

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
OFFICE MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Best.

From: Harry L. Black

Subject: Meeting with Co-ordinating Committee

Date: Feb. 8, 1944

The Advisory Committee (Black, Robertson, Opler, Huycke, MacNeil, Leckliter Markley) with Mr. Utz as observer, met with the Coordinating Committee from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 today. Byron Akitsuki, executive Secretary, was absent on account of illness, and George Yamatani took his place as spokesman for the Committee.

The principal item of discussion concerned the recommendation of the Committee for the release of 18 additional detainees from the stockade. Reference was made to a report of an informal meeting which the committee held with two evacuees (Kozuma and Shimizu) on February 5. In the course of that meeting, it appeared, from the report, that Shimizu did most of the talking and persuaded the Committee of his change of heart, and convinced them that if he were released from the stockade, he would work with them hereafter in matters affecting the operation of the Center rather than against them on behalf of the principles of the Negotiating Committee. He also convinced them that other leaders had undergone a change of heart, had turned against the Kai-Kuratomi bloc, and therefore merited release from the stockade on condition that they make a public promise and sign a pledge to the effect that they would maintain relations of better understanding and cooperation with the Coordinating Committee in the future. The point was made that the Coordinating was convinced of the sincerity of the change of heart, and that such leaders released in the Center on pledge to support and work for the program of the Coordinating Committee would exercise a powerful and constructive influence among the former followers of the Kai-Kuratomi regime.

A report of the informal meeting between the Coordinating Committee and Messrs. Kozuma and Shimizu is appended. Also the draft of a proposed pledge to be signed and acknowledged by the detainees upon release, together with a list of those whom it is proposed should be released.

As chairman I stated to the Committee that we were willing to take the proposal under advisement, but that in the instance of any person whose name was on the list we could give no commitment at the moment. We proposed to check the list against the files of the Army Intelligence, against the files of our police department, and against the reports of the FBI investigations which are now coming in. If any of those files made it appear that the individual should not be released, then we would not approve the release. Note is made that one of the persons on the list was released yesterday.

The complete list includes:

Akiyama	Yamanaka	Ikeda	Shimizu
Inouye	Tsuchiya	Yoshida	Kozuma No
Kobayashi, Yukio	Mohri (released)	Kimura, Mitsuo	Yamanoto, Koichi
Fujimoto, William	Asato	Naito, Sam	Saito
Komiya, S	Tateishi, H		

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
OFFICE MEMORANDUM

To:

Date:

From:

Subject:

-2-

Members of the Committee (not all) stated that some 600 applications had been received at Placement Office for jobs in the mess halls to be opened in the new area with the arrival of the Manzanar people and those from other Centers. I made it clear that we proposed to make use of Manzanar evacuees transferred to this Center to fill so far as we could jobs which pertained to the care of those people. That would include mess hall workers, Block Managers and secretaries, janitors for the blocks, etc. In addition we should seek to find the most equitable distribution of project jobs, so that the Manzanar people, and others yet to come, would have even chances with those who were at Tule Lake before them. One member of the Committee stated that if we didn't give the jobs to the Tule Lake people now, we would be headed for trouble. I stated that that would be all right. If we were going to get into trouble on such an issue, then we would be fully ready for the trouble.

In the discussion of transferring residents from Block 18 and from portions of Blocks 25 and 46, members of the Committee indicated that they thought that residents would not move. I explained that it had been determined that the evacuation of these blocks would be necessary in the interest and for the welfare of the whole Colony, and asked that they use their influence to facilitate the voluntary movement by the people concerned. At all events, the blocks would be vacated as indicated. There would be no ultimate question about that.

The suggestion was made that the last three blocks of the new construction be used for assignments to present residents of the Center in order to give them more room, to permit some residents of Ward 7 to move into the new area, to allow residents of Block 56 to move to the new area. It was explained that it was necessary to reserve these last three blocks against two contingencies: (1) It might be necessary to use them as Area B for segregation purposes; and (2) The arrival of other segregants from Centers other than Manzanar, plus the transferees from internment camps would require all the housing space we have.