



eCOMMONS

Loyola University Chicago
Loyola eCommons

Master's Theses

Theses and Dissertations

1952

The History of the Chicago Resettlers Committee

Christian S. Nakama
Loyola University Chicago

Follow this and additional works at: https://ecommons.luc.edu/luc_theses

 Part of the [Industrial Organization Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Nakama, Christian S., "The History of the Chicago Resettlers Committee" (1952). *Master's Theses*. 1163.
https://ecommons.luc.edu/luc_theses/1163

This Thesis is brought to you for free and open access by the Theses and Dissertations at Loyola eCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Master's Theses by an authorized administrator of Loyola eCommons. For more information, please contact ecommons@luc.edu.



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-No Derivative Works 3.0 License](#).
Copyright © 1952 Christian S. Nakama

THE HISTORY OF THE CHICAGO RESETTLERS COMMITTEE

BY

Christian S. Nakama

**A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of Master of Social Administration in
the Institute of Social and Industrial Relations of
Loyola University, Chicago, Illinois**

February 1952

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
INTRODUCTION	i
CHAPTER	
I. THE JAPANESE EVACUATION	1
II. THE FORMATION OF THE CHICAGO RESETTLERS COMMITTEE	6
III. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION	12
IV. ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE	15
V. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE	27
VI. HOUSING SERVICE	42
VII. RECREATIONAL SERVICE	48
VIII. EDUCATIONAL, WELFARE, AND INFORMATION SERVICES	51
IX. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION	56
APPENDIX	59
BIBLIOGRAPHY	67

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
I. Organizational Chart of the Chicago Resettlers Committee	16
II. Volume of Services 1946-1950	28
III. Jobs for Men--January 1950	31
IV. Jobs for Women--January 1950	33
V. Nisei Attendance at Recreation Activities November 1947 to July 1948	49
VI. Programs and Activities Conducted at the Chicago Resettlers Committee Building, January to December 1949	52

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
1. Membership 1946-1951	21
2. Income-Expenditure 1946-1951	23
3. Employment Request 1946-1950	29
4. Housing Request 1946-1950	43

INTRODUCTION

The study of the Chicago Resettlers Committee has a twofold purpose; to describe the historical development of the agency, and to review its major accomplishments.

Extensive use was made of agency records such as; minutes of the executive board, cabinet, and committees; annual reports, special study reports, employment file, housing file, Welfare Council records; and general correspondence file. In addition, much information and data were gathered by means of interviews with various individuals who have been closely associated with the Chicago Resettlers Committee since its inception.

The study is divided into nine chapters. Chapter one tells the story of the mass evacuation of the Japanese residents from the west coast and treats some of the constitutional phases of the incident. Chapter two describes the formation of the Chicago Resettlers Committee and some of the problems confronting the resettlers at that time. Chapter three gives a brief description of the community area in which the agency is located and the nature and changing aspects of the area. Chapter four explains the various components of the organization and discusses the functions of each group. In addition, membership, budgeting, and income-expenditure are covered. Chapter five deals with the employment service, chapter six with the housing service, chapter seven with the recreational service, and chapter eight with educational, welfare, and information service. Chapter nine concludes the study.

One of the pleasant experiences of writing a thesis is the number of friendship developed in the course of the study. The writer is indebted to many people who have aided him in making this study possible and worthwhile. To Rev. Ralph Gallagher, S.J., for his encouragement and interest, to the members of the thesis committee for their guidance and counsel, to Jack Yasutake, Chizu Iiyama, and staff members of the Chicago Resettlers Committee who have been most helpful and cordial, during the months of study at the agency's headquarters. To others, too numerous to mention, my heartfelt appreciation for their kind interest and assistance.

While the writer owes much to the above named persons for the successful completion of the thesis, he assumes the entire responsibility for the accuracy of the data and the conclusions drawn from them.

CHAPTER I
THE JAPANESE EVACUATION

The mass evacuation of Japanese residents from the west coast states of California, Oregon, and Washington was authorized by Executive Order No. 9102, issued by the President on March 18, 1942. Subsequently Congress enacted a law (56 Stat. 173, 18 U.S.C.A. 97b) which provided for criminal penalties for infractions of military edicts issued pursuant to that order.¹

Executive Order No. 9102 authorized the creation of the War Relocation Authority whose purpose was to administer the relocation camps and to assist the evacuees in their resettlement outside of the restrictive area of the Western Defense Command Region.²

At the time of evacuation, approximately 112,000 persons of Japanese descent lived in California, Oregon, and Washington. Of the total population, 63% were American citizens by birth, and 37% were Japanese aliens who, under the existing Federal Naturalization Laws, are barred from becoming American citizens because of their racial ancestry. The average age of the former was nineteen years, and that of the latter was fifty-five years.³

¹ U.S. Dept. of Interior, War Relocation Authority, Legal and Constitutional phases of the War Relocation Authority Program, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C., 1943, 5.

² U.S. Dept. of Interior, War Relocation Authority, The Evacuated People, A Quantitative Description, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C., 1943, 1.

³ Bradford Smith, Americans from Japan, J.B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia and New York, 1943, 199.

The Japanese population constituted a small minority; less than one tenth of one percent of the total American population, and less than two percent of the population in the state of California, where their concentration was the greatest, and discrimination against them the most rampant.⁴

Throughout the west coast there was a great deal of prejudice and antagonism against these resident persons of Japanese descent, both citizens and aliens. There were discriminatory state laws, restricted employment opportunities, limited social intercourse, and physical segregation from the rest of the population.⁵

The incident of the Japanese evacuation is unprecedented in the annals of American history, and the American Civil Liberties Union has called it "the worst single wholesale violation of civil rights of American citizens in our history."⁶ The Federal government stated that the ground for the mass evacuation of the Japanese people was not based on individual guilt, but on the military necessity to prevent any harmful acts by members of a minority "the members of which could not be readily identified."⁷

The constitutionality of the evacuation act was sustained in the *Hirabayashi v. United States*, 320 U.S. 81, 1943 case, and the *Korematsu v. United States*, 323 U.S. 214, 1944 case.⁸

⁴ Dorothy S. Thomas and Richard S. Nishimoto, The Spoilage: Japanese American Evacuation and Resettlement, University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1946, 1.

⁵ U.S. Dept. of Interior, Legal and Constitutional Phases of the W.R.A. Program, U.S. Government Printing Office, Wash. 25, D.C., 1946, 6.

⁶ Morton Grodzins, Americans Betrayed: Politics and the Japanese Evacuation, The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1948, 373-374.

⁷ U.S. Dept. of Interior, Legal and Constitutional Phases of the W. R.A. Program, 1946, 9.

⁸ Ibid., 8

In the Hirabayashi case, the Supreme Court sustained the constitutionality of the curfew regulations against persons of Japanese descent living in the Western Defense Command Area. In the Korematsu case, Mr. Justice Roberts dissented on the ground that the internment in the assembly and relocation centers was invalid and therefore the evacuation act was unconstitutional. Mr. Justice Murphy after an independent review of the case, dissented on the ground that evidence failed to prove that there existed the military necessity for the mass removal of the Japanese residents.⁹

Carey McWilliams, an authority on minority problems, in his book entitled, Japanese-Americans, Symbol of Racial Intolerance, stated that "for perhaps the first time in our national history, the federal government has singled out, for particularly harsh treatment, a section of our population, and has based the discrimination solely on racial grounds."¹⁰

When the evacuation order was promulgated, the national president of the Japanese American Citizens League, stated that "We are going into exile, as our duty to our country, because the President and the military commander of this area have deemed it a necessity. We are gladly cooperating because this is one way of showing that our protestations of loyalty are sincere."¹¹

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Carey McWilliams, Japanese-Americans, Symbol of Racial Intolerance, Little, Brown, and Company, Boston, 1944, 4-5.

¹¹ Dorothy S. Thomas and Richard S. Nishimoto, The Spoilage: Japanese American Evacuation and Resettlement, University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1946, 21. As quoted in the Oakland Tribune, March 9, 1942.

The Japanese evacuees were gathered at various assembly centers stretching from California to Washington and then were assigned to ten separate relocation camps scattered from California to Arkansas, and Idaho to Arizona. (See Appendix A for the list of relocation camps, location, and population of each camp). The movement was under army control and it was a feat in mass transportation, considering the great number of people involved, and the short time allowed for the completion of it.

The mass movement proceeded in an orderly manner without any disturbing incident because the evacuees were determined to abide by the military edicts and they had resolved to make the best of a bad situation by building a new life in the relocation camps, where they would have to live for the duration of the emergency.¹² The story of the Japanese evacuation and life in the relocation camps have been ably covered in a series of pamphlets entitled, Final Reports of the War Relocation Authority, issued by the Department of Interior.¹³

With the Allied victories in the Pacific and Asiatic theaters of war, the military necessity of further containing the evacuees in the relocation camps lessened, and a careful screening program was instituted in order to permit the loyal ones to leave camp and relocate in the unrestricted areas. Those deemed disloyal were separated from the loyal ones, and sent to a special camp with the intention of eventually being sent back to Japan on an exchange basis for Americans interned by the Japanese government.¹⁴

12 Ibid.

13 Final Reports of the War Relocation Authority, 1946.

14 Thomas and Washimoto, The Spoilage, Japanese American Evacuation and Resettlement, University of California Press, 1946.

The relocation camps operated until June 30, 1946, when the War Relocation Authority ceased, but most of the evacuees had already vacated the camps by that time. Only the aged, sick, invalid, and weak remained, and they were turned over to the proper private and public welfare officials,¹⁵ before the camps were permanently closed.

¹⁵ Interview with Doc Lessing of the Illinois Public Aid Commission and former War Relocation Authority Officer, Chicago Office. May 1951.

CHAPTER II

THE FORMATION OF THE CHICAGO RESETTLERS COMMITTEE

persons of Japanese descent who were released from the various relocation camps began coming to Chicago in small groups for resettlement, beginning in the latter part of 1943, and the peak was reached sometime in 1946, when approximately 15,000 to 20,000 had arrived in the city.¹ According to the 1940 Census Report, approximately 400 persons of Japanese ancestry lived in the city of Chicago at that time. It is estimated that about 98% of the present members of the Japanese community are resettlers.² This tremendous growth in such a short time gave rise to many socio-economic problems which confronted this new ethnic group and required the combine services of the private and public social agencies.

The War Relocation Authority which set up a Mid-west office in Chicago was directly responsible for assisting the resettlers in securing housing and employment. The American Friends Service Committee (Quakers) maintained several hostels as temporary housing, and conducted a very effective employment program. Social agencies, church groups, and many interested persons aided the resettlers in the initial phase of the resettlement process.³

1 Annual Report 1947. Chicago Resettlers Committee.

2 Ibid.

3 Interview with Doc Lessing. May 1951.

Before Chicago was opened up for resettlement purposes, the War Relocation office made an extensive study of the housing and employment possibilities for the resettlers. Employers and employment managers of various industrial firms were contacted and conferences were held at which time the potentiality of this new ethnic group was discussed. Most of the individuals present at the conferences were willing to cooperate with the employment program as presented by the War Relocation Authority Office. A few dissented on the ground that the others would not work alongside this new group who were racially identified with the enemy nation, Japan. Furthermore, their employment might give rise to serious consequences for which they desired no responsibility. However, the objections of the few, did not prevent the rest from embarking on the employment program as presented⁴ by the War Relocation Office.

The influx rate of the resettlers was so great that there was a need for a special committee to study the social and economic problems confronting them. At the instigation of the War Relocation Authority Office, a meeting was called by the Committee on Minority Groups, Division of Education and Recreation, Welfare Council of Metropolitan Chicago (then known as the⁵ Council of Social Agencies of Chicago), on June 1945.

4 Ibid.

5 Minutes of the Cabinet, Welfare Council of Metropolitan Chicago. June 1945.

There were present at this meeting, War Relocation Authority representatives, a group of Japanese American leaders, church representatives of several denominations, and other interested individuals. Out of this meeting there was created a committee for coordinating service for persons of Japanese descent. The committee adopted the following underlying principle,

The objective of service and activities concerning persons of Japanese descent in Chicago should be the integration of this group into the Chicago community and the full utilization of existing agencies. Specialized services should be set up only in situations where needs cannot be met through existing agencies and should be operated with the view of eventual integration.

This does not imply that persons of Japanese descent do not have the same right as any other persons in the community to form their own volunteer groups, but the vigorous community leadership should be devoted to their integration into the Chicago community. 6

7

The functions of the committee were as follows;

1. To examine and interpret the special needs of persons of Japanese descent in Chicago.
2. To devise ways of making known to these persons the welfare and recreation resources of the community.
3. To stimulate agencies to make such adaptations in the scope and methods of work as may be necessary to render them effective service.
4. To promote the setting up of new services if existing services do not adequately meet the needs.

6 Ibid.

7 Ibid.

The Committee for Coordinating Service for Persons of Japanese Descent, together with the War Relocation Authority Office, compiled a Reference Guide for the benefit of the resettlers coming to Chicago for the first time, as well as for those already relocated. This guide gave the names and addresses of those companies hiring resettlers, types of jobs, private and public social agencies, public employment agencies, recreation centers, churches, and many other pertinent community resources. This guide served a very useful purpose and appears to have had a wide circulation among the people.

The Committee was informed that pursuant to the termination of the War Relocation Authority Act, the Chicago office will be closed on June 1946. The members believed that the closing of the Chicago office would create a serious vacuum in providing the vital services of employment, housing, welfare-counseling, education, and general referral to the resettler group. Especially so, in the case of the Issei, many of whom could not speak English fluently enough to utilize the existing community resources. The Japanese American members believed that an organization under their leadership could provide the services heretofore handled by the Relocation Office. They believed that as a new ethnic group, they were handicapped by being racially identified with the enemy. The shock of mass removal, confinement in camps, and readjustment to normal living were traumatic experiences which would require intelligent handling in order to hasten the process of resettlement.

8 ibid.

The Japanese American members of the Committee for Coordinating Service for Persons of Japanese Descent, together with additional leaders of the Japanese community, met on September 1945, for the purpose of sponsoring a social service referral agency, under their leadership, and which would be concerned with providing services to the resettlers. This social service agency would not engage in casework, but as a general referral unit. A letter was written and submitted to Herman D. Smith, Director, Welfare Council of Metropolitan Chicago. The letter was signed by Harry Mayeda, chairman, and subsequently the president of the Chicago Resettlers Committee. The purpose of the group was stated as,

We, the people of Japanese descent, who have come to Chicago recently to establish homes here, have for some time had a growing feeling of the need for an organization sponsored by ourselves, for the purpose of encouraging and assisting the resettlers in becoming useful and loyal members of this community. It is imperative that we do not fall into the usual pattern of segregated groups.

We must not create in Chicago a "Little Tokyo." The people of Japanese descent, American citizens and aliens alike, desire to contribute to the strengthening of the forces of democracy and peace in America. We wish to join forces with all Americans, regardless of race, creed, or color, in promoting social and economic progress. 9

The request by the group of Japanese Americans to establish an agency under their sponsorship was approved by the Welfare Council, and on

9 Minutes of the Executive Board, Chicago Resettlers Committee, September 1945.

November 5, 1945, they organized as a non-profit organization, and called their agency the Chicago Resettlers Committee. The constitution was approved by a unanimous vote, and the objectives of the organization were as follows:

1. To encourage and help resettlers in becoming useful members of the community through social, economic, and cultural activities.
2. To mobilize Americans of Japanese ancestry toward the strengthening of the forces of democracy and participating in efforts and plans to establish and maintain a sound peace.
3. To join forces with all Americans, regardless of race, creed, or color, to promote social and economic progress, and eliminate discrimination.
4. To offer counsel and aid in the resettlement of Japanese Americans.

CHAPTER III

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION

The headquarters of the Chicago Resettlers Committee is a three story brick building located at 1110 N. La Salle St. The first floor is used for office, second floor for meetings and recreation, and the third floor is used for temporary housing for transient Japanese people.

The building was formerly the Catholic Youth Organization, Nisei Center, under the directorship of Brother Theophane Walsh of the Maryknoll Order. Brother Theophane worked with Nisei youth on the west coast for many years, and came to Chicago at the time the resettlers were streaming into the city,¹ in order to aid them in their resettlement.

In January 1947, Brother Theophane resigned as director of Nisei Center, due to poor health. The Chicago Resettlers Committee approached Bishop Bernard J. Sheil and requested that the facilities of the Nisei Center be turned over to them in order to expand the services to the resettlers. Bishop Sheil consented, and have allowed them the use of the building for the last four years, rent free. The Chicago Resettlers Committee have assumed custodial care of the building during those years.

In June 1951, the Chicago Resettlers Committee purchased the present headquarters site from the Catholic Youth Organization for the sum of \$16,000.00 which was raised during a building fund drive conducted from October 1950 to June 1951.²

1 Interview with Corry Kawasaki, formerly Executive Director of the Chicago Resettlers Committee, 1946 to 1948. July 1951.

2 Interview with Jack Yasutake, Executive Director of the Chicago Resettlers Committee. August 1951.

The Chicago Resettlers Committee is located in Community Area #8. The City of Chicago is divided into 75 community areas for the purpose of census taking. Community area #8 is enclosed by North Avenue on the north, Lake Michigan on the east, the main channel of the Chicago River on the south, and extends west on North Avenue.

The 1940 census report showed a presence of many nationality groups, with the Italians constituting the largest number of foreign born, followed by the Scandinavians, Germans, English, Canadians, Irish, Russian, Polish, Greek, and Czech. In addition, there were approximately four hundred persons of Asiatic ancestry. The area population was 76,954.³

Community area #8 is commonly referred to as the Near North Side District and since 1940 there have been some significant population changes. The increase in the number of Negroes from the South, and the influx of the Japanese Americans from the west coast states. The Japanese American group numbered about 5,000 at one time, but since many of them have returned to their homes on the west coast, their present number is estimated at about 3,500.⁴

Adequate housing is one of the most pressing unmet needs of this area. There is an urgent need for major repairs since many of the homes are old and new housing has not kept up with the increase in the area population.

³ Sixteenth U.S. Census Report. April 1940.

⁴ Community Area #8. Report by Welfare Council of Metropolitan Chicago. August 1949.

"The Japanese-Americans are particularly in need of better housing since⁵ most of them live in small apartments and hotel rooms."

Although the area is not considered as being one of racial tension, the possibilities of misunderstanding and racial animosity among the heterogeneous groups do exist in the community. There seems to be a diminution of population movement in the last few years, and this tends to create some stability among the diverse groups.

The Negroes and the Japanese Americans are the most recent ethnic groups, and because of their short stay, have not integrated too well into the general pattern of the community life of the area. The Japanese Americans have been served through the presence of the Chicago Resettlers Committee in the neighborhood. The Lower North Community Council, through its program development, is attempting to meet some of the recreational and cultural needs of these new ethnic groups, but its effectiveness has⁶ been quite limited up to the present time.

Commercial recreational outlets such as; night clubs, taverns, pool halls, dance halls, movie houses, and bowling alleys seem to be the principal means of entertainment for the majority of the people in the area. Participation in parish activities appear to be limited to church members.⁷

5 Ibid.

6 Ibid.

7 Ibid.

CHAPTER IV

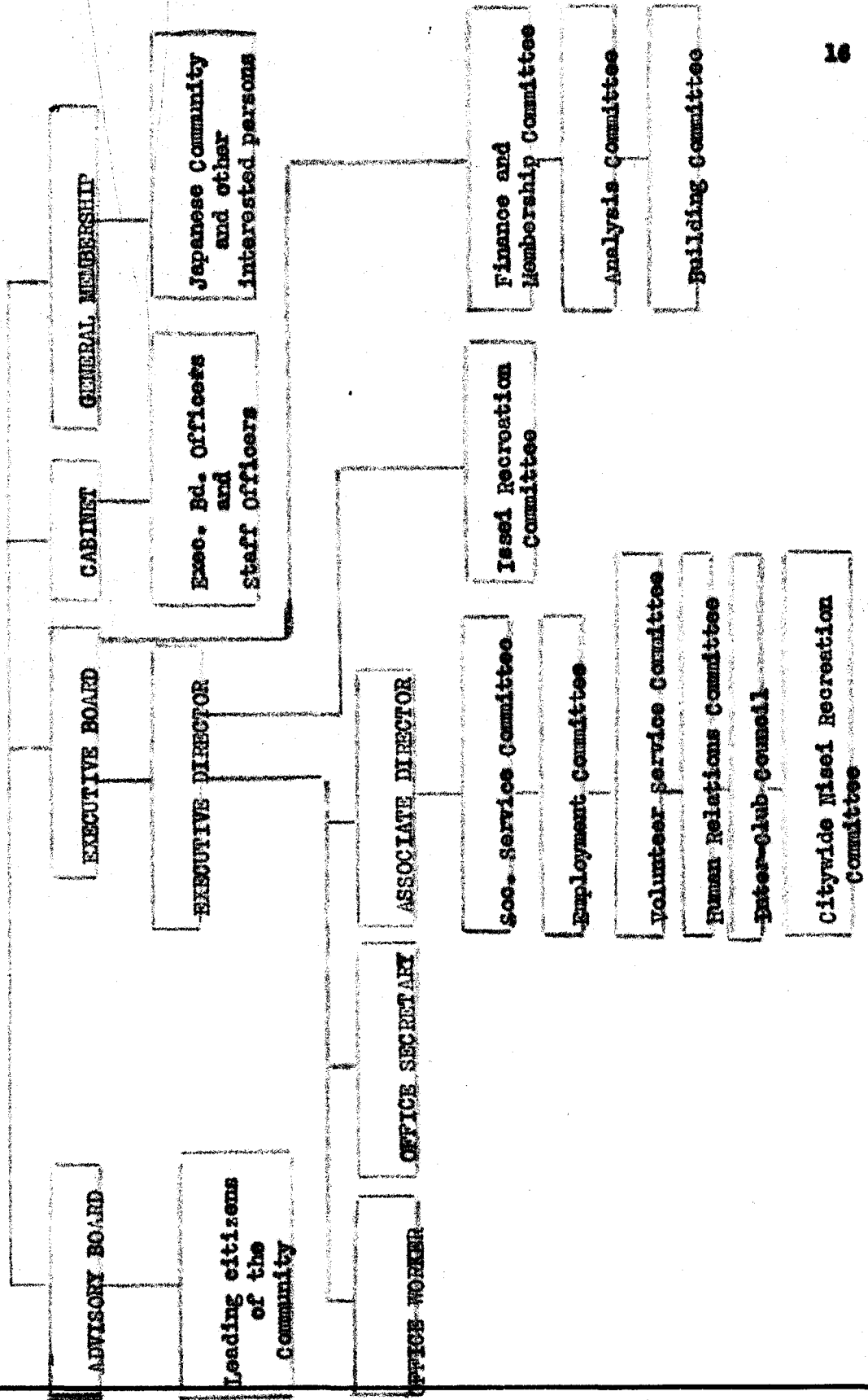
ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE

The organizational chart of the Chicago Resettlers Committee is presented in Table I on page 16. The advisory board is made up of thirty-two leading citizens of the community. Included are members of the educational, legal, labor, business, and religious fields. They serve without any remuneration and their counsel and guidance have been most fruitful in the development of the organization from a temporary committee, into a full fledged member agency of the Welfare Council of Metropolitan Chicago. (See Appendix C for names of advisory board members). There is no set tenure of office for the members and the majority have served the organization since its inception. The advisory board keeps in contact with the activities and programs of the agency through monthly news bulletin and annual reports which are mailed to each member.

The executive board is the overall policy forming body and has primary responsibility for the rendering of effective services to the resettlers. There are thirty-five members on the board and approximately one half of them are Issei, and the other half are Nisei. The members of the executive board are elected from the membership at large during the annual meeting of the general membership. The term of office is for one year, but many of the members have served since the agency was established because of their leadership among the Japanese people.

TABLE I

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART OF THE CHICAGO RESETTLERS COMMITTEE



The executive board administers its functions through an executive director who is the administrative head of the Chicago Resettlers Committee. In addition, the board employs three other staff members to assist the executive director. An associate director, and two office workers. The salary of the executive director is \$3,600.00 per annum, associate director¹ is \$3,300.00, and the office workers receive \$2,160.00 each per year.

The members of the executive board serve without any remuneration. The composition of the board is unique in that it consists of both Issei and Nisei. This represents probably for the first time when both Issei and Nisei got together and formed an organization in order to provide services to the Japanese people at large in the community. The Chicago Resettlers Committee takes just pride in this successful venture. Prior to evacuation, on the west coast, the Issei and the Nisei could never cooperate and serve in the same organization. The Issei had organizations of their own, and the Nisei sponsored some by themselves. The cooperative spirit, as exemplified in the operation of the Chicago Resettlers Committee, is largely due to the sharing of common experience, during evacuation, confinement in camp, and resettlement. Furthermore, the Issei have realized that the leadership in the Japanese community is in the hands of the Nisei, and that their reign is on the wane.²

1 Financial Book. Chicago Resettlers Committee. June 1951.

2 Interview with Harry Mayeda, First President of the Chicago Resettlers Committee. March 1951.

The executive board keeps tract of the programs and activities of the agency through monthly meetings. Minutes of the meetings are taken and the proceedings are kept on file. Those not able to attend the monthly meetings are sent a copy of the minutes by mail within a week after such meeting.

Since the Chicago Resettlers Committee does not engage in casework, no extensive records of persons served are kept. Nevertheless, the agency could improve on its record keeping, and the problem will be discussed under the chapter on employment service.

The cabinet is composed of the officers of the executive board (president, two vice-presidents, secretary, treasurer, two auditors, and ex-president who is an ex-officio member), the executive director, and the associate director, or a total of ten persons.

The cabinet knows the day to day activities of the agency because it is made up of those who are closest to the workings of the organization. It meets once a month at which time the various problems confronting the agency are discussed and the progress of the programs and activities are studied. Minutes of the meetings are recorded and filed. The cabinet has operating functions whereas the executive board has planning functions.

The following committees: building, finance and membership, and analysis, are directly under the supervision of the executive board. The building committee recently completed a very successful building drive among the Japanese community which made possible the purchase of the building housing the Chicago Resettlers Committee. The membership committee devises ways and means of increasing the due paying membership, and checks on the quali-

flections of prospective members. The analysis committee study the accomplishments of the agency and submits a progress report at the end of the fiscal year to the executive board. It has submitted some fine recommendations for the improvement of the employment service in regards to opening up greater job opportunities for Japanese Americans through more extensive contacts with management and labor leaders, but it seems that the executive board is rather slow in following through with those recommendations.

In addition to his administrative duties, the executive director is in charge of the committee for Issei recreation. Very little information is available on the workings of this important committee, and it appears that the committee should be vitalized and some constructive study be made on the extent and need for Issei recreation. There has been a lot of talk on the pressing needs of the Issei, but to date very little factual data are available on the social condition of this group. The Chicago Resettlers Committee should attempt to make this study because it is the principal interpretative agency catering to the needs of the aging Japanese in Chicago. The study should throw considerable light on the socio-economic condition of the Issei, so that positive means of coping with their needs can be instituted, if the available resources in the community appear to be inadequate.

The associate director supervises the activities of the following committees, social service, employment, volunteer service, human relations,

citywide nisei, recreation, and inter-club council. All these committees actively promote and assume the leadership for the various programs and activities of the organization.

Membership in the Chicago Resettlers Committee is open to all persons, regardless of citizenship, race, or religion, who indicates an interest and willingness to participate in the program and activities of the organization. Membership due is \$3.00 per year and each member is entitled to one vote at any special or general meeting. All new members must first be approved by the executive board.³

Figure 1 on page 21 shows in graphic bar form the growth in the due paying membership from 296 in 1946, to over 1900 in 1951. The most rapid growth occurred in 1948, when it jumped from a previous 516 to 1,452, or an increase of 181%. The present membership is approximately 10% of the total Japanese population in Chicago. The steady increase in membership is a positive indication of the need felt by the resettlers of an agency which would serve their own ethnic group. Many of the members are successful business and promising professional men who have been aided by the Chicago Resettlers Committee in getting started, and they believe that eventually the services would become unnecessary, but in the mean time they are indispensable to the Japanese community.⁴

3 Constitution of the Chicago Resettlers Committee.

4 Interview with Thomas Masuda, President, Chicago Resettlers Committee, June 1951.

No. of Members
2,000

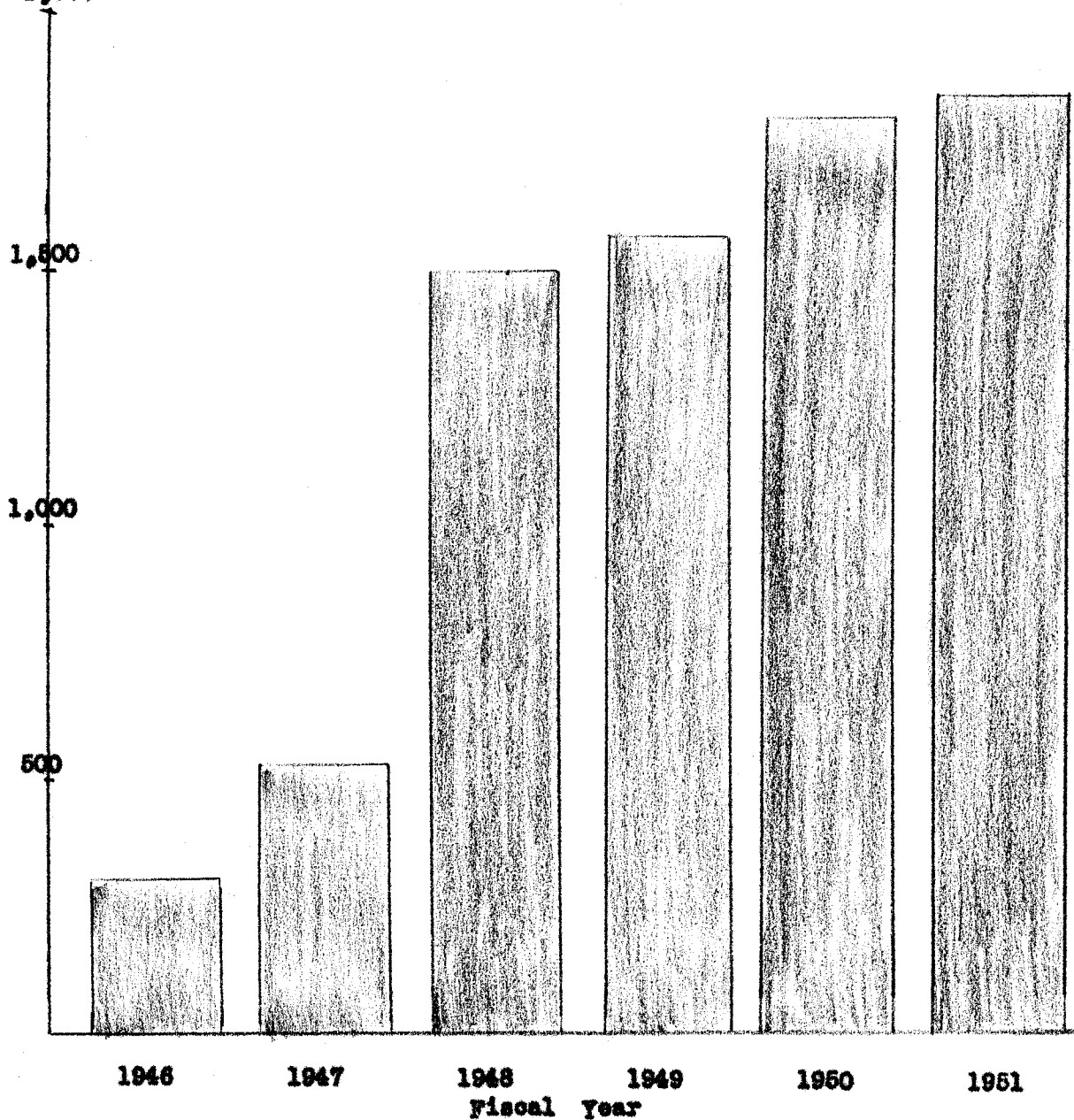


FIGURE 1

MEMBERSHIP 1946-1951

Data derived from Annual Reports, Chicago Resettlers Committee, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, and 1951 (first 6 mos.).

The members receive a monthly news bulletin through the mail. The contents deal with many items which are of interest. Announcements of future programs and activities, reports of past activities, engagement, marriages, births, and obituaries are noted. Also included are short reports on employment and housing trends.

The fiscal year begins in January and ends in December of the same year. The budget is prepared by the executive director and executive board and submitted to the Welfare Council of Metropolitan Chicago in September preceding the fiscal year. The budget may be approved as submitted, or may be returned with reasons for disapproval, in which case a new budget is re-submitted until approved.

The budget is based on a matching principle. That is, the Chicago Resettlers Committee must raise one half of its operating cost for the fiscal year through contribution from dues, private trust funds, and individuals. The other half of the cost is matched through an allocation by the Community Fund. Figure 2 on page 23 shows the income-expenditure for 1948-1951.

Among the contributors toward the operation of the Chicago Resettlers Committee, the Chicago Congregational Union has been outstanding. It has contributed the sum of \$1,200.00 a year, for the past five years. The Chicago Congregational Union is engaged in helping new ethnic groups get started, and since the arrival of the resettlers, have shown a keen interest

In Dollars
\$20,000

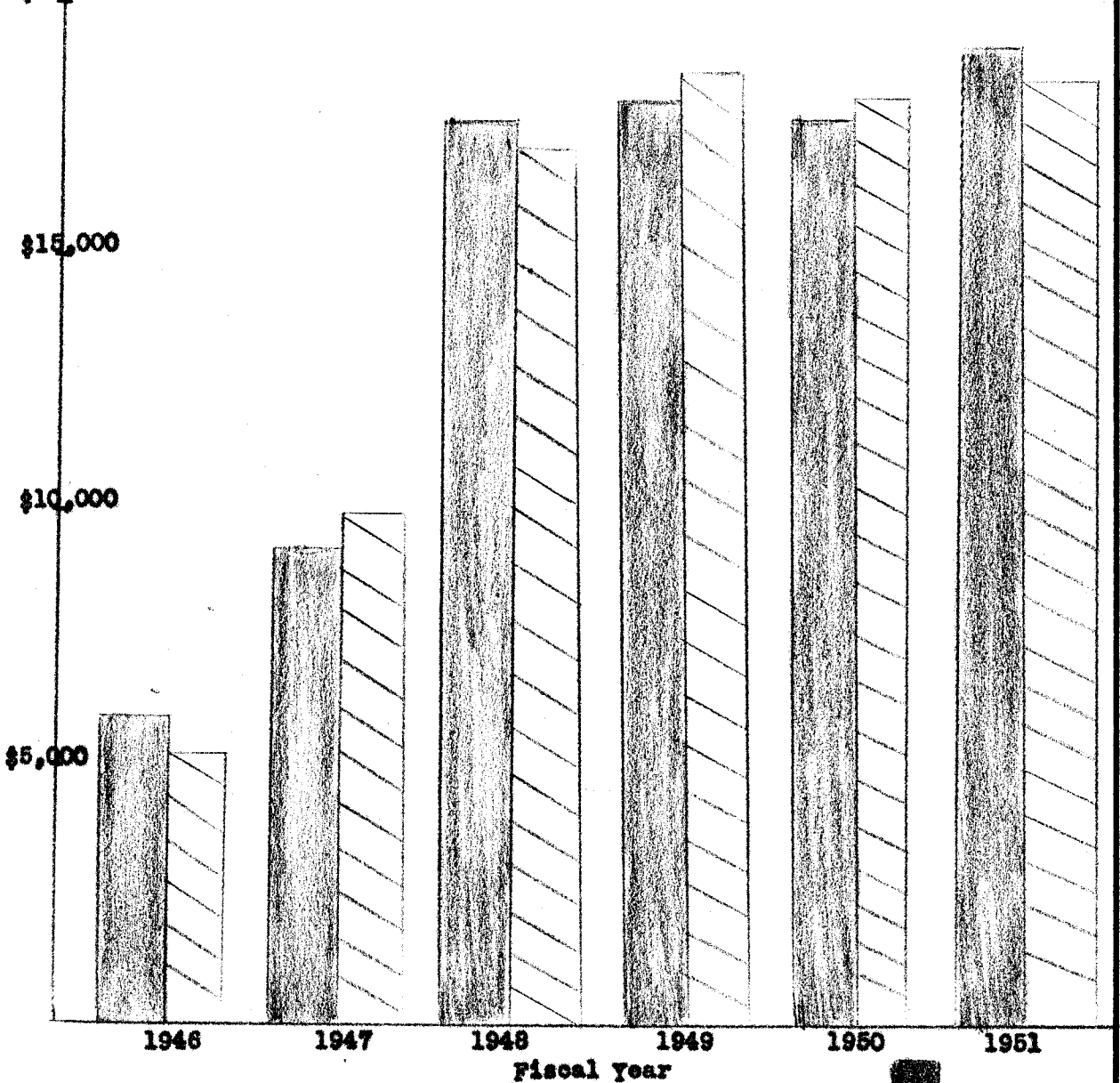
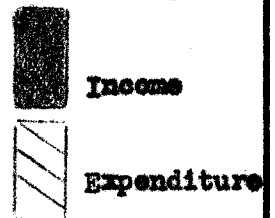


FIGURE 2

INCOME-EXPENDITURE 1946-1951



Data derived from Annual Reports, Chicago Resettlers Committee, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, and 1951 (first 6 mos.).

in them through the leadership of Dr. Neils Hansen.

The Community Trust has been contributing \$500.00 a year for the past four years. In 1946, when the Chicago Resettlers Committee first went into operation, a total income of \$5,844.00 was raised through membership dues, and voluntary contributions from interested individuals and groups. The total expenditure for that year was \$5,162.26. Besides the Chicago Congregational Union, The National Congregational Committee contributed \$1,000.00, and the Unitarian Service Committee contributed \$1,500.00. Both of these contributions were not renewed in 1947, and thereafter, because they were emergency contributions. In 1946, no allocation was received from the Community Fund since the Chicago Resettlers Committee did not become a participating member until 1947, when it was accepted into the membership of the Welfare Council of Metropolitan Chicago.⁶

In 1947, the total income amounted to \$9,322.00, and the total expenditure was \$9,499.00. The deficit was taken care by the balance brought forward from 1946. In 1948, the total income was \$17,438.00, while the total expenditure was \$16,898.00. In 1949, the total income amounted to \$17,769.24, and the expenditure was \$18,022.31. The deficit was resolved with the balance from the preceding year. In 1950, the total income was

5 Interview with Rev. Schwenky, Director of Research, Chicago Congregational Union, April 1951.

6 Annual Report 1947, Chicago Resettlers Committee.

\$17,607.98, and the total expenditure was \$17,744.56, with the deficit being resolved again, with the balance from the preceding year.

The increase in expenditure from \$5,162.26, in 1946, to \$9,499.00, in 1947, is due to the addition of two staff workers. One worker was designated as Nisei recreation worker, and the other was Issei recreation worker.

To date the Chicago Resettlers Committee has received the following allocations from the Community Fund:

7.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1947	\$ 4,521.00
1948	8,179.00
1949	8,157.00
1950	8,425.00
1951	8,395.00 (approximately)
<hr/>	
Total,	\$37,677.00

Figure 2 on page 23 clearly shows how incomes in 1946, 1948, and 1951, exceeded expenditures, but in 1947, 1949, and 1950, expenditures exceeded incomes.

An examination of the expense sheet for 1950 showed that \$11,007.25

7 Annual Reports, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951 (first six months).
Chicago Resettlers Committee.

went for salaries, \$987.15 for part-time help, or a total of \$11,994.40, was used for wages and salaries. Other major expenses were; office supplies \$1,067.08 (printing and stationery), utilities \$875.00, telephone \$810.00, maintenance of building (repair and decoratin) \$592.74, fund raising and promotional \$544.41, and recreation and education \$507.71. With a total income of \$18,825.00, the amount paid in salaries and wages amounted to \$11,994.40, or 61% of the total expenditure.⁸

Based on the figures of the last six years it appears that the income-expenditure of 1951 will probably be the largest and that the future will show a steady diminution of income and expenditure since the ultimate objective of the organization is to go out of business at some future time when there is no longer the need of their services.⁹

8 Figures from Annual Report, 1950, Chicago Resettlers Committee.

9 Interview with Thomas Masuda, June 1951.

CHAPTER V

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

The employment service continues to be one of the major services rendered to the resettlers. A study of Table II Volume of Services shows that in 1946, the number of services totalled 1,564. Of this number, the employment service numbered 876, or 56% of the total services. In 1947 it was 68%, in 1948 it was 67%, in 1949 it was 61%, and in 1950 it was 64%. see Figure 3 on page 29 for employment requests from 1946-1950.

The Chicago Resettlers Committee maintains a list of available jobs, rates of pay, hours of work, conditions of employment, and whether it is temporary or semi-permanent jobs. The job listing is compiled through telephone or letter requests from prospective employers. The greater majority of these employers have Japanese American workers, or have had them in the past.

A person seeking employment may either telephone the agency to inquire for a job, or he may appear at the office in person. When he comes to the office, the receptionist (office worker), hands him an information card to fill out. Since the agency does not engage in casework, the records are limited to 3 x 5 index cards, and name, address, telephone number, and disposition of the applicants are noted on them.

TABLE II

VOLUME OF SERVICES 1946-1950

Type of Service	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Employment	876	1,076	2,160	2,388	1,743
Housing	216	168	624	660	536
Information and Counseling	156	108	324	732	195
Referred to other Social Agencies (financial assistance, legal aid, family service, etc.)	316	219	115	166	254
Total Service,	1,564	1,571	3,223	3,946	2,728

Data derived from Annual Reports, Chicago Resettlers Committee, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, and 1950.

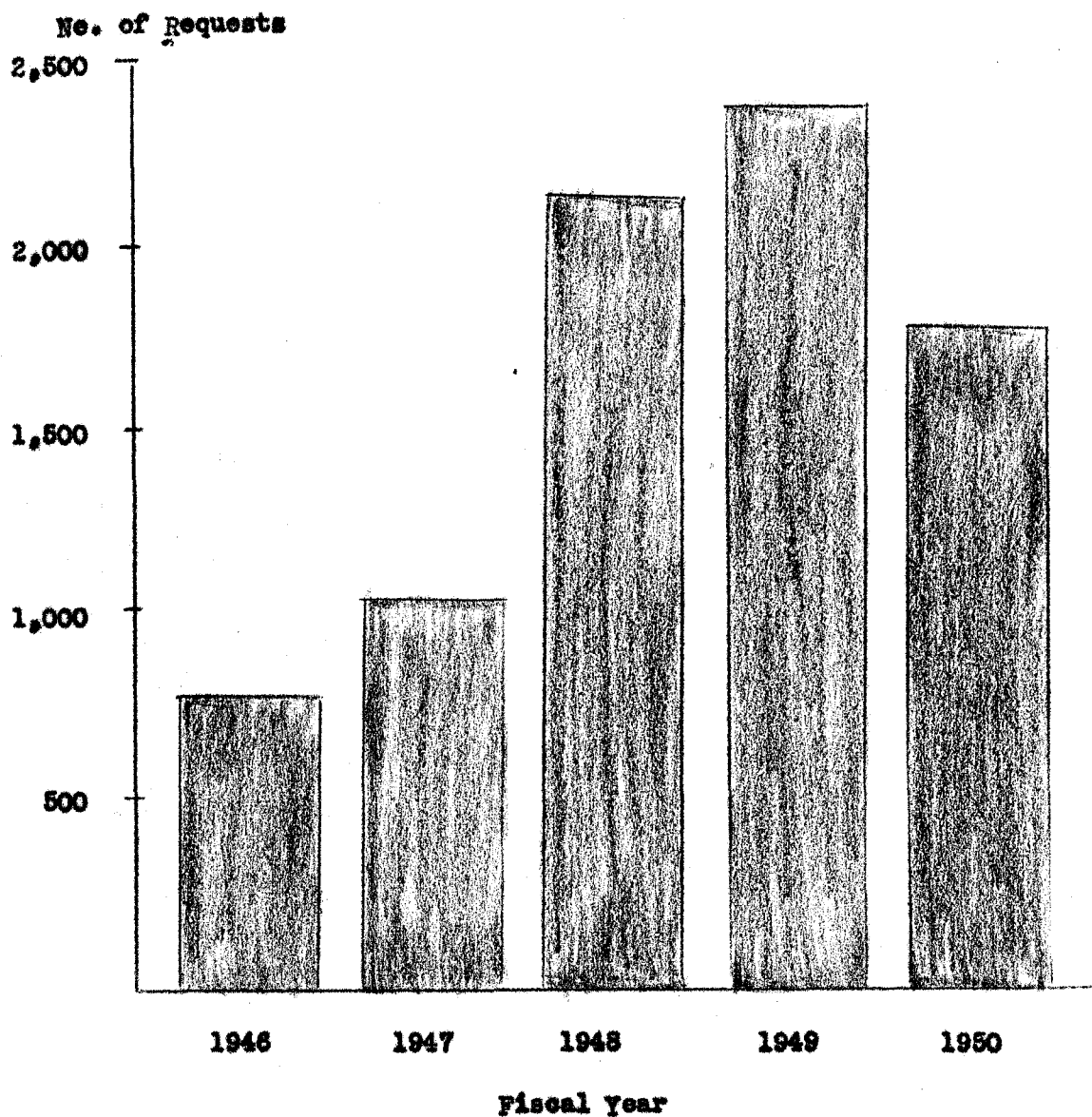


FIGURE 3

EMPLOYMENT REQUESTS 1946-1950

Data derived from Annual Reports, Chicago Resettlers Committee, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, and 1950.

After briefly interviewing the applicant, the receptionist checks the job list and the applicant is presented with the job most suitable to his qualifications. Since the receptionist is not a trained job interviewer, the process is very elementary. In case the applicant is in need of vocational guidance and counseling, he is referred to the Illinois State Employment Service, or other non-profit, private agencies.

A study of the files revealed that in January 1950, the following jobs were listed. For men there were factory jobs (unskilled, semi-skilled, and skilled), garage work, restaurant work (busboys, waiters, dishwashers, and cooks), office work (bookkeeper, accountant, general office, and draftsman), domestic work (butler, chauffeur, and schoolboy), farm work, and miscellaneous. Table III on page 31 shows the type of jobs for men in tabular form, and the wages offered are compared with the wages found in the Chicago Tribune want ads for similar jobs, during the same period.¹

Table XII shows that there were 232 job requests by employers, and 178, or 77% of them were met. Since there is no effective checkup after an applicant is referred to a job, the numbers resulting in actual job placements are not known. However, based on the experience of the past five years, approximately 75% of the employment referrals culminate in

¹ Chizu Iiyama, Employment Service Report, Chicago Resettlers Committee, January 1951.

TABLE III

JOBS FOR MEN--JANUARY 1950

Type of Job	Number Requested	Number Sent	Wage per hour, week, listed	Wage per hour, week, listed in newspaper (Chicago Tribune)
Factory, Unskilled; shipping, order picking	55	63	\$.95	\$1.10
Semi-skilled; assembly, lathe, drill press	110	80	1.00	1.30
Skilled; machinist, cabinet maker, operating engineer	8	6	1.20	1.60
Garage work;	4	4	\$60.00 wk.	\$65.00 wk.
Restaurant work; Bubboys, cooks, dish- washers, waiters	17	11	\$6.00 day plus meals	\$7.00 day plus meals
Office; sales, book- keepers, accountant, draftsman, general office work	9	2	not listed	\$1.50
Domestic work; butler, chauffeur, schoolboy	7	7	\$30.00 wk. plus room and board	\$40.00 wk. plus room and board
Farm work (harvesting)	16	1	not listed	not listed
Miscellaneous	6	3	\$1.35	\$1.65
Total;	232	178		

Data derived from Chicago Resettlers Employment Service Report, January 1951,
by Chizu Iiyama, Associate Director.

successful job placements.

Table IV on page 33 shows that the type of jobs for women fall into three categories; factory, office, and domestic work. The wages offered are compared with the wages found in the Chicago Tribune want ads for similar jobs, during the same period. There were 310 job requests and 110, or 36% of them were met. This lower percentage as compared to the 77% for the men is due to the fact that there are fewer Japanese American women in the labor market, than Japanese American men. The greatest number of requests were for domestic help, 130 or 43%, the next was factory work, 92 or 29%, and office jobs, 88 or 28%. The young adult Japanese American women do not seem to take on the domestic type of work. Many of them live with their families, and the thought of living apart from them and seeking domestic work does not appeal to them. The strong Japanese family tradition may be another deterrent to seek domestic work.

In comparing the wages offered, it will be noted that the jobs listed with the Chicago Resettlers Committee, pay slightly less, and in no instance more, than those found in the Chicago Tribune want ads for similar work. Furthermore, the higher type of jobs (skilled), show a greater difference in wages.

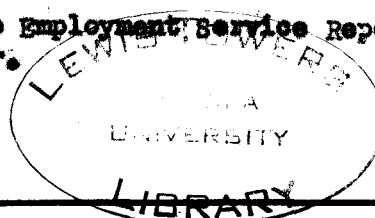
2 Interview with Chizu Iiyama, Associate Director, Chicago Resettlers Committee, April 1961.

TABLE IV

JOBS FOR WOMEN--JANUARY 1950

Type of Job	Number Requested	Number Sent	Wage per hour, week, listed	Wage per hr., wk., listed in newspaper-Chicago Tribune
Factory;				
unskilled	17	22	\$.85	\$.95
semi-skilled; sewing, painting, plastic	75	47	.90	1.05
skilled	none	none		
Office work;				
typists and general clerical	60	12	1.00	1.20
stenographer	17	7	1.10	1.40
secretary	8	2	1.10	1.50
bookkeeper	3	1	not listed	1.44
Domestic work;	130	19	\$30.00 wk. plus room and board	\$35.00 wk. plus room and board
Total,	310	110		

Data derived from Chicago Resettlers Committee Employment Service Report, January 1952, Chizu Iiyama, Associate Director.



When the Relocation Authority Office closed, it turned over to the Chicago Resettlers Committee the job lists that have been compiled during a three year period. Many of the job lists became obsolete because when the war contracts terminated, numerous small and medium companies producing war goods went out of business. Many of the workers thus unemployed, were able to find new jobs in other industrial plants on their own initiative, or through contacts of friends already working in such plants.³

Through its employment referral service the Chicago Resettlers Committee have attempted to broaden the base of employment for Japanese Americans through conferences with leaders of management and labor unions.

In June 1946, Michael Mann, Executive Secretary of the Chicago Industrial Union Council was asked to talk to the Executive Board in order to ascertain the extent of union participation on the part of the Japanese American workers. Mann asked for the cooperation of the Chicago Resettlers Committee in interpreting and making known to the Japanese American workers, the efforts of the C.I.O. to eliminate discrimination, and to guarantee the job rights of minority groups on a national as well as city wide basis. According to his study and observation, he concluded that Japanese Americans, as workers, have been slow to respond to the importance of the labor union

3 Interview with Doc Lessing. May 1951.

movement, as evidenced by the paucity of their membership in unions.⁴

On Tuesday May 24, 1950, the Employment Committee of the Chicago Resettlers Committee, met with Dr. Arthur Falls, and Mrs. Kathleen Summit, representatives of the Illinois State Employment Service Office, in order to discuss the situation in regards to the employment possibilities and trends in the placement of Japanese American job applicants.⁵ The discussion centered on the statement that resettler job seekers came to the Chicago Resettlers Committee, after exhausting all other channels of employment in the city. Dr. Falls asked what were some of the major underlying reasons for their predicament. Miss Reiko Konatsu, receptionist of the Chicago Resettlers Committee, stated that many of them have been told by other employment people that they were too late in applying, or they were asked to leave their names, but nothing happened. It was her personal opinion that there existed some subtle form of racial discrimination against these Japanese American job applicants, but hesitated to comment on the scope and extent of such discrimination, because factual data are limited.⁶

Mrs. Summit stated that there is a policy of no discrimination in the Illinois State Employment Service intake department, and that Nisei appli-

4 Annual Report, 1946, Chicago Resettlers Committee.

5 Minutes of the Employment Committee. May 24, 1950.

6 Ibid.

cants have been successfully placed in the past, and that their employment possibilities have shown definite improvements in recent months. She gave an example by stating that five Nisei chick sexers were successfully placed as machine operators in a small factory because the management had heard that Japanese people are clever and dexterous with their hands. However, these workers did not remain long, for as soon as the chick sexing season opened, they returned to chick sexing.

Dr. Falls stated that although the Illinois State Employment Service has a non-discrimination policy regarding placements, in actuality, however, less attention is given to the individual from a minority group than members of the majority group. Mrs. Summit in discussing the difficulty of Nisei applicants in getting the more desirable professional and skilled fields of work stated that they have difficulty placing them because in many instances, the field is overcrowded with applicants for the number of jobs available.

Mrs. S. Nishi stated that the Chicago Resettlers Committee has been handling the employment referral service in an "amateurish" way. She recommended that there be a trained job counselor at the agency to handle all job requests and applicants. She pointed out that the organization does not have adequate resources for referral in this area. In this regard, she

7 Ibid.

8 Ibid.

9
called attention to the Jacobson and Rainwater Report, to be published soon, for help in exploring the area of job referrals.

Mr. Akagi of the Japanese American Citizens League stated that his group in Milwaukee is attempting by means of conferences with representatives of management and union to open up employment possibilities for Nisei in that area.

Reverend Lovell of the Employment Committee commented that the Nisei do not want to be identified and treated as a minority group, and experience frustration, bitterness, and resentfulness, when they are not accorded some understanding of their problem by employing agencies.

The meeting terminated with the adoption of the following recommendations
10
to be presented to the Chicago Resettlers Committee, Executive Board;

1. The Chicago Resettlers Committee should know the resources of employment, guidance service centers, I.S.E.S., and other non-profit and private employment agencies.
2. To study the practices of other agencies in intake policy.
3. To know the resources in dealing with discrimination and public relations.
4. That a joint employment committee be established with the Japanese

9 Alan Jacobson and Percy Lee Rainwater, "A Study of Evaluations of Nisei as Workers by Caucasian Employment Agency Managers and Employers of Nisei." Published Master's thesis, Dept. of Sociology, University of Chicago, June 1951.

10 Minutes of the Employment Committee, May 24, 1950.

American Citizens League to initiate a study for the improvement of employment possibilities for the resettlers.

5. The Jacobson and Rainwater report should be made known to all employers and members of the Executive Board.
6. An experiment should be conducted by interviewing and counseling five young resettler people in order to study some of the basic reasons why they have not been able to find employment through other channels.
7. That a joint meeting or conference be established with other agencies participating in the general field of employment.
8. That some attempt and study be made in the field of professional employment possibilities for qualified Nisei job applicants.
9. That the Chicago Resettlers Committee seek to educate its constituents on the role and accomplishments of the labor unions.
10. That the Chicago Resettlers Committee approach the state street stores and inquire about the possibilities for employment of Nisei as sales clerks.

Pursuant to the recommendations of the employment meeting, the associate director submitted an employment service report to the Executive Board, and the following were the main suggestions for the improvement of the employment service;

11

11 Chisu Iiyama, Employment service Report, Chicago Resettlers Committee, January 1951.

1. The application card should give more information on the social history, work experience, and education of the applicant.
2. The jobs on file should be scrutinized periodically (about every two weeks), and a new system of filing should be set up. A file by occupation of firms which once placed jobs with us should be utilized as our resource list, but must be kept apart from current active file.
3. Jobs on file should be on printed cards, not on mimeographed paper.
4. Applicants with special skills or higher education should be given more than routine service, they should be interviewed, and helped by the associate director, until such time that the agency can afford the services of a professionally trained job counselor.
5. A method of checking on the actual placement of referred cases could be developed by encouraging all applicants thus referred, to either telephone or write and inform the agency as to their final disposition.
6. The Civil Service Commission and I.S.E.S. should be contacted at regular intervals to obtain listing of jobs.
7. There should be established a "career conference" every year for the benefit of young adult Japanese Americans. The Adult Education Department will cooperate in providing speakers.

Most of the suggestions have been put into action and in a short time the employment service will probably compare favorably with those offered by other social agencies in the community.

The Jacobson and Rainwater Report concludes that the Japanese American workers in Chicago are highly regarded by employment managers and employers. ¹²

The Japanese American ethnic group (based on the sample study of 342 Japanese American families), an ethnic group, new to the city has made remarkable strides toward securing a lower middle class socio-economic status in a period of less than ten years.

The evaluations by employment agency managers of the Nisei as job applicants and potential employees were, in general, highly positive. Almost all of the interviewees characterized the Nisei as "good workers, honest, reliable, and decent." These evaluations were seen to be more uniformly positive than those of the employers, although the latter were in general, positive, in their evaluations. (See Appendices E and F).

In Chicago during 1946, it was estimated that the Japanese American business men engaged in about 300 individual businesses and invested approximately \$2,500,000.00 in them. See Appendix G for the list of professions and businesses engaged in by Japanese Americans during 1945-46. ¹³

The associate editor of a Chicago Japanese American newspaper when asked what he believed to be the future prospects for Japanese American businesses

12 Jacobson and Rainwater, "A Study of the Evaluations of Nisei as Workers by Caucasian Employment Agency Managers and Employers of Nisei." Master's thesis, Univ. of Chicago, June 1951, 158-161.

13 U.S. Dept. of Interior, War Relocation Authority, People in Motion, U.S. Government Printing Office, Wash. D.C., 1946, 147.

in Chicago stated, "as far as business and jobs are concerned, Chicago offers the best prospects for Nisei and Issei, and in comparing Los Angeles with Chicago, in Chicago there is less discrimination and better opportunities of going into private business."¹⁴

It appears that the basic economic adjustment of the resettlers in Chicago, in comparison to other newly arrived ethnic groups, has been relatively satisfactory, and should remain so for the immediate future. Prior to evacuation from the west coast states, the principal occupation of this group was agricultural. In Chicago, their main occupation is in the industrial and small business fields, so that there has been a significant shift in jobs.¹⁵

14 ibid.

15 ibid.

CHAPTER VI

HOUSING SERVICE

One of the most disastrous consequences of the evacuation of the Japanese residents, was the breakup in their family life. It was the task of the young adult resettlers to seek new homes after they were permitted to leave the relocation camps. After housings were found, they called their parents, brothers, and sisters to join them.

The question of adequate housing still remains to be a major problem among resettler families, although definite improvements have been made in the last few years. Table II on page 28 and Figure 4 on page 43 show that there has been a steady increase in the number of requests for housing by the resettlers. The peak was reached in 1949, when a total of 660 requests were filled. In 1950, there were 536 requests, or a decrease of 19%, as compared to the previous year.

The Chicago Resettlers Committee maintains a list of available houses, apartments, rooms, and boarding houses. The list is compiled mainly from telephone calls by landlords, many of whom are resettlers themselves. The classified columns of the Chicago Japanese American newspaper also serve as a source of housing information. Some housing list were obtained through the War Relocation Authority Office after it closed down.

At the present time the resettlers are located in the following five areas;

1. Oakland and Kenwood communities in the southside.
2. Near North Side District around Clark and Division Streets.

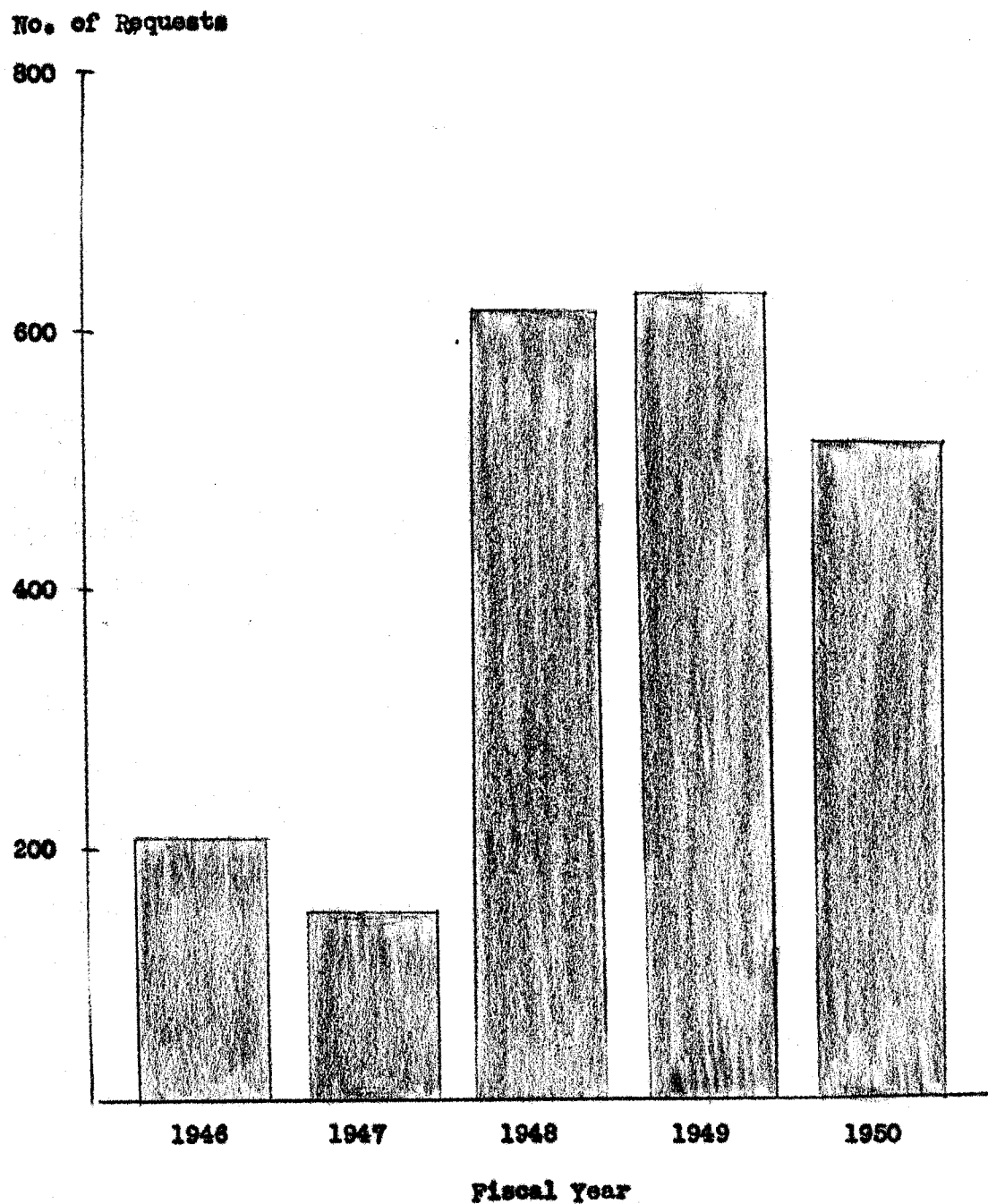


FIGURE 4

HOUSING REQUESTS 1946-1950

Data derived from Annual Reports, Chicago Resettlers Committee, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, and 1950.

3. Hyde park and Woodlawn communities in the Southside.
4. Far Northside District around Wilson Avenue.
5. The Greater Westside community.¹

There are a few families living in the suburban communities of Chicago. The concentration of Japanese American families in the five areas is due mainly to the availability of housing in these areas, and not through any choice on the part of the people. From the standpoint of long range resettlement, the areas are not too desirable, because they are areas of social deterioration, and marginal areas of racial tension.²

The Chicago Resettlers Committee has not been able to cope with many of the requests for housing because proper referral resources are very limited. Very few resettler families have been able to get into the low cost public housing projects. They are among the most recent arrivals, and like the other newly arrived ethnic groups, will have to wait until the public housing projects catches up with them.³

To alleviate the problem of adequate housing for resettler families, the Chicago Resettlers Committee, through its Human Relations committee, is studying ways in which more housing could be made available to them. In this, they are working with the Chicago Housing Authority, the Mayor's

1 Annual Report, 1949, Chicago Resettlers Committee.

2 Ibid.

3 Interview with Chizu Iiyama. May 1951.

Commission on Human Relation, Community Referral Service, and the Japanese American Citizens League. Through the Mayor's Commission on Human Relations, discriminatory practices on the part of landlords are being investigated and studied. The associate director has appeared before numerous civic and women's organizations and has discussed the resettlement problems confronting the Japanese American families, and have stressed the need for more adequate housing for them.⁴

⁴ ibid.

CHAPTER VII

RECREATIONAL SERVICE

Next to employment and housing, the Chicago Resettlers Committee considers its recreational service a very important aspect of the total resettlement process. Many of the young adult resettlers who came directly to Chicago from the various relocation camps, needed guidance in seeking wholesome recreational outlets. Away from parental discipline and counsel, they began to develop bad habits and juvenile delinquency was rearing its ugly head. Due to the absence of a definite recreational program, the young people were especially vulnerable to social maladjustment.

Soon after the Chicago Resettlers Committee opened its office, a committee was appointed to make a study on the extent of juvenile delinquency among resettler young people. The significant findings of the committee were as follows:

1. On the basis of available statistics from the Chicago Police Department, crime and delinquency rates among Japanese Americans have increased during the last few years.
2. To date fourteen babies have been born out of wedlock to resettler young women and the requests for abortions have increased.
3. Prevalence of gambling, apparent disregard for social conventions, individual instances of immorality, are all reflected in cases on record with the Chicago Police Department.¹

In a strong recommendation for the prompt creation of a positive recreational program the committee stated that,

Some of the spoilage is unfortunately, beyond the power of any local agency or program to reclaim. Such is the case of one youth, in his early twenties, who became a member of a hold-up gang, and is now serving life sentence in a federal penitentiary. Such is the case of two young people relatively hardened individuals, arrested on suspicion of complicity in vice traffic. Such also is the case of another resettler, an alleged sex maniac, still at large in the Southside of the city, accused in seven instances of having raped resettler young women, but against whom no police charges have yet been made for lack of plaintiffs among his victims.

But the very presence of these sources of criminal infections accentuates the community's general dereliction if we fail to provide more effective overall recreational social opportunities for resettler young people. 2

The findings and report of the juvenile delinquency committee were very instrumental in hastening the creation of an overall recreational program.

Two additional staff workers were employed. Abe Hagiwara, who served as Y.M.C.A. worker in Cincinnati was put in charge of Nisei recreation, and Jack Yasutake, who served for many years as Japanese interpreter for the Federal Immigration Service, at Seattle, was put in charge of Issei recreation. Mr. Hagiwara left the Chicago Resettlers Committee in October 1950, to accept the recreational directorship at the Olivet Institute.

2 Ibid.

Mr. Yasutake was promoted to executive director in 1948 when Corky Kawasaki, the first executive director, left to accept a position with the American Friends Service Committee (Quakers) as welfare worker in Japan. ³

The underlying principle of the recreational program is to refer resettler young groups to community agencies that are best equipped to serve them. When this is not feasible, the Citywide Nisei Recreation Committee, provides indigenous leaders to help organize the activities of a particular group. The Citywide Nisei Recreation Committee, works in cooperation with the various community recreation agencies such as; Olivet Institute, Catholic Youth Organization, Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., Edward Markham Center, and Settlement Houses. By means of a news bulletin, issued at regular intervals, it makes known to the Japanese American youth the many recreational facilities in the city.

Table V on page 49 shows the facilities used, the number of sessions, and the attendance of resettler young people, at various community recreational places where leadership was furnished by the Citywide Nisei Recreation Committee. The data cover the period from November 1947, to July 1948. Subsequent statistics are not available in view of the fact that the recreational centers do not keep attendance records of participants on the basis of ethnic groups. It will be seen from the table that there was a total of 275 sessions with a total attendance of 9,052, or an average attendance of 33 per session. ⁴

³ Annual Report, 1948, Chicago Resettlers Committee.

⁴ Ibid.

TABLE V
NISEI ATTENDANCE AT RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES
November 1947 to July 1948

Facilities	Session	Attendance
Duncan Y.M.C.A.	4	43
E. Markham Center	6	527
Ellis Community Center	2	29
First Baptist Church (gym)	9	385
Hyde Park Club	92	2,591
Lawson Y.M.C.A.	2	149
Lawson Y.M.C.A. Outpost	2	215
North Avenue Y.M.C.A.	36	1,753
St. Paul Episcopal Church (gym)	49	1,730
St. Peter's Episcopal Church (gym)	55	963
Westside C.Y.O.	5	250
Westside Y.W.C.A.	2	78
University of Chicago (Staff Field)	11	339
Total,	275	9,052

Note: Leadership for the activities was supplied by the Chicago Resettlers Committee's Citywide Nisei Recreation Committee.

Data derived from Annual Report, Chicago Resettlers Committee, 1948.

In 1949, the Citywide Nisei Recreation Committee, under the direction of the Nisei recreational worker, inaugurated a recreation leadership conference, to train Japanese American youth for leadership in group activities. During the first year, 195 young people attended the conference which was held in April at the Chicago Resettlers Building. Speakers from the Adult Education Department, Central Y.M.C.A., and Chicago Recreation Commission spoke, with discussion period following each session. In 1950, 400 attended, and in 1951, 160 people attended. The theme of the 1951 conference was entitled, "Doing is the Thing", and the following speakers were presented, Malcolm Knowles of the Central Y.M.C.A. was chairman, and individuals from the Welfare Council of Metropolitan Chicago, American Music Conference, and the Chicago Housing Authority acted as discussion leaders, following their talks. Martha Harvey and Betty Myers of the Y.W.C.A., led the square dancings which followed each session. There were four sessions, and the average attendance was 40. A small registration fee was charged to defray

5

part of the conference expense.

CHAPTER VIII

EDUCATIONAL, WELFARE, AND INFORMATION SERVICE

Table VI on page 52 shows the different types of program and activities carried on at the Chicago Resettlers Committee's headquarters. It also indicates the various organizations that use the facilities for meeting, and the number of persons attending those meetings. The English classes are conducted with the cooperation of the Adult Education Department, who furnish the teachers. The beginners class in English meet twice a week, and the average attendance is 50 persons. The advanced English class also meet twice a week, and the average attendance is 30 persons.

The English classes, Japanese language classes, cooking class, and sewing class, do not meet during the summer months. Of the teen age clubs, only nine are really active, and each club meets at least once a month. The clubs take turn sponsoring dances either at the Olivet Institute, or McCormick Y.W.C.A., and the proceeds from these affairs are used to buy Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets for needy Japanese American families, or donated to some charitable cause. The clubs are under the supervision of the associate director, who also serve as a chaperone at their activities.

Health films dealing with tuberculosis, heart disease, cancer, and public health are shown periodically for the benefit of the members. Leading community physicians and health educators are invited to speak preceding the showing of the movies, and a discussion hour follows with questions from the audience, with the speaker as chairman.

TABLE VI

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED AT THE CHICAGO
RESETTLERS COMMITTEE BUILDING, JANUARY TO DECEMBER 1949

Group	Session	Attendance
English class (beginner)	twice weekly	50
English class (advanced)	" "	30
Japanese Language class	" "	25
Cooking class	once weekly	27
Sewing class	" "	25
Bridge class	" "	30
Goh class (Japanese chess)	" "	20
Shogi class (Japanese checkers)	" "	20
Utai class (Japanese singing)	" "	30
Current events forum and discussion	" "	40
Health talks	scheduled	60
Educational movies	"	60
Open House	"	400
Talks by Japanese Visitors (Japan)	"	100
Recreation and Leadership Conference	"	195
Reading club (tokusho-kai)	once weekly	20
Poetry club (haiku-kai)	" "	20
Art club (gaka-kai)	" "	15
Music club	" "	30
Fishing club	" "	25
Teen Age club (9 active)	scheduled	90
Japanese Mutual Aid Society	"	50
Japanese Church Federation	"	20
Japanese American Citizens League	"	50
Anti-Discrimination Committee	"	30
Midwest Buddhist Association	"	30
Total Attendance:		1,432

Data derived from Annual Report, Chicago Resettlers Committee, 1949.

The executive director assists the Issei in directing them to the proper agencies in applying for unemployment compensation, social security benefits, public assistance, and legal aid. Most of them do not speak English fluently enough so that they require some interpretative service prior to applying for the various social services. Since the agency does not engage in casework, it refers those cases requiring casework treatment to the proper private or public agency through the Community Referral service of the Welfare Council.

The following case is an example of the type of welfare work conducted by the Chicago Resettlers Committee.¹ Mr. K. is a Japanese man in his early sixties. He has been a tubercular patient at the Oak Forest Infirmary for the past year, and is now ready for discharge. Mr. K. has no place to go because he is a bachelor, and besides, there is no convalescing home for Japanese men in the city. He does not qualify for public assistance because he lacks a few months of legal residency in the city.

The medical social worker at Oak Forest contacts the Chicago Resettlers Committee and informs them of Mr. K's situation, and asks that the agency assist him in his return to the Japanese community. The executive director contacts Mr. K's brother and arranges it so that he will be present to discuss Mr. K's case with the medical social worker at Oak Forest.

1 Interview with Jack Yasutake, July 1951.

During the meeting with the medical social worker Mr. K's brother stated that he is in no position to take in his brother since he has his own family to take care of. However, he would be willing to contribute something to his support, if a place could be found for him. The executive director stated that a place for Mr. K. is available at the Chicago Resettlers building where temporary housing is furnished to transient Japanese people. The social worker stated that until Mr. K. can qualify for public assistance, a private social service agency could help with the financial support. Thus, another aged Japanese man has been helped in his return to community life.

The following is an example of the summer camp service provided by the Chicago Resettlers Committee. ² Mrs. H. telephoned the agency and asked whether it would be possible to send her four sons, ages 7, 9, 10, and 12 years, to summer camp for two weeks. She read somewhere that camp experience is very enriching for young children, and wanted her boys to benefit from such an experience. The associate director informed her that Camp Reinberg, located just 30 miles northwest of Chicago near Palatine, would be an excellent camp for the boys to attend for two weeks. It is located in Deer Forest Preserve and is an inter-racial camp sponsored by the Chicago Camping Association with good camp counselors under the supervision of an experienced camp director. The cost per child for the two week period is about \$16.00. Mrs. H. arranged to send her four sons to Camp Reinberg.

Since 1948, an average of twenty-five Japanese American children have been sent every year to summer camps under the sponsorship of the Chicago Resettlers Committee. Volunteer counselors are sent with the children so that they will be able to receive maximum benefit from the camp experience playing with youngsters of various ethnic groups. Children ranging in ages from 7-12 years have been sent to Camp Reinberg and Towers Hill Camp. Young adult groups have been sent to Camp Sagawau and Forest Beach Camp. A small fee is charged for the camp outings.

Another important service of the Chicago Resettlers Committee is in supplying interpreters for various occasions where Japanese people are involved. The following is an example of such service. One of the large universities located in Chicago telephoned and asked whether they could have an English-Japanese interpreter to help three students from Japan who were having difficulty understanding the lectures given in English. The agency was able to contact a Japanese American student who expressed willingness to render his services to the three Japanese students. Thus, with the help of the interpreter, the students were able to complete their courses at the university.³

³ Ibid.

CHAPTER IX

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Some eight years have passed since the first group of resettlers came streaming to Chicago. The number returning to their former west coast homes have dwindled during the last few years, and in all probability those remaining expect to make Chicago their permanent residence.

The resettlers arrived in Chicago when there was a tremendous shortage of industrial labor due to the highly geared war time economy. A variety of jobs were available, and through a successful employment program conducted by the War Relocation Authority Office, American Friends Service Committee (Quakers), Civic groups, Church groups, and interested individuals, the employment possibilities for the resettlers were greatly broadened.

According to the Jacobson and Rainwater Report, based on the sample study of 342 Japanese American families, this new ethnic group, in less than ten years, have attained a lower middle class status in the socio-economic hierarchy, and have not lingered long in the lower levels of the social order.¹ They arrived at this conclusion by the use of two indices which were developed by Warner et al in the Yankee City Series and other publications in which social class membership was studied. The first is the Index of Status Characteristics (ISC), and the second is the Index of Level of Aspiration (ILA).

1 Jacobson and Rainwater, "A Study of Evaluations of Nisei as Workers by Caucasian Employment Agency Managers and Employers of Nisei." Master's degree thesis. University of Chicago, June 1951.

The Chicago Resettlers Committee, through its employment, housing, recreational, welfare, information, and referral services, have played a vital role in hastening the complicated process of resettlement for thousands of Japanese American people. Through their interpretative service they have brought to the attention of the numerous private and public social agencies, the needs of their ethnic group, and have constantly worked toward the eventual integration with the general community.

That its effectiveness has been noteworthy is substantiated by the following evaluation by an executive member of the Welfare Council of Metropolitan Chicago who has given outstanding counsel and guidance to the agency since its inception.

This agency has made a diligent effort toward the interpretation of their services with other welfare services and by so doing, has also made real progress in adjusting the Nisei in the social community of Chicago.

They have concentrated and made progress upon such difficult programs as employment and housing. Their recreation program has developed to include more and more cooperative agency relationships and to reach more and more people. Besides this, the Chicago Resettlers Committee, through its Executive Board and Staff, has kept a constant eye upon the developments of their program in relation to the organization's purpose, and has evaluated the program from time to time, and made recommendations for special work on specific problems, or particular portions of the program. 2

2 Mary A. Young, "Report on the Chicago Resettlers Committee." Welfare Council of Metropolitan Chicago, January 1949.

The Chicago Resettlers Committee was created during an emergency period. It was to be a temporary service committee, borne out of necessity, with no intention of being a permanent social service agency. The organization is in its fifth year of operation, and it is difficult to predict just how long its services should be continued. However, based on the volume and type of services rendered for the past five years, it can reasonably be concluded that its services for another five years may be necessary because by that time a greater degree of stability will have been attained by the majority of the resettlers.

The Chicago Resettlers Committee have recently purchased their headquarters and plan to convert the building into a home for aged Japanese, when their services are no longer needed, and when they cease to function as a social service referral agency.³ The plan is an excellent one, and in the next five years such a home would certainly prove to be a blessing for the aged Japanese in the City of Chicago. John Y. Yoshino, in the January 1951 issue of Public Aid in Illinois, in an article entitled, "Welfare Problems of the Japanese in Illinois," calls attention to this very problem.⁴

The future outlook of the Chicago Resettlers Committee should be aimed at diminishing activities and encouraging the Japanese people to utilize the existing community resources just like everybody else in need of such aid.

³ Interview with Mary A. Young, Executive Secretary, Division of Family and Child Welfare, Welfare Council of Metropolitan Chicago, Aug. 1951.

⁴ John Y. Yoshino, Public Aid in Illinois, January 1951, "Welfare Problems of the Japanese in Illinois."

APPENDIX A

List of War Relocation Camps¹

<u>Name of Camp (location)</u>	<u>No. of Evacuees</u>
Anaache, Colorado	6,170
Topaz, Utah	7,287
Hunt, Idaho	7,548
Relocation, Arkansas	7,616
Denson, Arkansas	7,767
Mansanar, California	8,716
Heart Mountain, Wyoming	9,292
Rivers, Arizona	12,355
Newell, California (Tule Lake)	13,422
Poston, Arizona	15,530
Total,	95,703

Note:

The above population is as of July 10, 1943. In addition, a small group of Japanese from Alaska, about 1,100 from Hawaii, 1,300 released from internment camps, and a small group of Japanese residents who, although not living in the prohibited area of the Western Defense Command, entered the relocation camps, voluntarily, for protection against possible attacks on them by others. 2

¹ Carey McWilliams, Japanese-Americans, symbol of Racial Intolerance. 156.

² Ibid.

APPENDIX B

1

FINAL REPORTS OF THE WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

<u>Title of Report</u>	<u>Price</u>
W.R.A., A Story of Human Conservation	\$.55
War Time Exile--The Exclusion of the Japanese Americans from the West Coast	.45
Impounded People--Americans in the Relocation Centers	.60
The Relocation program	.35
Wartime Handling of Evacuee Property	.35
Administrative Highlights of the W.R.A. Program	.30
Community Government in War Relocation Centers	.35
Legal and Constitutional Phases of the W.R.A. Program	.30
The Evacuated People--A Quantitative Description	.60
Token Shipment--The Story of America's War Refugee Shelter	.35

1 Final Reports of the War Relocation Authority, U.S. Government
Printing Office, Washington, 25, D.C. Copies may be obtained by writing
to the Superintendent of Documents.

Founders of the Chicago Resettlers Committee, Sept. 1945

George Akahoshi
John K. Brenten
Ryoichi Fujii
Grace Hagiya
Masamori Kojima
Thomas Masuda
Dr. Virgil Lowder

Koichi Masunaka
Tabei Matsunaga
Harry Mayeda
Setsuko Nishi
Rev. Andrew Oyama
Tom Shibutani
Rev. Albert Renander

Members of the Advisory Board, 1950

Rev. George Aki
Russell W. Ballard
Helen P. Bull
Horace R. Cayton
Earl B. Dickerson
Dr. Arthur Falls
William H. Haight
Dr. S. I. Hayakawa
Dr. M.J. Herakovitz
Joseph Keenan
Rev. Gyodo Kono
Rev. Gyoumei Kubose
Rev. Chiaki Kuzuhara
Leo Lerner
Mrs. Emile Levy
Edward E. Brown

Michael Mann
Judge John P. McGoorty
George B. McKibben
Judge George Quilici
Dean Robert Redfield
Dean Curtiss W. Reese
Dr. Harold W. Ruopp
Elmer L. Shirrell
Dr. Edward J. Sparling
W. Ellis Stewart
Rev. Kohel Takeda
Williard S. Townsend
Philip Wain
Mrs. John W. Weddell
Rabbi Jacob J. Weinstein
John Ruveen, Jr.

Members of the Executive Board, 1950

Thomas Masuda, President
Tabei Matsunaga, Vice-president
Neberu Honda, Vice-president
Mary Sonoda, Secretary
Jiro Yamaguchi, Treasurer
Dr. Matsusaburo Kuki, Auditor
Frank Y. Takahashi, Auditor
Harry K. Mayeda, Ex-officio

Dr. Ben Chikaraishi
James Ezaki
Ryoichi Fujii
Jisei Fukuda
Mary Hata
Kiyoshi Joichi
Rev. Joe Kitagawa
Ichikuro Kondo
Mrs. Ayako Kumamoto
Rev. William N. Lovell

Shigeru Nakata
Yoriaki Nakagawa
Eise Nishi
Setsuko Nishi
Tadaichi Okuhara
Rev. Andrew Oyama
Harry Sabusawa
Shozo Sekiguchi
Kohachiro Sugimoto
Taisuke Takahashi
Bunji Takano
George Teraoka
Enjiro Watanabe
John W. Weddell
Richard H. Yamada
George K. Yamamoto
John Yoshino

APPENDIX D

CONSTITUTION OF THE CHICAGO RESETTLERS COMMITTEE

We, the members of the Chicago Resettlers Committee, do establish ourselves in the belief that persons of Japanese ancestry and other interested persons should unite in an organization for the following purposes;

1. To encourage and help resettlers in becoming useful members of their community through social, economic, and cultural activities.
2. To mobilize Americans of Japanese ancestry toward the strengthening of the forces of democracy and the participating in efforts and plans to establish and maintain a sound peace.
3. To join forces with all Americans regardless of race, creed, or color, to promote social and economic progress and to eliminate discrimination.
4. To assist in the resettlement of Japanese Americans.

Do hereby establish the following as the constitution of this organization.

Article I. Name

The name of this organization shall be the Chicago Resettlers Committee.

Article II. Members

- Section 1. All persons, regardless of citizenship, race, or religion, who indicates an interest and willingness to participate in the program of this organization may become members.
- Section 2. Membership fee shall be \$2.00 per year. (Subsequently changed to \$3.00 a year).
- Section 3. Each member shall be entitled to one vote at any special or general meeting of the members.
- Section 4. A general membership meeting may be held at any time upon the call of the president, the executive board, or upon the written request of at least ten percent of the entire membership, in which event the secretary shall call the meeting. A five days written notice shall be mailed to every member before any general meeting may be held.
- Section 5. Ten percent of the entire membership shall constitute a quorum to do business.

- Section 6. All new members application shall be first approved by the executive board.
- Section 7. Any member may be expelled from membership for conduct found to be detrimental to the interest of the organization by a three fourths vote of the entire membership of the executive board, provided, however, that any expelled member may request that the question of his expulsion be placed before the next general members meeting. A majority vote of the members meeting on this question shall prevail.
- Section 8. The annual general members meeting shall be held once a year during the month of September upon the call of the president or the executive board. The exact time and place to be determined by the executive board and at least a five days written notice shall be mailed to every member before such general meeting may be held. At the annual meeting the executive board and officers shall be elected and such other business as may come before the meeting may be disposed.

Article III. Executive Board

- Section 1. The business and affairs of this organization shall be managed by the executive board.
- Section 2. At every annual meeting of the members an executive board shall be elected by the members. The exact number shall be determined by a meeting of the members not less than nine and not more than twenty-five. (subsequently changed to thirty-five).
- Section 3. The executive board shall meet within two weeks after their election and shall meet at least once a month thereafter.
- Section 4. The executive board may in its discretion create other offices and such committees as they deem necessary. At the discretion of the executive board, the various elective offices may be combined in one person, except that the office of president and vice-president may not be combined.
- Section 5. A special meeting of the executive board may be called at any time upon the call of the chairman or upon the call of at least twenty-five percent of the entire membership of the executive board.
- Section 6. Five or more members of the executive board shall constitute a quorum to do business.
- Section 7. Any officer may be removed from office by a majority vote of the entire membership of the executive board.
- Section 8. Any member of the executive board may be removed from office by a majority vote of any general or special meeting of the members.

Section 9. Any vacancy occurring in the executive board by resignation or otherwise may be replaced by the remaining members of the executive board electing another member to take his place for the remainder of the executive board member's term.

Article IV. Officers

Section 1. The officers of this organization shall be president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer, and such other officers as the executive board may create.

Section 2. President.
The president shall preside at all general and special meetings of the members and the executive board, and shall assume such duties usually assumed by such an officer and such other duties as may be designated by the executive board.

Section 3. Vice-President.
The vice-president shall act in the place of the president whenever the president is absent or otherwise incapacitated to act, and shall assume such other duties as designated by the executive board.

Section 4. Secretary.
The secretary shall have charge of the membership roster, keep minutes of members' meetings, and take care of such correspondence as may be necessary and shall assume such further duties as designated by the executive board.

Section 5. Treasurer.
The treasurer shall have charge of the finances and the monies belonging to this organization and shall assume such other duties as may be designated by the executive board.

Article V. Amendments

Section 1. Any provisions of this constitution may be amended at any time by a majority vote of the members present at any general or special meetings of the members. Before any amendment may be considered by the members' meeting, a notice of the proposed change of the constitution must be mailed to the members at least five days before the meeting.

Note: The constitution was adopted at a special meeting held on Nov. 5, 1945.

Percentage Distribution of Types of Firms Employing Japanese Americans in 1947, based on place of work of 297 Japanese Americans as of January 1, 1947.

<u>Type of Firm</u>		<u>Per cent</u>
Office work only		14.0
Private business office	4.8	
Gov't and institution office	9.2	
Hospitals		3.4
Restaurants, Hotels, and Bakeries		10.2
Garages and auto repair shops		4.8
Wholesale Houses		5.3
Printing and Lithographing		5.8
Beauty shops		3.4
Schools and Colleges		2.4
Garment Manufacturing		12.5
Other manufacturing		31.4
Small manufacturing (up to 100 persons)	15.9	
Medium " (101 to 500 persons)	12.1	
Large " (over 500 persons)	3.4	
Other types of firms		6.8
Total,		100.00

Total no. of firms: 207

1 Alan Jacobson and Percy Lee Rainwater, "A Study of Evaluations of Nisei as Workers by Caucasian Employment Agency Managers and Employers of Nisei," Published Master's Degree thesis, Dept. of Sociology, University of Chicago, June 1951, 64. Data on number of employees from Illinois Manufacturers Directory, 1949, Chicago Manufacturers News, 1949.

1
APPENDIX F

Distribution of Evaluations by 79 Employers of their Nisei Employers

<u>Evaluation</u>	<u>Technical</u>	<u>Character</u>	<u>Social Interaction</u>
Highly positive	45	45	48
Mildly positive	11	10	11
Neutral	12	10	12
Negative	0	1	0
Mixed	9	11	4
No Information	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>
Total	79	79	79

Note: Over half of the evaluations on both bases are strongly positive and that only one is unqualifiedly negative.

1 Jacobson and Rainwater, "A Study of Evaluations of Nisei as Workers by Caucasian Employment Agency Managers and Employers of Nisei." June 1951, 111.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books

Grodzins, Morton, Americans Betrayed, Politics and the Japanese Evacuation, The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1949.

McWilliams, Carey, Japanese-Americans, Symbol of Racial Intolerance, Little, Brown, and Company, Boston, 1944.

Smith, Bradford, Americans from Japan, J.B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia and New York, 1948.

Thomas, Dorothy S. and Nishimoto, Richard S., The Spoilage, Japanese American Evacuation and Resettlement, University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1946.

Government publications

U.S. Department of Interior, War Relocation Authority, Final Reports of the War Relocation Authority.

The Evacuated People, A Quantitative Description, 1946.

Legal and Constitutional Phases of the W.R.A. Program, 1946.

People in Motion, 1946.

Reports and Articles

Annual Reports, Chicago Resettlers Committee, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950.

Community Area #8, Welfare Council of Metropolitan Chicago, August 1949.

Employment Service Report, Chicago Resettlers Committee, January 1951.

Juvenile Delinquency Report, Chicago Resettlers Committee, December 19, 1946.

Sixteenth U.S. Census Report, April 1940.

Yoshino, John Y. Public Aid in Illinois, January 1951, "Welfare Problems of the Japanese in Illinois."

Young, Mary A., Welfare council of Metropolitan Chicago, "A Report on the Chicago Resettlers Committee," January 1949.

Thesis

Jacobson, Alan and Rainwater, Percy Lee, A Study of Evaluations of Nisei as Workers by Caucasian Employment Agency Managers and Employers of Nisei, Master's Degree thesis, Department of Sociology, University of Chicago, Chicago, June 1951.

Agency Records

Correspondence, Employment, and Housing files.

Minutes of Cabinet, Executive Board, and Employment Committee, 1945-1951.

Chicago Resettler Committee records on file at the Welfare Council of Metropolitan Chicago, Division of Family and Child Welfare.

Interviews

Stephen Green, Illinois Public Aid Commission.

Abe Hagiwara, Recreational Director, Olivet Institute.

Chizu Iiyama, Associate Director, Chicago Resettlers Committee.

Corky Kawasaki, Former Executive Director, Chicago Resettlers Committee.

Doc Lessing, Illinois Public Aid Commission, formerly War Relocation Authority Officer, Chicago Office.

Thomas Masuda, President, Chicago Resettlers Committee.

Harry Mayeda, First president, Chicago Resettlers Committee.

Rev. Schwenky, Director of Research, Chicago Congregational Union.

Jack Yasutake, Executive Director, Chicago Resettlers Committee.

Mary A. Young, Executive Secretary, Division of Family and Child Care, Welfare Council of Metropolitan Chicago.