



[Minutes of Meeting Unit I, II, III of Poston Industry]

October 28, 1942

175 INDUSTRY MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF POSTON 1,2,3 INDUSTRY 310-5-A POSTON #3

October 28, 1942

9:00 a.m.

A meeting of the Industrial Board of Poston #1, #2, and #3 was called by Mr. S. Togasaki of Camp #3.

Mr. Togasaki read the minutes of the last meeting held at Camp #2. Regarding barrels, secretary was instructed to correct "one head out" to double heads. Minutes was approved.

NOODLE MANUFACTURING: Mr. Mathiesen felt that we should arrive at a decision regarding noodle manufacturing—whether Manufacturing is going to take it over or not. The present situation of noodle manufacturing in Camp #1 was presented by Mr. Karatani, chairman of Camp #1, who stated that Mr. Jimmy Yahiro of the stewards department is in charge of the noodle business with about 60 on the staff; that the kitchen began manufacturing independently from Industry. Their wages run up to \$1,040 per month. With machinery, labor can be out down to one third of its present personnel.

Ozaki: It seems best at this time to sketch out the history. Jimmy Yahiro went ahead in the kitchen to make noodles. They didn't want to come into Industry. Now they so overstuffed. They are using a hamburger machine at this time, but it is too slow a process. Since the commissary cannot request for a noodle machine, they want to come into Industry. Noodles should be manufactured under Industry with suitable machinery and I think we should make plans to requisition for it.

Sim: I think that on the other hand, we should try to absorb the thing and still not let those fellows totally lose faith on the thing. Let's be gracious enough to kind of soften the blow for them and not make them feel that "you guys made a mess of it and now you come to us" idea. Approach them this bases. Gradually eliminate perhaps 50 per cent or 75 per cent of the gang and work from the bottom and keep two or three key men in there.

Okazaki: Let us put it this way. When we are ready to manufacture on a profitable Basis, we will be happy to have them come in and work with us.

Mr. Mathiesen felt that it would be best to have a noodle committee. He also suggested that with about \$150 Mr. Jake Autum of Camp #1 can go ahead and make machinery for noodle making, which otherwise would cost us well over thousand dollars.

Sim: Is this factory going to be on such a scale that it's going to supply the three camps, or are you going to have individual units?

Okazaki: At first when this Industry was set up, we were told to supply all three camps, so we went ahead and made plans for that purpose. Since then, the key man had gone out, but if in the opinion of the over-all

committee, it is more efficient to have it in three camps, then have it in all three units.

Nakamura: By whom is labor being paid?

Mathiesen: I would put it this way: During its organizational stages, the Administration would pay for all labor.

Sim Togasaki stated that according to Mr. Yamaguchi, making first-class noodles will cost 5 or 6 cents and even less as we become more efficient. Mr. Yamaguchi felt that one man can manufacture 100# daily with a small machinery.

Mr. Mathiesen recommended Mr. Yamaguchi to go to Camp #1 and confer with Mr. Yahiro and study their set-up and report back his recommendations at the next meeting. All those present were unanimous with Mr. Mathiesen's suggestion. Mr. Yamaguchi was empowered to select his own committee.

Mr. Nakamura reported that Camp #2 was of the opinion that since Camp #1 was supplying them with noodles that they should not interfere, although they have a noodle expert, Mr. Toya.

It was suggested that Mr. Yamaguchi have Mr. Toya accompany him on this mission.

Mr. Harada presented his ideas of purchasing raw materials together but marketing finished products separately. Business scouting would be done together. As far as over-all organization is concerned, have some committee in all units when we do mass buying; but in scouting do it individually. As for sales contact and distribution interchange of technicians would be advisable.

Mr. Hamako felt that we should buy and also sell in mass because after manufacturing things it will not be advantageous if we do not market our products profitably.

Mr. Mathiesen felt that we are in need of a committee on policies. He again stressed that when we contact the outside, always make the statement to say that you don't have authority to consummate the final deal, that you are merely inquiring, that you are a member of the committee to get this information.

Mr. Okazaki suggested that we make buttons from mesquites and also Mexican sandals as part of our project.

Mr. Nakamura suggested that we form a board of directors. It was decided that the chairmen of the three Posts, Messrs. Karatani, Nakamura, and Togasaki get together to define some of the over-all policies, and that the locale of meetings be rotated. This committee to be temporary until we are better acquainted.

MISO: Mr. Karatani suggested that we make Miso in Camp #3. Camp #2 was of the same opinion.

Some members present wanted clarification on where Education department came in. Mr. Mathiesen clarified by saying that Education can turn out finished craftsmen; but when we take them into Industry they will be re-educated. All were in favor of this.

It was brought up at this time that all three Industrial boards work towards procuring trucks from the Transportation department.

Sam Rokutani brought up the question of whether this department has any priority rating to purchase saws and power equipment. Reply, "no."

It was suggested this over-all committee draw up a policy of buying and marketing division; make recommendation on what is to be purchased. Other suggestions were that a buying committee be set up; and that a printed form for requisition be set up.

Kenneth Hirose, Press Bulletin representative, presented Mr. Matsuda of Camp #2, formerly affiliated with Nippon Dry.

Mr. Togasaki reported that when he had gone in to see Mr. Mathiesen the previous night, Mr. Mathiesen was placing an order of three oil burners for the three Postons through Mr. Andersen who was leaving for Los Angeles in the morning. Mr. Togasaki felt that three was inadequate so enlarged the order to six—two for each camp. Mr. Andresen's trip being a sudden decision, Mr. Mathissen had no opportunity to confer with Industry members of Camp #1. Mr. Hamako upon hearing this report indignantly objected to such a policy of the two taking it upon themselves without due consideration. Mr. Mathiesen again explained the suddenness of Mr. Andresen's departure, that such emergency cases will happen now and again—so that he will take the responsibility of all such emergency cases. It was agreed that in all other cases mass purchasing would be done upon all three camps' agreement.

Suggestion was that the over-all committee investigate what requisitions have already been placed through Procurement and exactly how each one was disposed. This committee will meet next Tuesday, November 3, 9:00 a.m., at Camp #1.

Mr. Togasaki suggested that we should have a full-time public relations man.

Camp #1 reported that Poston #1 Red Cross chapter has approached them to manufacture Christmas objects such as toys, slipper, etc., so they may sell these internally to camp inhabitants. After considerable discussion it was moved by Mr. Miwa that all internal supply of this camp should be done through Community Enterprise. Mr. Hamako seconded the motion. After further discussion, Mr. Miwa withdrew his motion and recommended it as a policy, leaving it up to the over-all committee to make final decisions.

Mr. Mathiesen suggested that someone be thinking seriously of silk worms for Industry.

Meeting adjourned at noon.

Next mass meeting will be held in Camp #1, Thursday, November 5, at Camp #1.