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ASARI, MR TORAO

ans by form letter, 9-11-45

1717-D
Tule Lake Center
Newell, California
September 8, 1945

Mr. Ernest Besig
American Civil Liberties Union
216 Pine Street
San Francisco 4, California

SEP 11 1945

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter I am sending to Mr. Ennis with the truth of what happened in this center to make me and others like me to apply for the renunciation of our United States Citizenships. If there is anything possible you can do to help us, please let us know and we in turn will do anything possible.

Hoping I am not causing you too much trouble, I am -

Sincerely,

Torao Asari

Torao Asari

Enclosure: Copy of my letter to Mr. Ennis, Director
Enemy Alien Control Unit
Department Of Justice

SEP 11 1945

1717-D
Tule Lake Center
Newell, California
September 8, 1945

Mr. Edward J. Ennis, Director
Alien Enemy Control Unit
Department Of Justice
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Sir:

At the time of the Army registration in Manzanar, I registered as a "No-No" because I believed that the United States no longer wanted anything to do with us Americans with Japanese faces. I registered in accordance with the Selective Service Act, but the Army did not even give me a classification. At the time of the mass evacuation, I felt as though the bottom had dropped out of my life.

Upon being moved to this center from Manzanar, I started feeling worse about the whole thing because my life was not my own anymore. The people who came into this center from the nine relocation centers were all very mad about being evacuated and anyone who did not string along their way of thinking was soon beaten into submission. One man was actually killed in this center.

At the time the renunciation applications became popular, various pressure groups also became very popular. They seized the opportunity and developed their power through such means as compulsory early morning exercises, requiring the cutting off of one's hair, wearing sweaters with the rising sun on it, making as many people stop attending the camp high school, and many other absurd acts which to a stranger would look very funny, but to us who were forced under threat of harm to ourselves as well to members of our families, it was anything but funny.

I certainly hope that you will make possible the return of my United States Citizenship for it certainly was not my idea of applying for renunciation. I was very mad about the evacuation, but I would never have applied for the renunciation of my citizenship had it not been for the threat and pressure in this center. If however, you cannot grant me my one wish, then please make possible a parole so that I may get out of this crazy camp before anything else happens.

Very truly,

Torao Asari