

MEMORANDUM TO FILES

March 13, 1942

FROM: W. B. POLLARD

Subject: Evacuee Property Program

I spent considerable time yesterday at the new offices in the Financial Center Building set up to handle this work. They had quite a number of callers while I was there, and it seemed to be about equally divided between Japanese and Americans. I inquired of Mr. Armstrong as to the business of the American people, and he said that to a considerable extent the callers were people who were looking for bargains.

At the end of the day's business I attended a meeting of all the personnel of the new office. The purpose of the meeting was to relate their experiences of the day and go over the memoranda prepared on the interviews. It seems obvious that at this stage of the game there is not a great deal of help which can be rendered. There is naturally a general state of confusion and probably will be until a date has been set for the moving.

I discussed the situation for a few minutes this morning with Mr. Hale. He seems rather of the opinion that when moving time comes the offices set up by the Reserve Bank will probably be in the forbidden district and that it will be necessary to scatter the men in this area outside the forbidden sections. With this in view, he thinks the men should familiarize themselves with all sorts of problems rather than specializing in any particular field.