

DEC 2 1942

Planning Resettlement of Japanese Americans

***Exiles in Their Native
Land . . .***

70,000 American-born citizens whose only crime is their racial visibility have been forcibly removed from their homes and deprived of their freedom. They are living behind barbed wire, exiles in their native land.

THE COMMITTEE ON RESETTLEMENT
OF JAPANESE AMERICANS

sponsored jointly by

The Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America
and the Home Missions Council of North America

in cooperation with

The Foreign Missions Conference of North America

297 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

July, 1943

The Total Evacuation

For the first time in American history the Government has evacuated all members of one racial group from their places of permanent settlement on the Pacific Coast to designated and confined areas. Of the 110,000 persons thus affected, 70,000 are American citizens. They are exiles in their native land.

In the fifteen months since the evacuation, there has been time to consider the implications of the evacuation for all minorities. A dangerous precedent has been established, and "to many citizens of alien parentage in this country it has come as a profound shock that almost overnight thousands of persons have discovered that their citizenship no longer stands between them and the treatment accorded to any enemy alien within our borders in time of war." (Congregational Committee on Defense Migration report, May 1942)

Resettlement

There is no question that resettlement is the only solution of this problem. The responsible government authority is bending every effort to relocate these people in different communities throughout the country. The return to normal society of the people of Japanese ancestry now detained behind barbed wire is closely tied up with the ideals which we as a nation are fighting for: a fair, free America, with justice and liberty for all.

A statement of the War Relocation Authority, a civilian agency appointed by the President, reads in part as follows:

"The relocation of these people—both citizens and aliens whose records indicate that they would not endanger the security of the country—in normal communities where they may enjoy the full benefits of American justice, is a national problem deserving the thoughtful consideration of every person who believes in American principles. All together, the Japanese American population evacuated from the West Coast comprises less than one-tenth of one percent of our total population. Dispersed throughout the interior of the country, only a few families to any one community, they should be able, with their wide diversity of skills, to contribute notably to the civilian and war-time needs of the Nation.

"Both the War Department and the Department of Justice have examined and approved the relocation proceedings of the War Relocation Authority, which includes an investigation of each evacuee's previous behavior and attitudes, and a record check by the Federal Bureau of Investigation before leave is granted from a Relocation Center."

The Christian Church is challenged to assume the leadership in repairing the damage to the faith, hope, and courage of the evacuated people. Christians have a special responsibility in helping to solve the problems created by the evacuation. The Government has officially sought our assistance. The evacuees need our help. Will you do your part?

The People

The older evacuees, the aliens, who comprise one-third of the relocation center population, are barred from citizenship by naturalization by our immigration laws, which do not permit Orientals to acquire citizenship, if born outside the United States and territories. They have lived here as "Permanent Residents" under

our laws at least since 1924—the majority of them for three decades or longer.

The Director of the Alien Enemy Control Unit of the Department of Justice has said, "The loyalty of the overwhelming majority of the evacuees (to the United States) has not seriously been questioned by informed persons."

Milton Eisenhower, first director of the W.R.A., told the Tolson Committee that the second generation Americans of Japanese descent who were born in this country "have attended only American schools, with other American children. They have learned the democratic way. They know no other way. Many of them are in the American Army. Most of them can speak no other language but ours. They are thoroughly Americanized."

Joseph Grew, former Ambassador to Japan, states: "These Americans of Japanese origin are to Japan what you and I are to England, Scotland, Ireland, Germany, France and other European countries. They are Americans, but they are also the 'cousins of the New World.' I am proud of my trans-Atlantic cousins, and do not feel myself to be any the less American for that; and I would respect any American of Japanese descent who tried to contribute to our common, free American life those especially good qualities which he may inherited from his trans-Pacific origin. We in America are in a real sense the apostles of the future; we show the rest of mankind what men of diverse races and cultures can accomplish with a common good will. We Americans, of all races and creeds, fight the evils of despotic and selfish militarism."

But, the parents of many of the Japanese Americans who are serving as OUR soldiers in the South Pacific, Africa, and in the skies over Europe, are now living in the Relocation Centers. Their sons are good enough to fight and die for democracy, but we do not permit the benefits of democracy to be extended to them.

Loyalty cannot develop properly in an atmosphere of fear and discrimination behind barbed wire. It grows best in an atmosphere of freedom and trust.

Suggestions for Action

The War Relocation Authority is opening up work opportunities for the evacuees throughout the country. There is a shortage of competent manpower, and employers are anxious to use their idle skills and minds. But the problem of finding houses in which evacuees might live in the different communities threatens the whole resettlement program. The need for housing is *urgent*. This is true in all the large cities where there is much war work and applies to all newcomers to the community.

The YWCA, the YMCA, and hostels which have been opened under the auspices of the church boards, can provide only temporary residence. The need is for rooms and apartments where evacuees can make themselves at home for a considerable period.

Homes must be found. Will you help provide homes in which the evacuees can live like other citizens? Will you of the churches open your homes, allow them to rent your apartments, to rent or sub-lease your rooms? You may never have rented a room before; will you do so now in this present great need? Will you discuss this matter of housing with your friends and make a list or registry of available rooms and apartments in your community and send that information to this Committee, or to the committee cooperating

on relocation in your city? (For the addresses of local committees and War Relocation Offices, address this Committee.)

Christian Action

Every agency in the Church can participate in the resettlement program. The different organizations and clubs should plan to open up opportunities for social and religious fellowship. Invite the evacuees to participate in the meetings and different functions of the church. Do more than invite them; make them feel welcome. Call for them and bring them with you. Be friendly. A minister in each section of the community might assume the responsibility for directing the evacuees to the proper church and act as the clearing agent for his neighborhood.

Assimilation and Integration

Keep a record of each evacuee coming into your community, his address, church preference, special interests, etc. Set up districts and apportion responsibility for evacuee integration to the churches, the YMCA, and the YWCA in the particular area.

Special attention should be given to the development of a sound program to prevent the formation of a "Little Tokyo" or segregated district in your community. Do not plan large functions for the benefit exclusively of the Japanese Americans. The evacuees coming to your city are eager to find a place in the normal community life. Urge them to participate in the group life of the community. Make them feel they belong.

The evacuees will be lonely; they will need friends and activity. Explore the opportunities for evening classes for training and adult education in your community—folk dancing, and hobby groups, and special interest groups, such as art and music, social clubs, volunteer defense services, etc., so that they may find an outlet for interests outside the job.

The problems of maladjustment can best be handled by a person familiar with good standards in the field of social work. The Social Service Department of the city council of Churches and staff members of Councils of Social Agencies represent latent resources here.

Community Interpretation

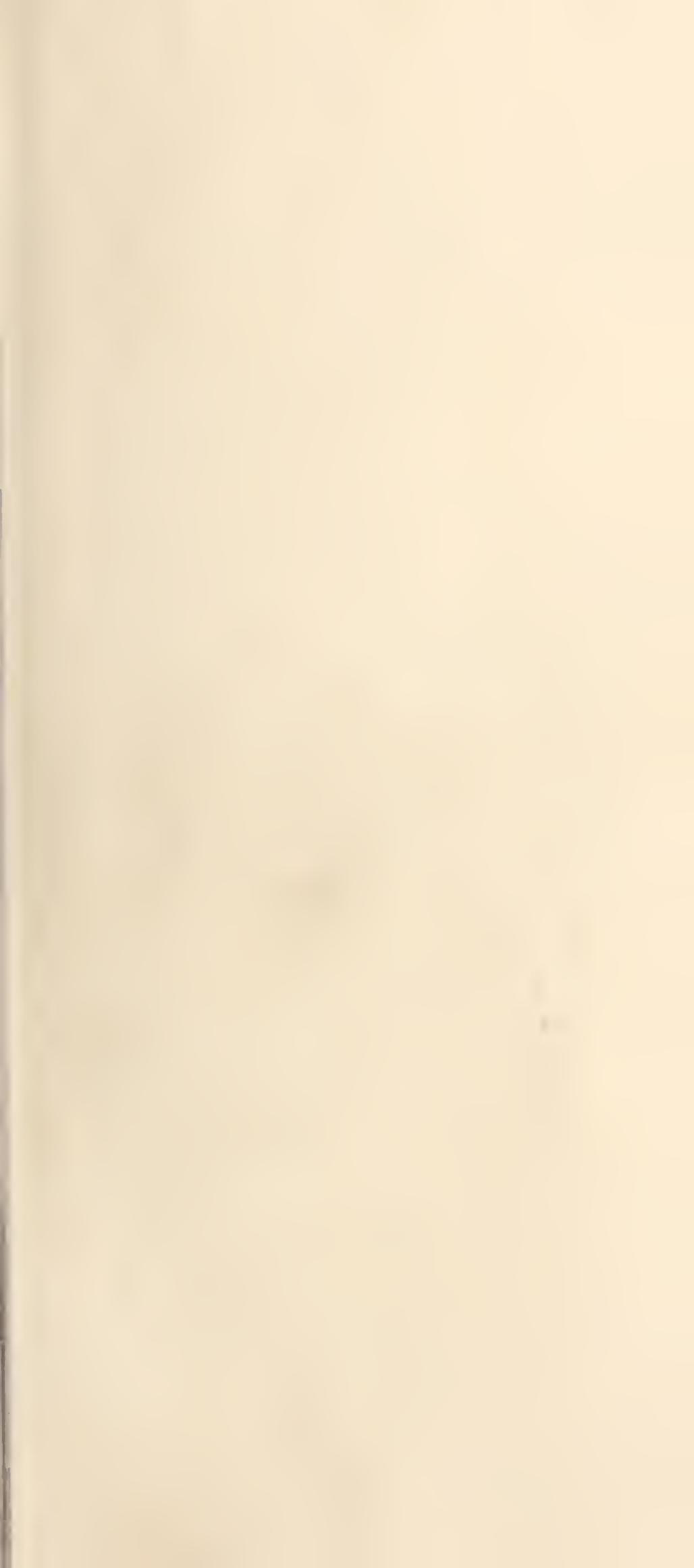
This can best be done by informed people able to tell the whole story of the evacuation and resettlement of the people of Japanese ancestry. For current information call upon your nearest WRA office, the national headquarters of the WRA in Washington, or this Committee. Discussions in small church groups, service clubs, and other organizations concerned with current problems will be helpful. A few speakers able to lead public discussions might do much to develop a favorable community attitude toward evacuees.

Organization

If your community is large, it will be best if a committee is organized to explore the possibilities and to make this a community project. Invite ministers, local civic leaders, social workers, YM and YW Secretaries to sit on the committee. There may be one already established in your city. Consult us if you are in doubt.

Functions of Organized Efforts

Functions of organized efforts as well as the nature of any such organization will vary according to each



community situation, but the main tasks may be stated as follows:

1. Housing
2. Planning for assimilation and integration of evacuees into the community.
3. Public relations (locally)
4. Emergency care
5. Christian fellowship
6. Record-keeping (including correspondence with WRA and national cooperating agencies.)

Talking Points

If you need informative reinforcement for the statement that resettlement is a great challenge to our concepts of Christianity and democracy, we suggest the following to support the justice of resettlement efforts:

1. Two-thirds of the evacuees of the total 110,000 who have been in Relocation Centers are American citizens—fellow American citizens! Their parents have lived and worked in America for thirty or more years. They have been law-abiding and thrifty.
2. Their brothers, husbands, and sweethearts, are in the United States Army, Navy, and Marine Corps fighting the war. There are over 8000 Americans of Japanese descent wearing American uniforms. Another 5000 have recently been recruited.
3. The great majority of Japanese Americans are loyal to the United States. This is not propaganda. The majority of them, when the order for evacuation was announced, said in a true patriotic spirit that they would take it and bear it as their duty and sacrifice for the cause of their country. We doubt if any other racial group would have taken such tremendous physical and mental discomfort as gracefully as did these citizens.
4. Among the letters and affidavits quoted in the Toland Report (Fourth Interim Report, pp. 48-58) are found the following quotations:
 - a. "The War Department has received no information of sabotage committed by Japanese during the attack on Pearl Harbor." (Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of War, March 30)
 - b. "Mr. John Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, has advised me there was no sabotage committed there (in Hawaii) prior to December 7, on December 7, or subsequent to that time." (James Rowe, Jr., Assistant to the Attorney General, April 20, 1942)
 - c. ". . . There were no acts of sabotage committed in the City and County of Honolulu December 7, nor have there been acts of sabotage reported to the Police Department since that date." (Honolulu Chief of Police, Gabrielson)
 - d. "You can say, without fear of contradiction, that there has not been a single act of sabotage." (Chief Agent, Hawaii, Federal Bureau of Investigation to Blake Clarke, summer of 1942)
5. The criminal record of Japanese on the West Coast is the lowest of any racial group.
6. They have generously contributed to community philanthropic enterprises and to National Defense Bond sales. Public relief of persons of Japanese descent has been uniformly nil. Their pride in

self-support has been sorely hurt by dependence resulting from this evacuation.

7. The intellectual and educational standards of the Japanese Americans are among the highest of any racial unit in the country. Their Americanization has been more complete than that of most national groups in two generations. They speak English fluently, and Japanese little—if at all.
8. Japanese Americans who are released from the centers have been educated in our American schools. They have been reared according to American standards; they act and think as Americans.
9. Our great concern now is that the long inactivity of these desirable people will reduce their skills, and that forced segregation from normal life will have an un-American and un-Christian influence upon them.
10. We should not now, by our deliberate action, add to the flames of propaganda within Japan, and throughout Asia and Africa, against us and against the white man in general.
11. Relocation Centers are undesirable. Mr. Dillon S. Myer, Director of the WRA, states: "After many months of operating Relocation Centers, the War Relocation Authority is convinced that they are undesirable institutions and should be removed from the American scene as soon as possible. Life in a Relocation Center is an unnatural and un-American sort of life. Keep in mind that the evacuees were charged with nothing except having Japanese ancestors; yet the very fact of their confinement in Relocation Centers fosters suspicion of their loyalties and adds to their discouragement. It has added weight to the contentions of the enemy that we are fighting a race war: That this nation preaches democracy and practices racial discrimination. Many of the evacuees are now living in Japanese communities for the first time, and the small group of pro-Japanese which entered the Relocation Centers has gained converts." (Office of War Information Release, May 14, 1943)

Let Us Go Full Speed Ahead!

7,000 evacuees have already been resettled throughout the country, many employed in defense plants, manufacturing bombs and aircraft. The United States Map Service employs twenty-four Japanese and Japanese Americans in one middle western city.

In the fall of 1942, 10,000 evacuees were employed in the beet fields in the west and saved enough sugar to supply 10,000,000 people with their annual sugar needs.

The Government is already over-taxed with the care of the evacuees. The cooperation of our citizens will relieve the Government materially and present a humane solution of the problems of individuals who are deprived of their citizenship rights temporarily.

Here is indeed a concrete Christian enterprise which is at the same time democratic and, in the best sense of the term, American.

Address all correspondence to

GEORGE E. RUNDQUIST, *Executive Secretary*
Committee on Resettlement of Japanese Americans
297 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.
Telephone GRamercy 5-3475

