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Hirabayashi, James A.

1979-1980

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September 11, 1979

James A. Hirabayashi
Professor of Anthropology
San Francisco State University
San Francisco, CA 94132

Dear Jim:

I am in the midst of preparing a proposal to be submitted to the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) in order to provide me with financial support, beginning Fall 1980, in order to devote myself to editing and annotating my fieldnotes from the 15 months I spent at Tule Lake Segregation Center. Would you be willing to serve as one of the evaluators of this project for NEH. Unless I hear from you to the contrary, I will, within the next few weeks, be sending you a copy of the proposal and of the evaluation materials. If you would prefer that I recruit someone else for this responsibility, I would welcome your nominations.

My thanks and my best wishes,

Rosalie H. Wax
Professor of Anthropology

/sg



San Francisco State University

1600 HOLLOWAY AVENUE • SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94122

Department of Anthropology

Sept 14, 1979

Dear Rosalie,

I must apologize for not answering your previous letter. After I received it, I set it aside and never got back to it. I was in the midst of a research project and memorizing a part in a play when my wife had a rather serious accident. She broke a few bones in her back and was hospitalized for awhile and now, of course, her back pains her so that I do all of the housework! To make matters worse, my duties in the department began during the last week in August. So much for the explanation as to why I didn't respond. Sorry.

I do think that it is important that you publish your materials on Tule Lake. I am not sure what being an evaluator entails but I shall be happy to do whatever I can to implement your plans.

My best to Murray - Regards,

Jim Hirabayashi

San Francisco State University

1600 HOLLOWAY AVENUE • SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94132

Memorandum

To: Kozalci

Date: Oct 30, 1979

From: Jim Hirabayashi

Subject:

Just a note to tell you that I have sent off the evaluation of your application to the National Endowment. I said it was extremely important for anthropologist, Ethnic Studies & for the Japanese American Community for all sorts of reasons ! AND THAT THEY SHOULD FUND

Department of Anthropology

May 28, 1980



WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY
IN ST. LOUIS

James A. Hirabayashi
Professor of Anthropology
San Francisco State University
San Francisco, CA 94132

Dear Jim:

I am sorry to report to you that both NEH and NSF have turned down my proposal to edit and annotate my fieldnotes on Tule Lake. I know that I have received many excellent reviews, but, as Murray tells me, grantsmanship is like gambling. He advises me not to give up and so I am sending a preliminary application to the Asian American Study Center, at UCLA and to the Japan Foundation in New York. If you have any advice or could suggest other agencies to which I might apply, I would appreciate it. If not, I am grateful for your past support.

So many people to whom I have talked recently say they know nothing about the evacuation and tell me: "You should write a book.: But I've already written a book, "Doing Fieldwork," and so I refer them to Michi Weglyn's fine work. And, like you, I am saddened by the money people who seem to think they have learned a great deal about the evacuation watching Farewell to Manzanar on TV. F to M really turned me off.

For fifteen months many Japanese Americans at Tule Lake told me how they felt about what was going on and I wrote down most of their words verbatim. These notes provide a consistent, chronological documentation of the state of ambivalence, indecision, and anxiety about the future in which most of them lived. As I re-read the notes today I get upset. But what is important is not how I feel but a record of how they felt. As I often told myself in the camps: "You are here by your own choice and the Japanese Americans are not."

I see I have let myself go, but I am upset about my proposal being rejected. If you have any suggestions or if any possibilities turn up in the future, please let me know. In this life one never knows what may turn up.

Best wishes and also best regards from Murray,

Rosalie H. Wax
Professor of Anthropology

RHW:sc

Dr. James A. Hirabayashi
Department of Anthropology
San Francisco State University
CA 94132

Dear Jim:

Since our meeting in San Francisco, I have been haunted by the feeling that I ought to write something more about Tule Lake. I keep running into learned colleagues who do not even know that the place ~~Resegregationists~~ existed, or that ^{18,000} ~~the~~ certain Japanese Americans were resegregated.

During the year and a half that I lived at Tule Lake I prepared an enormous file of personal fieldnotes. No one but I has a copy of these notes, for though I the originals ~~xxxxxx~~ gave ~~an~~ copy to ~~BBBBBB~~ Dr. Thomas, she did not deposit them in the Bancroft ~~library~~ ^{then} library. These ~~notes~~ contain a great deal of interesting material that has never been ~~published~~ published -- for example, the ^{detailed story} ~~slow by slow~~ record of Mr. Tokunaga and Mr. Kurihara's resistance to the Resegregationists. ~~In any case, the only person who has~~ If any of these materials are to be prepared for publication, ~~published~~ I will have to do it, since I am the only person who can ~~interpret~~ work with them insightfully.

I will be retired after next year and I have been thinking about what I might do. One possibility would be to write some articles ~~based on these notes~~ based on these notes. But before I make up my mind I would like to know what the Japanese Americans would like me to write about. What would they like to see published? I would also like to know whether I could obtain an ^{proposal} endorsement ~~and assistance~~ for my ~~proposal~~ from a Japanese American organizations. Such an endorsement would assist me greatly in getting a grant which would help me do the job.

Any advice that you would care to offer would be appreciated.

I am writing to ask for your opinion. I have never met anyone who has read The Spoilage. ~~and many people~~ On the other ~~hand~~, ~~people~~ many people who have read my book say that my account of ~~the~~ life in the camps was a revelation. But that account is very ^{condensed} ~~brief~~, and there is much more to say. Do you think there would be ~~any~~ an academic or a popular market for articles on Tule Lake? If so, ~~what~~ ^{are there} aspects of that grim saga do you think should be stressed "at this point in time".

Whatever befalls, I would like to say how much I enjoyed our ~~the~~ ^{brief} meeting in San Francisco and look forward to repeating the experience. Murray joins me in wishing you good fortune in your new and arduous ~~job~~ task. In fact, having been the ~~wife~~ wife of a chairman, I add, "God be with you."

Sincerely,

Rosalie M. Wax
Professor