

WHEREAS, The ~~California~~ Farm Security Administration is soliciting and encouraging hundreds of indigent "Dust Bowl" families to migrate to our State for the purpose of eeking out an existence in our agricultural districts; and

WHEREAS, This same Farm Secubity Administration extends immediate relief to these thousands of families under the supposition that there will be work available for them in the agricultural districts; and

WHEREAS, California does not have adequate housing facilities for these people and they are living in river bottoms, outskirts of our cities in ramble shacks, refuse-constructed tents and trailers, and in many instances camped under trees and bluffs or in tents, under the most revolting sanitary conditions; and

WHEREAS, These living and camping conditions have become a serious menace to public health and morals; and

WHEREAS, These refugees have been and are unable to secure sufficient employment in the farming belt and are now raiding the craft industry to work for any wage and under any condition the employer may impose, and thereby destroying the wage structures of our organized workers by taking the jobs of thousands of men and women of the State Federation of Labor; and

WHEREAS, Under our State laws these indigent thousands become the burden of the taxpayers of California in one year, thereby laying an additional responsibility on the men and women of our State; and

WHEREAS, The Local Joint Executive Board of Culinary Workers and the Central Labor Councils of Los Angeles and Long Beach have endorsed similar resolutions on this subject; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we, the delegates of the California State Federation of Labor, in regular convention assembled in Santa Barbara, September 19, 1938, do petition all agencies of the Federal Government to provide adequate and immediate relief for these unfortunate people in their own home communities, and that they be officially informed and instructed that there will be no relief available for them in California; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Federal Government aid and encourage these idle thousands to return to their respective States and that they be given proper aid and assistance by the Federal Government.

This Resolution was presented to the 39th Annual Convention of the California State Federation of Labor at Santa Barbara, California, September 19 to 23, 1938. It was referred to the Committee on Resolutions and when the Convention convened on September 23 the Resolution was adopted upon the recommendation of the Resolutions Committee. This is taken from the officers' reports and proceedings of the convention published by the California State Federation of Labor.

RELATIVE TO MR. DUFFY'S STATEMENT THAT THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TWO YEARS AGO HAD APPLIED FOR A FEDERAL MIGRATORY LABOR CAMP AND HAD NOW REVERSED ITS POSITION:

Application was made by Mr. Hagie during October 1936 to what was then known as the Rural Resettlement Administration asking that of the thirty-three million dollars allocated to it funds be provided for subsistence homesteads in the Yakima valley. Subsequently, a committee was set up, of which P. A. Gaul was chairman, but the plan specifically involved the building of small cottages the cost of which along with the land was to be amortized over a period of years at the rate of \$10 per month. In other words, it was a self-liquidating project and, as specifically stated by Harold M. Peet, now assistant to Mr. Duffy, "was . . . was to be a self-liquidating project."

Subsequent correspondence indicates that the matter was never acted upon, a letter from Mr. Duffy under date of March 23, 1937, to Rolfe Whitnall, acting secretary, stating that there was some question as to whether there should be several permanent housing projects or one central housing projects. Members of the committee, however, favored the former although during the interim Mr. Gaul had taken an option on some 120 acres of land in the vicinity of Congdon Orchards.

According to Mr. Duffy in the letter mentioned, the following statement was made: "Mr. Peet believes a local organization should be set up either a corporation or a cooperative association in which would be vested ownership and management of the project. Those persons in Yakima County interested in the project's successful development would purchase stock in the corporation or cooperative association to give evidence of the community's willingness to share in the financial responsibilities of the venture and to help provide assets on which a loan could be negotiated with some governmental agency, probably the Reconstruction Finance Corporation." "The idea back of the suggestions made by Mr. Peet was that the venture could and should be made economically sound and therefore would be self-liquidating."

In a letter to Mr. Duffy of the Resettlement Administration under date of March 11, 1937, Mr. Whitnall, acting secretary, stated that in the judgment of Mr. Gaul's committee that one-tenth of an acre would not be sufficient ground for an individual to do much in the way of raising his own foodstuff after the space necessary for a house, outbuildings and so forth. "They believe," said Mr. Whitnall, "that one-half acre tracts should be the minimum area in any of these tracts." It appears that the Resettlement Administration had figured an eighty-acre tract but that Mr. Gaul had taken an option on a tract of 120 acres lying two and a half miles southwest from the city limits of Yakima.

Further examination of the records indicated that the proposition of subsistence homesteads dated back to a time prior to the first allotment of funds for the Roza unit when it was then being considered that a portion of the Roza was to be set up as a subsistence homestead, an elaborate report on the subject being prepared and sent to Washington, D.C.

In 1936 it was revived on a smaller scale and during the fall of 1936 Herbert Peet of the Resettlement Administration came to Yakima and went over the situation. Mr. Gaul's committee was set up during the interim between these previous negotiations and the time that Mr. Hagie left for Washington, D. C.

In a long distance call on June 7, 1937, Mr. Peet asked if the committee preferred single or scattered units and he was informed that scattered units would better face the problem. In a phone conversation on June 10, 1937, Mr. Peet advised that the Resettlement Administration would not finance the units, the funds after certain organization plans were completed were obtained from the Federal Housing Administration and the R.F.C. Mr. Peet stated it would be necessary to organize a local corporation, he suggesting the sale of \$20,000 of preferred stock, after which the corporation would be in position to apply to the Federal Housing Administration or the R.F.C. or both. He was advised that \$20,000 matched by governmental agencies would not be sufficient to handle the subsistence homestead units satisfactorily. His reply was that his idea was merely to create the foundation of an organization in order to get started.

Mr. Peet advised in the same conversation that the information previously filed was in connection with the proposed settlement project and that the plans were prepared by the Social and Economic Planning Section and apparently had been discarded due to the reorganization and reassignment of the resettlement work to the Department of Agriculture.

He was asked in that phone conversation to appear in Yakima at a meeting which was never done.

On June 15, 1937, another long distance conversation was had with Mr. Peet stating that a search of the files of the Portland office had failed to divulge the previous data submitted and that it would probably be necessary to re-canvass the local problem during and subsequent to the meeting which he was to hold here in 1937 as there would be some changes in the ideas of the Administration and in all probability the previous plan would not be the one to follow. This was the end of any communications between the Resettlement Administration and the Yakima Chamber of Commerce, but the records definitely indicate that the attitude of the Chamber has not changed and that its interest in 1936 and 1937 related to subsistence homesteads for permanent residents of Yakima valley and was not to provide a federal migratory labor camp or camps for transients.