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The Newell Star - "Ickes, Myer Say Tule Lake to Close on or Before Feb. 1, 1946" (10-18-45) [Harold Ickes, Dillon Myer]

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EXTRA

THE NEWELL STAR

EXTRA

NEWELL, CALIFORNIA

OCTOBER 18, 1945

ICKES, MYER SAY TULE LAKE TO CLOSE ON OR BEFORE FEB. 1, 1946

Secretary Harold Ickes of the United States Department of the Interior and National Director Dillon Myer of WRA announced in Washington today that WRA's operation of Tule Lake Center will be terminated on or before Feb. 1, 1946, approximately three and a half months from now, with schools to be closed by Dec. 21, and an intensive relocation planning program to end Dec. 15 in order to allow time for setting up of final transportation schedules and movement of personal property.

Relocation planning with WRA assistance will be available for the next two months to all persons eligible to leave the center. Those detained by the Department of Justice, the Washington announcements said, will remain in the custody of the Justice Department, which as yet has made no statement of policy with regard to their future.

A STATEMENT TO THE RESIDENTS OF TULE LAKE DILLON S. MYER

National Director Myer issued the following special statement to the residents of Tule Lake Center:

"In line with the liquidation schedule of the War Relocation Authority, plans now have been completed for an intensive relocation program at Tule Lake Center. This program, as all other WRA services to evacuees at the center, will be terminated on or before Feb. 1, 1946.

"All residents of the center who are not on the Department of Justice detainee list are eligible for the same kind of relocation assistance as the residents of other WRA centers. Those who wish to relocate with WRA assistance should formulate their plans by Dec. 15 at the latest in order to allow adequate time for the final scheduling of transportation facilities and orderly movement of personal property.

"Persons on the detainee list will remain under custody of the Department of Justice pending final decision regarding deportation or continued internment. Any questions regarding the future status of the detainees or of family members who may wish to remain with them should be addressed to the War Division, Department of Justice, Washington, D. C.

"The War Relocation Authority will begin at once to prepare for the final liquidation of its activities at Tule Lake Center. All farm operations will be discontinued immediately and all livestock on hand will be disposed of at the earliest practicable date. Schools will be closed by Dec. 21. The Business Enterprises Association should begin immediately to liquidate its operations and should plan to be out of business entirely by Feb. 1."

NEWS RELEASED OFFICIALLY BY SECY. ICKES

Official announcement of the setting of the termination date for Tule Lake Center was made in the following news release from Washington, quoting Secretary Ickes:

WASHINGTON, Oct. 18--The WRA program for people of Japanese descent at the Tule Lake Center in Northern California will be terminated by Feb. 1, 1946, Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes announced today.

With this step the WRA will complete its schedule for liquidating its operation at the last of the ten centers which were established in 1942 to accommodate the people of Japanese ancestry evacuated by military order from the Pacific Coast.

Two of the centers, Jerome in Arkansas and Granada in Colorado, already have closed. All others except Tule Lake will be closed by Dec. 15, according to plans already announced.

During the two months that operations (relocation planning) at Tule Lake will go ahead, WRA will attempt to continue the relocation of those residents who are eligible to leave. Those who are not eligible to leave because they are under detention orders of the Department of Justice will remain in the custody of that department pending final disposition of their cases.