

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL AND THE
CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE OF THE TULE LAKE CENTER

February 25, 1944

The regular joint meeting of the Advisory Council and the Co-ordinating Committee of the Tule Lake Center was held on February 15, 1944, at the Personnel Recreation Hall. Project Director R. R. Best called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. upon completion of photographing by a Life photographer, Carl Mydans.

Those present were: Advisory Council: I. Lechlitter, Dr. Opler, H. Black, N. MacNeil, L. Huycke, Markley. Co-ordinating Committee: J. Naydo, G. Yamatani, J. Nakao, K. Okamoto, M. Shimada, I. Namekawa, and B. Akitsuki. Others present: Project Director R. R. Best and B. Mayeda.

Mr. R. R. Best commented on the memorandum sent by the Co-ordinating Committee to Mr. Failing, Supervisor of Motor Pool, requesting for an explanation of his profane statement made to a Committee member on February 22. Project Director remarked that such recommendation which deals with any member of the appointed personnel, should be addressed to the Project Director instead of directly addressing to the party involved. He reiterated that he and the Advisory Council have their utmost confidence and admiration toward the Co-ordinating Committee.

Upon question raised by Mr. Yamatani, Mr. Best mentioned that four persons have been cleared and will be released upon Lt. Shaner's clearance. Thereupon Project Director excused himself from the meeting.

Mr. Takahashi, New Advisor to the Co-ordinating Committee and also head of the Arrangement Committee, was introduced to the body; therewith, he outlined the work he had been doing ever since the formation of the Co-ordinating Committee and a plan he has been contemplating as a result of his research. He mentioned that despite the Center's noticeable improvement and despite the released Dai-ryo Sha's (who are considered leaders) sincere efforts to help in this Committee's undertaking, their hands are tied because of some pressure groups. In order to solve such and in order to solicit their aid he suggested the following: (1) releasement of those considered leaders (also innocent youth) should be made, which will create more favorable atmosphere in the Center. (2) Those people who are "neutrals" and dominated by the minority of pressure 'demagogues', (because of giri (one's sense of obligation) just because they fully supported the status quo) they are not in a position to speak freely. Then organization of a powerful body will be expedited. Such releasement should be made on condition that they will boldly and freely express their sincere beliefs and wills subsequent to an interview by the Advisory Council or the Co-ordinating Committee. Also contemplated is a statement to the colonists of the true condition and the true will of the people in the stockade that they are no longer supporting the Negotiating Committee.

Upon question doubted as to the effectiveness of the works of the releasees, B. Akitsuki cited that results of their work have been

very successful, especially Mr. Shimizu. Blocks 49, 45, 50 and 52 problems have been amicably progressing and Ward 6 has improved noticeably. However, Mr. Black mentioned that the Committee's work should not be measured by the number of releases from the stockade, it should be on the basis of employment, living conditions, decent community atmosphere, etc. Moreover, process of releasing is slow because of Army and FBI clearances. Furthermore extracts from the FBI Washington Office is being forwarded, clearing some of the detainees, in fact, three different reports embracing number of names have already been received. After much discussion, B. Akitsuki requested Mr. Black to inquire for the Project Director's permission to make arrangements for an interview with stockade internees. In the meantime it was suggested that a memorandum be submitted.

B. Akitsuki then brought up the fact that in spite of many people on the employment waiting list, because of lack of opportunities, people are losing faith. Dr. Opler mentioned that his department is making a study of the employment problem, compiling the necessary statistics, which will, in the future, study into the problem of employment distribution. Mr. Black stated that means of bringing further employment opportunities are being worked on, as for example, in the Business Enterprises, Miso, Tofu, Soft drink industries etc. Clean-up crew of the Center is a possibility, however, the source by which remuneration can be made is the problem, since such is infeasible only on a \$1.20-a-day-limitation set by Congress. The amount of \$1.20 is calculated by dividing the Expenditures (all Project including everything, even Social Welfare) by the number of people. As to who is eligible for public assistance, Mr. Black specified that if one is willing to work but unable to find employment possibilities one may apply for public assistance grant which includes incidentals and clothing. Application made is subject, of course, to thorough investigation.

As to the pending janitor problem concerning reduction of one janitor per block, Mr. Black advised that such will be referred to Mr. Robertson.

Thereupon, the meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Byron Akitsuki
Executive Secretary