

COPY

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Washington

May 5, 1942

Office of the Director

Mr. C. E. Pickett  
American Friends Service Committee  
20 South 12 Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Pickett:

The American Friends Service Committee can make a significant contribution to the program of the War Relocation Authority.

As you know, evacuation of Japanese aliens and American-citizen Japanese is now under way on the Pacific Coast. Most evacuees will move from the prohibited zone to relocation centers managed by WRA. At these centers we shall be able to provide for elementary and high school education. We cannot, of course, establish new universities.

Many eminent educators have urged that university students in the prohibited zone be permitted to transfer to midwestern colleges and universities where they may continue their education. Certainly I agree that this would be desirable.

It is not feasible for the War Relocation Authority to undertake such a university program for American-citizen Japanese, but this in no way detracts from the desirability of such an accomplishment. Consequently, I should like to ask that you establish a committee which would aid you in formulating a set of policies and program. Such a program will involve the selection and certification of students at assembly or relocation centers, a phase of the task that must, of course, be handled by the Federal Government. It will involve transportation of students from the prohibited zone to a designated university, a function which I think may also be handled by WRA, just as it transports all evacuees from the prohibited zone to their war-duration homes. It involves the development of true understanding of this whole problem in many universities as a prerequisite to the students and faculty of those universities making arrangements for the reception of American-citizen Japanese. Finally, it involves either work opportunities or non-Federal funds for the support of students at the universities.

I should like to have you not only bring together a committee to formulate a program but also to do the necessary follow-through work which will be necessary if this program is to be realized. Let me emphasize that the Federal Government for the protection of the students themselves and to re-assure the public will make individual examinations and give individual certifications. This, however, is only half of the matter. It is equally necessary to see to it that difficulties would not develop in the new locations to which the students would go.

I handed to Mr. Morris the roughest sort of suggested press release. I am anxious that some announcement be made early this week so that the people on the Coast who are concerned about this problem will not be completely discouraged.

Sincerely yours,

M.S. EISENHOWER, Director



AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE  
20 SOUTH TWELFTH STREET  
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

May 16, 1942

Mr. Milton S. Eisenhower  
War Relocation Authority  
Barr Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Eisenhower:

We have received your letter of May 5, 1942, in which you lay before the American Friends Service Committee a request that it should use its facilities in relocating college and university students from the West Coast area to inland institutions that they may be enabled to continue their college careers. This matter has been presented to the Board of Directors of the American Friends Service Committee, and I am authorized to inform you that our organization accepts the responsibility which you have suggested that we assume.

In the discussion of the proposal, I was requested to express our gratitude for the efforts which you and other government representatives are putting forth to carry out the relocation of Japanese with due sense of regard for their welfare and eventual prosperity.

However, all of us were deeply humiliated that such a relocation problem has seemed to be inescapable and especially that American citizens are being detained. Having expressed our humiliation as American citizens, we wish to offer our services in any way we can to assist in the alleviation of the distress caused to Japanese and to prepare them for useful membership in the American community. It is only by some such policy as this that we shall be able to atone for the violence that has been done to the constitutional rights of American citizens.

In carrying forward this relocation program, it is our understanding that it will be possible for the War Relocation Authority to pay transportation for students from the point of origin to the institution they are to attend. The overhead expense and scholarship requirements, it is expected, will necessarily come from voluntary contributions. We are conscious that in order to prepare the ground satisfactorily for student relocation considerable time will be involved in preparation. It is our expectation, therefore, that students will not be able to resume



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their studies until the autumn term. We shall hope, however, by that time to have made provision for all students who are given a satisfactory certificate of character from the appropriate government agency and who wish to be relocated. Since the financial obligation involved in this program is heavy, we cannot guarantee that we shall be able fully to live up to this expectation, but we shall go as far in it as funds and opportunities for study permit.

On behalf of the American Friends Service Committee,

I am

Very sincerely yours,

CRP:JC

Executive Secretary