

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE AND THE PROJECT DIRECTOR
AND COLONEL AUSTIN
January 20, 1944

Date: January 20, 1944 Time 1:30 p.m. Place: Project Director's Office

Attendance: Project Director Best, Colonel Austin, Lt. Forbes, B. Akitsuki, G. Yamatani, K. Okamoto, J. Nakao, I. Namekawa, J. Paydo, M. Shimada, R. Kondo, and B. Mayeda

Minutes of the informal meeting held on the 17th of January were read and approved as read.

Upon Lt. Forbes' question, the Committee members felt that the list of those possible releases should be first submitted to the Committee for their review. The list submitted, the Lieutenant stated, may have those names recommended by the Committee, in addition to names not submitted. Upon the suggestion of the Committee, the following detainees, Katayama, Hoshiko, Sakamoto, and Odo, may be given priority in getting release, possibly today or tomorrow morning. Lieutenant further mentioned that no wholesale pick-ups are being made at the present time; only those who are actually working against the best interest of the Colony are being picked up. In reference to the pick-ups, the Colonel advised that the Committee should analyze the list and decide which is going to pay the greater dividend--release or continued detention. The Committee, it was understood, is authorized to publish matters pertaining to the releases.

Executive Secretary then mentioned that the foremen of the farm have informed him that they expect to hold a meeting at Mess Hall 6, from 1:30 p.m. The chief purpose of this meeting is to decide among the farm workers whether they are willing to return to work and also to discuss on what scale the farm should be operated. Mr. Best thought that inasmuch as farm equipments were being cared for, the time is not appropriate to talk about farm program of any scale; although a group of people may be used on the hog farm. Mr. Namekawa, at this time, clarified the mix-up of the farm meeting by apologizing that he was the person responsible for the confusion, since he did it on his own volition, (trusting the words of the farm foreman), without even consulting the Committee previously.

Mr. Yamatani reported that after discussion with Mr. Opler, it was suggested that hereafter pay checks and clothing allowances be forwarded to the Civic Organization for distribution through the block managers. In this way handling will be facilitated and issuance sped up. Mr. Best approved the plan and further added that regarding matters of this nature, which is for the general welfare and improvement of the Colony, RA is willing to co-operate in every respect.

Upon question raised by Mr. Kondo, Mr. Best stated that ages of truck drivers have been set as 21 - 25 years.

Mr. Yamatani then requested that the Co-ordinating Committee would appreciate it very much if the activities of the various divisional appointed personnel are reported to the Committee.

Thereupon there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Byron Akitsuki, Executive Secretary