SOCIAL WELFARE

WORKERS KEPT BUSY

Taking care of the Center residents' personal problems, welfare and business needs, and, in general, making the stay of the residents as pleasant as possible, have been the functions of the Social Welfare office, which officially opened its office in the Women's Shower Annex C on June 1.

The first few weeks of social welfare work in the Center was more or less of a make-shift arrangement, with Major Masahide Imai, formerly of the Fresno Salvation Army, continuing with his welfare work alone.

However, as the need for a Social Welfare office grew strong the present office was created with Seichi Mikami at the head. Major Imai, Mrs. Seichi Mikami, and Yayo Machigashira assisted Mikami in carrying on the activities of the office.

Helping the Florin group adjust themselves to their new hmes was the first big project executed by Mikami and Imai. They were located in their temporary office at I-20-5 at the time.

A list of the services rendered by the office were fire, leave and entry, medical cases, change of address, letter writing, notarization, mail order, selective service, personal welfare, and miscellaneous work.

Other important projects were the blood bank, putting into effect a shoe repair arrangement, the primary election of August 25, and helping with the registration of all 18 to 20 year old males in the Center subject to the selective service registration.

For the blood bank, young men and women were recruited who voluntarily gave their blood. Twenty pints of blood were at the County Hospital as a result of this work. The office also assisted in several actual blood transfusions.



The shoe repair arrangement for employees was instituted, a service which was especially necessary for people who worked in the various mess halls. Although all Center residents were not able to take advantage of this, particularly the children, at least such a service was given to those employed, as well as for welfare cases.

Due to the effort put forth in conducting the issuance and notarization of absentee ballots, several hundred center resident voters were able to exercise their franchise.

During the registration of all 18 to 20 year old males subject to the draft, several hundred men were taken care of on that day.

On August 17, the Social Welfare office moved into their bigger and better offices in the annex to the Women's Shower Annex C.

This change from an unorganized beginning to an organized, responsible, and efficient office for the benefit of the center residents in a few months is an indication of the important part played by the Social Welfare office in the Fresno Assembly Center community.