



[Factory meeting before October 2nd]

FACTORY MEETING ON GARNISHING NET PROJECT

Meeting was called to order by Mr. Kennedy at 9:30 A. M.

Those present at the meeting were:

Ellis Georgia	Used	S. Horikawa	Camp2
Mr. Fornier	"	James Abe	"
Mr. Wagner	"	Sid Shiratsuke	"
H. A. Mathiesen	"	S. Fujitsubo	"
H. H. Knutson	"	John Kuwano	"
R. B. Cozzons	WRA	Frank J. Yamanishi	"
Vernon Kennedy		Masa Otani	Camp 3
Harry Kumagai		Mac Kadotani	"
Smoot Katoni		Andrew Sugimoto	
Bill Huira		Henry Kanegai	

A discussion was brought up as to how and where we are to get labor. The apparent situation is that the employment offices in the three units cannot fill all the jobs that are open at present. It may be necessary to transfer employees from one office to another to make up for the lack of labor. Mr. Fornier suggested that a survey be made of the people from Santa Anita who had been working on samouflage nets. This should be brought up at a Block Manager's meetings to be held at Camp 1, 2, and 3. A request has been made to Mr. Fryer asking for experienced workers from Santa Anita to come to Poston and to Sacaton. A reply said that everything is being done to have these people sent to Poston and to Sacaton.

Mr. Kennedy asked what this net project is and why this net project is being set up and its importance. Mr. Wagner replied that these nets are to be used to camouflage all motorised equipment such as tanks, trucks, guns, etc. He continued that these nets are to be made of fish twine net, burlap, and are to come in various sizes; 12x12, 22x22, 30x30, 36x44, 45x45, and 35x60. We are going to make the net sizes 36x44 and 45x45. The other sizes are being made at Manzanar. The work is not hard and is very interesting, once a person gets started. There is no technical experience necessary. Workers will be furnished with gauze masks. These masks are being made in Los Angeles with an order pending for 50,000; 25,000 for Poston and 25,000 for Sacaton. There is no heavy work involved except the unloading of the raw materials at Parker and loading of the finished nets at Poston. Any person who can use his hands can work on this project. We get these materials in our cutting sheds in rolls of 100 yards burlap cut to size, uniform lengths woven into this net in the approved patterns. After the nets are finished, they are taken to the warehouse and packed in waterproof packages, checked, baled, and shipped out to various destinations. Nine hundred and sixty three people are

expected to fully staff the equipment that is now planned and it is believed that this will be one of the busiest spots in Poston. About 70% of the workers required can be women.

Mr. Kennedy asked, "Can you anticipate how long this project will continue in Poston?" Mr. Fournier said that this project is anticipated to continue until May 1943. And beyond that he doesn't know. Another question was brought up as to what to become of the buildings after the project is finished? Probably negotiations can be made to revamp the buildings for other Army and Navy projects. In accordance with the understanding of the Geneva Conference, only citizen Japanese would be able to work in the net factory. Plans are being made with Dr. Cary for students sixteen years of age and over to be allowed to work in the factory on a part-time basis.

The buildings are about 45% complete, meaning that within the next week the big warehouse will be completed. Four storage platforms are completed where rolls of burlap are stored. The cutting shed, 200 feet in length, will be completed in a week where the burlap will be cut up in various color combinations and distributed. The first labor will be the sorting of the burlap. Four floors of the garnishing net sheds are completed, the tresses will soon be assembled. Two garnishing sheds are completed to the concrete floor, the frame and siding and roof will follow. The garnishing sheds at units two and three should be completed in thirty days. The garnishing sheds of unit one should be completed in three weeks. The next two weeks will be spent in storing and handling burlap. The W. R. A. will be concerned in getting labor lined up; also to move into the first shed with a small group and get a pattern weaving and discuss the problems, etc.

Mr. Kennedy suggested that a job description sheet be made out for the workers from head man down to the lowest paid and their qualifications, education, skill, experience, etc., required of the applicants. A publicity campaign must be under-taken to get labor through the Press Bulletin, leaflets, speakers at council meetings, block managers, and other organization meetings, etc. The people that go to speak at meetings will have all essential facts and will act as recruiter.

Mr. Cozzens said that at a meeting at Los Angeles last week, it was brought up that there should be one superintendent and all others work under him, instead of having several superintendents - all with different ideas as to operation and policies. It has to be under the directing of one superintendent.

It was definitely decided that W.R.A. should be completely responsible for the operation of the project. W.R.A. is to handle the supervision of the weaving, training of weavers, and recruiting of workers. The responsibility of the engineers is to furnish trucks and drivers to transport raw material to Poston and finished products from Poston to Parker. Also the engineers will inspect the finished products. The W.R.A. and W.C.C.A. will furnish all labor connected with the work. USED insists that W.R.A. work out the transportation of labor to and from work. The W.R.A. will furnish labor to load and unload the material at Parker.

Fences will be built around the project with M.P. on duty day and night. Workers will have to carry identification when going in and out. Provisions will be made at each unit for a time shed or office at one end of the shed. The garnishing sheds are partially shaded on the south with windows on the north for light, etc. Two shifts will operate. A provision should be made so that two crews should be working the same hours, that is when the crew is loading and unloading at the railroad, the men at the warehouse be ready to unload when the trucks come in from Parker.

There will be provided a period for lunch. Complete rest room facilities will be provided, both men and women. The lunch problem will have to be worked out later; whether to eat at the factory or go back to individual mess halls or have a mess hall set aside for the workers.

Shed superintendent should have the qualification to Japanese which will be the younger folks but experienced people from Santa Anita could well take over the foreman jobs. Only one Caucasian will work in this project, that is within three units. This man should be a person capable of cooperating with people.

There are two warehouses full of nets at Parker, and seven cars of burlap on rail siding. There is vital and immediate need of twenty men right now; two foreman and eighteen men to work in two shifts to unload these goods onto the trucks to be brought to Poston.

Another question was brought up as to whether or not there was any provision made for compensation is allowed, that is if a person is unjured while working and is confined to his home, his pay is to continue until he comes back in the job.

Meeting adjourned 11:00 A.M.