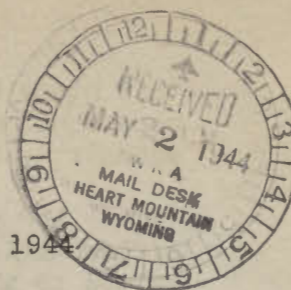


WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

226 W. Jackson Boulevard
Chicago 6, Illinois



May 1, 1944

TO: All Project Directors
ATTENTION: Relocation Program Officer

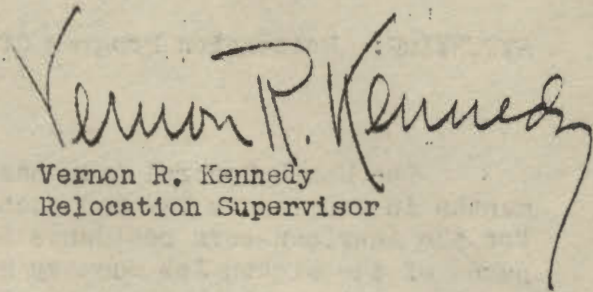
The North Central Area has perhaps been at fault in the past months in seeming to lay too much emphasis on resettlement opportunities for the American-born residents in relocation centers. In the attached pages of the eighth Job Summary Report, we have attempted to correct any impression which we may have given that resettlement opportunities do not also exist for the older people. A good percentage of the job openings listed in the attached pages are available to both groups. Some jobs are, it is true, open only to those of American birth, but older people find a variety of jobs to select from in each of our district offices in Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and North Dakota. Often the highly developed management skills of former business men and farm owner-operators cannot be fully utilized in the employment which we have to offer, and in the majority of cases men with executive backgrounds must start in lesser positions in the new community. Some of these capable older men, however, have found that after an inconspicuous start, they are able to work themselves up to positions of some responsibility and some after starting in a new field of work have eventually found openings in which their old skills could be more fully used.

Housing for family groups is naturally a great concern of family heads in considering relocation, and housing is frequently more difficult to find in this area than is employment. In general, the difficulty in finding housing, however, is one of finding exactly the kind of housing that is desired rather than finding reasonably adequate shelter. Unfurnished places, fortunately, are less difficult to obtain than furnished ones, and new regulations particularly in regard to second movings of household furnishings will make house-hunting easier for many family groups who can bring on their own furniture without expense to themselves. In general, it may be said that reasonably adequate shelter can be provided for any family group but that high standards in regard to housing frequently may have to be modified.

The reception of children both in community life and in the schools is excellent and no difficulties need be anticipated in any cases where the parents accompany the children. Many parents may find

that minor hardships which they have to endure in resettlement will be more than made up for in the increased opportunities available to the younger members of their families.

The mid-month Job Summary Report from the Chicago district office will be devoted almost entirely to opportunities especially suited to the older group in the center population and will indicate the considerable number of lines of work freely open to this group.


Vernon R. Kennedy
Relocation Supervisor

Attachments