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GENERAL COMMENT BY PROJECT DIRECTOR

The captain and two enlisted men of the Army Interviewing Team remained at the center during the week checking records and doing the necessary paper work in connection with the army interviews. The captain left Saturday to return to the west coast, but the enlisted men remained here. Major English and Major Morgan are expected to return for a few scattered interviews.

The Project Director has received from the Army team a list of 26 individuals who have been interviewed and placed on the cleared list, but we have no information concerning the number of people who were given exclusion notices or notices that their cases are still pending. The Project Director has been advised that a complete exclusion and segregation list will be furnished the Washington office by January 20 and it is supposed that this list, insofar as it concerns residents of this center, will be forwarded here. It is important that we receive this list as soon as possible so that it can be easily determined who is eligible to leave the center.

There is a great deal of interest in relocation in general but there is a lack of interest in returning to California. The Relocation Office is crowded with people who are interested in settling in other parts of the country. Most of these people, however, do not have specific plans as to where they want to go or what they want to do but there is a great demand for information on relocation in general. On the other hand, the Community Analyst is of the opinion that there is a substantial group of people here who have no relocation plans and who state that they have no intention of leaving the center unless they are forced to do so.

In the latter part of the week there has been a wide spread rumor among the evacuees that five men from Gila River Center were beaten or stabbed in Los Angeles. This rumor reached such proportions that the Project Director has wired Mr. Cuzzens for a confirmation or denial. Many people here are of the opinion that the story started in a deliberate attempt to discourage relocation on the west coast.

The Joint Advisory Committee met this week and it is interesting to note that practically all questions raised by the evacuee members of the committee concerned relocation and practically none concerned new WRA procedure. The old questions of housing, employment and community acceptance were the ones that were discussed the most and there was apparently little interest in changes in WRA policies resulting from the opening of the west coast. However, we believe that more questions on procedure will arise as soon as more time has been allowed for the study of Manual Release 158.

Since January 2 there has been a considerable number of visitors arriving without permits from Relocation Field Offices. These people were sent to the Relocation Office for interviews and all have been admitted for a limited time. We believe that there will be a great many more of these visitors and that they may become quite a problem. Evacuee residents have been instructed through the project paper to notify relatives and friends on the outside that visitors should have approval of visits in advance by Relocation Field Offices.

Two representatives of the Immigration and Naturalization Service arrived to check on cases of illegal entry. They brought with them a list of 26 persons to be interviewed. They are now checking our records and will send a list of doubtful persons to their New Orleans office for further checking and from there those that are still doubtful will be sent to Philadelphia for additional investigation. Cases that are still considered doubtful will be referred back to the project for interviews by the Immigration and Naturalization men here. These representatives have stated that they estimate there will be approximately 150 to 175 people who will be interviewed.

Mr. Edward B. Marks of Washington Office arrived at the center Monday to assist in interpreting new procedure and to report to the Director developments arising from the lifting of the mass exclusion order.