

October 9

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September 29, 1944

MEMO TO: Lou Butler

SUBJECT: Family Counseling Program

The following is a review of progress of the Family Counseling Program for the period ending August 31, 1944. This report is intended only to show the general trend of the interviewing

Community Welfare

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of both relocation and welfare staffs.

Welfare Section

- (1) A total of 941 initial family interviews were scheduled, this representing 884 basic family units.
- (2) Of the 941 initial interviews to discuss family plans, 722 or 76.5% of the interviews were kept; 49 or 5.5% cancelled the initial appointment and were seen at a later date; and 170 or 18% failed to respond.
- (3) Follow-up planning interviews amounted to a total of 116 with 86% responding, 2% cancellations and 12% failing the interviews.
- (4) With respect to thinking as to future plans 7.6% of the initial family interviews expressed immediate interest in relocation; 25.4% were interested but did not find it possible to make immediate plans; 67.0% were uninterested in relocation.

RELOCATION DIVISION

- (1) The total number of scheduled initial family interviews amounts to 1191 which represents 1099 basic family units.
- (2) Of the total scheduled, 713 or 59.8% kept the interviews, 25 or 3% cancelled and 453 or 38.2% failed to respond.
- (3) A total of 285 relocation counseling interviews were held. Further break down of this figure is not available.
- (4) Discussion of future plans in these interviews showed 24.4% immediately interested in relocation, 30.2% interested in relocation but inability to carry out these plans and 45.5% uninterest in relocation.

Summary of Total Interviewing

- (1) A total of 2132 initial family interviews have been scheduled, this representing 1983 basic families. Using a maximum estimate of 3700 basic family units (this based on the present population of approximately 11,000 and the average family unit 3 persons) 53.5% of all Poston families have been scheduled for an initial family planning interview.
- (2) Of the 2132 scheduled interviews, 1435 or 67.7% were kept; 74 or 3.5% were cancelled; and 623 or 28.8% were failed.

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- (3) 16.6% have shown immediate interest in relocation planning, 27.8% have an interest in relocation but are not making immediate plans and 53.6% have expressed uninterest in relocation.

Morton J. Adler
Assistant Counselor
Welfare Section

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French, the Community Analyst, wrote as follows in his
Report of Poston for The Week Ending September 24, 1944:

Relocation

Up to September 23, a total of 148 people had left the project during the month on indefinite leave. We were interested in examining the nature of this departing population, so we have analyzed as many of the daily summaries of the Statistics Section as have been issued. By midnight September 17, 77 persons had indefinite leave. Of these, 8 were 14 years old or under; 25 were from 15 to 19; 36 were from 20 to 25; 7 from 25 to 49; and, 1 was over 50. All were citizens. 55 were male and 22 were female. 46 had left Poston I; 13, Poston II; and 18, Poston III. 19 of those leaving went to Ft. Douglas, Utah to report for active duty in the Army. 17 of the rest went to Illinois (mainly Chicago), 7 to Colorado, and 6 to Minnesota. Other destinations were Ohio, Missouri, New York, Iowa, Pennsylvania, Idaho, Arizona, Oregon, Tennessee, Kentucky, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Nebraska.

On the basis of the age, ~~sex~~, and citizenship of those leaving, the relocation during this period resembles closely that during all of 1943. This is a low period for indefinite leaves and was a low period the year before. There is a belief that this is not a propitious time in which to start living in a new area; in most of America farming operations are ending now; even others than farmers hesitate in the face of the coming cold weather. Some have been leaving to go to high school or college; others simply have reached the appropriate age or have finally finished their preparations for departure at this time.

Up to September 17, 36 people went out on seasonal leave; 11 of these were from 15 to 19 years old; 19 from 20 to 24; 1 from 25 to 34; 4 from 35 to 49, and 1 was over 50. 7 were male and 29 female; this disproportionate ratio occurred because cannery work was the type that was offered. 31 of those departing were citizens and 5 were aliens. 15 were from Poston I; 2 from Poston II; and, 19 from Poston III. 30 went to Utah; 4 to Idaho; and 2 to Oregon.

Despite favorable reports by Hayano, Iwamoto, and Wumino, who visited the ordnance depot, there has been no great response to the Tooele employment offer. Seven applicants are awaiting

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clearance. On the other hand, the resistance is not as great at Poston^{as} in some other centers. Advance warning of the arrival of the Army team was given. There was no stressing of the patriotic contribution that Niseis could make by working. Although the Army desires 500 Poston people, there was no impatience shown when they were not immediately forthcoming. When more information arrives about Tooele and when Mr. Hayano's report is distributed, more interest will be shown. However, there are not many Niseis with families, which the Army has been preferring, left in Poston.

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*Common
Well*

The Counseling Survey of the Family Welfare Section has been completed for those on the active Public Assistance list for Unit I. The interviewers will begin the work for the others in this camp immediately. They expect resistance from the residents. In Units II and III some resistance was observed, but it was not so bad as anticipated. Of course, many of them refused to come into the office. Some of them, however, came into the office on the second notices. They apologized profusely that they had misunderstood the survey as a means to get them out on the outside. They were at ease, they said, that this was not intended to force them out of these centers.

In the past experience with this work here, one Counselor observed that many of interviewees stated that they were invalid or sick and could not relocate. After a while this explanation was found to an excuse to end the interviews quickly and to slide off of the office "gracefully to go home."

With the results from Units II and III, the survey showed that a high percentage of the interviewees indicated that they had no intention of relocating. It might be accounted by the fact that the family heads (inevitably older persons) were interviewed.

The informant added that it was strange that the Caucasian ^{is} personnel in the section, completely unaware of the fact that most of these people are abiding time here to watch the outcome of this war to decide whether or not they should stay in this country. In other words, she said, they are "sitting on the fence" right now.

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Staff Meeting Minutes
(August 26, 1942)

Miss Nell Findley, Chief of the Community Services, discussed briefly the organization which is divided into Education, Health and Sanitation, Community Welfare and Placement. She related how part of the society is dying and also how birth is crying to be born, i.e., for military reasons it was necessary to break down family life to place them in rooms where essentials of family life could no longer be maintained and these people are crying for security, clothing, and the makings of a new world because their old world was roughly snatched away from them. Miss Findley said, "New birth can only come here through our schools and education and unless we take a firm stand, we are going to create a group of people who are going to be neurotics."

Miss Findley reported the appropriations which come under Community Services as follows:

Comm
Welf
Education: \$265,204

This amount to take care of teachers, books, and every bit of maintenance.

Health and
Sanitation: \$249,955

Community
Welfare: The great sum of nothing.

Because no money was allotted for community welfare work, there is no money to pay for the employment of a counselor and there is no money to buy the needy people the simple decencies of life. Many are wearing shoes with upper part of shoes fairly decent but the soles practically gone. Women have come here without wage earners and children under sixteen. On the chart is housing but there is no one to work for housing as no one with the right concept of the work will accept the small salary we have to offer. Also, there is the juvenile delinquency problem that has to be taken care of. . . .

July 18

Notice was recently sent to the Managers from the Family Welfare Section stating that they no longer were required to fill out the monthly residents roster forms for clothing allowance grants. That is to say, no longer ^{were} the Managers ~~were~~ called on to participate in the processing of the clothing allowance. Several Managers approached the Supervisor, Nishimoto stated, and expressed their concern that the payments might be delayed and mistakes might be increased as in the early days of the project. Nishimoto immediately called a conference with John Powell, the chief of the Community Management Division, and Lou Butler, the chief of the Family ^{Welfare} Section, on July 12. In the conference Nishimoto lodged the Managers's protest with them on the grounds stated above, and emphasized the fact that the Administration was

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reviving the old system, which had been tried out in the early days and failed. Nishimoto warned the Administration that the Managers could not be responsible in any way if the payments were delayed in the future. He also warned that should mistakes occur, the residents would bring their complaints directly to the Family Welfare office. Nishimoto reported to the meeting that verbatim minutes of the meeting ~~was~~^{were} taken to preserve the record, which should protect the Managers in the future should incompetency and inefficiency develop under the new system of processing the clothing allowance.

Supervisor read to the Managers the memorandum sent from the Community Council regarding the questions transmitted by the Japanese Government. (Cf: July 18, page 1)

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 A. M.

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July 18

The following paragraph has been excerpted from the letter from Lou Butler, chief of the Family Welfare Section, to the ~~Bld~~ Block Managers' Supervisor:

Comm Welfare
A committee from the Welfare Section made a study of clothing costs last winter and recommended that an increase in the clothing allowance schedule be made. When I was in Washington in April I was told that our study had been investigated by an authority in Washington and that a recommendation for an increase would go into the Bureau of the Budget. In answer to our inquiry last week, we were told that this recommendation is under consideration but it is not known how soon we will get a decision.

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April 17

Nomura said he admonished the Project Director about the contemplated Family Welfare Survey thus:

"There are too many questionnaires and questioning in the past. People don't like it. They might get mad and might refuse to answer. You better watch out. Too many surveys are no good."

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April 8

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This morning the members of the Family Welfare Department of the various Units held a meeting to discuss its existing problems. Powell requested me to attend the meeting, but I avoided it without refusing him. It is uncomfortable and unwholesome to be seen with Alice Cheney right now on account of ^{her} ~~his~~ appearance before the Grand Jury against Fujii.

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April 3

Welfare

"A" came to me with a question whether a grant on the public assistance given by the Family Welfare Department constitute ~~as~~ a dependence upon public charity. He was one-time the publisher of the Rafu Shimpō, but here he is unable to work because of his rheumatism. He had not worked a single day here. Although he had not applied for, the Family Welfare Section sent him a notice of appointment for interview for public assistance. He stated he did not want any assistance from the WRA if it ~~constituted~~ ^{was construed} as a charity, because any record of dependence on charity would automatically bar him from ^{re-}~~entering~~ _^ into the United States by the Immigration authorities ~~on re-entering~~. The matter was referred to Powell, who in turn wrote to Glick of the WRA.

See also Relocation, January 21.