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NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Consultation on Japanese Resettlement during Eastern Trip in June

by Galen M. Fisher. 7/13/1942

1. War Relocation Authority Division Chiefs in Washington.

Talked at length with Thomas W. Holland, Division of Resettlement Planning, R. I. Kimmel, Division of Industry, John H. Provins, Community Planning, and M. M. Tozier, Asst. to Director of Information.

WRA looks to religious leaders of the country to take the main burden of creating a public opinion that will make it safe to release evacuees for free settlement. Evacuees, other than students, will be released in small numbers as soon as opinion in a state gives the Governor confidence that there is no danger of vigilante violence. WRA will probably allow them to go first only to states east of the Western Defense Command area. It will give precedence to nisei, other than kibe, who have had good records in the Centers and are cleared by Project Directors and the FBI, and who have jobs assured.

Regional headquarters of WRA are being set up at Denver, Colorado, and Little Rock, Arkansas. Regional Directors will investigate prospective employers and adequacy of local sponsors. Local sponsors should clear in advance with public officials and representative agencies, civic, farm, labor, patriotic and social welfare, and also check character of jobs offered and living conditions and be prepared to find new jobs if first jobs peter out.

Mr. Holland did not state through what WRA officer applications or offers of employment should be cleared, but presumably it would be through Mr. Holland's representative in the division of resettlement in each regional headquarters, or through the regional general Director who would refer it to the proper person.

There will be no money available for travel and outfitting of releasees. Either the releasee or his employer or friends must provide the funds.

Holland said 1,400 laborers had gone out in the labor corps, chiefly to sugar beet plantations, and there had been no serious incidents.

Mr. Kimmel expressed eagerness to develop small scale industries, some of them year-round employing persons who cannot do agricultural work, some of them for winter only when farming is slack. Industries would be of three types: to supply war needs directly, war needs indirectly, and domestic goods. WRA will probably lend capital for equipment in the case of independent colonies that can run industries. Kimmel called in Harry G. Clement, in charge of Program and Reports Division in the Farm Security Administration. Clement and Kimmel showed keen interest in the farm colony established by Fred I. Wada at Keetley, Utah, on the George A. Fisher ranch, and will probably send an investigator to consider equipping the unused school building there as a factory.

Mr. Provins said WRA will stimulate and welcome contacts between evacuees and outside people. Dr. Grace Coyle, ~~wife of Professor Harrison Elliott~~, is adviser on community relations. Already various organizations like the Boy Scouts and 4H Clubs have begun to work inside Relocation Centers. Every effort will be made to create in each Center the natural institutions of a town of 10,000. Obviously this is difficult, since the WRA officials always

stand in the background, and since intercourse and economic exchange with the outside world are restricted, but that is the general ideal. Leadership in every phase of activity will be placed in the hands of evacuees, although lack of trained teachers will necessitate employing four fifths Caucasian teachers in the schools. There will be no censorship of mail.

2. Conference with a Congressional Representative.

This gentleman has kept fully informed of developments and is particularly concerned over two matters, first, that the efforts to disfranchise Japanese shall be defeated. He thinks the Bill presented by Senator Stewart for disfranchisement of Japanese during the war will not pass, being opposed by Secretaries of War, Navy, and Justice. He expressed concern also that Colonel Bendetsen's statement to the effect that nisei had not given information as to disloyal persons to the Intelligence Services should be corrected, since there was ample evidence to the contrary. He suggested no publicity be given to this matter, but that the ample evidence available to the contrary should be presented personally to Colonel Bendetsen.

3. Conference with Messrs. Roswell Barnes and Mark Dawber and a group of executives of Councils of Churches at Conference Point, Wisconsin, July 3.

Substantial agreement was reached along the following lines:

a) A persistent and long term campaign must be undertaken through national, state and local Protestant organizations in order to create a public opinion favorable to the dispersal of small numbers of Japanese, chiefly nisei, in interior communities.

b) Field representatives appointed jointly by interdenominational and denominational agencies should be secured to spend several months visiting Church and community leaders in hundreds of communities across the country, chiefly west of the Alleghenies and east of the Rockies. The services of regular denominational district representatives (secretaries, superintendents, bishops, etc.) should be fully utilized.

c) Special pamphlets, circulars, releases and articles, and interviews in newspapers must be systematically utilized. Many influential publications are issued on Atlantic seaboard and must be properly covered. Denominational papers should be systematically supplied with pertinent articles and news items.

d) A pronouncement regarding the issues involved in Japanese evacuation and resettlement should be issued with the support of about a hundred nationally known religious and civic leaders. Fisher was asked to make a first draft which he will send to Barnes and Dawber. Pearl Buck was suggested as a good person to write the final draft.

e) Funds for this campaign will have to be supplied chiefly from denominational treasuries. Already Presbyterians and Baptists have made liberal appropriations. Other denominations will doubtless follow suit. If they allocate several thousand dollars each to a common interdenominational fund, the campaign can be most effectively conducted.

f) Available pamphlet material favorably mentioned was as follows: TOUCHSTONE

May 12, 1942

OF DEMOCRACY issued by the Council for Social Action, 289-4th Ave., N.Y.C., 10¢ a copy, 6¢ a copy for 100 or more; THE JAPANESE IN OUR MIDST, available at Colorado Council of Churches, Mack Building, Denver, Colo., 25 for \$1., 100 for \$3., 500 for \$7.50; PUBLIC AFFAIRS NEWS SERVICE, (Y.W.C.A.) Woman's Press, 600 Lexington Ave., N.Y.C., 15 ¢. Pacific Citizen, the J.A.C.L. organ, Beason Bldg., Salt Lake City, Utah, has reprinted from the Christian Century of April 1 the article by Fisher, OUR JAPANESE REFUGEES. Unfortunately several words have been omitted in paragraph 1, but otherwise it is substantially correct. Copies available at cost of postage by applying to Galen Fisher at 260 California Street, Room 311, San Francisco, California.

4. Miscellaneous interviews.

Several persons interviewed, editors, jurists, religious leaders, urged that we continue to press for hearings for Japanese evacuees, and for Germans and Italians. On the other hand, a leading liberal jurist in Washington said civilian hearing boards for evacuees in California would probably be anti-Japanese in enough cases to queer the results, since their bias would lead them to fasten the suspicion of disloyalty rather than to remove it from a considerable number. The question was raised by a Quaker whether it was not unsound to urge hearings while ignoring the illegality of the Executive Order authorizing the evacuation. Norman Thomas said he was writing a special pamphlet on the evacuation and asked for reference material. Clarence Pickett and Reed Carey were interested in the campaign to make dispersed settlement possible, and thought the Keetley Colony might be a good precedent for a number of small group settlements. Roger Baldwin of A.C.L.U. discussed the significant legal cases bearing on the evacuation and on the citizenship of nisei that are now before the courts, and that deserve vigorous support.

The June number of the National Council Bulletin of the Y.M.C.A. printed Fisher's THE BOTTLENECK IN JAPANESE RESETTLEMENT and urged all Associations to cooperate in finding jobs and sponsoring the placement of evacuees.

5. Dr. Clarence Gillett and Dr. Wynn Fairfield cooperated effectively with me at the General Council of Congregational Churches at Durham in securing unanimous approval of resolutions on The Japanese Evacuation and National Policy, and in preparing the way for cooperation of Congregational Church leaders in resettlement.

6. Keetley Colony.

I visited this colony both going east and returning, and found it had been unexpectedly successful in disarming suspicion and winning friends. Dozens of farmers in the neighborhood have begged the colony leader, Wada, to supply them with labor on shares or on wages, and to secure more colonists to develop large areas of irrigable land. I have written an article covering the story of the colony, largely in Wada's own words, which may be published in a few weeks.

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
Heart Mountain Relocation Project  
Heart Mountain, Wyoming

May 10, 1943

Committee on American Principles and Fair Play  
c/o Dr. Galen M. Fisher  
260 California Street  
San Francisco, California

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is the credo adopted by the Volunteers into the United States Armed Services from the Relocation Centers for Japanese ancestry persons in Topaz, Utah, Minidoka, Idaho, and Heart Mountain, Wyoming. This credo is also being adopted in the others of the nine Relocation Centers. This is the expression of our assuming the full responsibility of our obligations as true American citizens. Your full consideration of our attitude and of our welfare as it is integrated in the real democratic processes of our American tradition will be appreciated.

Respectfully yours,

Abe Oyamada  
Chairman,  
Heart Mountain Volunteers

Enclosures: 2

Tom Arai  
Rufus Tojo  
Dick Fujioka

Isawo Tabata  
Henry Yamaoka  
George Zaima

Fred Yamamoto,  
Secretary

STEERING COMMITTEE

CREDO OF THE NISEI VOLUNTEERS

We believe in democracy and dedicate ourselves to the furtherance of its principles.

To uphold these principles, we must destroy every form of tyranny, oppression, and violation of human rights.

We place our faith in America and base our hope in the future on that faith.

Therefore, we believe that our volunteering in the armed forces of this country is a step towards the realization of these ends, and a positive manifestation of our loyalty to the United States.

---Adopted from the Credo of the  
Volunteers of Topaz, by the  
Heart Mountain Volunteers.

Abc Oyamada  
Chairman

Fred Yamamoto  
Secretary

Steering Committee

Tom Arai  
Rufus Tojo  
Dick Fujioka

Isawo Tabata  
Henry Yamaoka  
George Zaima

Heart Mountain Volunteers

The hour approaches when we shall have to depart from our friends, families, and relatives. Truly our ultimate destination is unknown, each going our several ways following the future course of events. While we all hope to enter finally into the Armed Services of the United States, disappointment may be in store for some of us follows on account of the physical examinations. But now we shall speak of our present attitude of mind and of the spirit in which we are now awaiting anxiously the induction orders into the United States Army.

It is a privilege to serve our country and to be able to take this stand. We are glad that this our decision can be made known to persons outside of the evacuation centers. In a large sense, ours is a double obligation: first, our obligation to our country as American citizens and secondly, our obligation to our niscis and issois in this country. It is the moral responsibility of us volunteers to fulfill these obligations to the best of our abilities. We give you every assurance that we shall do our best to measure up to those high expectations and the sacred trust which have been placed upon us.

The volunteers from this Center are not asking for any especial privileges. Others on the outside are sacrificing similarly in this respect for those ideals cherished with equal dearness by us. We reserve the expectation of results only after proving our mettle in the field wherever we are in our respective constituencies of the Armed Services in which we may be placed. However, we feel it is only reasonable to hold this in mind: that we do strive for due recognition along with other bona fide Americans for all of our hitherto misunderstood group for speedy reestablishment into all spheres of society in the post-war reconstruction. Our friends will agree that we must have faith in our government on which good-faith depends the security of our nation and of the future.

We are proud to demonstrate in action the name of American in its true sense --- to participate conjointly in the endeavor that this nation dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal under God shall not perish from this earth.

---The Heart Mountain Volunteers

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

1-29-42

Dear Mr. Fisher:

Here is a copy of the  
letter I send to Mr.  
Hughes.

Very sincerely,  
E. S. S. S.

January 27, 1942

Mr. John B. Hughes  
Don Lee Broadcasting System  
Los Angeles, California

My dear Mr. Hughes:

While I do not regularly hear your nine o'clock morning broadcast, I usually have an opportunity to listen two or three times a week. Being particularly interested in the whole field of public opinion, and spending some weeks each term here on the subject of the radio as an instrumentality in the formation of public opinion, I generally try to follow representative commentators as a matter of professional interest, as well as, of course, following the news. In the main, I have been favorably impressed with your viewing of the news, but of late I have been distinctly surprised over the manner in which you are handling our relations with Japan and, more particularly, the situation of Japanese aliens and citizens of that extraction in this country. While, of course, it is the proper function of commentators to comment on the news, I have always been a bit dubious about the efforts of certain men in this field, actively to force opinion in certain directions. The present instance is an excellent example of that.

In your comments of yesterday morning, for example, you returned to the theme which of late has been quite dominant in your talks, and in so doing, made some rather surprising and, I think, from the point of view of our national interests during the present crisis, distinctly disturbing observations. For example, you remarked that more and more people are demanding that something be done about the problem of the Japanese in our midst, by implication conveyed the impression that this was, indeed, a most serious problem, and that it should be handled speedily, as well as ruthlessly. Previously you have put this rather strongly in broadcasts. Of late, it seems to me that you have "toned down" somewhat, yesterday morning acknowledging, for example, that possibly 25% of our American Japanese might be loyal to our government. Just what basis there is for such a statement, it is impossible for me to know. In my own case, I would say that at least 95%, and probably 99%, of the people in question are as loyal to the government as yourself or myself. I would say, also, that the overwhelming percentage of Japanese aliens here are by no means torn in their sympathies at the present time, but are quite anxious to support the activities of our government against the enemy. In any case, the fact that "more and more people" are demanding that something be done about a problem, the existence of which has not been acknowledged by the proper authorities is, if true, the result of the rather unfounded statements that you and others have been making, and, I believe, an altogether unfortunate result.

On the night before the United States entered the first World War, Woodrow Wilson spoke the following words to Frank I. Cobb, "Once let this people in the war, and they will forget that there was ever such a thing as tolerance. To fight you must be brutal and ruthless, and the spirit of ruthless brutality will enter into the very fiber of our national life, infecting the Congress, the courts, the policeman on the beat, the man on the street. Yes, it means that we will loose our heads along with the rest, and stop weighing right and wrong." As you well know, what President Wilson predicted soon developed, and that, despite his efforts to meet the danger. As George Creel has pointed out, hysteria is well nigh inseparable from war, and hate follows inevitably, for its simplicity makes an almost irresistible appeal to certain types of men.

So far, fortunately, there has not been so very much evidence of this. Appeals such as you are making over the radio, however, will definitely contribute toward that end, and it is most vital that we give most careful consideration to this question. The true American will remember that, whether it be peace-time or war-time, there could be nothing more unpatriotic in this land of many peoples and many creeds, than the persecution of minorities and the formation of hatred and strife on the basis of race or religion. As Justice Frank Murphy has pointed out, "He will realize that if, in the atmosphere of war, we allow civil liberty to slip away from us, it may not be long before our gains in social and economic justice will also be vanished; for a nation that is calloused in its attitude toward civil rights is not likely to be sensitive toward the many grave problems that effect the dignity and security of its citizens."

I feel that those of us in a position to influence public opinion must everlastingly stress this problem, because nothing is more certain than that the story of 1917 and 1918 will be told again in an even more brutal form unless the question of American unity is given immediate and intelligent consideration. What must be driven home everlastingly is that intolerances of native ignorance and prejudice are just as much a part of subversive activities as so-called "Fifth Columns." We must guard against this today, because there is no way to make reparation for pain and shame.

I do not imply by the above that we should not be vigilant. In many respects I advocate greater vigilance than we have so far shown. The work must be done, however, by responsible employees of the government acting in cooperation with the duly constituted law enforcing agencies of state and local authorities. It must be done under the direction of responsible persons, not by over-zealous laymen such as those to which you appeal over the air. Individuals could achieve their patriotic purposes much more effectively and expeditiously if their energies were directed toward strengthening and supporting the law enforcement agencies in the communities in which they live, rather than seeking to take over their duties and powers. The director of the F.B.I. has, himself, stressed this. For example, already in September, 1940, he remarked, "The surging wave of patriotism which followed the declaration of a limited national emergency, encouraging as it is, has its dangers. Unbridled activities and loose statements of individuals investigating subversive activities are distinctly dangerous, no matter how patriotic their aims. The vigilante method is distinctly contrary to American ideals of justice."

Personally, I feel that at the present time we should behave courteously toward any law-abiding foreigner, whatever the slant of his eyes. It is the slant of the heart that counts, and that is no matter for off-hand judgement. It is, rather, something which I am quite willing to leave to the properly constituted authorities.

On January 2, President Roosevelt himself issued a statement, urging us to adopt a sane policy regarding not only persons of foreign extraction who are citizens within our midst, but also aliens and foreign born citizens. In his statement he urged us to remember the Nazi technique, "Pit race against race, religion against religion, prejudice against prejudice. Divide and conquer!" As he went on to state, "We must not let that happen here. We must not forget what we are defending: liberty, decency, and justice. We cannot afford the economic waste of services of all loyal and patriotic citizens and non-citizens in defending our land and our liberty."

January 27, 1942

In short, the President urged us all, as he put it, to adopt a sane policy regarding aliens and foreign born civilians, and to remember that the sons of these foreigners in our midst "may be among those who fought and are fighting so valiantly at Pearl Harbor and in the Philippines." The Attorney General of the United States has consistently adopted the same view-point. For example, in a statement which I take from a recent issue of the New York Times, he remarked, "I intend to see that civil liberties in this country are protected; that we do not again fall into the disgraceful hysteria of witch hunts, strike breaking, and minority persecutions which were such a dark chapter in our record of the last World War."

There would thus seem to be ample support for my view that at the present time we must be vigilant in safeguarding the very rights for which we are fighting, and that under no circumstances should we aid or abet the rise of the intolerance which is at hand, but that on the contrary, we must do everything to try to keep the nation as calm as possible.

I feel quite strongly on this, inasmuch as I think there is ample evidence available that already, altogether too much talk and fear of fifth columns prevails. The Secretary of the Navy made certain remarks with respect to alleged fifth columns in Hawaii, but gave no evidence and, in fact, negated his own statement by saying that there was probably more activity of this kind in connection with Pearl Harbor than in any other case except Norway. It so happens that I have made a particular study of the Norwegian example, having been in Northern Europe during the first year of the war, being familiar with the language, and having read such evidence on the subject as has since appeared. Actually, of course, Norway was not betrayed from within, their occupation was in no sense an inside job, it was not made easy by native connivance. I think it is of great importance that this be realized because in every country that has fallen before the overwhelming force and violence of the enemy, stories were spread that the victory was the result of treachery. To no small extent, such stories and rumors are nothing but most effective enemy propaganda. Nothing more demoralizes the people than rumors that they have been betrayed by their neighbors, by members of their own government, even by officers in the defense forces. So far as the Norwegian story is concerned, there are a few isolated signs of treachery, but this had no influence whatsoever on the progress of the invasion. This being the case, using the Norwegian example for purpose of comparison, the Secretary of the Navy did not make a very effective case for treachery in Hawaii. The recently issued Roberts Report, likewise, fails to do so. It speaks of spys, to be sure, and agents attached to the enemy consulates, but that is an entirely different story. In short, until more evidence is available of treachery elsewhere, we have no reason to believe that it has been nearly as prevalent as the superficial and sensational journalistic accounts have made out to be the case.

The F. B. I. has an effective organization in this state and elsewhere in the Pacific Coast, and throughout the nation. They have a pretty good tab on the people that should be watched. Their effectiveness is increasing, and together with such help as can be given federal officers by state and local such, I feel that our interests will be amply safeguarded. Certainly, there is no reason to inflame the populace through loose-founded statements such as occasionally come over the air.

As may very well be inferred from the length of this letter, I have devoted no little time to thinking out this whole question, and I am sincerely interested in it. I am doing all that I can do to contribute to the task of building

Mr. John B. Hughes

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January 27, 1942

national moral at the present time, and I hate to see the unity which has been achieved, and which most of us are seeking to prolong and maintain, hampered, if not destroyed, by unnecessary and, in fact, uncalled for appeals to intolerance.

Very sincerely yours,

Eric C. Bellquist

ECB:mp

Mr. John B. Hughes  
Mutual Broadcasting Corporation  
Los Angeles, California

Dear Mr. Hughes:

As one of your radio listeners in the past, I feel you would want me to use my right of expression at times of disagreement as well as at times of appreciative agreement. Since your broadcast of last evening (Saturday, January 17), I have endeavored to put aside my feeling of indignation and formulate as reasonably as possible my reaction to your indiscriminate attack upon the Japanese nationals and Japanese Americans in California.

Let me say in the beginning that I too feel the seriousness of the situation and possibly even more than you during previous years have urged the people of California to realize the inevitable results of their course of action regarding the Japanese. From the very beginning, we failed to set up proper and just controls of immigration. Selfish industrialism and unplanned agriculture development encouraged large and indiscriminate immigration which we soon found had escaped our capacity to integrate into sound social procedure. Faced with a difficult problem rather than resorting to reason and justice, we allowed our feelings, our sense of superiority and race prejudice to determine our personal and governmental procedures. The causes of war in no little degree can be traced back to our failure to face honestly, fairly and without prejudice not only the problems of our growing oriental population but the even larger problem of the entire Pacific area. A dispassionate study of our land laws, of our immigration regulations, the use of our strong economic advantage I think reveals a sad tendency on our part to face the whole problem not in terms of reasonable correction but in terms of prejudice the ultimate end of which could only mean increased misunderstanding and conflict. If we have a problem now, and we do, it is in no small degree our fault. Forced

migration, economic disenfranchisement, denial of rights to American citizens will not solve it but will only add to its complexity, its social cost and its danger. The procedures outlined by you appeal to me as the surest possible method for developing a fifth column rather than easing a possible danger. What is the use of fighting this war if in prosecuting it we violate the basic elements of the democracy we would protect? Forced migration, denial of rights on the basis of race are more dangerous to the ultimate safety of democracy than the possible fifth column which you fear.

Now do not misunderstand me. I am one who believe we should prosecute this war to victory. I abhor the Japanese Governmental policies in China and I mistrust Japanese imperialistic ambitions. It is not all our fault by a good long way. I recognize that many procedures of the Japanese in California can be justly criticised. I recognize the danger of possible disloyalty and sabotage. I fully realize that this is no time for a scholastic evaluation of blame on our part or theirs. But it is surely also is no time for the application of procedures based on hysteria that give promise of even greater dangers to our democracy than now exist.

My response to your broadcast is not merely negative. I do not have the privilege as do you of extensively enlarging my ideas, but they are, I feel, none the less a sincere effort to be constructively helpful. I would, therefore, suggest:

1. That the governmental agencies established for the primary purpose of detecting disloyalty and apprehending individuals who threaten our safety be re-enforced, particularly in this area. As now, so then, even increasingly citizens should be encouraged to cooperate with these agencies, but willingly leave to them the responsibilities of carrying out the functions assigned to them. It is a formidable danger to encourage hysteria and mutual suspicion between groups on the basis of scientifically uninvestigated suspicions and generalities.

2. That the Government be encouraged to immediately establish a commission whose function it shall be to carefully and scientifically study the many points of our economic and social life in which Japanese and Japanese Americans are involved and recommend procedures for constructively dealing with them in terms of national safety without violation of the democratic principles of right and justice. I was not impressed with your recommendations as to fishing, agriculture and non-employment of American-born Japanese under civil service and in defense industries. You are not a specialist nor am I. Such a commission could, however, have at its disposal the broad facts upon which any constructive policy must be based.

3. That special committees be organized in our California communities to work with the Japanese and American Japanese of proved loyalty in meeting the appalling and perplexing problems facing them and advising also with governmental agencies and authorities as to ways and means of assuring for them the security and economic independence consistent with their and our safety. I am fully conscious of the changes that this procedure might be used by untrustworthy individuals here and there. But with the above two recommendations carried out, and the increased sense of mutual responsibility, confidence and respect developed by close association of the representatives of the two groups I feel the danger would be much less than involved in your suggested procedure of indiscriminate and forced mass migration. I know many thoroughly trustworthy representatives of the Japanese Nationals and Japanese Americans who are as apprehensive as are you and who would work constructively with us if given a chance to work in ways of justice and reasonableness.

One suggestion I would place before you personally. I am chairman of the Committee of Immigrant Serving Agencies of the San Francisco Community Chest. We have been struggling with this problem realistically, I believe, before war was declared and even more dynamically since then. I would covet the opportunity for the Committee and for you to meet together and discuss

the situation freely and frankly. I am sure the representatives of the Japanese social work agencies would not embarrass the principle of free and frank discussion. If you are to be in San Francisco in the near future and would be inclined to accept this invitation, I will endeavor to arrange a meeting at the mutual convenience of all concerned.

Very sincerely yours,

Allen C. Blaisdell

SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Sacramento Junior College

3835 FREEPORT BOULEVARD

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

May 11, 1942

Mr. Galen Fisher  
11 El Sueno  
Orinda, California

Dear Mr. Fisher:

At the suggestion of Mrs. Harry L. Kingman, I am sending you the attached copy of the dismissal notice sent by the State Personnel Board to Civil Service employees of Japanese ancestry. It is the belief of many of us here in Sacramento that vigorous protest of this inflammatory and highly unfair statement should be made to Governor Olson and to the chairman of the State Personnel Board.

Yours very cordially,

*Henry J. Tyler*

H. T. Tyler

BEFORE THE STATE PERSONNEL BOARD OF THE  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of Charges Against \*  
\* Charges, Information of Time  
(Name) \* and Manner of Answer  
(Civil Service Classification) \*  
(Department) \* Case No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Defendant \*  
\* \* \* \* \*

Comes now E. Wayne Miller, the duly and regularly appointed and acting Secretary for the State Personnel Board of the State of California, and files charges against the defendant, \_\_\_\_\_, pursuant to order of the State Personnel Board made at a meeting of the State Personnel Board held April 2, 1942, in the City of Los Angeles, State of California, for dismissal or other punitive action for failure of good behavior, fraud in securing appointment, incompetency, inefficiency, and acts incompatible with and inimical to the public service and violation of the provisions of the State Civil Service Act, and alleges:

I.

That at all times herein mentioned the said defendant was and now is an employee of the State of California, and did hold and occupy the position of \_\_\_\_\_ (Civil Service Classification), and is assigned to the \_\_\_\_\_ (Department) with permanent civil service status in that position.

II.

That particular and specific instances of many acts and specific examples of acts showing a course of conduct on the part of defendant constituting failure of good behavior, fraud in securing appointment, incompetency, inefficiency, violations of the provisions of this Act, or the Rules of the Board, and acts incompatible with or inimical to the public service, and violation of the provisions of the State Civil Service Act, are as follows:

A.

That during the time afore-mentioned the defendant was a citizen of the Empire of Japan, and a subject of the Emperor of Japan.

B.

That the defendant does read and write the Japanese language, and that the defendant and/or defendant's family, during the time afore-mentioned have subscribed to a Japanese newspaper, printed in the Japanese language and that defendant has read said newspaper, and that during defendant's tenure as a State employee of California has been exposed to the propaganda printed and disseminated by said Japanese newspapers, which propaganda has been detrimental and inimical to the United States, State of California, public service, and the Civil Service of California, and that defendant has been influenced by the insidious, inimical and incompatible propaganda and doctrines advocated by said Japanese newspapers, which constitutes the ideology of the Rulers and Emperors of Japan who are now viciously and ruthlessly attempting to impose that ideology and sociological doctrine upon the people of the United States of America by force and violence, and that the reading of said propaganda has been an act inimical to civil service.

C.

That during the time afore-mentioned and while an employee of the State of California, the defendant did attend a Japanese school conducted by the officials of the Buddhist Church, an organization controlled by the Rulers and Emperor of Japan, and that in said school the defendant was taught to read and speak the Japanese language, thereby enabling the subversive and fifth column agents of the Empire of Japan, by direction and indirection, to obtain valuable information for transmittal to the Empire of Japan for use to conquer the United States and that the doctrines taught defendant in said Japanese school have served to strengthen the ties between defendant and the country of defendant's ancestry, Japan, and that the teachings of said school were in conflict with the political and social doctrines of the United States, which did adversely influence the loyalty and fidelity of defendant to the United States of America;

D.

That the defendant is a member and officer of certain Japanese organizations whose membership consists entirely of persons of Japanese ancestry, and which are controlled and which advocate the same deceitful and treacherous influences which have been afore-alleged in subdivisions B and C of this Paragraph, and which seek to attain their secretive objectives against the United States of America by a unified system which is more craftily directed than that which exists in Japanese schools, and all of which is violently opposed to the Democratic form of Government of the United States of America and to its principles.

E.

That defendant is a person of Japanese ancestry and descendant of enemy Japanese aliens and at all times has been under the influence thereof; and that in the course of the performance of defendant's duties as an employee of the State of California, defendant must of necessity come into direct contact during business hours with employees and people of the State of California who are not of Japanese ancestry. That a state of war does exist between the United States of America and the Empire of Japan and that since the unwarranted attack by the Empire of Japan upon Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, that all loyal employees of the State of California, and people of the State of California, have become justifiably suspicious and distrustful of the defendant and of persons of Japanese ancestry and do resent contact, association, and have antipathy for defendant and persons of Japanese extraction, whether the same be in the scope of State employment of defendant, or otherwise, and that this situation has seriously impaired the morale of those employees and people of the State of California who have and will be associated with defendant in State employment, and has mutually impaired their morale, reduced their efficiency, lowered their performance of public service, created discord, hostility, unfriendliness, opposition, antagonism, disharmony, truculency, and made it impossible for said employees and people of the State of California to associate tranquilly and that the acts of defendant as afore- alleged and as an employee, of Japanese ancestry, of the State of California in the State service have become acts incompatible with and inimical to the public service and do now and in the future will interfere with the orderly, proper and efficient conduct of the State's business and have and will destroy the efficacy of the provisions of the State Civil Service Act.

F.

That the defendant did file an application for employment with the State Personnel Board wherein defendant did apply for employment with the State of California and did request to take a civil service examination and that in said application the State of California, acting by and through the State Personnel Board, did request that defendant furnish information and list the names of all schools that defendant had attended, and that defendant did fill out said application for employment and did not in said application or otherwise indicate that she had attended Japanese schools wherein she did receive instruction on how to read and write the Japanese language and instruction on the history and political doctrines of the Empire of Japan, and that defendant did deliberately and without cause withhold said information from the said State Personnel Board, which is an act in violation of the State Civil Service Act, and did constitute fraud in securing appointment.

G.

Because of the increasing danger attendant upon the ruthless prosecution by the Japanese Government of its evil intentions designed to crush the democratic peoples of the world, public opinion has brought about a change in the social status of the defendant, and other persons in the United States, particularly in the State of California, of Japanese ancestry, and because of the urgent necessity of protecting ourselves against attack by the enemy, which attack may be facilitated by the children of the enemy within our borders, the military authorities of the United States of America have created numerous restricted areas and prohibited zones within various States on the Pacific Coast, notably the State of California. The order increasing and extending such restricted areas and prohibited zones provides in effect that such persons or classes of persons as the situation may require will by subsequent proclamation be excluded, and the defendant is now subject to the provisions of that order. The change in social status plus the military restrictions which are ever increasing in their scope and severity are concurrent circumstances which render the defendant incapable of, and indisposed to, effectively perform necessary duties as an employee of the State of California, totally unsuitable for relief duty which would be required in other parts of the State to prevent a breakdown of the provisions of the State Civil Service Act, unfit to cope with war exigencies, and completely out of accord with demands which would be made upon defendant in times of grave crises precipitated by the aggressive military, naval, and air forces of the defendant's own people, and unable, due to these circumstances, to have full and free unrestricted access to all of the territory within the exterior boundaries of the State of California, and which will preclude defendant from fully, adequately, competently, and efficiently performing necessary duties as a civil servant in California, and in violation of the provisions of the State Civil Service Act, which acts of defendant were and are incompatible with and inimical to the public service.

WHEREFORE said E. Vayne Miller as the duly and regularly appointed and acting Secretary for the State Personnel Board of the State of California, prays that the said defendant be dismissed from the State of California as a civil service employee of said State, or that such other punitive action be taken as may be meet and proper in the premises.

AND AS AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF INFORMING THE SAID DEFENDANT OF THE TIME AND MANNER IN WHICH, UNDER THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE STATE PERSONNEL BOARD AND THE STATE CIVIL SERVICE ACT, DEFENDANT MAY ANSWER TO THE CHARGES HEREINABOVE SET



# Suits involving Japanese Evacuees

June 13, 1942  
notes by Helen M. Fisher  
~~Strike evacuees from registration books~~  
to deny absent-voter ~~and~~

## I Franchise Suits.

1. In San Francisco, filed by Native Sons of S. W. ballots & evacuees. The City Attorney filed an answer on May 28, claiming that the Federal Dist. Court had no jurisdiction over the subject matter nor over the persons of the defendants. Plead on Judge St. Jure's calendar on June 8, and goes to trial June 16. Mr. Besig (ACM) thinks City Atty erred in not filing a motion to dismiss, so that the legal issues involved could have been argued without going to trial.
2. In Alameda Co., suit filed by American Legion, through James K. Fisk. The Court has given District Attorney Hoyt an extension until June 17 to file an answer.

Both these suits have been instituted ~~under advice~~ <sup>through</sup> of U.S. Webb's law firm. Mr. Webb supported the suits in a speech before a Native Sons convention in May. ~~It is reported that~~ <sup>have</sup> The Native Sons appropriated \$1000. to support its suit. Mr. Webb is said to be using the suit as an issue by which to reenter political life, perhaps as State Atty General once more.

3. The U.S. Supreme Court decision, in 1898, in U.S. vs. Wong Kim Ark (169 U.S. 649), held that all persons <sup>born</sup> in the U.S. are ipso facto citizens, regardless of the laws or claims of any foreign government.

## II. Contesting the Evacuation Orders are two suits:

1. In San Francisco, Fred Korematsu, plaintiff, Motion to dismiss was to be made and argued on June 13.
2. In Seattle, Hirabayashi, plaintiff. He is a senior in Univ. of Washington, and ignored the evacuation orders.

## III Civil Service Suits.

Attorney J.C. Purcell is handling several cases of dismissed nisei and has filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus, in order to secure release of a nisei from Tanforan Assembly Center, for consultation and possible testifying in court.

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October 6, 1942

Mr. Galen Fisher  
 Committee on National Security and Fair Play  
 11 El Fueno  
 Orinda, Cal.

Dear Mr. Fisher:

At the suggestion of the American Civil Liberties Union, I am enclosing the letter recently written to Mr. Abraham Kaufman of the War Resisters League, copy of which was sent to Mr. Sayre.

Mr. Baldwin believes that the cases referred to are purely local problems in the State of Washington. Also, at his suggestion I am sending a copy of the same letter to State Senator Mary Farquharson of Seattle.

Sincerely yours,

*Elizabeth Thompson*  
 Secretary to Mr. Sayre

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C O P Y

September 18, 1942

Mr. Abraham Kaufman  
War Resisters League  
2 Stone Street  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Abe:

In your recent letter to WRL membership you mentioned the case of a Pennsylvania miner who was dismissed from work because he refused to subscribe for the purchase of War Bonds. Subsequently, his request for State Unemployment Insurance benefits was refused and his appeal denied. Since I have access to State Unemployment Insurance Tax Service publications, I thought you may be interested in two cases that I read in recent releases. The decisions concern Japanese-Americans and one problem arising from enforced migration.

The State of Washington Appeal Tribunal rendered the following decisions in appeals for unemployment insurance benefits:

"Worker, of Japanese ancestry, quit employment to remove to another state to live with relatives because of imminence of evacuation of all persons of Japanese ancestry from area where-in she lived. Held that she left voluntarily without cause directly connected with her work and, since she removed to a district too remote to commute to and from employment she left, she is unavailable for work." (Digest App. Trib. dec. No. A-2297. 7/27/42)

"Worker, of Japanese ancestry, was laid off because of war circumstances affecting status of Japanese and thereafter was subject to proclamation prohibiting persons of Japanese ancestry from leaving their places of residence between 8:00 P.M. and 6:00 A.M., and to proclamation prohibiting such persons to leave area in which instance worker lived. Held that worker was unavailable for work since he could not have accepted employment which would require his being outside his place of residence prior to 6:00 A.M. or after 8:00 P.M." (Digest App. Trib. dec. No. A-2422. 7/29/42)

The crux of the problem, and the point upon which both decisions were made, is the phrase "unavailable for work." We understand that in both cases neither of the workers were responsible for the circumstances that made them unavailable for work. Since the person must be available for work to be eligible for unemployment benefit payments, the appeal board denied their respective appeals.

I hope you are able to pass this information on to someone who is giving particular attention to the current problems of Japanese-Americans.

Sincerely,  
Charles F. Abele  
513 East 11th Street  
New York, N. Y.

CC: Fellowship of Reconciliation

by Maxim Schapiro  
Pianist

Naturalized  
American, of  
Russian  
ancestry

TOPAZ, UTAH

(Impressions and Observations)

Dec. 5, 1942

I.

Barren desert -- vast stretch of brownish clay -- not a tree, not a grass, only gray crumbling sagebrush -- when the wind blows clouds of dust turn the day into a gloomy twilight -- and then snow begins to fall, and the dusty ground turns into impassable quagmire... -- and above this forlorn gloomy landscape, behind far distant snow-covered mountains the sun sets in an unearthly glory of flame..... and people who have been brought here -- men, women, children -- eight thousand of them -- turn away from the desert and follow the setting sun ....

"These flaming skies", told me one of the Niseis, "remind us that in spite of trials and hardships, in spite of fences and restrictions there is always Beauty -- and where there is Beauty, there must be Love"...

II.

... From the railway station in Delta to the Relocation Camp is a distance of approximately 40 minutes by car -- that is, if transportation has been kindly provided by the Management -- otherwise, to get to the camp would be impossible. -- Evidently, the site has been chosen so as to prevent any contact of the inhabitants of the new city with the outer world.

Mr. W., an engineer of the camp, met me at the Delta station and took me for a refreshment to a drugstore on the main (and I believe the only) street in Delta. We encountered there a young man, Mr. I., a Japanese-American, a student of political science of both the University of California and Columbia University. He was in a state of great excitement -- from his story it seemed that, having been taken to Delta on a picnic by an official of WRA (a certain Mr. J.) and on a legal permit, he was ordered out of the drugstore where he was having a drink by an M.P., who told him that "No Jap can sit and have a drink in this place --" and it required the interference of the accompanying official to save him further unpleasantness and difficulties. -- He was trembling with indignation -- "Imagine", he said, "I am an American -- and a college graduate".

Nearing the camp later on in Mr. W.'s car, I noticed a whole squad of M.P.'s drilling in front of their barracks. "Why are so many soldiers here", I innocently asked -- "To protect the Japanese in the Camp" was the answer. "But," I stammered, "is such protection really needed?" -- Mr. W. turned his head and looked at me, "I don't think so", he said slowly, "but they do" .....

### III.

..."The change from the Assembly Centers to the Relocation Centers may make many an evacuee feel like the ancient Israelites when they advanced from the wilderness to the Promised Land", hopefully wrote Dr. Galen M. Fisher in his article The Drama of Japanese Evacuation -- adding further on, cautiously, "...if the paper plans are carried out"... I wonder if they are, or will be, or can be carried out... "It's the same thing all over again", told me a young girl who had just spent six months in an Assembly Center..."still", she continued, "keep an eye on us -- we are determined to build a city out of this waste". -- Against the background of the glaring inadequacy of preparations and the crudeness of facilities in the camp, the unbelievable tenacity with which the evacuees are trying, against all odds, to create living conditions, impresses one as almost pathetic...

The gray, uniform barracks which house the evacuees were not completed when the first batch arrived -- they were not completed when the last batch arrived -- and now, after nearly two months, they are still not completed.\*-- Most of them had neither ceilings nor inside walls -- with the result that people had to sleep with their faces covered by towels to protect themselves from swirling dust. When I say "dust", I mean the dust of the Utah desert -- no one who has not seen it can imagine its ill effects. -- It penetrates everything -- it fills your mouth, nostrils, the pores of your skin, your clothing -- and all efforts to keep yourself or your room clean are just futile efforts... On the second day of my stay in the camp I witnessed a dust storm... out of the window of a barrack, at a distance of about two or three yards, I could not see the opposite barrack... I wonder what will happen to many of these people -- especially children -- who came here from a place with the best climate on earth... "We are ready to stand against any odds", several of them told me, "but how shall we fight the elements?"...

Men and women, young and old, volunteered to "winterize" the barracks, i.e., to put in ceilings and inside walls -- a very difficult job, which they did splendidly -- in fact better than a similiar job done by professional workmen in a block reserved for Caucasian teachers. "Well, " remarked one of the volunteers, "we are a source of cheap labor, aren't we"?

A little informal concert that I had been asked to give for the benefit of students and music-lovers in the camp, could not take place -- because the director of the music school, (where I would have played), with the assistance of his teaching staff, was "winterizing" the barrack of the school...

I have been told that furniture was promised for the barracks -- standard G.I. furniture. With the exception of army beds, none of the furniture ever arrived -- and the people had to fall back on their ingenuity. -- I have seen a reclining chair made by a newspaper man, a writing-table made by a college boy, and a cabinet made by the wife of a cleaner ... how, with primitive tools and out of only scraps of lumber, they succeeded in fashioning these pieces, will forever remain incomprehensible to me...

#### IV.

During the three days of my stay in Topaz, I was having my meals with the evacuees in their mess-halls. Some of the meals were fairly good -- others rather scrambled-up affairs. The food, as I heard from dozens of people, was at first both inadequate and insufficient -- complaints voiced chiefly about the lack of foods containing proteins. But there has been a marked improvement very recently. -- Menus, as planned by the W.R.A., cannot be adhered to, because products, sent by the Quartermaster in San Francisco, do not always contain all the ingredients necessary to serve properly balanced meals. The result is that menus have to be made locally, and that the responsibility rests with the Japanese cooks of the mess-halls, who must strain all their skill, must save, calculate, balance, and look ahead -- so as to insure for their community meals digestible and somewhat varied. -- Topaz as yet produces nothing -- everything has to come from the outside -- and with difficulties of transportation and the eventual shortage of products, there is never a guarantee that necessary products will come through regularly. (At the moment when this is being written, there is an acute shortage, in San Francisco, of butter, eggs, meat, milk products, etc. -- I wonder how it has affected the diet of the Topaz population...). -- Out of its meager funds Topaz buys vegetables from the Tule Lake Relocation Center, which - with its rich fertile soil - produces not only enough vegetables for its own use, but indulges in the luxury of "exports". -- I have been told by a member of the Administration that chicken and hog farming has already started in Topaz. In the future barter-trade may be established between different Relocation Centers...

"My children cannot yet get accustomed to this diet," a barber from San Francisco told me, "we have to buy some food for them from the outside." ...

#### V.

The general unpreparedness of camp accommodations finds its correlate in the insufficiency of both educational and recreational facilities. -- The latter - which for the mass of people are of next or equal importance to food and housing - seem practically non-existent... "No funds available" was the discouraging explanation of several Nisei, "we have a recreation department -- also we were told that each block of barracks was to have its recreation hall -- well, there are neither halls nor recreation -- also we lack any sports equipment!".... -- The demoralizing effects of this situation can hardly be underestimated...

In the field of educational possibilities the prospects, at least, are more hopeful. -- The Japanese and Japanese-Americans are probably among the most education-minded people in the world -- and one feels how the inhabitants of the camp - especially the younger element - in the midst of many immediate and pressing problems, are making incessant efforts to start a broad educational program. -- They are greatly handicapped in these efforts -- "many things that were promised and looked so nice on paper" are not yet available in reality. "This will be the high school" a Nisei guide told me, pointing out a stretch of waste land ... still, classes have been started -- the music school has an enrollment of 500 students (how, by the way, this mass of students can receive any musical

education, having been provided with just a few junk pianos, remains a mystery to me...) -- also I have seen a barrack with the inscription "Public Library -- will open soon" ... Last but not least I met a Caucasian teacher in dramatics who, at my question as to what he thinks about this place, enthusiastically exclaimed, "This is the best town in the United States... where else will you meet so many intellectuals in one spot, so much talent, and such zeal for learning? ..." --

I interviewed another teacher right after, -- "I am quitting", he said gloomily, "...this place has got me -- it's too tragic..." -- But then he was not teaching dramatics...

## VI.

The impression one gathers from talking to evacuees of various ages, professions and backgrounds is generally the same: -- on the surface -- a quiet determination "to carry on" under all circumstances -- a certain amount of enthusiasm as revealed by younger people (especially those with a college background and employed in administrative or cultural work) -- or a patient stoicism and silent resignation of the elder people. -- It would be a mistake, though, to take this "front" for a sign of high morale... on the contrary -- the morale is very low, and -- from what I have been told -- is becoming lower all the time. -- Underneath the brave decision to "make the best out of the worst" there is bewilderment, bitterness and resentment... people feel disillusioned and betrayed in their beliefs and hopes. -- It is a sad fact that our general public, -- to whom press, radio and other sources of information have been representing all the Japanese in Relocation Camps as an enemy element and a dangerous bunch of potential saboteurs, -- does not know how many loyal American citizens, deeply imbued with faith in and devotion to the ideals of democracy, have been placed behind barbed wire -- and continue, in spite of the injustice inflicted upon them, to persist in this devotion. -- They were willing to believe that their removal from the coast was their patriotic contribution toward the war effort, and they "took the rap" gracefully -- although for many of them it meant complete ruin. -- They stood bravely all the hardships, physical and moral, of the Assembly Centers and looked forward to what they have been promised by word of mouth and in print: -- a new life in the Relocation Centers -- a life as a free community, life restoring to them the self-respect which has been so sorely wounded... They were badly disappointed. -- "We feel how, slowly but steadily, the atmosphere of a concentration camp is again being created around us... When we came it was just desert, but open desert -- now a barbed wire fence is being built around the camp and searchlights are placed at vantage points... why?!..." The complaint is justified -- an observer, who has seen the geographical position of the camp, realizes that no one could or would run away, and no one could or would sneak in from outside, because the vast stretches of surrounding desert provides in itself a formidable "fence"...

People's movements are unnecessarily restricted. -- When a former student of mine -- a young lady, highly educated and a fine artist -- asked in my presence, the manager of the camp, whether she could see me off at the train in Delta -- she received the answer, that regulations would not permit it unless a Caucasian escorted her both ways (!).. Why? !... She is an American citizen, -- and it was in a trembling voice and with tears in her eyes that she said, "I did not know that Americans are divided into Caucasians and non-Caucasians"... It is an ever growing conviction of the people that the case against them was construed on the basis of purely racial discrimination -- and they point out, in support of this state-

ment, that both aliens and citizens of German and Italian parentage have been treated differently...

## VII.

The feeling of being prisoners is not the sole detrimental factor to the people's morale --no less contributing to their doubts and fears is another pressing problem - the economic problem. -- Most of the people had very little, and salvaged even less in the process of evacuation. I have met several of them who now actually have not a cent to their credit. -- Even with housing, food and G.I. clothing provided, the official salaries of \$9.00, \$12.00 and \$16.00 monthly do not carry enough to supply the little humble necessities of life: extra food for children, a haircut, cigarettes, candies, etc. -- with the result that those, who had saved a little money of their own, have to spend it -- people feel that they are becoming "pauperized", and they are assailed by fears of a gloomy future in a none-too-friendly world. "I am dying a thousand deaths every time," a man told me, "when I look at my children standing in line in the mess-halls for their food, and think of the years in store for them".... Fears of future financial insecurity are driving people to take up any normally paid work outside the camp. -- Nearly 700 men, at the time of my visit in the camp, were working outside, and this number was growing -- those employed by the Daily Brothers Company of Delta are making 75¢ to 85¢ an hour - up to \$35.00 a week. - People in the camp get \$16.00 a month - for harder work sometimes. -- This creates a sense of inequality - it makes people feel that some are working for the community - others only for themselves... It also creates a labor shortage problem. -- "More and more men are going for outside work", a Nisei told me - "we understand it:- they have to think of the future of their families - also for the sake of an illusion of freedom one would take any opportunity for outside work...but next spring, with a labor shortage, what will happen to the camp?"... A vicious circle! ... -- There is a feeling among the evacuees that something should be done to make those, who work outside but still live in the camp, contribute in some way to the camp - perhaps in the form of some taxation of their earnings -- but they admit that it would be a very ticklish problem. - A far better solution, of course, would be to increase the wages of evacuees to a decent and just level... By the way, the people are aware of the normal and even high salaries paid to the members of the camp Administration -- and this obviously tends to emphasize the gap, that-as they say- exists between the Administration and the populace of the camp...

## VIII.

... A truck took me down to Delta. -- The truck driver, a young Nisei boy, who formerly owned a fruit-stand in Oakland, said, ..."If they only would leave us alone..."

... I wish they could be "left alone"... it doesn't require much imagination or understanding to realize that this might have been the only solution of otherwise hardly surmountable problems... As I have said before, beneath all the activity, excitement and "much ado" of camp life, there is an atmosphere of futility, hopelessness, even despair... Accounts have been

written and told, presenting the life in the Assembly and Relocation Centers in a falsified, optimistically-rosy way, - omitting entirely the tragic aspect of the evacuation and the hardships experienced by the evacuees. -- The truth is - these people are tired and disgusted. They had their lives uprooted, their property discarded at a loss, their liberty curtailed without any actual charges having been brought against them ... a stamp of contempt and suspicion has been attached to them, accusations have been hurled at them, and they were not given a chance to defend themselves or present their cause in a proper light. "If you open your mouth, you may already be called an agitator..." they say bitterly. -- Endless restrictions and regulations, of which many seem to be so unnecessary, contribute to the nervous tension which one feels in the camp -- this tension, I believe, easily breeds an atmosphere in which "incidents", similiar to those that unfortunately took place in Santa Anita, in Poston, and recently in Manzanar, are possible ... "For months and months", a college boy told me - "we have been pushed like cattle -- pushed here, pushed there -- forbidden this, forbidden that -- and we never know, what new restriction will be imposed upon us tomorrow... we are tired of it"...

The evacuees realize that - since relocation - they deal with an administration composed of many fine and well-meaning persons, - but, quoting a Nisei, "We feel," he said, "there is a helpful hand coming from the Administration - but we also feel that there is another hand, which grabs this helpful hand and prevents it from reaching us"... -- There was a rumor in the camp that the Manager of Community Services is about to resign, feeling unable to perform his duties properly between the pressure of the people's expectations and the opposing pressure of this "preventing hand"... If true, it is a sad symptom. - They are undoubtedly fine people and idealists - many of those who now comprise the Administration of the W.R.A. - Should they go, others will come, and again others, - less understanding, less interested, - making the solution of relocation problems ever more complicated...

..."Leave them alone"-- these evacuees are imbued with cooperative spirit and have sufficient capacity for social engineering -- they are also an unusually disciplined and law-abiding community... Give them tools and materials -- restore to them as much freedom and respect as possible -- and let them build their own life, solve their own problems and go their own way... -- also dispel their fears concerning their future reincorporation into American life... You will save for America many good sons and loyal citizens! -- Under such conditions there still would be a faint chance of some success of the Relocation Project -- otherwise this project will unavoidably become a repetition of the sad experience with isolated Indian reservations...

## IX.

... The train from Salt Lake City was late -- I went for a stroll through Delta... On the main street two M.P.'s watched two Japanese boys go out of a store -- and, after a hurried consultation, started determinedly after them... I turned back to the station... The train finally came. A group of boys descended, boys in uniform, Japanese-Americans -- soldiers of the United States Army -- evidently on a visit to their families in the camp...

The train left... the sun was setting over the desert... over vast, endless spaces...

Visions, thoughts -- whirling through my mind... I was thinking of this great country -- of the people who made it -- of all those who came here from every corner of the globe to make it a home for a nation of nations...

"... that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness..."

*Maxim Schapiro*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(pianist)

Mill Valley, California  
December 5, 1942

Heart Mountain, Wyoming Feb. 27, 1943

Here are some impressions about camp life and some of my ~~impressions~~ observations hastily seen. As I look back over the past four weeks in camp, the impressions of the first two weeks compares much out of proportion with the observations of the second two weeks which seems to uncover some of the roots that will help solve the problems of evacuation.

I know that it is regrettable to speak so frankly but I know that with the passing of time, these things will have to solve itself or they shall remain a definite scar in the processes of evacuation and relocation.

The desolate atmosphere and the vicious rumours as well as the necessity of trying to get along with personalities have been really difficult. A host of problems will result from this alone. Along with this are the bare necessities of food, shelter and clothing. For the large majority, these have been subsidized by the individual's fast dwindling funds. But there are others with thoughts of food for the babies, chronic cases, prenatals, children's essentials that have needed the readjustment of the camp for a readjustment can be made without incurring any more expense to the cost of maintenance of the camp. It is true that with the irritation of small issues such as this that so many of the people feel at a loss in preserving a wholesome attitude without the feeling of despair. Naturally, the spirit of cooperation is lost when responsibilities are limited and organized on Government issued ideas rather than on the cooperative spirit of jointly sharing the responsibilities. The share of these responsibilities have been very limited. And the longer one is kept in a concentration camp, the more bitter will be the individuals, and the harder it will be for the government to justify the thought that they are not prisoners of war or wards of the government as well as the more destructive thought of seeing the government strip them socially, economically, and politically. I have heard the tales of so many who have not been able to readjust a settlement on their property or to control the mismanagement taking place on the West coast. The weapon of "freezing" has not been effectively used and the many cases of complete loss of property thru unscrupulous people has not been checked. There is nothing which will prevent people from engaging in unfair practices of evacuee property and the Government has not even announced to persecute those who have been exploiting the situation because of distance and helplessness. Of course, I do know that the WRA is doing the best they can but these legal tactics have been far from satisfactory to meet the many problems. The knowledge that Americans have been interned while aliens have been living freely in military areas have not helped but has scarred the very loyalty of our American brethren both within the centers and without. This is the only democratic country that has interned its own citizens. To me, the most important thing to consider is the attitude as they are developed, for this confinement is hitting at the core of hope, faith, and humanity that people have tried to preserve. It is remarkable to see, too, that the people who have suffered most from evacuation, have kept alive the faith that they have in the people of this democracy. I can see why with the rights of citizenship usurped and violently abused, the internee's law abiding conscience have been hurting and the constant irritation it has been to hear of cheap politicians

voice their prejudiced bickerings. For many of the colonists, we have tried to appeal from their own contacts as well as from the many friends who have helped and who are continuing to help in keeping humane and objective during this period of vital need and we find that these friendships have given them some comfort. This makes it all the more stringent that we need to cleanse our own homeland of the enemies of democracy and definitely take steps to basically change the entire structure of education, publicity, and public relation as well to have these democratic practices pushed with participating personnel from the various centers. Camp life also centralizes the bad news as they happen over the country and are focused to these centers, resulting in the feeling of fear and apprehension. These fears have made people unwilling to think constructively on the problems of relocation.

There have been many people who have been willing to relocate but who have not been given their release for the past three months or more. The red-tape on releases and clearance of innocent people as they are handled in Washington D.C. rather than thru the more confident methods that can be devised here in the centers have certainly discouraged those who have been most enthusiastic on relocation. It is true that for the most part, people have been spending their hard earned savings for the necessities of life but these dwindling funds will not last indefinitely as we see the fear expressed by many who are not courageous enough to face resettlement with only the assurance of a job and without even spending money or a return privilege, or a loan possibility. Especially for a family with children, the setting up of a home will necessitate a minimum of a thousand dollars or more for the barest necessities as furniture and kitchen utensils, etc. Perhaps as we think of relocation, we may be able to set up thru social agencies a loan system in many of the larger cities where relocation is to take place. There have been other suggestions that at least the guarantee of transportation and spending money and a basic lump sum be given the colonists as they relocate for those resettled will definitely lower the cost of idle maintenance in the camps. This can be administered in accordance with the number of dependents in the family. For the most part, there should be plans for clearance on the part of the first generation and complete reinstatement on open and free travel opportunities for a return to the evacuated areas for citizens. We cannot erase the fact that in every racial group, there are loyal and disloyal individuals, and that since there are methods of clearance and hearing established by the Department of Justice, we can use these in practice. During the present writing there are so many things unanswered in the minds of the centers and I do foresee difficulties which will definitely prevent the success of relocation and the failure of the present procedures. There is a need of an assurance with a change of policy on wage scale in the camps as well as the possibility of management shared by the capable without regard to racial background.

By the way, I have been wondering what has happened with the first appropriation on transportation and welfare for evacuees (\$500,000) so earmarked and administered by the Social Security Bureau. Perhaps Mr. Richard Neustadt, director of the Social Security Bureau, Western Defense Command, can enlighten us on that.

It seems to me that because the program of relocation involves the adjustment and initiative of the individual, every assistance must be given him. His release, therefore, should involve as little red-tape as possible and be open to him at all times. In this connection, public relation with the people of the State of Wyoming has been

negligible and the cautious attitude of the administration places a check rather than a methodical program of relocation. In fact, with the accelerated plan for relocation pending, the program of public understanding and publicity should now be given full sway. Sound public policy calls for a swift condemnation of all attempts to disenfranchise citizens or to foment racial hatreds because of ancestry and this form of publicity should precede resettlement. The present camps are environmental places of regimentation of making people socially Japanese. It is jarring the major social principles of assimilation, initiative, creativity, and enterprise for a return to normal American community life. Relocation without the consideration of individual attitudes in the centers will deter the success of the present objectives.

I have often wondered about the present set-up of the educational policies in the centers and I find that because these are under the supervision of the various states, that they fall short of the standards and commitments made by Dr. Ade, specialist of Education, some eight months ago. The standard teaching credential of the colonist teachers are mere scraps of paper and the regular teaching certificates are in no way compatible with the relocation program of educational recognition. Here in Heart Mountain, the West Coast teachers with fifth year certificates are competing with the State Teachers who have only Junior College certificates in many cases and given teaching contracts for a year and "Good for Heart Mountain only". The Causasian teachers receive a basic salary with contracts for teaching in the State of Wyoming for a period of three years. Technicalities like these do not help in relocation and is hurting basic morale of the colonists.

One of the major problems of confinement has been those of college age whose ideals and hopes have been constantly threatened but who have been ever hopeful and these young people have given fine leadership in meeting community problems. These youths have been the ones most deserving and although only 150 of the 800 or so have found their way to colleges, we do hope that steps can be taken to open the way especially for those who cannot ~~request-of-furnishing-these students-the-sum-of-money-the-equivalent-of-their-keep-in-the-camps-~~ afford to continue because of their finances. Time and again, the request of furnishing these students the sum of money the equivalent of their keep in the camps have been recommended but have fallen thru. With the recent official letter of the President to the Secretary of War, we do hope that the National Student Relocation Committee will be able to thru the Office of Education and the War Department to open up all the colleges and universities irrespective of defense contracts. It seems too that because official statement has been made, the entire fields of employment in the War industries, War Manpower commission, Federal Employment Agencies, The Army and Navy, etc. ought now proffer the openings directly to the Relocation Centers. I have a generating faith and hope springs eternal even under the worst conditions, but I do know that there are so many problems that ought to be corrected and I do hope that the WRA program will enlist itself in a basic change in their policies. Then too, with the definite acknowledgement of the War Department and the mistakes on the administration on the evacuation of citizens, we do hope that objective policies and a complete return of full participation may be swift and directed in the most humane manner. It seems that the ultimate solution of the problem of mutual aid is in the understanding of the people at large of the share they will have to bear in opening up opportunities of employment, education, and mutual respect.  
Naturally

Naturally national and State policies must therefore concur and corroborate especially in this emergency when the Nation faces the internal unity in the face of the domestic enemies of democracy. Because conditions in the camps have been largely responsible for mental attitudes in the sharing of the losses of property, inadequate physical well-being, unnatural home atmosphere, racial segregation, confinement, demoralized atmosphere for initiative and enterprise, etc., that it will be necessary to recover these thru methods and policies that will engender confidence, fair play, and a return to normal American life.

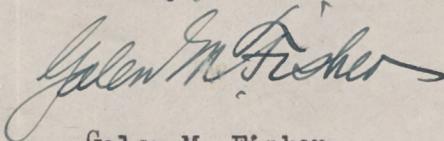
GALEN M. FISHER  
11 EL SUENO 2  
GRINDA, CALIFORNIA

April 11, 1945

Dear Dr. Thomas:

I am leaving these miscellaneous papers for you, in hopes your files clerk may find some odd numbers or materials to supplement your own large collection of documents. I may dump still other papers on your indulgent hands, such as a variety of letters from evacuees in the Centers. Just say the word.

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Galen M. Fisher". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Galen M. Fisher

Copy for Mr. Galen Fisher

Sent July 20, 1942  
air mail

(Undated. Received by C.B.DeF. from a New Jersey friend July 16, 1942.)

This bill has been favorably reported by the Senate Immigration  
Committee.

Senate Calendar No. 1541

Report No. 1496

CUSTODY OF JAPANESE RESIDING IN THE UNITED STATES

Introduced by Senator Stewart, Tennessee

Whereas all Japanese born in the United States are considered,  
under the laws of Japan, to be citizens or subjects of and owe  
allegiance to Japan; and

Whereas Japanese are of a race or nationality ineligible to  
become naturalized citizens of the United States:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the  
United States in Congress assembled,

That during the continuation of the existing war between  
the United States and Japan, the Secretary of War is authorized and  
directed to take into custody and restrain, to the extent deemed  
by him to be necessary, any and all Japanese persons residing in or  
found in the United States, regardless of whether or not said Jap-  
anese were born in the United States.

Sec. 2 (a) Any person taken into custody, under the authority  
of this Act, may be released from custody whenever the Secretary  
of War believes that such release will not be inimical to the  
interests of national defense or to the welfare of the United States.

(b) The Secretary of War may require, as a condition to  
any such release, that such person report personally at such times  
and places, to such military authorities, as the Secretary of War  
shall designate.

(c) The Secretary of War is authorized to utilize the  
services of the armed forces of the United States to enforce the  
provisions of this Act.

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CUSTODY OF JAPANESE RESIDING IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. Stewart, Committee on Immigration, report. (To accompany S.2293)

A BILL To provide for the taking into custody, during the continuation of the existing war between the United States and Japan, of any or all Japanese residing in or found in the United States.

Whereas all Japanese born in the United States are considered, under the laws of Japan, to be citizens or subjects of and to owe allegiance to Japan; and

Whereas Japanese are of a race or nationality ineligible to become naturalized citizens of the United States: Therefore

BE IT ENACTED BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, That during the continuation of the existing war between the United States and Japan, the Secretary of War is authorized and directed to take into custody and restrain, to the extent deemed by him to be necessary, any and all Japanese persons residing in or found in the United States, regardless of whether or not said Japanese were born in the United States.

Sec. 2 (a) Any person taken into custody, under the authority of this Act, may be released from custody whenever the Secretary of War believes that such release will not be inimical to the interests of national defense or to the welfare of the United States.

(b) The Secretary of War may require, as a condition to any such release, that such person report personally at such times and places, to such military authorities, as the Secretary of War shall designate.

(c) The Secretary of War is authorized to utilize the services of the armed forces of the United States to enforce the provisions of this Act.