

MEMORANDUM  
CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE 1608-A

February 3, 1944

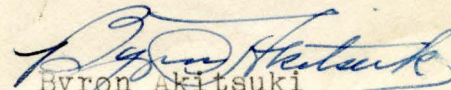
TO: Chief of Police Schmitt  
FROM: Co-ordinating Committee  
SUBJECT: Special meeting

A special meeting of the Project Director; Advisory Council and the Co-ordinating Committee will be held Thursday, Feb. 3, 1944, from 2 p.m., at Administration Building room 2.

The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss recommendations submitted by the Committee up to date.

Please attend.

Herewith attached is original memorandum which you sent yesterday.

  
Byron Akitsuki  
Executive Secretary

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MEMORANDUM  
CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE 1608-A

February 2, 1944

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TO: Mr. R. R. Best, Project Director  
FROM: Co-ordinating Committee  
SUBJECT: Receipt of Red Cross Gift

This will acknowledge receipt of 15 kegs of Kikko-man soy-bean sauce of January 30, 1944, which was part of the gift allotted to the Japanese Nationals of this Center from the Japanese Red Cross.

Upon being appointed by the WRA for the disposition of the gift we, the Committee, selected two Japanese Nationals as representatives from the Committee namely: Okamoto, Kumaharu, and Yamatani, Jirozo, who assumed the responsibility and made arrangements by holding a meeting with the Civic Organization staffs on January 29, 1944. The attached minutes of the meeting will be self-explanatory.

We have already notified the National Red Cross Headquarters, Washington, D. C. of the partial receipt of the gift as shown per attached copy of the letter which was sent on January 31, 1944.

On behalf of the internees, we wish to extend our thanks and appreciation for your service.

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

/s/Byron Akitsuki  
Executive Secretary

Japanese National Representatives:

Okamoto, Kumaharu  
Yamatani, Jirozo

MEMORANDUM  
CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE 1608 - A

February 2, 1944

TO: Mr. R. R. Best, Project Director  
FROM: Co-ordinating Committee  
SUBJECT: Nomination of Temporary Police Commissioners

According to the meeting held on January 28, 1944, the Committee submitted a list of six nominees to Mr. Schmitt of the Police Department. The attached minutes of that meeting will be self-explanatory. Today, however, we have made a recommendation to Mr. Schmitt again, suggesting that K. Nakamura, G. Yamatani, and J. Naydo be nominated and appointed as Police Commissioners because of the pending troublesome condition existing especially in Ward 6. According to the report we received, one Matsuoka, a janitor of block 49 (who is gainst status quo), was attacked by Hamano over the subject of back-to-work movement. As a result, all other fellow janitors, in sympathy with Matsuoka, refused to work today. Such occurrences will not only inconvenience the block residents, but will have bad influence on the colonists as a whole. It seems that evacuee police force was notified immediately. However, no action of maintaining order was taken. At this time, the Committee ascertained that it was not the fault on the part of function due to the absence of Police Commissioners. Hence, the Committee arrived at the conclusion that if the Police Commissioners be instituted immediately to formulate plans for prompt execution, it will be beneficial not only to the evacuee police force, but also for the maintenance of order within the Center.

We want to request for the Project Director's approval on this matter so that the plans may be executed immediately. It can also be considered that this is one of the ways of accelerating our step in bringing back normalcy, as well as expediting the election of prominent Commissioners by referendum votes of the colonists.

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

/s/ Byron Akitsuki  
Executive Secretary

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MEMORANDUM  
CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE 1503 - A

February 2, 1944

To: Mr. R. R. Best, Project Director  
From: Co-ordinating Committee  
Subject: Creation of New Employment Opportunities

In spite of the existing friction between the pro and con status quo people, approximately 750 persons have applied for jobs up to date. In view of this fact that many are still on the waiting list, new applicants are aware that their chances of employment are remote, hence, a growing impatience is noted among them. We, the Committee, fear the result, lest they be instigated by the pro status quo group who may ever that this back-to-work movement is beneficial only to those who had worked previously.

In order to relieve this situation, may this Committee again request for your special consideration on this matter of creating new employment opportunities such as general camp cleaning or sawing of kindling wood by crews of 20 to 30.

Subject: Expansion of Farm Acreage (recommendation)

As a result of the current incident of League-of-Nations tract, which was more than one-half of the Project's farm, has been lost. It is indisputable that the agricultural program is one of the most vital matter, and we, the Committee, upon due deliberation, hereby submit a recommendation for the expansion of farm acreage, not only from the standpoint of employment opportunities for colonists, but for the health as well as economy of the Colonists.

As far as we know, League-of Nations tract has been under the control of Reclamation Department. Is there any possibility of reclaiming the tract for Project use as heretofore?

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

/s/ Byron Akitsuki  
Executive Secretary

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MEMORANDUM  
CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE 1608 - A

February 2, 1944

TO: Mr. R. R. Best, Project Director

FROM: Co-ordinating Committee

SUBJECT: Preparation for Referendum Votes prior to the Replacement of this  
Committee

The dice cast by the responsible men of all divisions on the morning of the 7th of January, with firm determination to liquidate status quo, hurtle the battle cries of back-to-work and restore-to-normalcy. Nearly four weeks have already passed.

In spite of the existing frictions between the pro and con status quo people, approximately 1,000 ex-employees up to date have returned to work and about the same number of new work applicants have been noted. This is one of the illustrations which exemplifies the fact that the condition of this Center has definitely improved.

At this time, in view of many agenda which embody the future plans regarding the management of this Center, we, the Committee, felt and decided that the road was open for the preparation of referendum votes for the purpose of replacing this temporary Committee. By taking such steps, the Committee believed that the prevailing pro and con feelings among the colonists could be eradicated and overcome, since they will be given opportunity to have a voice in the future management of the Center. In this way, their opinions will be centralized for a common purpose. Psychologically, socially, and economically, we think the time has come whereby representations from the colonists be selected democratically. We want to avoid further public misconception that "we are the whole cheese and running the Center as dictated by our own wills."

With this understanding, we, the Committee, would feel more free to work. A recommendation of this nature must be submitted to you sooner or later, why not now?

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

/s/ Byron Akitsuki  
Executive Secretary

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