

---

SEGREGATION OF LOYAL AND DISLOYAL JAPANESE IN  
RELOCATION CENTERS

---

M E S S A G E

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

REPORT ON SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 166 RELATING TO SEGREGATION OF LOYAL AND DISLOYAL JAPANESE IN RELOCATION CENTERS AND PLANS FOR FUTURE OPERATION OF SUCH CENTERS

---

SEPTEMBER 14, 1943.—Read; referred to the Committee on Military Affairs and ordered to be printed

---

THE WHITE HOUSE,  
Washington, September 14, 1943.

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.

Subject: Senate Resolution 166 adopted by the Senate on July 6, 1943.

SIR: On July 6, 1943, the Senate considered and agreed to Senate Resolution 166.

The resolution relates to the program for relocating persons of Japanese ancestry evacuated from west coast military areas and asks that the President issue an Executive order to accomplish two things—(1) to direct the War Relocation Authority to segregate the disloyal persons, and the persons whose loyalty is questionable, from those whose loyalty to the United States has been established; and (2) to direct the appropriate agency of the Government to issue a full and complete authoritative statement on conditions in relocation centers and plans for future operations.

I find that the War Relocation Authority has already undertaken a program of segregation. That program is now under way. The first train movements began in early September.

In response to the resolution I asked the Director of the Office of War Mobilization to issue a full and complete authoritative public

statement on conditions in relocation centers and plans for future operations. A short preliminary statement on this subject was issued on July 17, 1943. A full and complete statement is being made public today. Copies of these statements are transmitted with this message.

Thus, both of the steps called for in Senate Resolution 166 have already been taken, and it appears that issuance of a further Executive order is not necessary for accomplishment of these purposes.

The segregation program of the War Relocation Authority provides for transferring to a single center, the Tule Lake Center in northeastern California, those persons of Japanese ancestry residing in relocation centers who have indicated that their loyalties lie with Japan. All persons among the evacuees who have expressed a wish to return to Japan for permanent residence have been included among the segregants, along with those among the citizen evacuees who have answered in the negative, or have refused to answer, a direct question as to their willingness to declare their loyalty to the United States and to renounce any allegiance to any foreign government. In addition, those evacuees who are found, after investigation and hearing, to be ineligible to secure indefinite leave from a relocation center, under the leave regulations of the War Relocation Authority, are to be included among the segregants.

While the precise number of segregants is not established at this time because a number of leave clearance investigations have not yet been completed, it is established that the disloyal persons among the evacuees constitute but a small minority, and that the great majority of evacuees are loyal to the democratic institutions of the United States.

Arrangements are being completed for the adequate guarding and supervision of the segregated evacuees. They will be adequately fed and housed and their treatment will in all respects be fair and humane; they will not, however, be eligible to leave the Tule Lake Center while the war with Japan continues or so long as the military situation requires their residence there. An appeals procedure to allow for the correction of mistakes made in determining who shall be segregated has been established so that the entire procedure may be fair and equitable.

With the segregation of the disloyal evacuees in a separate center, the War Relocation Authority proposes now to redouble its efforts to accomplish the relocation into normal homes and jobs in communities throughout the United States, but outside the evacuated areas, of those Americans of Japanese ancestry whose loyalty to this country has remained unshaken through the hardships of the evacuation which military necessity made unavoidable. We shall restore to the loyal evacuees the right to return to the evacuated areas as soon as the military situation will make such restoration feasible. Americans of Japanese ancestry, like those of many other ancestries, have shown that they can, and want to, accept our institutions and work loyally with the rest of us, making their own valuable contribution to the national wealth and well-being. In vindication of the very ideals for which we are fighting this war it is important to us to maintain a high standard of fair, considerate, and equal treatment for the people of this minority as of all other minorities.

Respectfully,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

## STATEMENT OF DIRECTOR OF WAR MOBILIZATION

On July 17, James F. Byrnes, Director of War Mobilization, issued a preliminary statement which was prepared at the President's request by the War Department and the War Relocation Authority in response to Senate Resolution 166 relative to the treatment of persons of Japanese ancestry in relocation centers. Justice Byrnes today issued a more comprehensive statement which was prepared at the President's request by the War Relocation Authority in response to Senate Resolution 166. The statement in full follows:

### A COMPREHENSIVE STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO SENATE RESOLUTION No. 166

On July 6, 1943, the United States Senate adopted Senate Resolution No. 166 introduced by Senator Sheridan Downey of California. The resolution called upon the President (1) to order the immediate segregation of disloyal persons of Japanese ancestry in relocation centers and (2) to have issued by the appropriate agency of Government a comprehensive authoritative statement on relocation centers and future relocation plans. Since the War Relocation Authority had initiated plans for a segregation program prior to adoption of the resolution, no Presidential action on the first part of the resolution has been necessary. The following statement is issued in response to the second part of the resolution.

#### THE PACIFIC COAST EVACUATION

On February 19, 1942, the President signed Executive Order No. 9066 empowering the Secretary of War or any military commander the Secretary might designate to prescribe military areas and to provide for the exclusion from such areas of any persons whose presence was deemed prejudicial to the national defense. Eleven days later, on March 2, the commanding general of the Western Defense Command issued a proclamation prescribing the western portion of the three west coast States<sup>1</sup> and the southern part of Arizona, as a military area and announced that all persons of Japanese ancestry—both alien and citizen—would be excluded from this area. On March 18 the President signed Executive Order No. 9102 establishing the War Relocation Authority within the Office for Emergency Management and directing the Authority to provide for the relocation of persons evacuated from military areas under the provisions of Executive Order No. 9066. The principal aim behind the creation of the new agency was to relieve the military of the complicated and burdensome job of maintaining and reestablishing a dislocated people.

Throughout most of March in 1942 the people of Japanese ancestry residing within the prescribed west coast area were freely permitted and even encouraged to move out voluntarily and resettle inland on

<sup>1</sup> Later, in June, the evacuation area was enlarged to take in the entire State of California.

their own initiative. The original hope was that a considerable portion of these people would be able to establish themselves outside the prescribed area with a minimum of Government assistance. Before the War Relocation Authority was more than a week old, however, it became apparent that such a large-scale migration could be handled effectively only on a controlled and orderly basis. In many communities of the intermountain region, there were strong protests against the arrival of evacuees from the coastal zone; and in some areas, violence appeared imminent. Consequently, on March 27 the commanding general of the Western Defense Command issued an order (to become effective on March 29) prohibiting further voluntary migration and "freezing" the people of Japanese ancestry in their homes until they could be moved by the Army.

Nine days after this order became effective—on April 7—the Director of the War Relocation Authority and Col. Karl R. Bendetsen, representing the Western Defense Command, met with a group of Governors and other State officials of the Western States in Salt Lake City to discuss plans for relocating the evacuated people. At that meeting the War Relocation Authority presented for consideration a relocation plan composed of three basic points:

- (1) Establishment of Government-operated centers where some of the evacuees could be quartered and could contribute through work on Government projects, to their own support;
- (2) Reemployment of evacuees in private industry or in agriculture outside the evacuated areas;
- (3) Governmental assistance for small groups of evacuees desiring to establish self-supporting colonies of an agricultural character.

The reaction of the assembled Governors and other State officials to this program was unmistakable. Strong opposition was expressed to any type of unsupervised relocation and some of the Governors refused to be responsible for maintenance of law and order unless evacuees brought into their States were kept under constant military surveillance. Following the meeting, the War Relocation Authority abandoned plans for assisting groups of evacuees in private colonization, temporarily laid aside plans for private employment, and concentrated on establishment of Government-operated centers with sufficient capacity and facilities to accommodate the entire evacuee population.

#### FUNCTIONS OF THE WAR DEPARTMENT AND OF THE WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Almost immediately after the creation of the War Relocation Authority, a tentative agreement was reached between the Director of the Authority and the Western Defense Command covering the responsibilities of the two agencies in the evacuation and relocation process. Later, on April 17, this agreement was expanded and formalized in a memorandum of understanding signed by the Director of the Authority and the Assistant Secretary of War. Briefly, the memorandum provided that the War Department would be responsible for (1) evacuating the people of Japanese ancestry from their homes, (2) establishing and administering temporary assembly

centers where the evacuees could be quartered while relocation centers were being constructed, (3) construction of basic housing and facilities at relocation center sites, (4) transporting the evacuees from assembly to relocation centers, and (5) provision of a military guard around the exterior boundaries of relocation centers. The War Relocation Authority assumed full responsibility for management of the relocation centers and for maintenance of the evacuees once they were delivered by the Army at the relocation center gates. The full text of the agreement follows:

APRIL 17, 1942.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE WAR DEPARTMENT AND WAR  
RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Preamble: The War Relocation Authority is an independent establishment created by Executive Order of the President No. 9102, dated March 18, 1942, with a primary objective of relieving the Military Establishment of the burden of providing for the relocation of persons excluded from military areas by order of the Secretary of War or any designated military commander acting pursuant to Executive Order of the President No. 9066, dated February 19, 1942. The emphasis in all War Relocation Authority activities will be increasingly to alleviate the drain on military resources with regard to all phases of evacuation and relocation. The War Relocation Authority has agreed to prepare itself as rapidly as practicable to assume those burdens now imposed on the War Department respecting such activities and particularly in connection with Pacific coast evacuation now in progress. Accordingly the following understanding is executed between the War Department and the War Relocation Authority to meet the present situation.

1. The evacuation of combat zones is a military necessity and when determined upon must not be retarded by resettlement and relocation. In other words, the timing of evacuation is a military function which War Relocation Authority will do all in its power to accommodate.

2. Assembly centers are staging areas and necessary because of the time required to select relocation sites and to construct relocation centers (reception centers). Assembly centers are constructed and will be supplied and operated by the War Department.

3. Relocation sites, upon which relocation centers (reception centers) are built, are to be selected by the War Relocation Authority, subject to War Department approval.

4. The acquisition, as distinguished from selection, of sites for relocation centers (reception centers) is a War Department function. Such acquisition will be made by the War Department upon the request of the War Relocation Authority. The War Relocation Authority will reimburse the War Department for the acquisition cost of relocation sites or pay the cost in the first instance.

(a) As a part of the acquisition procedure, respecting both private and public lands, the War Department, through an appropriate military commander, will advise the chief executive of the State concerned of the military necessity for the location of a relocation project within that State.

(b) The War Relocation Authority has full responsibility for compilation of the necessary data and descriptions in connection with 3 and 4 above.

5. Construction of initial facilities at relocation centers (reception centers) will be accomplished by the War Department. This initial construction will include all facilities necessary to provide the minimum essentials of living, viz, shelter, hospital, mess, sanitary facilities, administration building, housing for relocation staff, post office, storehouses, essential refrigeration equipment, and military police housing. (War Department construction will not include refinements such as schools, churches, and other community planning adjuncts.) The placement and construction of military police housing will be subject to the approval of the appropriate military commander.

6. The War Department will procure and supply the initial equipment for relocation centers (reception centers), viz, kitchen equipment, minimum mess and barrack equipment, hospital equipment, and 10 days' supply of nonperishable subsistence based on the relocation center (reception center) evacuee capacity. From the date of opening, or the date on which the War Relocation Authority initiates the operation of any relocation center (reception center), as the case

may be, the War Department will transfer accountability for all such equipment and property to the War Relocation Authority. The War Relocation Authority agrees to assume such accountability. Thereafter, the War Relocation Authority will maintain and replace all such equipment and property, including subsistence, and will procure whatever additional supplies, subsistence, and equipment it may require. The War Department agrees that the War Relocation Authority may effect its procurement through War Department agencies.

(a) As to all routine procurement effected by the War Relocation Authority through War Department agencies, said Authority agrees that it will transmit to the War Department a forecast of its requirements semiannually in advance, and that it will confirm in writing to the appropriate War Department agency its actual requirements from time to time as the need for such procurement develops. The War Relocation Authority will take all possible and practicable steps to inform the War Department well in advance of its requirements.

7. After pending arrangements for existing reception centers are completed the War Relocation Authority will operate relocation centers (reception centers) from the date of opening. This will include staffing, administration, project planning, and complete operation and maintenance. In undertaking such operations the War Relocation Authority will not retard completion of the evacuation process but will accommodate military requirements. It will be prepared to accept successive increments of evacuees as construction is completed and supplies and equipment are delivered. In each case the War Relocation Authority will provide a project manager who will be available to the War Department local construction representative for consultation as soon as a given project is approved for construction.

8. The War Department will provide for the transportation of evacuees to assembly centers and from assembly centers to relocation centers (reception centers) under appropriate military escort. The War Department, through the Western Defense Command, has arranged for the storage of household effects of evacuees through the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco. At War Department expense, the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco has acquired warehouse space, provided civilian guards, and has arranged for inventories of goods stored by each evacuee. When evacuee goods are stored and the Federal Reserve Bank delivers inventory receipts to the War Relocation Authority, said Authority will accept such receipts from the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco and, upon such acceptance, said Authority assumes the responsibility now borne by the War Department for the warehousing program, including the assumption from the date of delivery of receipts, of payment of all costs. Thereafter, the disposition of such household effects and the transportation thereof to relocation centers, or elsewhere, will be the sole responsibility of the War Relocation Authority.

9. In the interest of the security of the evacuees relocation sites will be designated by the appropriate military commander or by the Secretary of War, as the case may be, as prohibited zones and military areas, and appropriate restrictions with respect to the rights of evacuees and others to enter, remain in, or leave such areas will be promulgated so that ingress and egress of all persons, including evacuees, will be subject to the control of the responsible military commander. Each relocation site will be under military-police patrol and protection as determined by the War Department. Relocation centers (reception centers) will have a minimum capacity of 5,000 evacuees (until otherwise agreed to) in order that the number of military police required for patrol and protection will be kept at a minimum.

10. It is understood that all commitments herein as relate to the use of War Department and/or war relocation funds are subject to the approval of the Bureau of the Budget.

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY,  
By M. S. EISENHOWER, *Director.*

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
By J. J. McCLOY,  
*Assistant Secretary of War.*

#### SELECTION OF SITES FOR RELOCATION CENTERS

While the evacuation was moving forward under supervision of the Western Defense Command, the War Relocation Authority and the Army began an extensive search for areas where the evacuees might

settle down to a more stable kind of life until plans could be developed for their permanent relocation in communities outside of the evacuated areas. Because of the nature of the relocation program, the possibilities were sharply limited. Requirements for sites were announced by the Authority on April 13 as follows:

1. All centers must be located on public land so that improvements at public expense become public, not private, assets. Any land acquired for this purpose will remain in public ownership.
2. Because of manpower needs in the armed services and because the minimum guard unit can guard 5,000 persons as easily as smaller groups, first attention will be given to sites adequate for large projects.
3. Each center must provide work opportunities throughout the year for the available workers to be located there.
4. All centers must be located at a safe distance from strategic works.

To aid in the job of site selection, the Authority enlisted the cooperation of technicians from a number of Federal and State agencies. More than 300 proposals were considered on paper and nearly 100 possible sites were actually examined by field inspection crews. Some were rejected because they were too small; others were turned down by the Army for military reasons; and still others were found unsuitable for a wide variety of causes.

By June 5 sites for 10 relocation centers had been selected and construction work at four of the sites was well under way. By the first week in November the entire evacuee population had been transferred either from assembly centers or—in some cases—direct from their homes into relocation centers. A total of 110,000 persons, according to records of the Western Defense Command, were evacuated from their homes. The location of the 10 centers and their population as of July 10, 1943, are shown in the following table:

Relocation center	Location	Population as of July 10, 1943
Central Utah.....	Topaz, Utah.....	7,287
Colorado River.....	Poston, Ariz.....	15,530
Gila River.....	Rivers, Ariz.....	13,355
Granada.....	Amache, Colo.....	6,170
Heart Mountain.....	Heart Mountain, Wyo.....	9,292
Jerome.....	Denson, Ark.....	7,767
Manzanar.....	Manzanar, Calif.....	8,716
Mindokaka.....	Hunt, Idaho.....	7,548
Rohwer.....	Relocation, Ark.....	7,616
Tule Lake.....	Newell, Calif.....	13,422
Total.....		95,703

(The War Relocation Authority is also operating a small isolation center at Leupp, Ariz.)

#### GENERAL PROBLEMS RESULTING FROM THE EVACUATION

Evacuation of the Japanese American population from their homes and occupations on the west coast, and their relocation in 10 newly established wartime communities is a movement without precedent in the United States. Inevitably such an undertaking has created problems, not all of which could be foreseen. The size of the task, involving more than 100,000 men, women, and children, as well as its unprecedented character, has contributed to the complexity of the undertaking.

At the present time the responsibilities of the War Relocation Authority, in dealing with these problems, fall into three main categories. First are those problems arising in the administration of

relocation centers. While the Authority does not consider the centers as permanent places of residence and does not feel that the maintenance of evacuees in relocation centers represents the most constructive solution to the over-all problem, the fact remains that the great majority of evacuees are now in the centers, and that their proper maintenance there is a clear responsibility of the Government.

Second are the problems arising from the release of evacuees for work outside the centers and for other purposes. Even before the evacuation from certain of the restricted areas had been initiated, the Army and the War Relocation Authority were forced by the demands in many of the Western States for agricultural labor to develop a program for releasing large numbers of evacuees for outside employment. Throughout the summer and autumn of 1942, the number of evacuees released on temporary work leave reached nearly 10,000.

Problems arising in the management of property owned by evacuees in the evacuated areas constitute the third major category of problems with which the War Relocation Authority is concerned. Under plans developed by the Army as a part of the evacuation program, evacuees were offered assistance through the medium of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco and the Farm Security Administration in the leasing, sale, or management of their property. In August 1942 responsibilities in this field were transferred, at the request of the cooperating agencies, to the War Relocation Authority.

#### THE NATURE OF THE EVACUATED POPULATION

The present population of the 10 relocation centers is approximately 95,000. Roughly two-thirds of these people are American citizens by virtue of birth in this country. The remaining one-third are aliens, whose naturalization is not permitted under the laws of the United States. The distribution of this population by age and sex is suggested by the following table, based upon the United States Census of 1940:

*Distribution of Japanese population by age, sex, and nativity compared to "average" groupings of non-Japanese population—States of Arizona, California, Oregon, and Washington, 1940*

Age groups	Male				Female				Total	
	Japanese population			"Average" <sup>1</sup> population	Japanese population			"Average" <sup>1</sup> population	Japanese population	"Average" <sup>1</sup> population
	Native-born	Foreign-born	Total		Native-born	Foreign-born	Total			
0 to 4 years.....	3,728	30	3,758	4,330	3,407	25	3,432	3,447	7,190	7,777
5 to 9 years.....	4,148	37	4,185	4,135	4,131	39	4,170	3,322	8,355	7,457
10 to 14 years.....	6,476	63	6,539	4,519	6,271	54	6,325	3,627	12,864	8,146
15 to 19 years.....	9,291	141	9,432	5,074	8,596	105	8,701	4,099	18,133	9,173
20 to 24 years.....	7,654	227	7,881	5,248	6,540	215	6,755	4,221	14,636	9,460
25 to 29 years.....	3,964	341	4,305	5,505	3,113	252	3,365	4,357	7,670	8,862
30 to 34 years.....	1,561	959	2,520	5,211	1,138	812	1,950	4,047	4,470	9,258
35 to 39 years.....	749	2,588	3,337	4,975	871	2,673	3,044	3,816	6,381	8,791
40 to 44 years.....	262	2,892	3,154	4,634	132	3,782	3,914	3,588	7,068	8,222
45 to 49 years.....	132	2,169	2,301	4,414	63	3,490	3,553	3,385	5,854	7,799
50 to 54 years.....	58	5,157	5,215	4,143	25	2,172	2,197	3,055	7,412	7,198
55 to 59 years.....	32	4,720	4,752	3,454	5	1,160	1,165	2,545	5,917	5,999
60 to 64 years.....	15	3,662	3,677	2,729	3	770	773	2,128	4,450	4,857
65 to 69 years.....	6	1,500	1,506	2,019	1	292	293	1,689	1,799	3,708
70 to 74 years.....	9	476	485	1,402	1	80	81	1,175	566	2,577
75 years and over.....	9	152	161	1,416	5	54	59	1,276	220	2,692
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>38,094</b>	<b>25,114</b>	<b>63,208</b>	<b>63,208</b>	<b>33,802</b>	<b>15,975</b>	<b>49,777</b>	<b>49,777</b>	<b>112,985</b>	<b>112,985</b>

<sup>1</sup> The "average" population indicates what the distribution, by age and sex, of the Japanese-American population in the Pacific Coast States in 1940 would have been had it conformed to the distribution by age and sex of the non-Japanese population in these 4 States.

As of 1942, the median age of the alien male population was approximately 56 years; of the alien female population approximately 47 years; and of the citizen population about 18 years. The "average" column in the previous tabulation is introduced to indicate what the distribution, by age and sex, of the Japanese-American population in the Pacific coast in 1940 would have been had it conformed to the distribution by age and sex of the non-Japanese population in the four States in 1940.

In addition to the wide and distinct difference in age between the citizen and alien groups in this population, probably its most important characteristics from the point of view of relocation center administration are (1) the relative lack of persons in the age group of 30 to 50, which generally constitutes the most productive part of the working populations; (2) the relatively high proportion of school students (5 to 19) in the total population and the relatively high population of high-school students in the school population (nearly double that found in a normal community); and (3) the relatively low proportion of persons 65 years of age and older. These abnormal age characteristics of the evacuee population have occasioned problems differing both in kind and size from those found in the normal American community.

#### EVACUATION FROM HAWAII

Although no mass evacuation of persons of Japanese descent, similar to that on the west coast, was deemed necessary or advisable in the Hawaiian Islands, the Army has carried out a small-scale evacuation of people of Japanese ancestry from the Territory to the mainland.

The first evacuees from Hawaii were received in relocation centers on November 23, 1942. Since that time, 1,037 Hawaiian evacuees have been received at centers. Of this group, approximately 60 percent are males, approximately 40 percent are under 17 years of age, and 13 percent over 37 years of age.

#### BASIC POLICIES OF CENTER ADMINISTRATION

The War Relocation Authority has undertaken to provide all evacuees residing in centers the following essentials: Housing, food, medical care, and education through the high-school level. In each of these categories the facilities provided are the minimum necessary to meet reasonable American standards.

#### HOUSING

All evacuees in centers are housed in barracks, which are divided into four or more one-room apartments. The barracks are grouped in blocks, each of which is made up of 14 barracks, a central toilet and bathhouse, a laundry room, mess hall, and a recreation hall.

This housing for evacuees is part of the basic center construction, which was designed and built by the United States Army Engineers. The Army's original plan, which was agreed to by the War Relocation Authority, contemplated that a minimum of one room would be made available to each family, and that no family would be required to share its one-room apartment with anyone else. At the present time, in order to make barracks space available for schools, church

