

Permits

Aug. 26, 1942

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. Wade Head, Project Director
Colorado River War Relocation Project

SUBJECT: Mixed-marriage policy

This is in reply to your memorandum of August 5, 1942, inquiring about several points in the mixed-marriage policy which need clarification.

Since the mixed-marriage policy which we are following in the case of persons who wish to return to their homes in Military Area No. 1 or Military Area No. 2 in California was drafted by the WCCA, we submitted your memorandum to the proper officials of that agency for their opinion.

We have received the following reply from Major Goebel:

- (1) Q. What degree of Japanese blood is it necessary for a person to have in order to be considered a Japanese?
 - A. Persons must be at least 50% Caucasian in order to be eligible for release on the grounds that they are mixed blood persons. It is believed that the correct answer to this question is that any person with any amount of Japanese blood is considered Japanese by the WCCA.

- (2) Q. What is a Caucasian environment?
 - A. A person who lives in a Caucasian neighborhood and associated with Caucasians can be said to have had a Caucasian environment. (No elaboration is given to this vague statement. From our experience in the past, however, it appears that the WCCA is interested in such points as: What schools did the persons attend? What organizations does he belong to? In his job or business, has he associated with Japanese or non-Japanese persons? Has he visited Japan? etc.)

- (3) Q. What is the test of sufficient funds?
 - A. A person who has sufficient funds to carry him over until employment is likely to be secured has met the test of "sufficient funds."

(4) Q. Why is it necessary for mixed-marriage couples to have unemancipated children in order to be eligible for release?

A. The mixed marriage policy is chiefly for the benefit of mixed blood children of mixed marriage families and for mixed blood adults who have been brought up as Caucasians. Where there are no unemancipated children in a mixed marriage family, the only person required to remain in the Center is the person of Japanese blood. It is not believed that such persons merit special consideration.

It is called to your attention that the mixed marriage policy prescribed by the WCCA is binding only upon those persons who wish to return to the restricted military areas.

A memorandum of August 15, 1942, signed by Major Goebel, states: "The military authorities do not presume to suggest that these people (i.e., those who are not eligible for release to return to the military areas) may not be released in other localities. Such a matter is entirely within the jurisdiction of the War Relocation Authority."

It is suggested, therefore, that if there are any persons who are not eligible for release under the WCCA policy, but who wish to reside in a locality outside of the restricted military areas, that you make a complete report on their cases and submit it to this office for consideration of each case upon its individual merits by WRA.

(signed)

E. R. Fryer
Regional Director