

2055
University of California
Enemy alien study

SOCIAL SCIENCE STAFF CONFERENCE

Friday, May 8, 1942

Present: JHW, RFE, AB, ME, JMP and Dr. Crane and Dr. Young of SSRC.

Subject: University of California proposal for Japanese Migration Study

JHW lists some arguments pro and con.

Pro

1. This material will be valuable in writing the history of the incident.
2. Bears on treatment of minorities.
3. May be more forced mass migrations - experience of this will be helpful.
4. Has values in terms of international relations.
5. Will make contributions to sociology and anthropology.
6. Personnel highly qualified.

Con

1. JHW feels he is committed.
2. Field workers will be government employees and some Japs. To what extent can Japanese be accepted as dependable reporters.
3. No mention or discussion of method.
4. No basis or knowledge of previous attitudes.
5. No time to follow through.

There is a choice between complete regret and declination or a grant-in-aid of \$7,500 to explore and develop the proposal, to work out methods and to try out their hypothesis. JHW reports that Mrs. Gagnard, Secretary of the Rosenberg Foundation of California, had just been in to see him. She expressed interest in the project and said that it might be possible for the Rosenberg Foundation to collaborate with the RF in making the money available.

Crane: Would like to see them get a small grant. Believes study should focus on effects of handling on a minority group. Although this should not be taken too seriously in considering possibility of a grant, Dorothy Thomas had so advertised her trip, to return without anything would undoubtedly result in some loss of prestige on the Coast.

Young: Does not believe any real problem exists in using government workers part-time in reporting. Any Japanese who are used are persons who are known to University authorities and would also be better able to work with their own people. Believes there is sufficient documentation on Japanese attitudes on West Coast to provide basis for comparison.

JHW: Any grant would have to be cleared first with Relocation authority.

Young: Thinks perhaps the pros have been stressed too much and the cons have been stressed too much. This is just a fragment of what should

be done and what he would like to see done. Provides a chance to study what happens to a group of people moved under compulsion with a set of definite regulations in mind, - a type of population planning. This segment deals with what happens to the social institutions and individuals as people.

Young: Is not concerned about the lack of statement of techniques to be used in statement of project. DT could draw up the kind of proposal desired but it would not mean that the proposal is any different. Although Dorothy Thomas is an eminent sociologist, there has been a considerable shift in the type of work she has been doing. She has been working with techniques which are not familiar in the fields of cultural sociology and cultural anthropology. There is no one first class in this field in California. Believes that three questions should be answered affirmatively in order to decide whether or not to make grant:

1. Is the problem important scientifically?
2. Is the problem worth attacking?
3. Is the personnel worth a gamble?

After Dr. Young and Dr. Crane left the meeting the SS staff agreed to recommend a \$7,500 grant-in-aid with the understanding that

1. Time and personal considerations are factors
2. Absolutely free RF choice ten months hence
3. Local help to be secured
4. Advance approval to be secured from Relocation Authority
5. Reassurances to be secured that there is no embarrassment to government and that there be independence of workers and co-operation and freedom of action in use of results.