

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE DIVISIONAL RESPONSIBLE MEN AND THE CO-ORDINATING  
COMMITTEE OF THE TULE LAKE CENTER

April 8, 1944

The regular meeting of the Divisional Responsible Men and the Co-ordinating Committee of the Tule Lake Center was held on April 8, 1944, from 1:45 p.m. at 1608 - A. Chairman B. Akitsuki presided.

Attendance was recorded as shown per attached sheet.

The following report of the Co-ordinating Committee was given by the Executive Secretary:

1. Japanese Red Cross shipment of one case, containing 103 books, 22 pamphlets, 7 shogi-ban, 13 shogi-koma, 6 goh-ban, 7 goh-ishi, 4 minteki, and 9 shaku-hachi was received on April 6.
2. Request to open the South Gate was made to Colonel Austin, who promised to look into the matter immediately.
3. In view of the Ward Chairmen of Block Managers urgent request for 1,000 additional brooms to be distributed to the old Tuleans, who were issued brooms some six months ago, which are absolutely not usable, the Committee has sent a memo to R.R. Best to fulfill this request. A memo, addressed to the Committee from the Project Director, informed us that there is no administrative authorization for the issue of additional supplies to former Tuleans.
4. Permit to take census and signatures for re-segregation, headed by Sanaye Akashi, was duly granted by Harry L. Black, upon instruction received from Washington office. Translation of the memo from Black to Akashi was then read. Due to the diversity of opinions, a brawl, which hospitalized one, has already been noted in Block 16. (Many cited that various arguments pro and con were noted in various blocks.) In view of the possibility of this movement, endangering the peace and normalcy of the Center, the Committee therein consulted the Army, lest the condition of the Center, which has markedly improved recently, after a long period of unrest, may return to its former abnormal status. Colonel advised that the Committee should not 'tell' on such a trifling occurrence. Project Director felt indignant toward the Committee because the Committee had over-riden the Administration

Lastly, the Executive Secretary announced that inasmuch as the Center condition had returned to normalcy and the object upon which the Committee was formed has been accomplished and in order to expedite the formation of a new colonists' representative body, the Co-ordinating Committee has submitted a letter of resignation to the Administration and the Army. However, the Divisional Responsible Men did not approve of the way the resignation was presented to the Administration; that is, without first consulting the body which elected the Committee. Committee members apologized for their rash action. Discussion then followed into the matter of dissolution of the Divisional Responsible Men's group. A prolonged discussion pro and con pertinent to this subject pursued. Mr. Ikemoto felt that dissolution now is not timely and will make vain all the efforts, risks, and indomitable task expended, undergone, and ac-

complished by the body, inasmuch as the reactionary elements are anxiously awaiting for an opportunity to strike with their schemed insidious plan, and we must certainly not forget the ground upon which this body was organized. Mr. Miyake opinioned that dissolution at the present time is like pouring gasoline atop a fire, and we must not forget the 16,000 colonists. However, few others, including Messrs. Ninomiya and Sakuma, felt that dissolution was in order. After due deliberation, the group resolved to dissolve on April 29, 1944, which does not mean that the body will irresponsibly sever relations with the colonists or the Administration. Until that time (April 29) the body will expend its utmost to prepare for the re-organization of this body. Furthermore, there are many unfinished business yet to be completed prior to dissolution. In other words, for the maintenance of peace and harmony among colonists, the resigned Co-ordinating Committee, as part of the Divisional Responsible Men's body, will give its undivided attention as heretofore.

Upon motion made, seconded, and passed, the meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Byron Akitsuki  
Executive Secretary

A T T E N D A N C E

Frank S. Miyake	Civic Organization
James N. Okamoto	Furniture Factory
Shig Ikemoto	Clothing Unit
Yasuo Honda	Payroll Unit
Kelvin Mitani	Property Control
Oscar Itani	"
T. Miyaki	Recreation Phse.
Kumesaburo Kosaka	Maintenance
M. Kojo	"
M. Furuta	"
Richard Kondo	Construction
Hideo K. Sakuma	Janitor Foreman
S. Saito	Coal Crew
Ben Ishida	Garage
M. Ninomiya	Mess Management
Sage Muraoka	Placement
K. Nagetani	Mess Management
Shigeru Fukushima	Civic Organization
Frank Furukawa	Maintenance
Nobuo Ishida	"
S. Morisima	Co-ordinating Committee
M. Shimada	"
G. Yamatani	"
I. Namekawa	"
B. Akitsuki	"