

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

March 19, 1943

MEMORANDUM For Mr. McCloy:

Dillon Myer has submitted three plans which might be adopted by the War Relocation Authority.

1. Plan A is a continuation of existing procedures.
2. Plan B involves:
 - a. Removal of all restrictions
 - b. Elimination of the evacuated area as such
 - c. Reinstitution of selective service
 - d. Release of all evacuees from relocation centers except those designated for detention by a board composed of representatives of War, Justice, and Navy.
3. Plan C, which is favored by the War Relocation Authority, involves:
 - a. Retention of the evacuated area
 - b. Removal of all other restrictions
 - c. Reinstitution of selective service
 - d. Release of all evacuees from relocation centers except as provided in 2d above.
4. The following comments are offered on the plans:
 - a. Plan A is slow; does not provide for segregation; continues present policy of mixing loyal and disloyal; and perhaps results in release of disloyal individuals since the War Relocation Authority leave procedure is superficial.
 - b. Plan B is not acceptable since it permits Japanese to return to the restricted area on the west coast.
 - c. Plan C places the responsibility of segregation on War, Justice, and Navy, but that may be desirable since the War Relocation Authority is probably incapable of making loyalty determinations.
5. A more detailed analysis of the plans, together with the War Relocation Authority's comments thereon, is attached.

W.P.S.

PLAN A

1. CONTINUE PRESENT WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY PROCEDURE
 - a. Accelerate indefinite leave program
 - (1) Relocate qualified individuals in agriculture and industry
 - b. Continue seasonal leave program for individuals who preferred to remain in the centers but who might wish to work temporarily in agriculture or other lines of activity in areas reasonably close to the centers.
2. War Relocation Authority offers the following comments on plan A.
 - a. Advantages
 - (1) This program is now under way and despite some criticism, is accepted in many quarters as sound procedure.
 - (2) If the indefinite leave program works, it may lead to a more widespread dispersal of evacuees throughout the country. Such dispersal might well simplify the problem of assimilation for the Japanese-Americans both now and in the post-war period.
 - b. Disadvantages
 - (1) Since it involves the maintenance--for the time being at least--of all ten relocation centers, it is the most costly of the three plans suggested.
 - (2) As compared with the other two plans, it will mean a slower and less effective contribution to the manpower problem.
 - (3) It will mean a continuation of the psychologically unhealthy condition of relocation center life for many of the younger citizen evacuees who should be re-exposed as soon as possible to the Americanizing influences that operate in normal American communities.

- (4) Continued exclusion of the evacuees from the entire evacuated area will lead to serious property losses and an ineffective use of many farm properties at a time when food production is badly needed.
- (5) To a large degree, Plan A involves continued discrimination against American citizens and law-abiding aliens on the grounds of race.

PLAN B

1. Remove all regulations and restrictions which now apply only to Japanese-Americans and not to the American population at large.

a. Eliminate evacuated area as such

b. Reinstitute Selective Service

c. Release all evacuees from relocation centers except those designated by a joint Board representing the War Department, Department of Justice, and Navy Department (not War Relocation Authority). This board would examine the dockets of all questionable individuals and would recommend some for internment, others for exclusion from specific areas. The latter group would be treated as individual excludées.

2. War Relocation Authority offers the following comments on plan B.

a. Advantages

- (1) It would permit full use of the available manpower in the most effective manner possible.
- (2) It would drastically reduce government costs.
- (3) It would alleviate property losses and eliminate most of the difficulties that now exist in connection with the management of evacuee properties.
- (4) It would restore all loyal and law-abiding evacuees to normal home life and normal economic opportunities and thus greatly simplify their problems of post-war adjustment.
- (5) It would go a long way toward eliminating racial discriminations and disproving the thesis of the Japanese militarists that the United States is conducting a racial war.

b. Disadvantages

- (1) Because of the economic and racial emotions that exist, this plan would probably arouse considerable conflict and criticism particularly in the evacuated area and to some extent throughout the rest of the country.

- (2) By permitting most evacuees to return to their former homes immediately, it might work against a dispersal of Japanese-Americans throughout the country.
- (3) It might evoke some criticism in the intermountain region and other parts of the West from farm operators who have been hoping to use evacuee manpower during the crucial periods of the coming summer and fall.

PLAN C

1. Evacuated area to be retained.
2. All other regulations and restrictions which now apply only to Japanese-Americans and not to the American population at large are to be removed.

- a. Reinstitute Selective Service.

- b. Release all evacuees from relocation centers except those designated by a Joint Board representing the War Department, Department of Justice, and Navy Department (not War Relocation Authority). This board would examine the dockets of all questionable individuals and would recommend some for internment, others for exclusion from specific areas (Eastern Defense Command?) The latter group would be treated as individual excludées.

3. War Relocation Authority offers the following comments on plan C.

- a. Advantages

- (1) It would provide for a reasonably effective use of evacuee manpower.
 - (2) It would go a long way toward alleviating property losses and would provide for more effective use of many farm properties.
 - (3) It would restore a considerable group of evacuees to normal social and economic life and would simplify the problem of evacuee adjustment in the post-war period.
 - (4) It would reduce governmental costs.
 - (5) It would largely eliminate the charges of racial discrimination.
 - (6) It would provide definite rewards for loyalty and sacrifice.

- b. Disadvantages

- (1) It would probably arouse some conflict and criticism.
 - (2) To some extent, it would probably work against a dispersal of evacuees throughout the country.