomplished in good will and the cooperative spirit for Japanese Americans throughout the country.

After catching a vision for the Federation, undoubtedly, the next step is to give the Federation, itself, a firmer foundation. It is our conclusion that if bylaws were drawn up providing for a board of directors, officers, and employees, a good step forward would be made. For instance, you already have a plan of securing delegates for each conference. If the delegates could go further and choose one man from each cooperative as a board member charged with the responsibility of establishing the work of the Federation, the present employees of the Federation could be much more effective. The Board of Directors might choose its own officers, name employees, and establish policies much in the same manner as the boards of each cooperative in the centers.

We all naturally think of purchasing as the chief function of the Federation, but any genuine cooperative federation is a

business plus. The center cooperatives, hastily established as they were, have already demonstrated their value to the residents by retaining approximately one million dollars each year for the members. By any other technique, a large portion of these savings would have slipped out of the centers, never to return. It is difficult to measure the intangible value of the training and experience provided in the Enterprises to literally hundreds of persons in the past two years, and it is especially difficult to estimate the immense value of the spirit of good will and interracial cooperation and understanding which has been generated by the cooperative technique applied to the operation of the business enterprises.

Of course, all that I have said is to be taken as an expression of our interest in the development of your Federation, but we feel that it is our duty to share with you these suggestions concerning the great possibilities of greater service of the Federation in the future.

DECEMBER 7, 1944

THURSDAY

I. MORNING SESSION --

Place: Butte High School, 15-D
Time: 8:30 - 11:45 A. M.

A. New Business

II. AFTERNOON SESSION --

Place: Butte High School, 15-D
Time: 1:30 - 4:30 P. M.

A. Round Table Discussion

III. "SAYONARA GET-TOGETHER"

Place: 42 Dining Hall
Time: 7:30 P. M.
Chairman: Mr. S. Nakatani

IV. Light Entertainment --

V. Finale --

MORNING SESSION

DATE: December 7, 1944, 9 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room, 15-D

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kinhachi Shibuya
THOSE PRESENT: All Delegates

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. James H. Terry, Project Attorney,
Rivers, Arizona
Mr. Neil MacNeil, Head, Business Enterprises Section, Washington, D. C.
Mr. Otto Rossman, Senior Business Enterprises Advisor, New York, New York
Mr. Lionel N. Perkins, Superintendent, Tule Lake Cooperative, Newell, Calif.

BANK ACCOUNT AT NEW YORK

Meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. Shibuya.

Mr. Morey was called to give a report on the banking facilities now being used in New York. He explained that at present the bank account is being carried under the name of the Federation of Center Business Enterprises in the Amalgamated Bank of New York. This bank being a small institution as compared to the larger banks renders far more service to its depositors than do the larger banks.

It was explained that at the Amache meeting the centers in drawing up the Agency Agreement requested that the bank account be changed from the Federation of Center Business Enterprises to the names of the several centers jointly and severally. The Amalgamated Bank notified us that they did not wish to carry the account under the name of the proposed name and as a result, letters were sent from Mr. Kawasaki's office to the various centers requesting authorization of a change to the names of the Buyers as suggested by Mr. Horn, Project Attorney at Amache.

Discussion followed and several names were suggested. Mr. Terry was then asked in his legal opinion on this proposed change and he declared that it would be wiser to carry the name of the accounts under the following:

Wilbur Takiguchi & George Morey, Agents.

He also stated that the contract now in force was not, legally speaking, an Agency Contract and suggested that in order to avoid any legal problems which might occur, that this contract be revised in the form of a true Agency Contract.

Discussion followed and the conclusions were that:

1. The bank account should be changed from its present form to that suggested by Mr. Terry.
2. Mr. Shibuya requested Mr. Terry to draw up a true Agency Contract for presentation to the various cooperatives and also to Washington to the Solicitor's Office and Mr. Terry has agreed to do that in the near future.

RECOMMENDATION FROM MR. NEIL MACNEIL

Mr. Neil MacNeil, Business Enterprises Section Head from Washington, then made a suggestion as to the appointment of Trustees. His point could be summed up as a question whether individual Trustees should be selected or the Federation Trust be set up to assume the responsibilities as required by law. He suggested that the Federation could be strengthened by the selection of a Board of Trustees and that three members of that Board be appointed in a Trust Committee to act as this Federation Trust.

In order that some of the legal technicalities of establishing a trust or trustees to take care of the final liquidation of the cooperatives be known, Mr. Terry, Mr. Rossman, and

Mr. MacNeil are attending this meeting.

Mr. Terry was then asked his opinion on the most advisable method to be used to perform the mechanics of liquidation and the subsequent appointment of Trustees. He declared that it would be undesirable to incorporate the Federation, and in order for the Federation, as such, to do business in the centers, it would be necessary to incorporate the Federation. If the Federation is incorporated, expert legal advice would be necessary as there would be many legal complications, as probably this Federation would be subject to all laws and regulations pertaining to chain corporations and interlocking corporate businesses. The W.R.A. at present is supplying legal advice, however, in the event of a Federation Trust, which is to exist for a period of three years after the closing of the centers, legal advice would have to be secured elsewhere as the W.R.A. does not contemplate being in existence after the closing of the centers. From the legal and practical point of view, it was deemed inadvisable to think of the Federation in terms of store operations and trusts during this liquidation period.

A point was brought up as to the desirability of having common trustees, that is, the same trustees for all of the centers to perform the trust obligations. Mr. Rossman stated that there was considerable opposition to the voting of funds to individuals as Trustees at the Jerome center and possibly these oppositions could be eliminated if the funds were voted to an organization instead.

It was suggested by Mr. Terry that quick action be not taken on the decision as to the method to be used in the selection or determination of the Trustees, and that this problem be considered from every angle. To determine the best method, he stated that, in his opinion, there would be sufficient time to discuss these matters time and time again before action must necessarily be taken.

(MANUAL RELEASE ON LIQUIDATION PROCEDURES)

Mr. Rossman stated that several weeks ago he had spoken with Mr. Featherston of the legal personnel in Washington and together had drawn a rough draft of liquidation procedures for a Manual Release. On Mr. Provinse's suggestion, the final form will not appear until all angles of the liquidation have been considered. The W.R.A. does not wish to be dictatorial in any of the regulations that are to be forthcoming with regard to this phase of the cooperative.

(PENDING BUSINESS WITH W.R.A. - REPLY RECEIVED)

Mr. MacNeil then reported on the answer from Washington with regard to the message sent on December 5.

TELETYPE

Rivers, Arizona
December 5, 1944

John H. Provinse
Chief Community Management Division
War Relocation Authority
Washington, D. C.

Re check cashing service. Delegates request WRA assistance to extent of salaries of two clerks C rating for each project with four clerks for Poston and Tule Lake. Request also includes free rental on space utilized for this purpose by each co-op to extent of 8 feet by 20 feet. In the light of project discussions feel we should also augment this proposed assistance by making available Govt car used for banking purposes on a rent free basis to Coops. Minidoka, Heart Mountain and Poston Projects not renting trucks to enterprises. Delegates feel WRA

should rent each project Coop one truck and rent Gila and Poston enterprises two trucks because of existence of more than one community at those projects. I can discuss Gila and Poston needs with Project Directors but would appreciate your good offices insofar as Minidoka and Heart Mountain are concerned. Delegates would appreciate Washington reply by teletype before conference terminates.

Neil MacNeil

The reply follows:

TELETYPE

WASHINGTON
12-6-44
515P

NEIL MACNEIL
C/O L BENNETT
RIVERS ARIZ

REURTT WRA WILL PROVIDE TO ENTERPRISES TWO EVACUEE ASSISTANTS FOR CHECK CASHING HELP AT TULELAKE POSTON AND GILA ALL OTHER CENTERS ONE ASSISTANT. UNDESIRABLE AT THIS TIME MAKE ANY CHANGES IN SPACE RENTAL ARRANGEMENTS AND TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS SHOULD BE ADJUSTED TO THE VARYING CONDITIONS AND AVAILABLE RESOURCES AT EACH PROJECT.

J H PRIVINSE WRA WA

445P

He interpreted the answer concerning the transportation to be adjusted locally in each center with respect to the available equipment there. He also said that the traveling men would aid in contacting the project director of each center to obtain the necessary equipment.

The problem of the protection for the cooperatives on liability occurring from accidents in the domestic service was then brought up. An exhibit of a release which the employer must sign that is being used at Gila was made. Mr. Terry explained that the release in this form has the approval of the Solicitor in Washington and suggested that he would aid in any way possible should the other centers desire to use each a form.

RELEASE AGREEMENT
(Domestic Service)

In consideration of the agreement of the Gila River Cooperative Enterprises, Inc., to furnish to me and for my benefit and for the benefit of the members of my immediate family living at the Gila River Relocation Center workers to perform domestic service of whatsoever nature in my home or such other place as I may designate at said Relocation Center, including, but without limitation as to the type of service, housemaids, cooks, child nurses, general houseworkers, cleaners, and "sitters" for rates of pay which shall be established from time to time and placed in effect at said Center by the corporation, I hereby agree to release and do release the corporation from any and all liability, claims, demands, suits and actions whatsoever, which may arise from the furnishing of such services and the furnishing of workers to perform such services, whether the same be for personal injuries, property injury, loss, damage, or destruction, affecting my person or property or the person or property of any member of my family or other person who shall be in or upon any property within my possession or control at the time such services are being rendered, and whether the

said personal injuries, property injury, loss, damage or destruction shall result from the willful or negligent act of the corporation or any of its servants, agents, or employees or from circumstances beyond the control of the corporation or from any other cause whatsoever; I hereby further agree to indemnify and hold harmless said corporation from any claims, demands, liability, suits, or actions for any injury or loss arising out of or resulting from the furnishing of such domestic services to me and my family by the said corporation.

Subscribed by me under seal this _____ day of _____, 1944.

L. S.

Witness _____

This protection is accorded the cooperative and, as in most cases, the domestic workers are protected by Workman's Compensation.

The cooperatives' exemption on Workmen's Compensation and Social Security Tax was then brought up. Mr. Terry explained the sentiment of the Social Security Board and Workman's Compensation Commission in several of the states. He declared that, if possible, Social Security and Workman's Compensation be paid to protect both employee and employer. He pointed out that it was a direct advantage to the employees of the cooperative if the cooperative should contribute to these funds. This case, however, does not apply to Tule Lake because there is little likelihood of many employees of the cooperative leaving the center for the duration of the war.

Discussion then revolved around the income tax redemptions of several of the centers.

Meeting was adjourned at 12 noon to reconvene at 1:30 p.m.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AFTERNOON SESSION

DATE: December 7, 1944
PLACE: Butte High School, 15-D
TIME: 1:30 P.M.

Chairman, Mr. Kinhachi Shibuya, presided over the meeting. Roll was called and all Center Delegates were present.

RESIGNATION, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

First thing in the agenda for the afternoon session was the resignation of Mr. Tokuyoshi Kawasaki, Executive Secretary. The content of his letter is as follows:

December 7, 1944

Mr. Chairman
Federation of Center Business Enterprises
c/o Gila River Co-operative Enterprises, Inc.
Rivers, Arizona

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I respectfully tender my resignation from the position of Executive Secretary of Federation of Center Business Enterprises due principally to my personal matters.

I wish to extend my heartfelt appreciation for the kindest guidance the members of Federation have extended me during my tenure. It was indeed a great honor and privilege that I have served as an Executive Secretary of the Federation, and I only hope that I have given satisfactory performance to justify your confidence in me.

I trust that the members of Federation will continue to give the fullest cooperation to my successor, whoever he may be, and with much anticipation I shall watch the progress of the Federation.

My kindest personal regards to each and every one of the Federation members and the delegates. I remain,

Cooperatively yours,

/s/ T. Kawasaki

Tokuyoshi "Corky" Kawasaki

Mr. Kawasaki stated briefly that reasons for his resignation are of purely personal matters.

After much deliberation, the Chairman appointed three-men committee; namely, Messrs. Sasato Yanate, Suekichi Amano, and Tomozo Tomio to consult with Mr. Kawasaki.

The Chairman declared a half an hour intermission; and in the mean time, the resolution committee approved the original resolution adopted by two members of the committee.

RESIGNATION ACCEPTED ON CONDITION

The meeting convened after half an hour recess. Mr. Yanate stated that the committee decided to recommend to the body

to accept Mr. Kawasaki's resignation provided that Mr. Kawasaki helps the successor until he relocates; thereby, the motion was duly made and seconded that Mr. Kawasaki's resignation was accepted on the condition stated by Mr. Yanate, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Kawasaki was asked to leave the meeting for a few minutes, so that the Delegates could discuss the suggested token of appreciation from the Federation for his services. It was decided to send \$10.00 from each member Enterprise of the Federation, together with the letter of appreciation.

Mr. Kawasaki was called back to the meeting. The Chairman announced the decision of the Delegates to Mr. Kawasaki; thereby, Mr. Kawasaki thanked members of the Federation and the Delegates for their kindest consideration.

Suggestion was made to have Mr. Kawasaki recommend his successor; and Mr. Yoshio Urakawa, Executive Secretary of Minidoka Consumers Enterprises, was recommended by Mr. Kawasaki.

Mr. Urakawa stated, although he appreciates the honor and privilege of Mr. Kawasaki's consideration, under the circumstances he felt that it is too sudden for him to decide at the moment. However, motion was duly made and seconded to have Mr. Urakawa serve as the Executive Secretary of the Federation of Center Business Enterprises. Roll was called and Mr. Urakawa was elected with a vote 6 to 1.

Mr. Yoshio Urakawa was duly elected to succeed Mr. Kawasaki subject to his acceptance at a later date.

It was requested by the Delegates that Mr. Kawasaki carry on the work until such time that Mr. Urakawa is ready to accept the position, which he was duly elected to take over. Mr. Kawasaki was given the authority to publicize the fact that Mr. Urakawa is the Executive Secretary of Federation, pending his acceptance.

MR. ROSSMAN'S REQUEST

Mr. Otto Rossman, Senior Enterprise Advisor, was given the permission to state his request to the Delegates. Following is the excerpts from his request:

"The accounting is to provide the information that is necessary, but in many cases, the reports that are submitted by the various Center Cooperative accountants do not give the necessary break-down to give the necessary comparison to New York Office. It would be advisable to follow specific form. I believe Heart Mountain and Poston sent in very nice statements and some of them come in very bad shape. I recommend that respective accountants should make more accurate reports."

"Also, I have been asked by the Administration to talk with you about the possibility of cutting your staff to the minimum. There is a little gripe at times that they have not been able to secure skilled help due to the fact that Cooperatives are employing people in capacities where that sort of person is not necessary. For instance, stenographers employed in the capacity of cashing checks where there is a tremendous scarcity of stenographers existing. I would like to recommend and officials of WRA will appreciate that Cooperatives will release those people to the WRA."

The Chairman asked Mr. MacNeil, Mr. Runcorn, and Mr. Perkins if there were any other things to report or any other recommendations pending from the WRA, but the replies were negative; thereby, the Chairman excused Messrs. MacNeil, Runcorn, and Perkins.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

The following resolutions were recommended by the Resolution Committee; and after due deliberation, the resolutions were adopted unanimously. They are as follows:

WHEREAS, The Delegates from eight Center Business Enterprises to the Third All Center Enterprises Conference, being held at Gila Project, Rivers, Arizona, under the sponsorship of the Federation of Center Business Enterprises, are gravely concerned with the multi-phases of problems attendant to the eventual liquidations faced by all the center cooperatives, and

WHEREAS, The Delegates recognize the existence of gap of time spanning the period between the final closing and liquidation of the center cooperatives and the completion of the general evacuation and exodus of the residents of the center, wherein no provisions are definitely established to and the residents are deprived thereby of the services and goods necessary and instrumental for their daily needs, and

WHEREAS, The Delegates, at its General Assembly, had reached to an unanimous conclusion that the formation of a definite policy pertinent to and the establishment to that end wherein the residents are afforded a means to acquire and purchase such necessary services and goods are primarily the responsibilities of each Project Director as well as that of the War Relocation Authority.

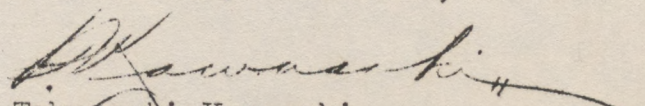
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the War Relocation Authority be requested to give serious thought upon the problem and formulate a definite policy and establish or cause to be established a mean or means, at minimum prices consistent to the best interest and the benefit of the residents and thereby give assurance to and render relief to each center cooperatives of its moral obligation.

WHEREAS, Delegates from eight Center Business Enterprises to the Third All Center Enterprises Conference, held at Gila Project, Rivers, Arizona, under the sponsorship of the Federation of Center Business Enterprises; the 4th to 7th day of December, 1944, have enjoyed the warm reception and kind hospitality extended them during the Conference.

BE IT RESOLVED, That Federation and its members, individually and collectively, extend their deepest gratitude and appreciation to the Gila River Cooperative Enterprises, the Administration, and residents of Gila River Relocation Center for their kindness and splendid support.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Tokuyoshi Kawasaki
Executive Secretary

February 24, 1945

E 5.10

Mr. Dillon S. Myer, National Director
War Relocation Authority
Washington, D. C.

All Center
Conference

Dear Mr. Myer:

We of Japanese ancestry residing within these United States feel that the people of this country, generally, have accepted us on the strength of our record as law-abiding residents during the past fifty and more years. We have engaged in farming, commerce, fishing industry, etc., as operators and laborers, and so had established solid foundations in this country.

The outbreak of hostilities between the United States and Japan in 1941, was followed, in 1942, by the War Department's order that all of us who resided within the west coast area, inclusive of American citizens as well as Japanese nationals, be forcibly evacuated. We suffered extreme shock and mental anguish, as well as substantial material losses. The foundations we had created by years of toil were almost completely wiped away. We have existed these past almost three years within the confines of barbed wire fences, within camps located in desert wilderness.

On December 17, 1944, the Western Defense Command announced the rescinding of the exclusion order. At the same time the War Relocation Authority announced that all our camps would be closed by not later than January 2, 1946.

Surveys of general opinion among center residents as a result of the foregoing dual announcements disclosed the fact that due to their present economic status, their fear of violence and discrimination on the outside, etc., the majority were not in a position to make plans either for relocation or for return to their former homes on the west coast, under present conditions and under currently available facilities and assistance provided by the WRA and other agencies.

As a natural consequence, this, the All Center Conference, was decided upon. Delegates representing seven relocation centers met from February 16 to February 24, 1945, at Salt Lake City. After serious deliberation, mindful of our grave responsibility to do our utmost for the best welfare of 75,000 people, we now make the fervent appeal that the WRA centers be kept open for the duration of war and for some time thereafter as may be needed and, further, be operated with a view to providing residents with necessities, facilities and services on at least on equal level as in the past.

We, hereunder submit a statement of facts and recommendations with the request that you will accord them your full and sympathetic consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Masaru Narahara
Masaru Narahara, Chairman
ALL CENTER CONFERENCE

Approved:

Delegate for Gila Project

Delegate for Granada Project

Delegate for Minidoka Project

Delegate for Heart Mountain Project

Delegate for Poston Project

Delegate for Rohwer Project

Delegate for Topaz Project

Copy: Harold Ickes, Secretary of Interior

STATEMENT OF FACTS

1. Mental suffering has been caused by the forced mass evacuation.
2. There has been an almost complete destruction of financial foundations built during over half a century.
3. Especially for the duration, the war has created fears of prejudices, persecution, etc., also fears of physical violence and fears of damage to property.
4. Many Isseis (average age is between 60 and 65) were depending upon their sons for assistance and support, but these sons are serving in the United States Armed Forces. Now these Isseis are reluctant to consider relocation.
5. Residents feel insecure and apprehensive towards the many changes and modification of W.R.A. policies.
6. The residents have prepared to remain for the duration because of many statements made by the W.R.A., that relocation centers will be maintained for the duration of the war.
7. Many residents were forced to dispose of their personal and real properties, business and agricultural equipment, etc., at a mere trifle of their cost; also drew leases for the "duration", hence have nothing to return to.
8. Practically every Buddhist priests is now excluded from the West Coast. Buddhism has a substantial following, and the members obviously prefer to remain where the religion centers.
9. There is an acute shortage of housing, which is obviously a basic need in resettlement. The residents fear that adequate housing is not available.
10. Many persons of Japanese ancestry have difficulty in obtaining insurance coverage on life, against fire, on automobiles, on property, etc.

15. That when an evacuee relocates or returns to his former business or home, W.R.A. should make every effort to release frozen assets (blocked accounts), both in cases of individuals or organizations.
16. That the W.R.A. negotiate for the concluding of arrangements where under alien parents may be able to operate or manage properties with powers of attorney issued by their children, particularly by sons in the United States Armed Forces.
17. That the W.R.A. arrange to secure outright releases for parolees who relocate.
18. That the W.R.A. obtain the establishment of some avenue of governmental indemnities for relocatees who may become victims of anti-Japanese violence in terms of personal injuries or property damage.
19. That the W.R.A. arrange for adequate government compensation against losses to evacuee property by fire, theft, etc. while in government or private storage or while in transit.
20. That the W.R.A. arrange to provide students of Japanese ancestry with adequate protection in case of need, and opportunities equal to those enjoyed by Caucasian students.
21. That the W.R.A. make every effort to secure work opportunities for returnees and relocatees on equal basis with Caucasian citizens, particularly in reference to admittance into labor unions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

We recommend:

1. That special governmental agencies or units be established solely for providing assistance to evacuees who might require funds in reestablishing themselves.

- a. Resettlement aid (grants).
- b. Loans.

2. That the present relocation grant be increased. It should be given to every relocatee. The penalty clause on the present form should be deleted.

We further recommend that federal aid be granted according to every individual's particular needs until such time as he is reestablished.

3. That long term loans at a low rate of interest be made available, without security, to all the residents in reestablishing themselves as near as possible to their former status in private enterprises, such as business, agriculture, fisheries, etc.
4. That the W.R.A. use their good offices so that consideration may be given on priority by O. P. A. Because of evacuation, residents were forced to dispose of their equipment, trucks, cars and etc., many of which at present require the approval of an O. P. A. Board. These equipments are essential to many residents in order to reestablish themselves in former enterprises.
5. That the W.R.A. make every effort to obtain a return of properties, for evacuees who, due to evacuation and consequent inability to maintain installment payments, have lost the same; further, in order to prevent loss of property, to obtain some definite arrangement for the granting of governmental aid, as may be necessary, to evacuees unable, as a result of evacuation, to maintain installment payments.
6. That the W.R.A. give financial aid to residents with definite plans, for the purposes of defraying the expenses of investigating specific relocation possibilities.
7. That the W.R.A. establish adequately staffed offices in important areas and employ persons of Japanese ancestry since they understand Japanese psychology; and also establish in these field offices, legal advisory and employment departments.
8. That the W.R.A. continue the operation of evacuee property offices for the duration, to fulfill the needs of relocatees.
9. That the W.R.A. accept for reinduction into centers those who relocate and who find themselves unable to make satisfactory adjustments.
10. That the W.R.A. arrange for the establishing of hostels and other facilities in various areas; and furthermore, build new housing through the F.H.A., with W.R.A. assistance.
11. That the W.R.A. provide transportation of evacuee property door to door.
12. That the W.R.A. negotiate for the establishing of old people's homes exclusively for persons of Japanese ancestry.
13. That the W.R.A. make negotiations to arrange (1) so that evacuees formerly civil service employees will be reinstated and (2) so that persons of Japanese ancestry will be able to secure business licenses as formerly.
14. That short term leave regulations be changed to permit an absence of two months with one month extension privileges. Also, that the evacuee investigating relocation possibilities be permitted to become employed, without change of status.

SUGGESTION

The foregoing is a partial list of appeals emanating from center residents, and each item is founded on factual cases. We make the suggestion that the W.R.A. should verify the existence of these problems, possibly by adopting some such procedure as follows:

The W.R.A. should conduct a more accurate and intensive relocation survey than at present, with intent to determine what are the actual needs of the residents, in terms of making their relocation possible. This survey might be conducted in every project, by interviewing a number of evacuees selected from among those unable to make relocation plans, and further selected with a view to obtaining an accurate cross-section (Occupations, location of former homes, etc.) The assistance of interpreters recommended by the Community Councils might be enlisted.

Note: The suggested survey should, perhaps, be conducted so that all center residents will be interviewed; however, as a first step, we recommend the interview of lesser numbers, in the interests of expediency, because we desire the earliest possible acknowledgement of the conditions, and establishment of adequate policies for the furthering of relocation.