Information Bulletin, January 10, 1945

War Relocation Authority

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This bulletin is intended to supply information on certain specific questions which have been asked by evacuees regarding JRA policy.

Ques: If a person is on the exclusion list, does he need a travel permit to leave the center?
Ans: Any person on the exclusion list will need an escort through the area from which he is excluded, and a military permit. An alien will need also a travel permit from the U.S. attorney, and will need to notify the U.S. attorney, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service at Philadelphia on arrival at destination. Until further notice no excludes may leave this center. Such further notice will be given after the Army has completed its check, but not before January 20.

Ques: What is meant by the word “deportee”?
Ans: A “deportee” is a person who is under deportation orders by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service either because of illegal entry into the United States or because of special terms of his visa allowing him entry into the United States. e.g., students, treaty merchants, etc.

Ques: Who pays travel expenses for short-term leave?
Ans: The evacuee who makes the trip.

Ques: If the centers are closing, does it mean that all sick also are to be moved out?
Ans: All residents of the center, who are not ordered detained by the Army or the Department of Justice, will relocate. Arrangements will be made through the Welfare Section for public assistance to sick, or persons otherwise handicapped, funds for which are available through state and local welfare agencies.

Ques: How can an evacuee arrange to return to Alaska or Hawaii?
Ans: Evacuees desiring to travel to Alaska or Hawaii should submit their requests to the Japanese-American Branch, Office of the Provost Marshal, Presidio, San Francisco.

Ques: Can Nisei get back the contraband surrendered to the government? How about Issei?
Ans: In connection with their relocation plans, Nisei may apply to the JRA for assistance in return of contraband. They should furnish any receipts and other information in their possession. Issei cannot at this time obtain return of contraband goods.

Ques: Why does JRA ask evacuees to report addresses after they leave the center?
Ans: JRA asks that addresses be reported merely to assist in routing mail, to facilitate handling of property matters, and to assist the Co-op in making patronage returns.

Ques: Why is gate control required, if evacuees are free to leave the center?
Ans: Since all people are not eligible to leave the center, accurate records must be maintained at the gate to insure proper control.
Ques: Can a person return to the center to live, after he has gone out?
Ans: No, except those who leave on short-term permit approved by the Project Director.

Ques: Can people go outside to "got the feel" of things?
Ans: No, except on short-term leave has been arranged with the approval of the Project Director.

Ques: Can Nisei now enter any school or college?
Ans: While most schools and colleges reserve the right of selecting their own students, it is expected that entry will be open to Nisei on the same basis as other citizens. Students who leave the center now to enter school or college will be considered relocated, and may not return to the center except as visitors under the visiting regulations. Relocation assistance, however, is available to students on the same basis as to other persons leaving the center.

Ques: Can a family in Tule Lake center apply for transfer to another center from which the family will relocate?
Ans: Yes. Such transfers may be arranged with the approval of the Relocation Planning Officer. In fact, such transfers are desirable in instances in which other family members reside in other centers and conferences are needed to plan sound relocation.

Ques: What about property leases? What are present OPA regulations with regard to leases on living quarters, etc.?
Ans: Bring your individual problem to the Vacuoo Property Office or the Project Attorney's Office. They will do what they can to find the answer to your particular property lease difficulty. A special legal study of this subject is being made by the WRA in San Francisco.

Ques: How do we get our ration books?
Ans: WRA will provide certification to both citizens and aliens to enable them to obtain necessary ration books from the local boards at the places of their relocation.

Ques: How much money is given for relocation assistance and in subsistence grants?
Ans: $25 per person and $3 per day while on route to point of relocation. This money is available, however, only to those in need and when the relocation plan has been approved by the WRA. Railroad fare and cost of transportation of personal property is available regardless of need to all those having an approved relocation plan. Persons who may need further assistance in order to relocate will be given special attention by the welfare section. Special funds have been appropriated by Congress to provide such assistance for persons who have been affected by government restrictions, and are available through state and local welfare agencies, to citizens and aliens alike.