

~~TOP SECRET~~

19 October 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR AFSA-OOT:

SUBJECT: Certain Objections against the proposed move to Fort Knox.

1. The following points represent a summary of objections from certain AFSA-O3 personnel to the proposed move of the Armed Forces Security Agency to Fort Knox. They are mostly on the scores of personal and family considerations as received directly from the O3 personnel concerned and do not represent an official AFSA-O3 statement.

2. The objections on the score of employee housing may be categorized as follows:

- a. Government-owned housing on the post
- b. Housing in some nearby small town
- c. Housing in Louisville

1. The objections to a. are:

- (a) A civilian living on an Army post is bound to be a sort of step-child who is tolerated rather than welcomed.
- (b) His social life will be limited to contacts with the same people with whom he works all day. He will be far from theaters, libraries, museums, good schools, good restaurants, and big-time athletic events. Television reception will be poor and limited to a single station (perhaps two).
- (c) He will be far from good civilian doctors, dentists, and hospitals. A civilian certainly cannot expect any medical attention for himself or dependents until all military personnel are cared for. Under ordinary circumstances, military doctors will not make house calls. Ordinarily good civilian doctors and dentists of experience will not settle in a country community near an Army post. Certainly one would have to depend on Louisville - 30 miles away.
- (d) Many of the employees of AFSA are city people who live where they do simply because they prefer city life. Such people would be unhappy even without consulting a long list of disadvantages of life in the country or on an Army post.
- (e) Living in government housing makes it necessary to accept the type of quarters someone else chooses to assign rather than whatever type the tenant feels he can afford, or prefers. There will be some

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

SUBJECT: Certain Objections against the proposed move to Fort Knox.

general policy or set of regulations upon which the tenant was never consulted.

- (f) Since the move is presumed to be permanent, the employee must look forward to living here during the rest of his working career and then (since he must leave the post upon retirement) moving to some new and strange place where it will be necessary to re-establish a home and living conditions and community relationships.
- (g) The question of the availability of good schools, both grammar and high schools, is a very important one to many AFSA civilians as well as to AFSA military personnel. It is as important to many people as the availability of adequate medical and hospital facilities and is particularly pressing for a civilian who might expect to be with the Agency for many years in one location. The quality of Kentucky's rural schools is dubious. That of the facilities at the Fort is even more so. Louisville is too far away for commuting even supposing the existence of a school bus to Louisville. The proposed site appears to be utterly deficient in this important aspect.

2. The objections to b. are:

- (a) Same as 1 (b).
- (b) Same as 1 (c).
- (c) Same as 1 (d).
- (d) There will not be any rental property available at a reasonable price off the post in nearby towns.
- (e) If one tries to buy or build a house on his own property, he takes the risk of losing money in case he should decide to leave. If for any reason, a considerable number of people decide to leave at once, the market would be ruined.
- (f) Towns near Army posts are usually full of beer-joints, honkey-tonks, and worse. They are not attractive to professional people or to anyone with children in the family.
- (g) If a number of new people move into nearby towns, all the stores, restaurants, schools and other

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

SUBJECT: Certain Objections against the proposed move to Fort Knox.

facilities are sure to be overcrowded. Sewerage systems, water and gas supplies are sure to be inadequate.

3. The objections to c. are as follows:

(a) The better residential areas of Louisville are not on the side nearest Fort Knox. The distance from the new site to the better parts of Louisville will be at least thirty miles, maybe even thirty-five. It is difficult to drive this far to work each day, particularly in bad weather.

(b) Housing of any type will be difficult to obtain.

3. Objections on the score of obtaining personnel are: No professional man who can get a job anywhere else even at a somewhat lower salary is likely to make such a move. The site of the fort is so far removed from Louisville that the Agency will have great difficulty competing for medium and lower rating personnel. In addition, the new General Electric plant will further reduce the available labor market in this field. Most of this grade personnel would be adverse to making the long trek out to the Fort and back each day when they could get an equally attractive job in or much nearer town.

4. Various people have estimated that from 50% to as high as 90% of AFSA-03 personnel will refuse to move voluntarily to Fort Knox. In that event, the Agency will be forced with the problem of filling their places with people of little or no experience. This egress has already begun (the loss of 2 GS-13 personnel in recent months to cite only high brackets) and is even now becoming much worse. On the other hand, it is also estimated that from 50% to perhaps more than 90% of these same personnel would at least tentatively go to a new site not too far removed from D.C., say, Warrenton, for example, to see how things work out before changing jobs.

5. In addition to the objections based on personnel and housing, some consideration should be given to sources of technical information which are available in the D.C. area. The proposed site is too far removed to obtain quick reference information which is now obtained from the Library of Congress, Naval Research Laboratory, the Pentagon, etc. The University of Kentucky facilities could hardly be extended (even if they were adequate) to permit free and unrestricted usage by Agency personnel.

Louis W. Torrella

LOUIS W. TORDELLA

~~TOP SECRET~~