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Granada Pioneer Extra

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EXTRA Granada PIONEER

Vol. III, No 14

Sunday, December 17, 1944

Amache, Colo.

DATE: JAN. 2, 1945

WEST COAST EXCLUSION ORDER TO BE LIFTED

THE MASS EXCLUSION ORDER PROHIBITING PEOPLE OF JAPANESE EXTRACTION FROM LIVING ON THE WEST COAST WILL BE LIFTED BY MILITARY AUTHORITIES AT MIDNIGHT JANUARY 2, 1945, DILLON S. MYER, NATIONAL WRA DIRECTOR, NOTIFIED PROJECT DIRECTOR JAMES G. LINDLEY TODAY.

A revised program of the War Relocation Authority which includes an orderly return to the Coast of evacuees wishing to go back, a continuation of the present relocation program to all points in the United States, and the closing of all Relocation Centers within one year was also announced by Myer, Lindley states.

MYER'S STATEMENT

Myer's statement is as follows:

"The lifting of the blanket exclusion orders by the Western Defense Command is undoubtedly the most significant event since evacuation both in the lives of the evacuated people and in the program of the War Relocation Authority. To the great majority of the evacuees, it means full restoration of the freedom of movement which is enjoyed by all other loyal citizens and law-abiding aliens in the United States. To the War Relocation Authority, it signifies the beginning of the final phase of the relocation program.

"Our prime objective in WRA, as always, is to restore the people residing in relocation centers to private life in normal communities. The lifting of the exclusion orders makes it possible to broaden the scope of this program and put it for the first time on a completely nationwide basis. Within the next few weeks WRA will establish field relocation offices at key points in the evacuated area and will extend assistance to those who have good reason to return. At the same time, we shall also continue our relocation offices and assistance for those who wish to locate in other parts of the country.

"Although the WRA is now entering the final phase of its program, the relocation centers will not be closed immediately. All of them will remain in operation for several months so that all the residents will have reasonable and adequate time and opportunity for the development of sound relocation plans.

"During the period ahead, many of the facilities at the centers will have to be sharply curtailed as the population

declines. Schools, however, will be continued through the current school year. This will enable families with school-age children sufficient time to plan their relocation so that the pupils may reenter school in their new communities at the beginning of the fall term. All the really essential services at the centers, including mess operations, housing, and medical care, will of course be provided until the time each center actually closes.

"The re-opening of the evacuated area and the broadening of the relocation program come at a fortunate time for the evacuated people. Largely as a result of the splendid record which your sons, brothers, and husbands have achieved in the armed services, the American public has come increasingly to a recognition of the essential good faith and loyalty that characterize the great majority of people of Japanese descent. Today the evacuees as a group have more friends and supporters throughout the Nation than at any previous time. They are being accepted in hundreds of communities as fellow-workers, friends, and neighbors. The removal of the restrictions that formerly applied in the West Coast area underscores this growing public acceptance and should help to bring about even more widespread recognition of the fact that the great majority of the evacuees are loyal and law-abiding people.

"It is fortunate, too, that the WRA program enters its final phase at a time when there is a good demand for workers in war plants, in civilian goods production, in service occupations, and on the farms. Both from the standpoint of the

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TO LIFT EXCLUSION ORDER

national welfare and evacuees' long-range economic security, it is highly important that the people now residing at the relocation centers make the transition back to private life at a time when employment opportunities are still plentiful.

"Recognizing that there are a number of people in the relocation centers who have not been able to relocate previously because they are incapable of self-support, the War Relocation Authority is now making intensive efforts to meet this problem by mobilizing facilities and resources that are available for public assistance in normal communities throughout the Nation. Special funds have been provided by Congress through the Federal Security Agency for the assistance of needy people who have been displaced from their homes by restrictive governmental action. All evacuees -- both citizens and aliens -- who are in need of such assistance are eligible to apply for it under the terms of this Federal law. In addition, old age assistance and grants to certain other types of handicapped people are available to both citizen and alien evacuees as they are to all persons who can qualify under the regular programs of the Federal Security Agency.

"Those relocated evacuees who have close family relatives still residing at the centers and who need to consult with these family members in the development of relocation plans may apply at the nearest WRA field office for permission to visit the center. However, in view of the War Manpower Commission regulations governing job transfers and the congested transportation facilities in the vicinity of the centers, it is exceedingly important that all relocated evacuees desiring to return to the centers at this time obtain such advance approval. Those who attempt to come back without it may be denied admission to the center and may become ineligible for all future relocation assistance.

"In conveying this message to you, I want to express my sincere appreciation of the fine, cooperative attitude which has been displayed by the overwhelming majority of the evacuated people over the past two and one-half years under the most trying of circumstances. All of you who have already left the relocation centers or who will be leaving in the next several months have my very best wishes for a successful and satisfying life in the communities where you choose to make your homes."

WRA POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

SUMMARY OF WRA POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE FINAL PHASE OF THE RELOCATION PROGRAM

Now that the blanket exclusion orders have been lifted, the War Relocation Authority has made a number of basic policy decisions covering the immediate future of its program. These decisions are:

- (1) WRA assistance will be made available after January 2, 1945, for relocation in the evacuated area on the same basis as elsewhere.
- (2) All relocation centers will be closed within a period of six months to one year after the revocation of the exclusion orders. No center, however, will be closed without three month's advance notice to the residents.
- (3) Essential services at the relocation centers -- food, housing, and medical care -- will be provided until the centers close. Schools will be maintained at the centers through the end of the present school year.
- (4) Relocation in areas outside the evacuated zone will continue.
- (5) WRA assistance will be extended, within certain prescribed limits, to evacuees who have previously relocated and who now wish to return to the evacuated area.
- (6) Arrangements will be made with appropriate state and local agencies to provide public assistance throughout the country for those evacuees who are incapable of self-support.

-----Dillon S. Myer
National WRA Director