

UCCSN Board of Regents' Meeting Minutes

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REGENTS MEETING

March 25, 1944

A special meeting of the Board of Regents was held in the President's office at the University of Nevada. Chairman Ross called the meeting to order at 10:05 A.M. Present: Regents Sheerin, Sirkegian and Ross; Governor Carville; Director C. W. Creel and Otto Schulz of the Agricultural Extension Division and Acting President Gorman. Mr. Ross read a telegram from Regent Mc Namee, who was unable to attend; Mrs. Wardin was absent on account of illness.

Chairman Ross made the statement that the meeting was called for the purpose of considering what action and what responsibility the Regents wish to take in regard to handling War Emergency Farm Labor. Mr. Ross then turned the meeting over to Mr. Gorman.

Mr. Gorman stated he had received a letter from Marvin Jones, War Food Administrator, under date of February 14, 1944, concerning the handling of War Emergency Farm Labor; that, as Acting President, he had prepared a tentative answer to Mr. Jones' letter, copy of which was sent to Governor Carville for his approval; that the Governor raised certain objections to the handling of Japanese labor as outlined in Mr. Gorman's tentative answer to Mr. Jones' letter and that this meeting was called to decide upon the course of action the Regents should take so as to conform to the Governor's policy regarding Japanese labor.

Mr. Gorman then asked Mr. Creel to read the Marvin Jones letter of February 14th which follows:

C. H. Gorman, Acting President
University of Nevada
Reno, Nevada

Dear Sir:

You are fully aware of the responsibility for supplying farm-

ers with adequate supply of labor for wartime production which the Cooperative Extension Services of the Land Grant Colleges shared with the Office of Labor, War Food Administration, during the past year. When the Executive Committee of the Association of Land Grant Colleges called at my office last month, I expressed pleasure and satisfaction with the manner in which the State Extension Services handled their part of the farm labor job in 1943. I would again express appreciation of the contribution of the Cooperative Extension Service of your institution to the production of a vitally essential war commodity - food.

The Congress has recently completed action on the farm labor appropriation bill for 1944. The Act is now awaiting the signature of the President. Under the new Act, the Cooperative Extension Service in each State is asked to continue in 1944 those farm labor functions so well performed in 1943. In addition, the War Food Administrator, "is authorized and directed to enter into agreements with the Extension Services of the Land Grant Colleges in the respective States to furnish, on behalf of the United States, for domestic interstate agricultural workers and their families and foreign agricultural workers and their families, while such workers are employed within any such State, any or all of the following services or functions which such State Extension Services are willing to undertake."

A. For domestic agricultural workers, the additional functions which State Agricultural Services might perform under agreement with the Administrator are:

1. The furnishing of protection and shelter, health, medical and burial services, training, subsistence, allowances and supervision to transported interstate workers.
2. The furnishing of health and medical services to non-transported,
 - (a) Agricultural workers and their families housed in a farm labor supply camp operated as a part of this program, and;
 - (b) Migratory agricultural workers and their families who, without recruitment or assistance of any government agency have entered the area served by any such labor supply center and are engaged in agricultural work in such areas and

to whom health and medical services are not otherwise available.

3. The maintenance and keeping of records of compliance with contracts with interstate workers and with employers for whom such workers are supplied on the basis of negotiated contracts.

(Such records are designed to determine compliance with all provisions of the contracts, and among others to determine the amounts collectible from the growers for failure to supply employment as guaranteed in the contract and to determine the amounts payable to workers where such guaranteed employment has not been furnished. The making of such collections and payments as are determined to be in order from such records is a necessary counterpart of this function.)

- B. For foreign agricultural workers the additional functions which State Extension Services might perform under agreement with the Administrator are:

1. The furnishing of protection and shelter, health, medical and burial services, training, subsistence, allowances and supervision of foreign workers.
2. The maintenance and keeping of records of compliance with contracts with foreign workers and with employers with whom such workers are placed.

(Such records are designed to determine:

- (a) The amounts collectible from growers for failure to furnish employment as guaranteed in international agreements;
- (b) The amounts payable to the individual foreign workers under such guarantees;
- (c) That the employers have made wage deductions and forwarded such amounts for transmission to the designed depository in accordance with international agreements;
- (d) That the prevailing rates of pay have been used in the payment of the workers in accordance with the international agreements;

- (e) To serve other purposes which require information as to the status of each foreign worker each day he is in this country and as to each individual employer or association with whom he has been placed for each day of such assignment; and
- (f) The making of collections from growers, the making of payments to workers and taking other corrective action as analyses of the records might warrant are necessary counterparts of this function.)

The apportionment and expenditures of the funds appropriated for allocation to the States for the intrastate phases of farm labor will necessitate merely an extension of the agreements entered into between the Administrator and the various States pursuant to Public Law No. 45. Where the State Extension Services are desirous of performing any or all of the services or functions set forth under "A" and "B" above, it will be necessary to arrange for an appropriate supplement agreement and an additional allocation of funds.

In determining the manner in which you desire the foreign agricultural worker part of the program is to be considered. First, is the necessary administrative detail, enumerated in "B" above, which must be carried out fully in accordance with international agreements. Second is the necessity of getting prior clearance with the responsive foreign governments before any responsibilities can be delegated to the several States which are now assumed by the Office of Labor in the War Food Administration.

As we all realize, it is of the utmost importance that plans be developed now before the season gets too far along in order that any change in procedure or organization will not retard the furnishing of the agricultural labor needed in 1944. Colonel Philip G. Burton, Director of Labor, War Food Administration, and Mr. M. L. Wilson, Federal Director of Extension, will be present at a regional farm labor conference at Denver, Colorado, on February 28, 29 and March 1. State Directors of Extension and State Farm Labor Supervisors will be in attendance. That meeting will provide an opportunity for frank discussion and thorough consideration of the manner in which certain of the interstate and foreign labor functions can best be handled in 1944.

It is suggested that your decision as to the farm labor functions your institution is desirous or willing to assume in 1944 be delayed until your Director of Extension has returned from the Denver conference. This determination should be made for the full year, 1944, as it will be most inadvisable to modify organizations and switch responsibilities during the operating season.

In the absence of printed copies of the 1944 Farm Labor Appropriation Act, which will not be available until after the President signs the bill, I am enclosing a mimeographed copy of H. J. Res. 208 in which the changes recommended by the House and Senate conferees have been inserted.

At my request, Director M. L. Wilson is sending a copy of this letter and the bill to Director C. W. Creel.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Marvin Jones
War Food Administration

Enclosure

Mr. Creel then made a report on the meeting held in Denver in February 28, 29 and March 1, 1944. Mr. Creel explained that the Farm Emergency Labor program had been resolved into 3 categories:

1. Intrastate Labor - which is being handled this year in the same manner as it was handled last year, on a continuation of last year's agreement with the Federal authorities.
2. Foreign Labor - which, so far as Nevada is concerned, consists of Mexican labor. As the handling of Mexican labor involves treaties between the United States and Mexico, it had been already decided that the Federal agencies would handle this phase of the program.
3. Interstate Labor - which involves sending of labor into Nevada from other states. This category includes the controversial matter of Japanese labor.

Governor Carville made serious objections to the proposed handling of Japanese labor as outlined in the following written statement:

In the proposed program Japanese labor is placed on same basis as other domestic labor. Japs in concentration camps

have been placed there by Government authorities and Government should retain supervision whether they are in or out of camps. State agencies should not shoulder responsibility for the care the Government requires of Japanese. State agency has no police power or police protection to offer. If certain communities want Jap labor let them take responsibility, and obtain sanction of County Boards for protection, etc.

The people of this State generally do not want Japs. Since the Government wishes to retain partial supervision over foreign labor, I see no good reason why they should not retain supervision over Jap labor. I consider Japs an alien enemy class, which is more reason that the Government should supervise them.

After full discussion it was the sense of the Board that:

1. Inasmuch as the Government had already arranged to handle foreign (Mexican) labor, they should also handle interstate labor.
2. The University is not in a position and should not be required to furnish the police supervision necessary to properly handle Japanese labor.
3. The University should and would cooperate in the fullest under the present agreement to place needed labor.