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FIELD EXECUTIVE

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Japanese American Citizens League

An All American Organization of American Citizens

National Headquarters

April 6, 1942

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARY
AND FIELD EXECUTIVE

TWENTY THIRTY-ONE BUSH STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Mr. Milton S. Eisenhower, Director
War Relocation Authority
Western Defense Command and Fourth Army Headquarters
Whitcomb Hotel
San Francisco, California

Dear Mr. Eisenhower:

Before submitting our recommendations for your consideration, may I, on behalf of the members of our committee and the 20,000 members of the Japanese American Citizens League, extend to you and the members of your staff our heartfelt appreciation for the privilege and opportunity of meeting with you and discussing our mutual problems regarding the relocation of Japanese evacuees from the Pacific Coast. Your sympathetic understanding and vision of the tremendous forces involved have convinced us of your sincerity and ability. We are grateful that our Federal Government has appointed a man of your calibre to direct the humane and democratic resettlement of us unfortunate people who have been called upon to leave our homes and businesses in order that the military defenses of our country may be strengthened. We are hopeful that our suggestions and recommendations will be given the utmost consideration as the frank and reasoned opinions of a number of representative American citizens of Japanese extraction who are legitimately and sincerely interested in cooperating with our Government in the successful and happy solution to this tragedy.

BACKGROUND

Before introducing various suggestions as to what might and ought to be done, may we mention a few pertinent facts which we feel will be helpful to you as background material in your study of this problem.

In the first place, the entire evacuation program is complicated by the fact that we are dealing with a society which is composed of both American citizens and "enemy aliens". Moreover, the very parents of the citizens are "enemy aliens". Approximately two-thirds of this society are citizens while one-third is foreign born. Because both groups are living under the



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same roof in most cases, the tendency may be to treat both generations as one. This may be dangerous for the future, for the citizens have been taught that they are entitled to certain inalienable rights which no other citizenry enjoys. To deny them these rights and to subject them to the same treatment, or what may appear to be worse, than the so-called enemies of their own country may create an embittered and disillusioned class of citizens after the war which will be of little value to the nation in the great task of reconstruction and rehabilitation. Furthermore, by respecting their citizenship, the argument that we are fighting for certain principles abroad while destroying them at home, which has been advanced by some, will be refuted. Too, the propaganda of the Axis powers to the effect that we are dividing our nation into classes and races will be discredited should some definite means of recognizing the citizenship of the Japanese Americans be announced.

Secondly, there is a wide gap between the ages of the first and second generations. According to our estimates, the average age of the Japan-born is about sixty years while that of the United States-born is close to twenty-one. This means that one generation has just about reached "the end of the trail", has developed certain mores and folkways, and has become accustomed to certain climatic conditions; the other generation is just reaching their majority, is at the impressionable age, and is eagerly awaiting a chance to make a success of their lives. We are afraid that a great number, estimated by some to be as high as fifty per cent, of the older generation will pass away with the coming of the summer heat or the cold of winter because they cannot adjust themselves to the rigors of camp life and the changes in climate and humidity. As for the younger generation, may we venture to say that the spirit with which they are inoculated during their "exile" will determine the type of American which they will be in the years to come.

Thirdly, popular conceptions notwithstanding, more Japanese are located in the urban areas than on the farms. Our estimates indicate that approximately sixty per cent are city-dwellers while forty per cent are engaged in agricultural pursuits. This simply means that most of the Japanese, when finally resettled for the duration, must be relocated with the thought in mind that they cannot and will not be farmers.

Fourthly, the Japanese communities, as a group, are thrifty, proud, and civic-minded. We have often been told that we manage to stay off relief rolls better than any other group; etc. If these traits are worth preserving, then those in charge of relocation should so word their regulations and conduct their activities that these characteristics may be maintained and



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fostered.

Fifthly, the second generation Japanese are probably better educated, as a class, than almost any other second generation immigrant group. We have demonstrated a remarkable desire to learn, and our parents have sacrificed much in order that their children might be better equipped to compete in the American way than they themselves were some forty or fifty years ago. Regardless of what type of resettlement is contemplated, education should be one of the first considerations of those in charge.

Sixthly, the Japanese people, by the large, are more American than Oriental. Our parent generation has spent more than eighty per cent of their lives here in the United States. Only a few have ever returned to Japan. Most of them are more loyal to these United States in their patient, quiet way than a majority of those who are demanding that we be put into concentration camps because we are allegedly disloyal and dangerous. As for us citizens, we can only say that we, as a group, know no other allegiance or country. We were born, educated, made friends, established homes and businesses, etc., here. Although our physical characteristics may mark us apart, most of us desire to assume, with every other American, our share in the winning of this war. In all projects, the fact that most of us are American and desire to be treated as such should be a primary consideration.

Seventhly, the Japanese have no national organization except the Japanese American Citizens League, which is confined only to the American citizens of Japanese extraction. While other nationality groups may have a number of national organizations which purport to represent them, the Japanese have only our organization, which is non-partisan and non-sectarian, to speak for them on a national basis. We believe that it is important that this factor be kept in mind, for both the first and second generation, by the large, have greater confidence in our League than they have in any other organization or group of leaders, regardless of their nationality or affiliation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

GENERAL STATEMENT:

Because the problems incidental to the actual evacuation are strictly in the hands of the military and are not under



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your jurisdiction, we shall not submit any recommendations which have to deal with that phase. We shall attempt to confine our suggestions to those which fall under your province.

We believe that it should be kept constantly in mind by those charged with the responsibility of relocation and resettlement that we Japanese, both nationals and citizens alike, in the great majority are cooperating in this evacuation process because we feel that this is our contribution to the national defense efforts of our country and not because we are disloyal or subversive, as charged by many. We are doing our best to follow out the various regulations and orders because we feel that this is our patriotic duty and not because we are submitting to the demands of the jingoists, race-haters, and politicians who have demanded that we be placed in concentration camps. We have not contested the right of the military to order this movement, even though it meant leaving all that we hold dear and sacred, because we believe that cooperation on our part will mean a reciprocal cooperation on the part of the government.

Above all, we desire that it be distinctly understood that we are most grateful to the great majority of the American people and to our Federal Government for their tolerance, sympathy, and understanding during this tragic era. We have confidence in our Government and a living faith in the American people that we shall not be permitted to be the victims of persecution and violence and that, when the war is won, we shall have a greater and more unified United States in which we Japanese Americans will have a vital and significant part.

GENERAL POLICIES:

We believe that all projects should be directed (1) to create "Better Americans In A Greater America"; (2) to maintain a high and healthy morale among the evacuees; (3) to train them to cope with the difficult problems of adjustment and rehabilitation after the war; (4) to permit them to actually and actively participate in the war effort of our nation; and (5) to develop a community spirit of cooperative action and service to others before self.

We suggest that your office formulate certain broad, general, and well-defined policies which you have set as your goal or aim, and that we Japanese Americans be given the discretionary powers to build and to function within your outlines. While we believe in self-government, we are somewhat skeptical as to the practicability of permitting us to set up all the policies and practices which will govern our conduct in these projects and elsewhere without proper and adequate supervision.



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We are concerned with the fact that most of us have never lived in a community which was preponderantly Japanese; and we are wondering what effect this peculiar situation will have on our younger "teen" age people should they be confined to these camps for several years. As it is, our group has constantly been condemned as being too clannish to be assimilated into the American cultural pattern.

We suggest that as much intercourse with "white" Americans be permitted as possible. We do not relish the thought of "Little Tokyos" springing up in these resettlement projects, for by so doing we are only perpetuating the very things which we hope to eliminate: those mannerisms and thoughts which mark us apart, aside from our physical characteristics. We hope for a one hundred per cent American community. And, for such a community, it is essential that Caucasian contacts are maintained personally through daily intercourse and not through the medium of letters or books.

DRAFTEE STATUS:

We believe that American citizens of Japanese ancestry should continue to be permitted to serve in the armed forces of the United States. We further hold that the members of the Japanese communities, whether they be in camps or not, should be privileged to participate in any and every government registration or request for service. This is vital for morale.

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

We recommend that a vigorous public relations campaign be carried out among three general groups, namely: (1) the public at large, (2) the Japanese themselves, and (3) the government.

We believe that it is essential that the American public at large be convinced that we are not the ungrateful, dangerous, treacherous Japs which some persons would have them believe. We believe that speakers, both Japanese Americans and other Americans, should tour the east, the south, the midwest, the mountains, and even the Pacific Coast to explain our position and to refute some of the allegations and accusations which have been hurled at us. In this connection, we believe that the military authorities ought to amplify their reasons for requesting this evacuation and also to publically acknowledge that the



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great majority of Japanese, in their opinion, are loyal and that they have been most cooperative and uncomplaining in their response to army orders. It is important that the public be informed so that these evacuees may not only be resettled during the duration but also that they be welcomed to their present homes when they return after the war. Moreover, by having Japanese Americans laud the work of the War Relocation Authority, we may be able to create a favorable public sentiment which will permit your office to do that which you desire in the relocation of our group.

If your program is to succeed, it must be "sold" to the Japanese, both those in camps and those who are outside of them. Persons in whom we have confidence must not only be in responsible positions but must also explain the "why's and where-for's" of the program. If the reasons behind many of the orders and regulations could have been explained in detail, much of the confusion and bewilderment could have been avoided. To avoid a repetition of this confusion, a vigorous program of information and public relations must be carried on among the Japanese people, particularly among the younger American citizens of Japanese ancestry who are not old enough to appreciate the significance of the problem.

In order that your office may have the necessary funds and powers to carry on the outlined projects, it is important that the members of Congress and the Executive Departments understand and appreciate what you are doing, both from the standpoint of the American public and its future policy and the Japanese and their attempt to fit into the cultural pattern.

EDUCATION:

We believe that the educational program which will be carried out in these resettlement projects, together with the arrangements made for those interested in higher education, will be the most instrumental factor in molding the future of the young Japanese Americans.

One thing is certain: there should be no Japanese language schools.

Another important item is that all classes should be so integrated that every student will be inculcated with the spirit of Americanism and democratic processes. The entire program should be well directed and well rounded, with particular emphasis on those classes which will train the students in leadership, personal and community adjustment and rehabilitation, mental



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and social hygiene, vocations, handicraft, social graces, personality development, etc. Special stress should be laid on the enunciation and pronunciation of words so that awkward and "Oriental" sounds will be eliminated.

The need for highly competent instructors is evident.. Because of their greater responsibility, they must be better than the average teacher. We are opposed to such plans as asking retired instructors and volunteers to aid in the teaching, for we are most likely to get instructors who are either too old for this type of teaching or those who were not successful elsewhere. We suggest that all instructors, whether they be Japanese Americans or not, be required to take a thorough examination before being permitted to teach. This is very important because it will be in the classrooms that the most significant work in the molding of good Americans can be done.

In addition, we suggest that nurseries be established for pre-school age children and that high school age students be permitted to go outside of camps and attend regular high schools wherever practicable and possible. We believe that these outside contacts would be most helpful.

Too, there should be Americanization and English classes for those who are interested, as well as adult education classes for those who have completed their high school courses. University extension classes are also recommended.

For those students now in college, we suggest that some system of permitting them to transfer to colleges and universities outside of the military zones be established. Federal aid should be made available to them in order that they may complete their education and become useful citizens. The non-resident fees of many of the state schools should either be waived or paid for by the state from which these students are forced to leave.

It is our contention that if the community or family knew that they had some one dear to them on the outside preparing for the life to come that the morale of the group would be bolstered and maintained even in the darkest of days. Finally, it will be in the education of our group as a whole that the salvation of our nationality rests.

RELIGION:

Recognizing the value of spiritual forces and the work of the churches in this task of evacuation and resettlement, we suggest that every opportunity be given to carry on normal religious activity. We are especially concerned with the future of



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the Buddhist faith, for although about one-half of the Japanese people are followers of this faith they lack the "outside" contacts of the Christian churches and are probably the most misunderstood of all of our groups. Moreover, we believe that special care should be taken to see that conflicts arising within and between faiths be avoided.

While we recognize the need for religious education and activity in the relocation program, we strongly urge that steps be taken to confine the work of the church people to phases of religious worship only and that they are not permitted to engage in other spheres of activity. We believe that the social and recreational requirements of the community, for example, should be taken care of by the community and not broken up into church groups for the special attention of their own congregations.

SPORTS AND RECREATION:

We believe that sports, recreation, and socials of all kinds are necessary for the morale of the communities. Adequate facilities for the above should be provided as soon as possible after arrival at these projects. These should be organized along a mass or team basis as much as possible so that the idea of teamwork can be stressed. Competent instructors and leaders should be provided.

We recommend that every person be required to participate in some form of physical activity under proper supervision and direction.

The competitive spirit should be fostered, possibly by organized league play within the camps for those sports which are susceptible to such organization and by inter-camp competition or exhibitions with near by high schools or athletic clubs. The latter might also be used as a method of keeping in "touch" with the "outside" world.

Motion pictures and outside entertainment should be provided on a regular schedule wherever possible. Dramas, one-act plays, special programs, etc., produced by the members of the communities under proper direction and supervision should prove of great interest and value.

Dances, parties, and other forms of socials should be encouraged as one means of keeping the spirits of the people on the upgrade.



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PUBLICATIONS AND RADIOS:

We believe that all magazines, periodicals, publications, newspapers, and books should be permitted in the resettlement projects without undue restrictions. We also believe that every family unit or other unit should be permitted to have and to use a standard radio receiving set.

We suggest that every project have its own newspaper or mimeographed bulletin so that all the people within that community will know what is going on.

Perhaps it might be best if Japanese language newspapers are permitted, provided that they are under government supervision, so that the first generation, most of whom cannot read or understand English too well, might be kept informed as to the happenings in the world and the latest regulations concerning their conduct.

We suggest that every resettlement project have an adequate library. In this connection, may we suggest that those Japanese who have libraries of fine books, as well as collections of magazines, should be asked to contribute them for the use of these projects, rather than disposing of them at ridiculous prices or even giving them away. If this suggestion is accepted, immediate action is necessary for we have reports that many evacuees are selling valuable series like the Encyclopaedia Britannica, the Harvard Classics, the Book of Knowledge, etc., by the pound in order to realize something on their books.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL FACILITIES:

We recommend that the physical and mental well being of every individual be assured by a competent medical and dental staff and adequate facilities. We are concerned over the possibilities that many of the first generation will not be able to survive the hardships of their new life. We are also concerned over the possibilities of contagion and epidemics which might sweep the projects.

We believe that particular attention should be given the problem of expectant mothers and the care of children.

We believe that the chronic infirm and ill should be left at public wards and institutions so that they will not clutter up the hospitals and beds, as well as demand the attention of doctors and nurses who are needed for the care of the general evacuees.



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We believe that the latest medical practices and equipment should be used in the treatment of all patients and that the government bear the expense of all necessary medical and dental care, including hospitalization and special attention or treatment.

JAPANESE PROFESSIONAL AND SPECIALLY-TRAINED PEOPLE:

We believe that as many Japanese as possible, especially those with special training, such as doctors, dentists, nurses, social workers, architects, draftsmen, etc., should be used in the work, both at the induction centers and at the permanent settlements. Those whose training and experience qualify them for special tasks should be assigned them and utilized in supervisory or administrative capacities over outside workers as much as possible. If shortages exist, as certainly they shall, it is suggested that only qualified persons be accepted for work, for too often volunteers are those who have failed to make a success of their work elsewhere.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY:

We believe that all businesses and industries should be of the cooperative nature and that, as far as possible, they should deal with some valuable contributing-to-the-national-defense type of work.

Credit unions, savings association, cooperative buying and selling organizations--all aimed at promoting an "esprit de corps" should be encouraged, rather than individual canteens or stores. The entire management and control should be in the hands of the Japanese themselves.

As far as industrial products and manufacturing is concerned, the type of objects to be manufactured should be such as to require the minimum amount of machinery and equipment, as well transportation and processing. Each industry site should be as near as possible to the source of materials and hand fabricable articles made of clay, wood, cloth, etc., might prove successful both from the standpoint of marketing and locating the plant. The articles to be manufactured should include many things formerly imported and now hard to get. Wooden objects such as furniture, toys, barrels, boxes, etc.; clay products such as bowls, plates, crucibles; chemical retorts; paper making and allied products; leather goods such as shoes, cartridge belts, etc.; fiber goods like rope, mats, baskets, etc., are distinct possibilities. Weaving, textiles, and sewing might furnish an outlet for the women.



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As much as possible of the work produced should consist of things that are needed by the armed forces or as feeders to defense industries. Such government agencies as the War Productions Board, the National Resources Planning Board, the W.P.A., and others should be contacted to determine what is needed requiring the least machinery and the most handicraft. Camouflage nets have been suggested for the fishermen as a possibility.

We believe that the men and women should be employed as nearly as possible in the same lines as they were in normal life. Where this is impossible, it is suggested that most Japanese are quite skillful with their hands. Artificial flowers might be made, for example, for the eastern markets.

If the work of all is readily seen as vital to the national defense, it would materially aid the morale of the group in that it would indicate that the government has some degree of confidence in us and that we are actually contributing to the national defense effort.

AGRICULTURE:

We recommend that a sound and balanced agricultural program be adopted in these resettlement areas. The program should be directed and supervised by the Federal Government and should be so planned that it will fit into the pattern of post-war planning of this Government, keeping in mind that these farmers should be permitted to engage in those particular fields of agriculture to which they are accustomed as far as possible. The type of farming, within the community, should be as diversified as possible unless the aim is to produce for other markets and special emphasis should be placed on the production of vital foods. Government agencies which should be able to render considerable assistance are the Department of Agriculture, the War Boards, the Soil Conservation Service, Farm Security Administration, and the various agricultural colleges. Proper soil and water conservation practices should be encouraged.

We believe that proper laboratory facilities, with all necessary equipment, tools, and other facilities, should be set up in the various resettlement areas so that certain important agricultural experiments can be undertaken. Qualified Japanese American research men from the agricultural colleges should be given an opportunity to work on these experiments under the direction of the Department of Agriculture. This group of technicians should include soil chemists, entomologists, plant pathologists, agricultural engineers, etc.



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The Japanese American farmers should be permitted to participate in the national farm youth organizations and programs, such as the Future Farmers of America and 4-H Clubs, for the purpose of developing leadership, character, and talents. Vegetables, fruit, and other products grown or raised in these projects should be entered into competition at the county and state fairs.

In agriculture, as in business, the cooperative principles should be practiced as much as possible in every phase of the agricultural industry, from cooperative buying and planning to cooperative marketing of the products.

The equipment now owned and used by the Japanese on their own farms should be transported and used wherever possible so that the expenses of purchasing new equipment will not be a factor in planning these projects.

Canneries and other processing centers should be established and operated by the Japanese. Packing houses and sheds, too, are possibilities.

The Federal Government should also consider the possibilities of setting up farm work projects in certain agricultural areas, as reforestation, irrigation, etc., projects.

The remarkable success of the Japanese Americans along new agricultural pursuits that will aid in the war effort should be undertaken by the government. Dairy farming, beekeeping, bulb growing, mushroom growing, soybean and castor bean growing ~~are among many possible fields which the Japanese have not yet engaged in with particular success or in numbers.~~

LABOR AND WAGES:

We believe that all Japanese who are requested to work on certain projects should be guaranteed the prevailing wages and hours, as well as working conditions. Just because we happen to be evacuees should not be an excuse for exploitation and slavery, either industrially or agriculturally.

Should the work be such that group movement is necessary, the family unit should be maintained. Proper housing, sanitation, medication, etc., should be the required prerequisites before permission to hire or use evacuee labor is granted.

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Special care should be given to all labor contracts so that conflicts with existing labor groups or unions will not occur.

We are opposed to the creation of "labor pools" in which the entire Japanese evacuee community is placed and from which only the men will be transported from project to project to do work.

Public works may be a partial solution to the problem, provided that the family unit idea could be kept, and would be a morale builder inasmuch as they would be contributing to the public welfare. This suggestion presupposes that the "chain-gang" theory of convict labor will not be followed as suggested by some.

A graduated scale of compensation for labor with emphasis on initiative and skill is desirable as a general rule.

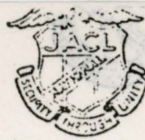
CITIZENSHIP RECOGNITION:

Inasmuch as most of us are American citizens and are proud of that designation, it is highly important that immediate and effective means of maintaining that pride be formulated and announced.

Infringements on civil liberties should be kept at the absolute minimum and should not be invoked unless necessary, they should be applied to all without regard to race, color, or national origin. Detailed and complete explanations for the necessity of every prohibitive order should be made to all concerned, and such explanations should be made on the basis of a patriotic appeal and not on the idea of one group being more disloyal than any other group.

We urge the Federal Government and the Western Defense Command to clear up the notion that they believe that the Japanese, as a group, are more disloyal and dangerous than any other group and that we here in America are classed on the same level with the militarists in Japan itself. If this were done, we are confident that all the Japanese would appreciate this gesture more than anything else which could or might be done.

Assurances should be given that the War Relocation Authority and the Attorney General's office will protest any attempt on the part of any state or of the Congress itself to pass discriminatory legislation against the Japanese while they are in these resettlement camps and that they frown upon any attempt to deprive American citizens of Japanese ancestry of their citizenship.



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Freedom of movement outside of the prohibited areas should be granted all citizens.

Paradoxical as this may seem, we are opposed to Hearing or Determining Boards or Commissions which might attempt to determine the loyalty of those in these resettlement projects. We believe that the regular agencies of the government, such as the FBI, should investigate and intern or jail all disloyal or questionable persons, be they citizens or otherwise. We believe that it would be impossible to obtain a qualified personnel capable of determining the loyalty or non-loyalty of over a hundred thousand people. Personal likes and dislikes might enter in. And, should a person be adjudged disloyal at this time because of something which he might have said or done years ago, he would be branded for life and would prove useless after the war. We believe that the American concepts of justice--that one is innocent until proved guilty--should be applicable to all citizens, including ourselves. Until definite facts of overt actions of disloyalty can be shown, we believe that all persons should be accepted at their face value, as loyal and devoted citizens of the United States.

As far as possible and practicable, Japanese Americans should be treated in the same manner as all other American citizens, and certainly with greater consideration than the "enemy aliens".

Because of the unusual and unprecedented requests made upon American citizens of Japanese ancestry, special provisions should be made to compensate them for the temporary loss of some of their privileges and rights. This might be in the form of "certificates" of citizenship or appreciation, or some other token which will help them retain their self-respect in their own eyes and in the eyes of their fellow citizens.

ORGANIZATION:

Self-government as far as possible and practicable should be the order of the day. Because most of those involved are citizens, the citizens should be given special privileges over and above those granted to the non-citizens.

We recommend that only citizens who have attained their majority be permitted to vote and to hold offices of any sort, elective or appointive. We suggest that the Japan-born be permitted to elect advisory boards which would advise the elected officials as to what ought to be done, etc., but which has no veto or other powers.

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Every resettlement project should be permitted to draw up its own constitution, as it were, in a manner corresponding to the constitutional conventions held by the several states before their admittance into the union. They should be guided by the rules set up by the War Relocation Authority, said rules being considered in the same relation as the Federal Constitution is to the state constitutions. Most resettlement camps might be governed in the manner of the states, being divided into districts and counties. As far as possible, the actual terms used in the political field ought to be used. Either bicameral or unicameral legislatures might be set up, with executive and judicial departments to correspond. The project supervisors could serve in the capacity of "federal men" and over-ride the wishes of the "state" group. Appeal from the decisions of the supervisory council might be made directly to the War Relocation Authority officials.

Each project should be permitted to select a certain number of persons, depending upon its size, who would represent them in an inter-resettlement projects "congress" which would meet at stated intervals and make recommendations to the War Relocation Authority.

The entire theme of the government should parallel as much as possible the actual governmental set up of the United States so that lessons in practical democracy will be taught to all concerned. All citizens should be required to register before being permitted to vote. A miniature congress should be set up to pass legislation; an executive department created to enforce the legislation; and a judiciary either appointed or elected to determine the legality of all actions. All problems relating to the camps, such as policing, fire-fighting, etc., should be dealt with by the citizens themselves.

Properly coordinated and supervised, a program of this nature will not only give to all concerned a greater appreciation of the workings of our government but also invaluable leadership training so that all evacuee citizens will be more ably prepared to help in the solving of the tremendous post-war problems.

PRIVATE PROJECTS:

We recommend that all persons, groups, or communities which have resettlement plans of their own in mind should be permitted to "carry them out", provided that they can receive government approval.



As far as individuals who desire to leave the prohibited areas and go to other regions outside of the Pacific Coast states are concerned, we suggest that they be granted permits to do so if they can produce satisfactory evidence that they have a place to go, a job or some one to take care of them so that they will not become public charges, and the community to which they wish to go will permit them to come. If the individual desires government aid in reaching his destination, another problem arises which would have to be dealt with on the basis of government policy.

For groups and communities which desire to go out as a unit and resettle as a unit, we believe that the government ought to furnish every encouragement. If such groups or communities already have resettlement sites in mind, the government ought to examine them thoroughly in terms of desirability as to location, public reaction, productivity, present and needed facilities, etc. If no government funds are needed, and the projects are approved, permission for the groups or communities to resettle ought to be granted. If funds are necessary, government policy will again govern. If groups and communities desire to go out as units to resettle but do not have any specific sites in mind, the government field men should recommend those which they feel are best adapted for that particular group or community. Then, the interested groups should be permitted to select representatives who will be allowed to examine the lands and report back to their group. If the group then approves, they can make the necessary arrangements with the government.

On all group or community projects, we urge that the government give special attention to these factors:

- (1) No individual or group, regardless of their nationality, should be permitted to make exorbitant profits out of this resettlement program.
- (2) The projects should be so situated that they are not obnoxious to the people already present or dangerously close to military depots or possible military programs.
- (3) The groups or communities should be large enough so that special military protection could be given if necessary and still small enough so that they would not constitute a menace to the locality.



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(4) The group should be so well organized, either because of long acquaintanceship with each other or because of special interests which bind them together, so that they will be able to get along with the minimum of trouble and disagreement.

(5) The group should be able to bear all or most of the costs of setting up such resettlement projects or give satisfactory evidence that they can repay whatever loans the government may grant them.

(6) The project is reasonably capable of sustaining or supporting the number and the type of people who desire to resettle there.

(7) The project either has sufficient housing and other facilities or can be supplied with the necessary buildings, etc., without too much cost or delay to accommodate the resettlement group.

INDUCTION OR ASSEMBLY CENTERS:

Because first impressions are so important, we suggest that as many of the above recommendations as possible be made available at these initial centers. Proper management and planned routines will do much to eliminate the confusion and troubles which mark so many of these projects. Recreational, social, and athletic facilities for young and old should be ready so that the evacuees will not be bored by the lack of something to do. If possible, every person should be put to some type of work or planned program. Schools for the elementary and the secondary students should be available to all so that classwork can be continued with the minimum loss of time. Adequate food, both as to quality and quantity, should be supplied. Special efforts should be made to make everyone feel at "home" and that they are invited to help in the general program. Religious services for all denominations and religions should be available. Proper medical and dental facilities should be set up to take care of any and all cases, from fatigue to childbirth to accident treatments. Processing of the evacuees should be completed as soon as possible so that they may be sent to the semi-permanent or permanent projects without too much delay.

SEMI-AND PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT PROJECTS:

We suggest that as many of the general recommendations given as applicable and desirable should be adopted and applied to the semi-permanent or permanent resettlement projects.



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In addition, we believe that those of us who are to be resettled at a particular point should be allowed to help in creating that center. The homes should be as home-looking as possible, and as comfortable as humanly possible under the circumstances. As much of the normal living process as is consistent with the location and the times should be permitted. Their stored furniture and other articles, if possible, ought to be shipped to them as soon as possible so that normal house-keeping, to some extent at least, may be resumed.

Everyone should be put to some task immediately. Idle hands and idle minds will create problems which might be avoided if all were put to some constructive and useful work.

The entire population ought to be called together and the plans for the duration explained in full detail to all concerned. Questions should be answered in detail and suggestions invited.

The projects should be in full operation within a day or two of the arrival of the evacuees. Conditions and other considerations should be as normal and non-camp-like as possible. No intimation or hint should be given that they are in concentration camps or in protective custody, or that the government does not have full faith and confidence in them as a group and as individuals.

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS:

We must apologize for this lengthy and wordy list of recommendations. We are fully aware that you and your staff have considered most of them or have been apprised of them, but we were still duty bound to call them to your attention as some of our ideas concerning what ought to be done in the resettlement of the Japanese evacuees. The list of recommendations does not pretend to deal with every problem and merely represents our thoughts regarding those which came into our minds. We trust that they will be of some service and value to you.

Finally, in concluding this letter to you, may we reiterate the pledge of our Japanese American Citizens League to cooperate with you to the best of our abilities and to offer to you and our Government the individual and organizational facilities at our disposal.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Masaoka

NATIONAL SECRETARY - JACL

For Better Americans in A Greater America