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PUBLIC WELFARE SECTION
KANTO CIVIL AFFAIRS REGION
APO 500

EKC/an

27 February 1950

Field Report

1. Minobu Machi, Yamanashi Ken
1415 to 1700 - 14 February 1950
2. Conference with:

Kawai, Town Chief
Hiyoshi, Vice Chief
Sanno, Principal of Intermediate High School
Ishida, Protection Division, Chief, Yamanashi Ken
Sanno, Welfare Section Chief

3. Minobu Machi population 5,340, is the site of the Kuonji Temple, the general headquarters of the Nichiren Sect. of Buddhists. Hence it is a tourist center visited by approximately 1,000,000 visitors a year. The Chief and 22 Assemblymen are elected by popular vote. There are 4 sections in the Town Office: General Affairs, Taxation, Economics and Welfare. A total of 21 persons are employed, 4 of whom work in the Welfare Section. Two of these employees are concerned with public assistance and the other two with Registration.

The Town Chief considers the local office to be directly under the Prefecture Office even though it is an autonomy. The Chiho Jimusho in Kajikazawa acts as liaison with no direct supervisory powers. Some directives come directly from the Prefecture and some through the Chiho Jimusho. There seems to be no definite channel. Only 4 times during the past year has the office been visited by representatives from either of the Ken offices.

A M.I. conference is held once a month at which time new applications for are P.A. considered. If approved for P.A. at this conference, the applications are then turned over to the Town Chief for consideration. These conferences are not held on specific dates but always once each month. Applications are considered to be of two types "1st" or "2nd". The 2nd class applications are those that are considered border-line cases and decisions are deferred for an additional month during which time it is said that efforts are made to assist families in ways other than with P.A. It is claimed that a case has never actually been rejected and the applicants can appeal from decisions of the conference, but no one has ever shown dissatisfaction.

The caseload is at present 45 families - 127 persons. Only 12 families are receiving the maximum grant, 11 of whom are widows with children. The town pays its 10% of the grant. All payments

are made about the 25th of each month. The total town budget for a year is ¥11,140,000. The Welfare Budget is ¥4,332,300, approximately 1/3 of the total. The total M.I. expenditure amounts to ¥19,000.

It was necessary to examine 3 books to obtain the most meagre information relative to cases. No record of home visits is kept. However, all visits made by M.I. are recorded on special forms which are forwarded through the local office to the Chiho Jimusho. No one knew exactly why this procedure was inaugurated in January of this year, but it was thought that it might be possible that the Chiho Jimusho might "keep track" of all cases and give special care if necessary through the Seikatsu Shido In (Livelihood Guidance Instructor). This information could not be elaborated upon except that the Shido-In was appointed in the autumn of 1948 and it is his job to know all the cases in a Chiho area. Although the Shido-In has visited Minobu twice he has never worked on a case. The local office feels that its responsibility is purely clerical, that it has no authority to even verify income. The Welfare Chief stated the M.I. have full power and their information and decisions are never questioned by the Welfare Office. The Welfare Chief feels that he is subservient to the M.I.

There is no special child welfare program in existence. The Jido Fukushishi from the Chiho Office visited twice last year, but there were no problems for his consideration. Officials admitted there is one feeble-minded child in town which is taken care of by parents and presents no problem.

It is quite apparent that the public assistance program is dictated and dominated by the M.I. in this small town. It is believed that a careful review of needs would show discrimination on the part of the M.I. and the failure to utilize the D.L.S.L. to its fullest extent.

E. K. CALLOW

PUBLIC WELFARE SECTION
KANTO CIVIL AFFAIRS REGION
APO 500

EKG/mm

28 February 1950

Field Report

1. Nirasaki Cho, Kitakoma Gun, Yamanashi Ken
1400 to 1800 - 15 February 1950
2. Conference with:
Yaichiro Ono, Town Chief
Tokunichi Kobayashi, Town Vice Chief
Yoshinobu Shimura, Welfare Division Chief
Ishida, Welfare Department - Ken
Tomishige Tsuchiya, Chiho Jimusho, Relief Div. - G.A. Chief
3. This is the only town in Kitakoma Gun. The population of 9702 persons drives 60% of its income from the operation of small shops and the remaining 40% from agricultural activities. It is the trading center for the Gun and is the site of the Chiho Jimusho.

The Chief and 22 Assemblymen are elected by popular vote for 4 year periods. All other public officials are appointed by the Chief with the approval of the Assembly. The administrative structure is divided into the following divisions; General Affairs, Insurance, Health, Welfare, Ration, Registration, Education, Taxation, Land Reform and Housing Projects. A total of 25 persons are employed.

The Welfare Division employs the Chief and 1 full-time woman assistant. The present caseload is 74 families (245 persons), composed as follows: Widows with children 40%, Old Age 10%, Medical Aid 10%, War Sufferers 10% and general poverty 30%. It was stated that new cases were always "discovered" by M.I. (10 men & 5 women) until sometime last Autumn, but at present the Welfare Chief goes out into the community to "discover" cases - "sometimes hears about needy cases through neighbors, schools or other sources". Chief claims to work in co-operation with the M.I. The average number of new applications per month is 5 and it is estimated that perhaps one or two apply of their own volition. Only 10 cases are receiving the maximum grant - these are Old Age cases.

A work-shop is operated by the Welfare Division and employs one full-time employee as manager. Three artificial flower factories in Tokyo supply the work. As of today 30 persons are employed either in the work-shop or in their homes. It is claimed that they work an 8-hour day and average an income of ¥60.

The Welfare records were of absolutely no value except to show the names and addresses of the recipients. Files had been set up to appear as though records were consolidated and kept in one folder. However, a first glance indicated that envelopes were not handled daily

and closer scrutiny revealed no information under 1 year old. When current records were produced they were undated and presented a sad picture.

The Child Welfare Program during the past year consisted of the organization of 15 children's clubs, children's saving bank and library. The Jido Fukushishi was not consulted on any cases for this town last year but has been called in on one case in January of this year by the Police.

In summary, the over-all welfare picture seems to be similar to that of other small towns in general. One gets the impression that persons who are in need are not generally free to approach the proper authorities but must wait until their need is "discovered" by the M.I. The amount of assistance is determined arbitrarily by the M.I. and it is felt that the needs might be more adequately met.

E. K. CALLOW

PUBLIC WELFARE SECTION
KANTO CIVIL AFFAIRS REGION
APO 500

EKC/an

28 February 1950

Field Report

1. Enzan Cho, Higashiyamanashi Gun, Yamanashi Ken
1000 to 1230 - 16 February 1950

2. Conference with:

Ikeda, Town Chief
Furuya, Welfare Chief
Shibuzawa, G. A. Chief
Kato, Jyomu-in
Hagiwara, Employee of Welfare Section
Nakamura, Chiho Jimusho Chief
Suwa, Chiho Jimusho - Welfare Div. Chief - G. A. Section

Note: At opening of conference there were four additional men (including the Police Chief) who departed when names of attendants were recorded.

3. Enzan Cho has a population of 15,200. Livelihood is derived equally from the operation of small shops and agricultural activities. Chief and 26 Assemblymen are elected by popular vote. Administrative structure comprises the General Affairs, Distribution, Welfare, Taxation, Registration, Insurance and Land Reform Sections. The Welfare Section employs a chief and an elderly gentleman who was formerly the chief, but now acts as clerk. The caseload is 116 families (336 persons), the largest cause being widows with children. No family receives the maximum standard grant. Two single persons do receive the maximum amount.

Good looking envelopes had been prepared and were submitted as case records. However, the only information they contained was outdated and usually was nothing more than the names and addresses of the recipients and the amount of income as determined by the M.I. One case composed of a widow and 3 children showed an income of ¥2,030 per month. The only explanation which could be given was that the woman owned a piece of land on which she could raise some food.

It was quite obvious that the local welfare officials knew little or nothing about the P.A. program. When Welfare Officer directed questions to the Welfare Chief, it was admitted that he had only been appointed 3 days previously, that his legal residence was in Enzan, that he had been a school teacher, is now retired and returned to his home town so was given the position of welfare chief. It is possible that

he may be able to improve the situation when he becomes more familiar with the program.

It was said that the Seikatsu-Shido-in visits all recipient cases "to see that they are satisfied". He does not work with the M.I. but does co-ordinate information. "There are many cases a M.I. cannot handle because he is not a public official - for instance a M.I. cannot tell a relative he must support someone, but the Seikatsu-Shido-in can because he is an official."

In summary, the same type of welfare program exists as in other small towns in Yamanashi Prefecture. Last year in May, an official from the Ken Office visited the town office and looked over the case records. Discrepancies were found at that time and a written report was made. It is said that these errors have been rectified. It is quite apparent that emphasis in the office is being placed on the clerical work rather than casework.

E. K. CALLOW