

COMMITTEE REPORT ON ADULT EDUCATION AND RETRAINING

Committee: Miles E. Cary
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In light of WRA^A policy, in which central emphasis is placed on relocation, it appears necessary to reconstruct original duration plans for adult education in the centers. Viewing the present situation, and taking into account the consensus of opinion in the conference, the committee suggests that the adult education and retraining program be developed in terms of the following considerations:

1. That the organized adult education program be directed toward helping evacuees prepare for relocation. This would include encouragement of evacuees to leave the centers, location and analysis of psychological obstacles, study of economic and social conditions in areas to which the evacuees may go, and dissemination of information relative to assistance being rendered relocated persons through WRA field offices and local committees.
2. That consideration be given to the matter of helping evacuees make the best possible adjustments while they are in the centers.
3. That a vocational retraining program be developed at once in accordance with WRA Administrative Instruction No. 87 (March 30, 1943).
4. The Committee approves the basic agreements concerning the proposed program as presented at this conference (attached). The questions distributed to the meeting, (attached), should be regarded, in the opinion of the Committee, as a series of challenges which can be met.
5. The Committee approves the approach in securing the facilities of N.Y.A. resident centers for training evacuees, and it recommends that this approach be further extended to other resources if possible.
6. That much technical help is needed by Superintendents of Education in order to properly supervise a vocational retraining program. Among them:

Employment Information
Expert technical help in organizing syllabi
Properly equipped staff
Understanding the purpose of this program
by all project staff
The backing of the Project Director
Etc.

Respectfully submitted:

(2606)

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SUGGESTIONS RELATIVE TO VOCATIONAL RETRAINING

The Committee recommends that:

1. Retraining should lead toward relocation-employment or work in center activities.
2. The program should be the joint concern of education and employment. It must, of course, have the support of the project director.
3. The active participation of residents in planning the program should be sought.
4. Emphasis should be placed on training for occupations needed in the war effort. On a priority basis, these would start with the metal trades, agriculture, and occupations important in maintaining the health of the nation, clerical.
5. Only those residents should be admitted to training who do not already possess skills of value to the nation.
6. Training should be short-term. The maximum training period should be six months.
7. Unit skills should be provided rather than all-around proficiency.
8. Methods of training should vary with the needs of the Center. However, the following approaches seem most important: on-the-job training in Center activities, the OSYA program, out-of-center training opportunities, trade classes within the center.

QUESTIONS IN SEARCH OF ANSWERS

1. Are the difficulties of using Center activities for on-the-job training so great as to preclude use of this resource? Some of the difficulties are:

Conflict between production needs and retraining plans.

Lack of skilled apprentice trainers.

Lack of time to devote to apprentices on the production unit.

Lack of equipment, space, materials.

Need for determining what operations are to be covered in apprentice training in many different fields and how much time is to be spent in such training.

Lack of educational staff to properly supervise such a program.

Is this resource important enough to warrant continuous efforts at meeting these difficulties?

2. Are there common steps in determining what Center activities offer important training opportunities?
3. What are some of the occupations for which training may be obtained in Center activities?
4. How can firemen in Center activities be helped to train raw beginners?
5. Is specialized personnel necessary to aid in this program? If so, can such personnel be made available?
6. What part does the OSYA program play in training? How many centers have such programs now or look forward to obtaining such help?
7. What training resources do NYA resident training centers provide? In what occupations do they offer training? What are the limitations of this resource?
8. Can NYA be brought into the Centers? What are the advantages and disadvantages of this scheme?
9. Can War Industry Training Programs be brought into the Centers?
10. On the assumption that NYA resident training centers can provide a training resource for young people, are there similar resources for evacuees over 24 years of age?

11. In what ways can Washington help with the Center Training Program?
12. Is a counselling program a necessary concomitant of retraining? If so, how ambitious should it be?