

NATIONAL STUDENT RELOCATION COUNCIL

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

American Friends Service Committee
20 South 12th Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Dr. John W. Nason, Chairman
Dr. Robbins W. Barstow, Director

PACIFIC COAST HEADQUARTERS

2538 Channing Way
Berkeley, California
Telephone ASberry 8500
Dr. Robert G. Sproul, Chairman
Joseph Conard, Exec. Secretary

August 1, 1942

WEST COAST COMMITTEE

Dr. Robert G. Sproul, Chairman
President, University of California
Miss Leila Anderson, Secretary
U. of California YWCA
Miss Mary C. Baker, Dean of Women
Fresno State College
Herman Beimfohr, Wesley Foundations
Southwest Region
Dr. Eric C. Bellquist, Professor
University of California
Dr. Remsen Bird, President
Occidental College
Allen C. Blaisdell, Director
International House, Berkeley
Rev. Francis J. Caffrey, M. M.
Maryknoll Fathers, Los Angeles
Rev. Gordon K. Chapman, Sec.-Treas.
Protestant Church Commission
For Japanese Service
Dr. James C. DeVoss, Dean Upper Div.
San Jose State College
Dr. Monroe E. Deutsch, Provost
University of California
Dr. Aubrey A. Douglass, Asst. Calif.
Supt. of Public Instruction
Rev. William J. Dunne, S. J.
President, Univ. of San Francisco
Dr. Ralph G. Eckert, Counselor
Stockton Junior College
Galen M. Fisher
Orinda, California
Dr. Alfred Fisk, Professor
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Miss Alice Hoyt, Dean of Women
University of California
Miss Alice James, Student
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Dr. Robert L. Kelly, Emeritus
Executive Director
Assn. of American Colleges
Harry Kingman, Secretary
U. of California YMCA
Dr. W. O. Mendenhall, President
Whittier College
Robert W. O'Brien, Asst. to Dean
University of Washington
Dr. George A. Odgers, Dean
Multnomah Junior College
Rev. James T. O'Dowd, Supt.
Catholic Schools, San Francisco
Karl W. Onthank, Dean
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Dr. Lee Paul Sieg, President
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Dr. D. Elton Trueblood
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Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, Chancellor
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Howard Willits, Secretary
Student YMCA - YWCA
Pacific Northwest Region
M. D. Woodbury, Secretary
U. of Washington YMCA

Dr. Karl W. Onthank
University of Oregon
Eugene, Oregon

Dear Dr. Onthank:

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Student Relocation Council was held in Berkeley on Friday, July 24.

It was felt that the entire West Coast Committee and its consultants would be interested to know what took place at that meeting; we have therefore mimeographed the minutes and have prepared and mimeographed a Report of Progress. Copies are enclosed.

The Report of Progress was prepared hurriedly in Berkeley without taking time out to consult with the Seattle, Portland, and Los Angeles offices, or with the national office in Philadelphia. It therefore describes primarily the work going on in the Berkeley office. We hope you will find a moment to glance through the Report and make any comment that comes to you.

Yours sincerely,



Joseph Conard
Executive Secretary

Enc. 2

JC:mb

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To our Friends, the Japanese American Students:

We have kept you waiting so long without definite news of your possible placement that we feel we should send you a word of explanation.

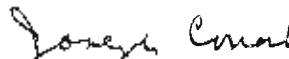
Do not think we have forgotten you. As the opening of fall terms approaches we are as anxious as you to see results instead of merely continuing to hope. That it is possible to obtain transfers is evidenced by the actual placement of a few students in both eastern and midwestern colleges. That more of you have not yet been able to go is owing to the fact that every college and university which might enroll you must first be approved by five government agencies, two of which have their hands more than full fighting a war. That is why it has been so hard to translate into action the good will which does exist among these departments. Although nearly two hundred educational institutions have said that they would gladly accept you, and ninety or more have issued formal letters of acceptance to individual students, as yet only a small percentage of these colleges have been officially approved. Nevertheless additional ones are being cleared each week, and we are now hopeful of more speedy results. We are ready as soon as these approvals come through to recommend students to the colleges.

Because it is already so late, it is only fair to say that we dare not expect to secure transfers for more than a relatively small number of you in time for the fall term. Some of you will definitely be able to go, and as always in the assignment of scholarships those with the highest composite rating will, for the most part, be placed first.

But we are not going to stop working. As long as the service is needed, the Council will endeavor to secure placements for you. We want you to know, too, that the universities and high schools have been willing to furnish free transcripts and that many of our finest educators are deeply concerned with your welfare, using their vacations to work long hours as volunteers with this Council. No matter how discouraging your situation, we want to assure you that we shall continue to help you secure the education you need to make your rightful contribution to America. Although the War has turned the world upside down, all of us as fellow citizens share a great responsibility toward a free world.

Please do not hesitate to write to us. We shall try to answer as promptly as possible, if only by postcard. After September 1st mail should be addressed: National Student Relocation Council, Japanese Y.W.C.A. Building, 1830 Sutter Street, San Francisco, California.

Sincerely yours,


Joseph Conard

JC:mb

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This Council has been formed at the request of the War Relocation Authority to aid in the relocation of students who have been evacuated from the West Coast war zones and who wish to continue their study on the college or university level.

August 19, 1942

Mr. Joseph W. Conard
2031 Baker Street
San Francisco, California

Dear Mr. Conard:

I find, after returning to the campus after an extended absence, a letter from Dorothy Nyland, Educational Secretary of the Cleveland Church Federation, expressing an interest in the attempt of the Coast committee relocating Japanese students saying

"I am enclosing a card from the Chamber of Commerce listing the various schools in and near Cleveland. Would you be able to recommend any students who would like to attend one of these schools? I think if we had some specific cases to present we might be able to find a group interested in doing their part."

The card referred to, I am enclosing herewith. I am also enclosing a copy of my letter to her in which I suggest that the institutions there should take the initiative - quite possibly some of them might have already done so.

I hope the program is coming on quite satisfactorily, and I am sorry I have not been able to be of more help personally.

Sincerely,

Karl W. Onthank
Dean of Personnel Administration

KWO:os
Enc.

August 19, 1942

Miss Dorothy A. Nyland
Educational Secretary
Cleveland Church Federation
1010 Hippadrome Building
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Miss Nyland:

It is nice to hear from you again, even though I have been away so much this summer that your letter has missed the reply it deserves. I suspect your work with the Cleveland Church Federation has been interesting.

We hope that you get West this summer and we will see you here.

I have been out of the office most of the summer and probably will be until a little after the first of September doing some fire protection work with the Forest Service.

Your suggestion about the possibility of the Cleveland schools helping with the relocation of the evacuated students is an excellent one. I am sending it on to the relocation committee which is operating on the Coast in cooperation with the Mid-west institutions, in fact the most effective way to help would be to get the institutions themselves to contact the relocation committee since it is confining its activities now, wholly to rating and recommending students seeking to enter institutions outside the defense areas, and is leaving it to of the receiving institutions - particularly in respect to actually placing them.

Your many friends here wish to be remember to you. With all best wishes.

Sincerely,

Karl W. Onthank
Dean of Personnel Administration

KWOP:cm
cc: Robert Conard
2051 Baker Street
San Francisco, California

SOUTHERN BRANCH
UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO
POCATELLO

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DEAN

September 14, 1942

Joseph Conard
Executive Secretary
West Coast Area
National Student Relocation Council
1830 Sutter Street
San Francisco, California

Dear Mr. Conard:

Thank you for your letter of September 5th to Miss Dorothy Requa our registrar, who has turned it over to me for reply. I am glad to learn more details of the work of the West Coast Committee of the National Student Relocation Council—especially that it has the approval of the Assistant Secretary of War and that American born Japanese students from the closed areas must be given travel permits before coming.

Dr. Carl W. McIntosh, Assistant Professor of Speech, has willingly volunteered to meet George Tanbara and Francis Itaya when they arrive—provided anyone lets us know when this will be. I do not believe this community is, as yet at least, antagonistic to students of Japanese ancestry.

However, I must urgently insist that no publicity be given the arrangement for these two or any other students here. When President Sproul inadvertently announced in the press last spring that the University of Idaho would take some of these students, our Governor immediately jumped into the fray with a denial and a criticism of the University for offering to do any such thing. This led to a lot of hard feelings and did much more harm than good—so much so that Idaho farmers are now short of help whereas they could have had many American born Japanese here early last spring when they had been urged, but not required, to leave the coast regions.

You will be glad to know that our State Board of Education at its last meeting at Sun Valley, in conference with Bob Gibson, Regional Education Director for the War Relocation Authority, and Mr. Pomeroy, newly appointed superintendent of schools for the camp at Eden, worked out

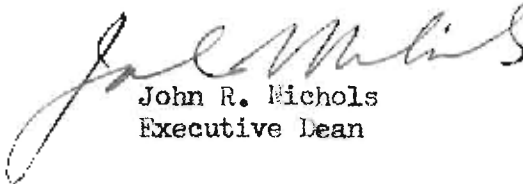
J.C. #2:

September 14, 1942

a splendid cooperative agreement for the approval and supervision of a certified high and elementary school at the Minidoka War Relocation Camp. At that time Mr. Gibson informed me our institution was not on the list of approved ones but I am glad to know from your letter that it now is.

With best wishes, I am

Yours sincerely


John R. Nichols
Executive Dean

JHR:r

cc-Dr. Robert G. Sproul, West Coast Chairman
President, University of California

Council Members

Dr. Carl W. McIntosh, Jr
Assistant Professor of Speech
Miss Dorothy Requa, Registrar
Bob Gibson, War Relocation Authority
Educational Division
San Francisco

R. A. Pomeroy, Superintendent of Schools
War Relocation Authority
Eden, Idaho

*Karl - Greetings!
"John"*

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Secretary, U. of California YMCA

1830 Sutter Street
San Francisco, California
Telephone Fillmore 2100

STAFF

Robert W. O'Brien
National Director

Howard K. Beale
West Coast Director

Thomas R. Bodine
West Coast Associate Director

November 11, 1942

Dear Friends of Student Relocation:

You who have so generously helped the Student Relocation Council will be interested to know just what progress we have made.

The Records Department has recently completed a careful tabulation of all the questionnaires received from students, first eliminating various duplications and other impediments which have in the past interfered with securing accurate figures. As of November 1 there were 2166 questionnaires on hand in the new offices of the Council in the San Francisco Japanese YWCA Building. There are another two hundred students known to the Council as being interested but who for various reasons have not filed questionnaires with us.

Of the 2166, more than 500 students have now been accepted by some college. For more than 1300 others, transcripts, letters of reference, and other material have been assembled and analyzed, and the students are ready for placement as colleges and communities open up and as sufficient scholarship funds become available. Of the other 300 questionnaires, about half have only recently arrived and are therefore now in process, and about half have been placed in a "postponed" file either at the student's request or because the student is not eligible for relocation at this time (alien, kibi, or not cleared by the Army Intelligence or the FBI).

Of the 500 who have been accepted at some college, we have been able to request travel permits for 340. Many of these have written us exuberant letters of thanks. They write from 24 different states, ranging from Maine, Massachusetts, and New York to Utah, Idaho, and Washington. The greatest number are relocated in Nebraska, Missouri, Colorado, and Ohio. One letter about a student reads: "My brother is having a great time in Tully, N.Y. He has been elected vice-president of his class and has made the first string in the soccer team. He works after school harvesting fruits and vegetables."

You will remember that during the summer, government clearance of colleges and universities was very slow. Although about 100 colleges had been cleared as of September 2, not until October 14 did permission come through to relocate students at 100 other institutions which were eager to accept them. Some who had been accepted were thus delayed until it was too late for them to enter for the autumn term. A total of 284 institutions has now

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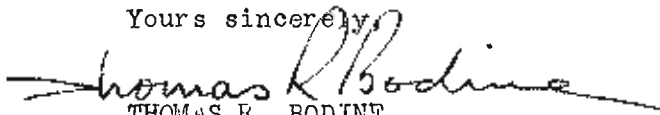
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been cleared. Unfortunately many of the state engineering, mining, and agricultural schools and most of the large universities with graduate and professional schools have not yet been cleared. It is unfortunate because the educational needs of a majority of our students can be met only in such institutions.

Although more than three hundred students are now successfully relocated, the achievement falls short of what we had hoped last May might be accomplished. Yet the number is larger than seemed possible in the dark days of July and early August. Now that all the procedures have been worked out, midyear placements should be substantial unless unforeseen new difficulties arise. From now on placements will be limited chiefly by the amount of scholarship funds available and by the number of openings in technical schools.

Many thanks to all of you for what you have done. We wish you could read all the letters coming in from the relocated students. Those quoted below are typical.

Yours sincerely,



THOMAS R. BODINE

Associate Director

West Coast Committee

"Last Saturday at noon I finally received my traveling permit and I was so overcome with joy I just shouted when notified. I just can't find sufficient words to describe my gratitude for all that your office has done for me and other Niseis. In our darkest hour you brought forth your loving hands and gave us new hopes and inspiration. Surely Democracy can not and will not die as long as such groups like yours and Colleges that uphold the true ideals of Democracy exist....I'm taking a teacher's training course and hope to go back to camp and teach the small generation of Japanese that despite everything, Democracy still lives and help them to love this country and its people as I do."

"After a pleasant trip I arrived here Friday morning. President Smith welcomed me and introduced me to the Seminary which I found to be not only attractive on the outside, but simply radiating with pleasant friendliness and sincerity from the students and faculty. I did not realize until after being released what a relief it is to get out once again into circulation. I hope and pray that we students in various colleges might somehow pave the way for others to benefit also by and through the efforts of the student Relocation Council....Our part to play is quite small, but whether small and insignificant or large, you can count on us to do our part."

"It is very hard for me to express my sincerest thanks for enabling Esther and me (also many others) to come to Greeley. Perhaps you do understand the wonderful feeling that we have in being able to be free American citizens again to live a normal life."

"Yesterday to keep myself from getting nostalgic I went to the May Company (a Department Store). There talking to the manager made my stock soar to its zenith. He told me that he and all the rest of Denver were for us and that he hoped we would help in the final victory. Coming home a group of soldiers invited me to a "coke" and told me to have faith in the real America. Friendliness is the key here. Everyone from the boot black to the cop on the street greet me with a smile and as a fellow American. To my friends in camp I have written that America is deeper

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than a few California jingoists who would persecute us Americans of Japanese ancestry and that whatever happens to remember that there is the great and understanding America like Colorado to line our clouds."

"I think I'm still somewhat of a curio around here, but I feel I'm slowly being accepted by them as an individual--or maybe I'm just getting used to it. At any rate, from the moment I got off the train and was met by some of the students I have never regretted coming all the way out here."

"To me it means more than just a college course; it means that I have been granted an opportunity for a new kind of life in which I can help give to my fellow schoolmates a better understanding of the American-Japanese Nisei, and also to become a better American."

"On the night of the 23rd day of September at 9:20 P.M. CWT we arrived at Lincoln, Nebraska. We were met by the college staff and taken to our homes. We enjoyed the trip though sometimes it became very boring. There were no incidences and we were happy for that. You have done so much for us that I can hardly express it but in a Christian manner by quoting a text where Jesus speaks of the Judgment in Matthew 25:34-40. 'Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.' I think that He will speak that in that day to you for your kindest efforts. This is the best way I could thank you for everything."

"The bus ride was very pleasant and enjoyable. It was the first time my sister and I traveled alone, and therefore it was a wonderful experience. The people riding with us were all friendly and swell to us."

"Here am I and there are you. You've never seen me--perhaps I'm three-eyed. How would you like to foist a three-eyer on Smith? What I'm trying to say is--many thanks. Which is so darned inadequate....The first thing I shall do on arriving in New York is to compose a something on Grant's tomb, or Coney Island, or the Woolworth Building, or the Statue of Liberty, or Times Square, or Radio City--ad infinitum. Hick hits New York. It's grand! And, of course, I shall study furiously. And write an enlightening thesis on the much disputed position of the comma in Act III, Sc. IV, l.2 of some obscure Shakespearean play."

"I just wanted to let you know that your "problem child" is finally relocated and getting along quite well."

"It doesn't seem possible, but here we are in Denver. The whole trip was very pleasant and all that we have encountered in this city has been just perfect. We were ever so fortunate to be met at the train by Ruth Haines and her father and brother, and now we're spending a few heavenly days at their cabin in the mountains. We want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all that you and your office did for us in making this release possible. We still pinch ourselves to make sure we're not dreaming. I do hope that many other students will have the same good luck that we've had."

November 16, 1942

Mr. Thomas R. Bodine
National Student Relocation Council
1830 Sutter Street
San Francisco, California

Dear Mr. Bodine:

Thank you for your November 11 report of the activities of the Relocation Council. It impresses me that an excellent job has been done. I have known more or less about it, of course, independently; but I am glad to have your report and to know how systematically and effectively those in charge have carried on. The hardest part of the job is now done. In my opinion, it should be easier from now on to take care of placing students in appropriate situations, barring, I fear, the technical schools which are already overworked or otherwise restricted. Quite possibly, a good many Japanese will, for the time being at least, find it desirable to go further with their background science and other basic studies while they are waiting for an opportunity for some specialized technical training.

Yours very cordially,

Karl W. Onthank
Dean of Personnel Administration

KWO:ob

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San Francisco, California

Telephone Fillmore 2100

November 18, 1942

Mr. Karl W. Onthank, Dean
University of Oregon
Eugene, Oregon

Dear Dean Onthank:

I am writing you at the suggestion of the executive committee of our National Student Relocation Council. We are concerned about the problem our Student Relocation Council is facing in trying to properly relocate graduate students from the West Coast Institutions.

The best known graduate schools east of the Rockies have not yet been cleared by the Government. The problem, therefore, of finding a place where the good graduate students, I mean the Americans of Japanese ancestry, can get adequate work, is a difficult one. At best we can place only a few of them satisfactorily.

We are wondering, therefore, whether you could help us get from the Oregon institutions that have graduate schools, lists of the graduate students of Japanese ancestry. We should also like to have from the people responsible for those graduate schools, suggestions as to which ones we ought to try to locate first so that we can place the best students in the small number of openings that we can make.

It would be still more helpful if you would pick from the list of cleared colleges enclosed, the institutions that you would like most to see each graduate students attend, and a second and third choice in case the quota of the first institution is full.

We are working hard trying to get Minnesota, Colorado, Wisconsin, Chicago, North Carolina, Columbia and Iowa State opened up. All but Iowa State are friendly and Iowa State has as a result of recent conferences decided not to be unfriendly. The Dean of the Graduate School there is extraordinarily friendly. As yet however, we have not had Government clearance for this group of institutions except as you will see for a woman's college like Radcliffe.

We shall greatly appreciate any help you can give us in trying to relocate your good graduate students.

Yours cordially,

Howard K. Beale

HOWARD K. BEALE

West Coast Director

HKB/ME/lS

Enclosure 1

STAFF

Robert W. O'Brien
National Director

Howard K. Beale
West Coast Director

Thomas R. Bodino
West Coast Associate Director

Trudy King, Supervisor
Permit Department

Virginia Scardigli, Supervisor
Placement Department

November 25, 1942

Howard K. Beale, West Coast Director
National Student Relocation Committee
1830 Sutter Street
San Francisco, California

Dear Mr. Beale:

Replying to your November 18 letter, the only Japanese graduate student we have had for several years happened to be the only Japanese alien we had at the time war broke out. He was the first, I think, to be interned, and I should doubt that he would return; although he was, so far as I am aware, charged with no special enemy activity nor was he even under supposition of being under age, but he is likely to remain interned. Last time I heard from him he was in the Multnomah County jail, but I believe that not long after that he was sent to a Government camp in Montana. The student's name was Watanski.

Sincerely,

Karl W. Onthank
Dean of Personnel Administration

KWO:CB