

From The New York Times
Saturday, January 16, 1943

JAPANESE CAMPS STIR INVESTIGATION

Committee Orders Tour of Evacuee Centers to Study Alleged "Pampering"

Washington, January 15. The Senate Military Affairs Committee today directed a subcommittee to investigate reported demonstrations and outbreaks in Japanese evacuation centers in eight Western and Southwestern States and alleged "pampering" of evacuees by the War Relocation Administration.

It also assigned one of its members, Senator Wallgren of Washington, to prepare legislation to put the management, control and discipline of the evacuees back under full jurisdiction of the Army.

The moves followed long discussion or reports concerning the centers, with stress on the outbreak Dec. 7 at the Manzanar relocation center in California. This outbreak, started as an alleged Pearl Harbor anniversary demonstration by pro-Axis evacuees, resulted in rioting in which one Japanese was killed and nine were wounded.

The committee also had a report, filed Jan. 3, of waste of food, refusals to work, slowdown strikes and threats against workers on government buildings at the Jerome Relocation Center in Arkansas.

Senator Reynolds, committee chairman, indicated that as soon as traveling plans could be made the subcommittee, headed by Senator Chandler of Kentucky, would visit these two centers and others.

Senator Johnson of Colorado, a member of this committee, declared that the people of his State were "outraged" because, while their local communities were not permitted, because of manpower shortages and priorities on materials, to build schools, churches and hospitals, an \$8,000 school-house was being built on the relocation center at Grenada.

Since the evacuees arrived at Grenada from the West Coast, Senator Johnson said after the committee meeting, the Japanese children have attended school classes regularly in barracks. He added that, although there was a "burdensome surplus" of labor among the evacuees and much restiveness because of idleness, they were not permitted to work on the building of the schoolhouse on the ground that their labor would create double wage standards. Under the relocation plan, he explained, the wages paid the evacuees are limited.

Other Western Senators were reported to have filed complaints also against the operation of the centers.

"Control of the relocation centers should go back to the Army," Senator Reynolds declared. "We are at war. These evacuees cannot be pampered as they have been."

Before starting on its tour of investigation, Senator Chandler said, his subcommittee would question Dillon Myer, director of the War Relocation Authority, a unit of the Office of Emergency Management, on the operation of the centers.

The WRA was created by Executive Order March 18, 1942, to facilitate the relocation of persons evacuated or removed from their homes during the war period. Thus far its activities have been concerned almost entirely with the relocation of about 110,000 persons of Japanese ancestry evacuated from the military area embracing California, the western parts of Washington and Oregon and the southern part of Arizona.

Actual evacuations were handled by the Wartime Civil Control Administration, a unit of the Western Defense Command of the Army.



NATIONAL INTERCOLLEGIATE CHRISTIAN COUNCIL

A Representative Council Authorized by the National Board of the Young Women's Christian Associations, the National Council of Student Young Men's Christian Associations and by Regional Student Christian Movements
Affiliated with the World's Student Christian Federation

January 20th, 1943

NATIONAL OFFICES:

347 Madison Avenue, New York City
600 Lexington Avenue, New York City

Dear Mr. Onthank;

We are rushing to you the enclosed special release from the New York Times which shows a move to transfer War Relocation Centers from the War Relocation Authority, a civilian body, to the Army. In our opinion this would be a catastrophe which would further threaten the basic principles of our democracy.

The War Relocation Authority has not "pampered" these citizens but it has made good use of a budget which is far from adequate. A great budgetary increase would be necessary for the Authority to provide essential recreational and educational facilities similar to those which the rest of us enjoy.

In spite of tremendous obstacles, the War Relocation Authority has endeavored to build a community based on democratic procedures, to continue faith in democracy despite its denial through compulsory evacuation without specific charges against the individuals who comprise the group.

Removal of the centers from the control of the War Relocation Authority and placing them in the control of the military would be the final step in making these centers "concentration camps." There is no place for concentration camps in which citizens are segregated because of their race in the philosophy of American democracy. America must be spared this shame.

In September at our National Intercollegiate Christian Council meeting the following statement was approved:

"We must direct ourselves toward the furthering of a world order which provides every individual, regardless of race, creed or national origin, the opportunity to participate in and share alike all the relationships of life. An adequate interpretation of the present struggle is understandable only in terms of democracy and freedom for all the people of the world. The unjust treatment of minorities within the U.S. not only contributes to national but to international division and must be corrected if the United States is to lead in the struggle for freedom."

Will you help us prevent this shame by doing the following:

(1) Write letters of protest to the members of the Senate Military Affairs Committee. They include Senators:

Robert R. Reynolds, N.C.
Elbert D. Thomas, Utah
Edwin C. Johnson, Colorado
H. Schwartz, Wyoming
Lester Hill, Alabama
Sheridan Downey, California
Albert B. Chandler, Kentucky
Harry S. Truman, Missouri
Rufus C. Holman, Oregon

Chan Gurney, South Dakota
John Thomas, Idaho
James E. Murray, Montana
Warren R. Austin, Vermont
Styles Bridges, New Hampshire
Harley M. Kilgore, West Virginia
Mon C. Wallgreen, Washington
Cabot Lodge, Jr., Massachusetts

(All are to be addressed to: Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C.)

- 2 -

- (2) Write letters of protest to the Senators from your state.
- (3) Write letters of approval to the War Relocation Authorities praising them for the splendid way in which they have handled a very difficult situation. Address the letter to Mr. Dillon Myer, Director War Relocation Authority, Washington, D.C.

We are depending on you to join us in exerting every effort to help prevent this catastrophe.

Sincerely yours,

Marian Reith
+
Bruce Maguire

February 4, 1943

Dr. John W. Nason
President, Swarthmore College
Swarthmore, Pennsylvania

Dear President Nason:

The report of the West Coast Committee has come and been read with much interest, and with approval. My own contact with the work of the Committee and of the office has been limited; but I have been impressed by the good work that has been done and I am quite in agreement with the plans proposed, and the decisions made. There would be advantages in having an office on the West Coast, but it is obviously more important to maintain contacts closer to Washington and closer to institutions to which students are being removed. Since, for reasons of economy, it is necessary to close an office; it seems obvious to me that it should not be the office in the East.

Those of us who have been helping in various ways and have served on the West Coast Committee will certainly be glad to give any service we can, and I am sure that our interest will be undiminished by the fact that the main office is not close at hand.

I hope that there will be no difficulty in securing the financial support needed to maintain the office and to continue the work. In my opinion, it is tremendously important that it be done, not just as a humanitarian service to the individuals concerned but as a contribution toward future national unity and international understanding.

If I can be of any service at any time, I hope that I shall be called upon.

Sincerely,

Karl W. Onthank
Dean of Personnel Administration

KWO:mg

c.c. Thomas R. Bodine

NATIONAL STUDENT RELOCATION COUNCIL

WEST COAST COMMITTEE

OFFICERS

Dr. John W. Nason, National Chairman
President, Swarthmore College

Dr. Robert G. Sproul, West Coast Chairman
President, University of California

Dr. Monroe E. Deutsch, West Coast Vice Chairman
Provost, University of California

Harry L. Kingman, West Coast Treasurer
Secretary, U. of California YMCA

1830 Sutter Street
San Francisco, California
Telephone Fillmore 2100

STAFF

Robert W. O'Brien
National Director

Howard K. Beale
West Coast Director

Thomas R. Bodine
West Coast Associate Director

January 27, 1943

Come in Mail

Miss Leila Anderson, Secretary
U. of California YWCA

Miss Mary C. Baker, Dean of Women
Fresno State College

Herman N. Beimfohr
Director Wesley Foundations
Southwest Region

Dr. Eric C. Bellquist, Professor
University of California

Dr. Remsen D. Bird, President
Occidental College

Allen C. Blaisdell, Director
International House, Berkeley

Rev. Francis J. Caffrey, M. M.
Maryknoll Fathers, Los Angeles

Rev. Gordon K. Chapman, Sec.-Treas.
Protestant Church Commission
For Japanese Service

Dr. James C. DeVoss, Dean Upper Div.
San Jose State College

Dr. Aubrey A. Douglass, Asst. Calif.
Supt. of Public Instruction

Rev. William J. Dunne, S. J.
President, Univ. of San Francisco

Dr. Ralph G. Eckert, Counselor
Stockton Junior College

Galen M. Fisher
Orinda, California

Dr. Alfred G. Fisk, Professor
San Francisco State College

Dr. Walter Homan, Dean Lower Div.
San Francisco State College

Miss Alice Hoyt
Associate Dean of Women
University of California

Miss Alice James, Student
University of California

Dr. Robert L. Kelly
Emeritus Director
Association of American Colleges

Dr. W. O. Mendenhall, President
Whittier College

Dr. George A. Odgers, Dean
Multnomah College

Rev. James T. O'Dowd, Supt.
Catholic Schools, San Francisco

Karl W. Onthank, Dean
University of Oregon

Mrs. Marian Brown Reith
Secretary, Student YWCA
Pacific Southwest Region

Dr. Lee Paul Sieg, President
University of Washington

Albert W. Stone, Student
University of California

Dr. Paul S. Taylor, Professor
University of California

Dr. D. Elton Trueblood
Chaplain, Stanford University

Dr. Henry T. Tyler
Sacramento Junior College

Dr. Edwin C. Voorhies, Dean
University of California

Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, Chancellor
Stanford University

Howard Willits, Secretary
Student YMCA - YWCA
Pacific Northwest Region

M. D. Woodbury, Secretary
U. of Washington YMCA

Dear West Coast Committee Member:

It has been quite a while since we have had occasion to report to the other members of the West Coast Committee. Those of us on whom responsibility for the work of the Committee has fallen because of our proximity to the San Francisco office, wish it were possible to call all of you together for consultation. In the past few days particularly, we have been faced with decisions affecting the whole future of our work on which we should have liked to have your judgment.

You will note from the enclosed report of progress that the bulk of the records of the students who have applied to the Council for aid in continuing their education has now been collected and analyzed, that for more than 1000 students a relocation opportunity has been found, that new applications are flowing in at the rate of 50 a week (the total number rose from 2100 in November to 2600 in January), that the staff in the San Francisco office now numbers 23, that the administrative expense runs well above \$2500 a month and that the sources of administrative money are drying up. In view of the fact that the part of the task that needed to be done on the West Coast is now complete, in view of the scarcity of administrative funds and the high cost of operating a large office in San Francisco, in view of the great distances between San Francisco and the receiving colleges and between San Francisco and the Washington office of the War Relocation Authority which now handles all requests for leave and travel permits, Dr. John W. Nason, the Council's national chairman, wrote Dr. Deutsch as follows:

"...The time has come to reconsider the organization of our Student Relocation Council and to plan the job that lies ahead. My own feeling is that we would not be justified in continuing operations on the scale of the past six or seven months, once we are past the peak period around the first of February. Most of the data on students will have been collected. Most of the machinery for relocating them has been tested. The opportunities for sending them to other institutions may well dwindle. This does not mean that we should close up shop. I see an opportunity to relocate students at least through next September and October. We have a responsibility to the students who have been relocated so long as they continue with their education. We must carry on in some fashion, but it must be in a way which adjusts in time and money spent to the results produced. I hope you will give me your judgment on our future course in reply to this.

Titles are given for identification only and in no way commit the institutions to which the committee members belong

*One step which would work both for efficiency and economy would be the merger of our San Francisco and Philadelphia offices--either in Denver, Chicago, or Philadelphia. Proximity to the relocation projects favors Denver; proximity to the campuses where the relocated students now are favors Chicago; proximity to the government agencies with whom we deal in Washington and to the church boards and sources of money in the East favors Philadelphia. The advantages of moving the San Francisco office eastward would be several. It would solve the remaining personnel problems. It would save money through a merger. It would take our big office out of a high cost stenographic area to one where more assistance would be available at lower figures. It would bring the office closer to the W.R.A., the F.B.I., the War and the Navy Departments with which we have almost daily correspondence.

"The one great disadvantage--and it looms as a very large one to me--is the severing of the close connection between you and the West Coast committee on the one hand and the actual work of student relocation on the other. That connection has been so very valuable that I deplore any step which loosens it. I know that none of you will lose any of his interest in the work and that we can always count on you for guidance, counsel, and help. Perhaps we can discover some way of maintaining the relationship alive even at a distance.

"There will be an early meeting of the Council, probably January 20, at which I shall present the problems discussed in this letter. I hope very much that you will let me have your judgment on them before that time. I should not want to do anything contrary to your wishes or those of your group."

This letter arrived on January 18th. The executive committee was called together on the 19th and felt that action had to be taken immediately. Placements for winter terms were well along, but spring term openings begin in March this year, and therefore, if the work of the San Francisco office was to be moved east, the move should be made in February.

As an alternative to the proposal that the work of the San Francisco and Philadelphia offices be consolidated in the east, the executive committee considered whether the work of student relocation might be concentrated in San Francisco. The problems of finance, geography, and personnel seemed insurmountable, however, and therefore, with some hesitation as to its authority, the executive committee agreed to wire John Nason that it favored consolidating the work of the two offices in the east. It was further agreed to address a communication to the other West Coast Committee members, explaining the situation as fully as possible and asking them to express their opinions direct to the National Chairman.

On January 20th at the meeting of the National Council in ^{New} York, the American Friends Service Committee offered to assume administrative responsibility for the work of the Council and concentrate the work in its offices in Philadelphia, using for staff various able persons who are available among its own staff workers. As an alternative to this proposal, it was suggested that the work be concentrated in Chicago under the National Council's administrative leadership with the various church boards financing the office expenses. At the present time the church boards are considering whether they could underwrite the costs, and the National Council will meet soon to determine where to move and who is to carry on the work.

Meanwhile in accordance with the West Coast executive committee's decision of January 19 and the National Council's decision of January 20, plans are being made for closing the office on February 13, winding up the work and packing during the week of the 14th, and putting the files on a train on the 20th. It is hoped that work can commence again at the other end on March 1st. Thomas R. Bodine will

continue with the new staff as a field representative and Trudy King will continue as supervisor of leaves and travel permits. The other members of the San Francisco staff would be released.

We hope that this letter presents the situation adequately and that you will feel free to express your opinion to John W. Nason, President, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. We trust you will include in your comments any ideas you have for maintaining the ties between the National Council in the east and the West Coast Committee in the west.

Whatever the formal arrangement may be, however, we feel confident that you will maintain your interest in and forward this work to the best of your ability, realizing its significance not only to the individuals assisted but to our whole national attitude.

Yours sincerely,



THOMAS R. BODINE
West Coast Director



MONROE E. DEUTSCH
Vice Chairman

REPORT OF PROGRESS

January 25, 1943

Students thus far accepted at a college or for whom some other relocation opportunity has been secured	1036
Accepted for fall terms (or for whom some other opportunity has been found) and now successfully relocated	435
Accepted for winter terms and documents required for leave collected and presented to the WRA in Washington (Of these the Project Directors have informed us that 114 have been granted leaves and travel permits to date.)	435
Accepted for winter terms and documents now being collected (Of these 119 are temporarily postponed because we have lost contact with them, because their parents object to their going, because the community has turned sour or because the college has changed its mind, or because the college has not been cleared.)	166
Students whose records have been collected and analyzed by Deans and Registrars and who are waiting for placement as scholarship funds and openings in technical schools become available	944
Students whose records have been collected waiting to be analyzed	257
Students whose applications have recently been received and whose records are now being collected	<u>364</u>
TOTAL APPLICATIONS RECEIVED TO DATE	2601
Colleges which at one time or another either have accepted a student or have indicated a willingness to do so	442
Cleared by the War and Navy Departments for student relocation	360
Waiting War and Navy Department clearance (Of these 21 will probably not be cleared.)	77
Waiting to be submitted to the War and Navy Departments	5
Financial aid offered by the cooperating colleges	\$107,340
Remissions of fees	\$18,350
Scholarships	\$57,730
Work opportunities	\$31,350
Denominations which have allocated scholarship funds totaling approximately \$40,000 include Presbyterians, Baptists, Methodists, Congregationalists, Episcopalians, United Lutherans, Church of the Brethern, United Brethern, Evangelical Reformed, Free Methodists, Catholics, and Buddhists.	
The World Student Service Fund has appropriated \$20,000 for scholarship purposes, of which \$8,000 is available and has been or is now being allocated.	
Many individuals and three chapters of the Fellowship of Reconciliation have made a total of \$3500 available for scholarships.	

NATIONAL STUDENT RELOCATION COUNCIL

STAFF

To carry on this work the office has developed a staff that totaled 26 fulltime workers in early December and that has only recently been out to 23. Joseph Conard resigned as executive secretary in October and was succeeded by Howard K. Beale from the University of North Carolina. Dr. Beale resigned in December and was succeeded by the present director, Thomas R. Bodine, who had served as associate director under both Mr. Conard and Dr. Beale. Mr. Bodine's staff is as follows:

Administration: Director
Student Records Department: Supervisor and 2 workers
College Information Department: Supervisor
Financial Aid Department: Supervisor
Placement Department: Supervisor and 4 workers
Leave and Travel Permit Department: Supervisor and 4 workers
Stenographic Department: Supervisor and 4 workers
Filing, Mail, and Mimeograph: Supervisor and 1 worker

BUDGET

Although many of these workers are volunteer or semi-volunteer, the salary budget runs to \$2,000 a month. Other expenses total \$500. It is thus costing the Council \$2,500 a month to operate its San Francisco office. The Philadelphia office at 1201 Chestnut Street with Robert W. O'Brien of the University of Washington as director costs between \$500 and \$800 a month.

During the summer the Council functioned on a \$10,000 grant from one of the large foundations secured by the American Friends Service Committee. This money ran out early in October, and since then the American Friends Service Committee has paid the Council's administrative expenses. The American Friends Service Committee is finding it impossible to continue such heavy payments. The large foundations are not able to make further grants to the Council. One foundation in San Francisco is interested but not in carrying the total load.

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
EUGENE, OREGON

OFFICE OF
DEAN OF PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION

February 4, 1943

Senator Rufus C. Holman
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Holman:

I notice in current news a report that the Senate Affairs Committee has a committee investigating "reported demonstrations and outbreaks in Japanese evacuation centers in eight Western and Southwestern States and alleged 'pampering' of evacuees by the War Relocation Administration." It is certainly legitimate and proper for the Senate to investigate anything it wants to, particularly matters of this kind. I am a little concerned, however, at reading some of the reports of complaints and of threatened action; there seems to be a tendency to prejudge matters and, particularly, an attitude suggesting that the internees are all alien enemies which is, of course, far from the fact.

I happen to be interested in the matter and I am, I think, better informed than many since I have been interested in helping in the relocation of Japanese-American university students; particularly those who had been attending the University of Oregon. I have been, from the beginning, a member of the Pacific Coast Committee which is working on the problem. I have had, accordingly, a good deal of contact with the Japanese-American students who are now or have been in internment camps; and some with War Relocation Authority staff members at various levels of responsibility.

It is my opinion that both the Army, in handling the evacuation; and the War Relocation Authority, in handling the camps, have done a tremendously difficult task with surprisingly few mistakes considering the state of public feelings, the necessarily limited budget available, the practical difficulties in the way of providing adequate housing and other facilities, in the way of finding decent sites to locate the camps, and, not least, the fact that although the majority of the internees are loyal American born citizens, some are not, and the conflict between the two groups, which is almost inevitable, has been amazingly little. The task of administrating the program was not made any easier by local wrangles over whether or not Japanese labor from these camps should be used and how. I have been encouraged recently in reading that the War Department plans to permit limited enlistment of young men in the Army, supplementing units of Japanese-Americans already in existence, and that Japanese-Americans are being used as interpreters and in other specialities where they can fill urgent needs. This sounds sensible and I hope there will be more of it rather than less.

NATIONAL STUDENT RELOCATION COUNCIL - WEST COAST COMMITTEE

San Francisco, California

February 6, 1943

Mereley for your information:

Dear Friends of Student Relocation of the WRA Relocation Projects:

We have just mailed the enclosed letter to all 2600 students who have filed NSRC questionnaires with this Council. Because we have not succeeded in tracking down the whereabouts of every student, we would appreciate your asking any student you hear of who didn't receive one please to send us his exact address. We are enclosing a few extra copies of the letter which you might distribute to these students. Could you see that the material in the enclosed letter reaches the Project newspaper? From our point of view, it will be satisfactory for any or all of it to be published on the Projects.

For your information in counseling students, the reasons for moving the work of this office to the east are the desirability of being geographically closer to the Washington offices of the WRA, the FBI, and the War and Navy Departments and also to the church groups and others offering financial and other assistance, and the greater efficiency and economy that should result from combining the Council's two offices. We are hoping that as a result of the combination, we can afford to have one of our staff in the field a large part of the time visiting you and the students on the Projects, and visiting relocated students and their counselors at the receiving colleges.

It would help us in planning the future of the student relocation program if you would all feel free to write to the Council's National Chairman, Dr. John W. Nason, President, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pa., to express your reaction to the program as it is now being handled and your suggestions for the future. We would particularly like your comments on a suggestion which came from one of the Projects, that the Project student counselors be called together, in Chicago or Denver, for a conference with us and with representatives from the colleges and the Washington office of the WRA.

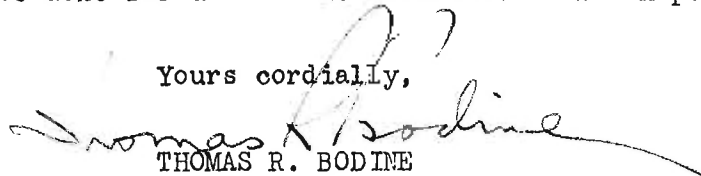
The question is often asked, "What will be the effect on student relocation of Secretary Stimson's recent announcements regarding the drafting of nisei, and what effect will the drafting of 18 and 19 year olds have on the nation's colleges and their ability to absorb students of Japanese ancestry?" Frankly we don't yet know and we doubt if anyone knows with any certainty. We intend to go on with our work of helping students continue their education on the college level. We do not yet anticipate that any substantial number of colleges will be closing down or closing their doors to Japanese-Americans.

In most cases there has been quite a delay between the time a student is formally accepted by a college and the time he receives his indefinite educational leave. Each student's record has to be submitted to the FBI and, if the student has spent any time in Japan, to the War Department. The Washington office of the WRA and the Council's eastern committee are active in trying to expedite these clearances.

We feel that students should be encouraged to take advantage of whatever relocation opportunity we work out for them, regardless of personal and financial hazards. The students thus far relocated have in almost every instance been warmly welcomed, and the funds available to us for scholarship aid seem to be on the increase. We further urge you to encourage this year's Project High School graduates who wish to go to college to fill out our questionnaire promptly so that we can begin to work for them.

Warm thanks to you for all you have done for us and the students. We hope things continue to go well.

Yours cordially,



THOMAS R. BODINE
West Coast Director

NATIONAL STUDENT RELOCATION COUNCIL

WEST COAST COMMITTEE

OFFICERS

Dr. John W. Nason, National Chairman
President, Swarthmore College

Dr. Robert G. Sproul, West Coast Chairman
President, University of California

Dr. Monroe E. Deutsch, West Coast Vice Chairman
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Harry L. Kingman, West Coast Treasurer
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1830 Sutter Street
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STAFF

Robert W. O'Brien
National Director

Thomas R. Bodine
West Coast Director

Trudy King, Supervisor
Permit Department

Virginia Scardigli, Supervisor
Placement Department

February 6, 1943

Miss Leila Anderson, Secretary
U. of California YWCA

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Howard Willits, Secretary
Student YMCA - YWCA
Pacific Northwest Region

M. D. Woodbury, Secretary
U. of Washington YMCA

Dear Fellow Worker in Student Relocation:

You may not have thought of yourself as one of our fellow workers, but regardless of where you are--still busy on the project, waiting for your educational leave, resettled in a college, or on an employment leave--you are working for student relocation. What you write, how you think and talk and act has a bearing on the whole relocation problem. You are an ambassador paving the way for others, and we hope you will take the responsibility seriously.

We're writing to share with you the big news that the San Francisco office of the National Student Relocation Council itself is being relocated! Our new address is 1201 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Pa. Actually the Philadelphia office has existed from the beginning, but the San Francisco office is more familiar to you because all your records have been collected here. From now on the work of student relocation can be directed more effectively from Philadelphia. Combining the two offices in the east doesn't mean that your Student Relocation friends in the west won't be actively pulling for you. They will continue to be busy and will want to hear from you as to your progress.

There are now 487 students who have written us from their new locations, from 122 colleges, and from 25 different states. There are 438 more who are on their way or hoping to get off soon. We are carrying on correspondence regarding the placement of others for spring, summer, and fall terms. If you are among those who haven't yet seen an opportunity to continue your education, remember that we are still working and that your turn may be next. If you are at school, remember that we like to hear from you.

This western office will close on February 13. The eastern office will not be ready to answer your personal mail before March 1 at the earliest since all the records and some of the staff have to cross the country. We'll be glad to have you write us there and bring us up to date on your plans and problems and finances. Insufficient funds should not discourage you. No matter how little, or how much, money you have, we need exact and up-to-date information to work on.

Perhaps you will hear of others who should have received a copy of this letter. If so, please ask them to send us their correct address. It is not easy to follow your peregrinations!

We wish you--and ourselves--much success in the year just begun.

Sincerely yours,

THOMAS R. BODINE
West Coast Director

TRB:MEB

Titles are given for identification only and in no way commit the institutions to which the committee members belong

February 9, 1943

Miss Marian Rieth
c/o National Intercollegiate Christian Council
347 Madison Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Marian Rieth:

Your circular letter came a few days ago and I have written letters to Washington, all on the order of the one to Senator Helman, a copy of which is enclosed. If I can be of any further help, please let me know.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely,

Karl W. Onthank
Dean of Personnel Administration

KWO:mg

Enclosure

JAPANESE RELOCATION CENTER

February 9, 1943

Senator Rufus C. Holman
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Holman:

I notice in current news a report that the Senate Military Affairs Committee has a committee investigating "reported demonstrations and outbreaks in Japanese evacuation centers in eight Western and South-western States and alleged 'pampering' of evacuees by the War Relocation Administration." It is certainly legitimate and proper for the Senate to investigate anything it wants to, particularly matters of this kind. I am a little concerned, however, at reading some of the reports of complaints and of threatened action; there seems to be a tendency to pre-judge matters and, particularly, an attitude suggesting that the internees are all alien enemies; an implication which is, of course, far from the fact.

I happen to be interested in the matter and I am, I think, better informed than many since I have tried to be of help in the re-location of Japanese-American university students, particularly those who had been attending the University of Oregon. I have been, from the beginning, a member of the Pacific Coast Committee which is working on this problem. I have had, accordingly, a good deal of contact with Japanese-American students who are now or have been in internment camps; and some with War Relocation Authority staff members at various levels of responsibility.

It is my opinion that both the Army, in handling the evacuation, and the War Relocation Authority, in handling the camps, have done a tremendously difficult task with surprisingly few mistakes considering the state of public feelings, the necessarily limited budget available, the practical difficulties in the way of finding decent sites and providing adequate housing and, not in the least, the fact that although the majority of the internees are loyal American-born citizens, some are not, and conflict between the two groups is almost inevitable. The task of administrating the program was not made any easier by local wrangles over whether or not Japanese labor from these camps should be used and how. I have been encouraged recently in reading that the War Department plans to permit limited enlistment of young men in the Army, supplementing units of Japanese-Americans already in existence, and that Japanese-Americans are being used as interpreters and in other specialities where they can fill urgent needs. This sounds sensible and I hope there will be more of it rather than less.

Holman, Rufus C. Re: Japanese Situation on the West Coast

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
EUGENE, OREGON

OFFICE OF
DEAN OF PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION

February 9, 1943

Senator Rufus C. Holman
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

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