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MEMORANDUM ON POLICY OF THE WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
IN GRANTING LEAVE FROM RELOCATION CENTERS

In the Federal Register under date of September 29, 1942, the War Relocation Authority issued a statement of policy with reference to the granting of leave from the relocation centers. Pending a general statement of procedure to be issued by the W.R.A., I am outlining herewith the major principles announced in this policy:

I. Types of Leave There are three types of leave:

- a) Short term leave not exceeding thirty days for applicant to attend to personal affairs outside of relocation area.
- b) Leave to participate in group work outside the relocation area or to work outside the center while continuing to reside within the center.
- c) Indefinite leave for employment, education or indefinite residence outside the relocation area.

II. Procedure for Securing Permit for Indefinite Leave

- 1) Any person within the relocation center may apply for indefinite leave.
- 2) Application is made by filing with the project director the information required in W.R.A. Form 26, together with other information which may be required.
- 3) When this application for outside employment is filed with the project director, he will make investigation and send his recommendation to the regional director. The regional director will make any additional investigation which he desires and forward his recommendation to the W.R.A. director. He will make whatever additional investigation he desires together with clearing with the F.B.I., and if he approves of granting a travel permit, the director will notify the project director and the project director will issue the permit to the applicant. It is estimated that this procedure will require from three to four weeks.
- 4) If an applicant is refused a travel permit to accept outside employment, he has the right to appeal this decision through the director of the project to the director of the W.R.A.

III. Those Eligible for Indefinite Leave

Anyone in a relocation center (including both Issei and Nisei) is eligible for an indefinite leave, providing he has made arrangements for employment, or has evidence of either means of support. A man who has a job, providing he has a salary sufficient to support his family, may secure travel permits for other members of his family to leave the camp and go to the place of employment. All members of the family over 17 years of age, who wish to accompany the family, must file a separate request for travel permit on Form 26.

IV. Area of Employment

Areas in which permits for employment will not be granted are California and Military Zone One in Oregon, Washington, and Arizona, although permits for employment in either the Western Defense Command or the Eastern Defense Command will have to be approved by the Army.

V. Transportation

The project director will provide transportation for the applicant to the most convenient railroad or bus station. All other necessary transportation from the point of departure to the job must be paid for by the applicant.

VI. Supervision during Indefinite Leave

The "protective custody" provision which was required in the first regulations issued by the W.R.A., has been eliminated in the regulations of September 29, and the applicant is simply required to notify the project director of his address as soon as he arrives at his destination, and must notify him of any subsequent change of address.

VII. Community Acceptance

The W.R.A. does not require the official approval of any public administrative officer before an evacuee can accept employment in a community. They will require, however, evidence that an investigation has been made in the community to determine the reaction of the community and assurance that the prospects are that there will be no serious opposition. The W.R.A. will require in writing this assurance or sponsorship from some responsible person or organization within the community.

VIII. Functions of Non-Governmental Organizations

Non-Governmental organizations, such as the American Friends Service Committee or other church groups, can facilitate the program of securing indefinite leave from the centers by rendering the following services:

- 1) To secure job opportunities.
- 2) To secure community acceptances and assist in developing proper community relationships.
- 3) To assume sponsorship or to secure sponsors for Japanese in particular communities.
- 4) To help arrange for housing and living accommodations for evacuees when they arrive in a community.
- 5) To take a continuing interest in the evacuees after they arrive in the community and to help them make the proper community contacts.

IX. Sponsorship by the American Friends Service Committee

If an applicant wants the A.F.S.C. to assist him in securing a job, he should do two things:

- 1) Make applications for travel permit on Form 26, and file it with the project director.
- 2) Fill out Application for Employment blank supplied by the A.F.S.C.

October 22, 1942