

TO ALL THOSE CONCERNED WITH SECURING PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT FOR THE JAPANESE:

In meetings of the administrative officers of the War Relocation Authority from Washington, San Francisco and the Projects, held last week in San Francisco, the announcement was made that the War Relocation Authority is committed to a policy of releasing Japanese-American citizens from the Relocation Centers for the purpose of accepting private employment outside of the Western Defense Command.

I am attaching herewith Administrative Instruction No. 22 which outlines the conditions under which the Japanese-American citizens will be released.

The essential features of this plan are as follows:

1. It applies only to Japanese-American citizens who are in WRA centers.
2. In order to secure a release, a Japanese-American citizen must have an offer of a job outside of the Western Defense Command. This job must be one which will provide a living for the man and his family so that they will not become a public charge. While employment is not prohibited in the Eastern Defense Command, it will be more difficult to secure travel permits for the Atlantic seacoast area. (The Western Defense Command includes the states of Washington, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, California, Nevada, Utah, and Arizona.) Employment releases are obtainable for single as well as married persons.
3. A Japanese-American citizen who has a job offer, or who wants to secure employment, should register with the project manager for private employment. The WRA will then start an investigation to determine:
  - a. The fitness of the applicant for the proposed job.
  - b. The loyalty of the applicant.
  - c. The willingness of the community to accept Japanese.

This investigation will be made by the WRA personnel on the project, in the regional office, and finally in the Washington headquarters. If the findings are favorable, a release and travel permit will be issued by the local project director. This procedure should assure the loyalty of the Japanese who are granted releases. It is estimated that this investigation will require about three weeks.

There are two points at which the friends of the Japanese can be of assistance, and supplement the activities of the government:

1. Help the Japanese locate jobs.
2. Help prepare the communities in which jobs have been obtained to receive the Japanese. The WRA will not require that the law enforcement officer of the community guarantee security. The WRA assumes that an American citizen has the right to enter a community without a special passport. Due, however,

to the anti-Japanese feeling and war hysteria, it is only prudent that people of good will in the communities make special effort to prepare the way for the proper acceptance of Japanese by responsible people in the community. Someone in the community will need to agree to act as "counsellor" or "sponsor" of the Japanese. This entails the willingness:

- a. To meet the Japanese at the station when they arrive in the city.
- b. To arrange for proper living facilities if this has not been done by the employer.
- c. To counsel with the Japanese in case any community opposition should develop.
- d. To interpret the Japanese problem to the community.

This program does not require any elaborate machinery. When a Japanese applies for a release from a WRA center in order to accept employment in a particular community, he will need to give the name of a "counsellor" in the community with whom the WRA will communicate to obtain evidence that the community will be willing to accept the Japanese. The securing of these "counsellors" is an important service which you can render for the Japanese.

A Religious Council on War Relocation, representing the denominations interested in the Japanese problem, is being organized to help facilitate the placement of Japanese. Steps need to be taken at once, however, to find jobs for Japanese and to secure people in the community who are willing to act as "counsellors".

While the present regulations limit the granting of releases to Japanese-American citizens in WRA centers, assurances have been given that if the policy is successful, the regulations will be relaxed and other groups will be included.

Also, the W.C.C.A. (Wartime Civil Control Administration) has announced that evacuees will be released from assembly centers if they have jobs outside of the Western Defense Command, and if a letter is filed with the W.C.C.A. stating that the law enforcement agency of the community wherein the evacuee proposes to reside has no objection to the establishment of residence in the community.

This policy of granting releases for private employment represents the most constructive program that has been announced by the government since the order for evacuation.

To be effective, the efforts of the WRA must be supplemented by individuals and private agencies in securing job openings and community acceptance. This is a place where you can start to work at once to help Japanese get back into the normal stream of economic life. A great many difficulties will be encountered in this, but due to the present labor shortage this transition from camps to private employment will be easier now than after the close of the war. Every effort should be made to have the resettlement centers depopulated of able-bodied people by the end of the war. If this can be achieved, it will do more to soften the blow that has befallen our Japanese friends than anything else could do. This liberal policy of the WRA deserves the support of all friends of the Japanese. It offers a place where we can begin at once in order to demonstrate our continued friendship.

Edna Morris and I, after spending more than three months on the Pacific Coast, start homeward on August 31st. On our way we propose to visit a number of Japanese who settled in Utah, Colorado and other western states before the freezing order went into effect. We want to learn how they are making the adjustments to new communities, how they are being accepted, and also what the prospects are for the settlement of other Japanese in these same communities. We shall stop also at a number of colleges which have accepted Japanese students. These localities may offer opportunities for employment as well as placement for students. We shall also visit some communities where there are Friends in order to see if job openings can be secured. By the time we arrive home, about October 6th, we hope to know about the possibilities of job openings, the attitudes which communities have toward accepting Japanese, and to have additional suggestions to make in regard to procedure.

We are grateful for the privilege which has been ours of working with friends (with both a big and a little "f") on the problems created by the evacuation orders. Most of all we appreciate the rare privilege which has been ours of becoming acquainted with some of the Japanese people. They have taught us much of how to meet catastrophe with faith and courage.

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Yours sincerely,

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