

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
FIELD SERVICE

Sept. 2, 1942

copy

Kunitani

Dear Morton:

I received your letter yesterday and I have written to Larry Tajiri informing him of your arrival. Larry is to my mind the most competent nisei whom you can contact on any aspect of Japanese life on the pacific coast. Since he has been in New York he can probably give you a list of people whom you can contact in the east. Larry is one of those rare individuals in nisei progressive circles who has the respect and admiration of the comrades, liberals and the JACL. I know that you'll get along swell.

As for your other queries I suggest that you contact if possible the following in Washington: John Collier, Nat. Director of Indian Affairs --a great man, Pearl Buck, Eisenhower of course, Robert K.Lamb, staff director of Tolan Committee, John Provinse, a swell guy and at the moment I can't think of any more, but the above people and Larry can give you some more dope. By the way see if you can contact senators Downey and Johnson.

I haven't written to Dorothy as yet because we aren't settled. We're going to move to another apt. and everything is in disorder. Please have Anne and me remembered to her and tell her that we will write to her as soon as possible.

We've been here three weeks now and in spite of the heat, dust and the lousy food we k like it here. The administration is tops, too godamn good for the Japs. I believe we have the best men of any of the relocation centers and this is due to the work of John Collier. I believe Dorothy knows him quite well.

Well lots of luck on your trip. Would like to hear from you as soon and often as possible. Try and get me a set of the Tolan Committee hearings if you have time.

Mich
11-6B
Poston, Ariz.

M. Kunitani

Gila *Poston*

Letter

October 5, 1942

Dear Dorothy:

Time after time the inner man keeps saying: you should, you must, you ought to, you owe it to a friend, it's your duty and responsibility, yea--I shall, I will, I must, damit write! I could start off by assuming a bureaucratic air and say: dear Dr. Thomas--this is to acknowledge your letter of such and such date--delay--due to--pressure of government etc. etc. or feign a mercantile manner and say: dear Dr. Thomas ---- I am sorry but delay --- due to gigantic "battle of production" etc., etc., but I shall simply say Dear Dorothy, you will have to attribute the procrastination to the frailty of the human soul desiccating in the Arizona heat--you're right--the soul of a heel.

After being in Poston for nearly two months I have picked up plenty of dope about the policies and personalities of the WRA, the staff here and the Indian Service. Other than that I don't give a damn! I don't know what's come over me lately but perhaps a little introspection will ascribe my sullen and saturnine attitudes to general frustration or perhaps to a New York cut and a bottle of beer. Anne and I are well but not too happy even in spite of the fact that we have a good administration. We survived the summer heat and dust with not too much difficulty. The afternoons are still quite warm but the mornings and evenings are wonderful.

Housing rates a C- mark and the food D. We're overcrowded in camp I but not in II or III. I believe the barracks are of the same size as the ones in Tule and they are divided into four apartments. The army engineers evidently have a one track mind and they never thought to build smaller apartments for small families and couples until it was brought to their attention. As a result we have no small apartments in camp I and we find in many cases two or three families occupying one apartment. In the other two camps the engineers divided the two barracks in each block into eight instead of the standard four. Fortunately we occupy a large apartment but eventually we'll have to move when they partition off the smaller apartments--just when no one knows. The barracks have a double

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The barracks have a double roof to fight off the heat, but no double floors, ceilings or plaster board walls and as yet the stoves haven't arrived. To battle the heat and dust the staff and hospital quarters are furnished coolers, but not the residents. Some of the residents who have some money left lay down from \$70-\$125 to buy a cooler and some of the others get together a makeshift one. The more cooperative blocks have got together and purchased one or two coolers for their mess halls. It's really hell trying to stuff down lousy food while you perspire. We just came at the end of the period of intense heat and high winds but for the first week we couldn't do anything because it was so warm. Never before did I wake up in the morning with perspiration around my neck. It's an experience and it makes you appreciate the conditions under which the men are fighting in North Africa.

The food stinks! At least in our block. Some of the other blocks have better food but generally the food is bad, both in quantity and quality. The only place where the food is half decent is at the cooking school. The resident white collar workers have the privilege of eating their lunches there. The terrible food situation can be charged up to heat and lack of transportation. For the past two weeks we've had weiners and bologna three times a day. Special food for diabetics and babies is lacking although the patients in the hospital are fed well. Due to the bad food and heat the canteen grossed close to a \$100,000 for the month of September and while I'm on the subject of money I might add that approximately \$18,000 per week in money orders are sold--now that's not counting the personal, cashier's and travelers' checks which go out. All in all we figured out that a quarter of a million dollars was being circulated during a month in the whole of Poston.

The schools got under way today with 5500 students enrolled in classes. For the elementary and secondary students there are 75-80 Caucasian and 80 Nisei teachers. In addition 800 kids will enroll in the pre-school program and on top of that 200 students will enroll in the seminars. If we take into account all of the other miscellaneous classes, like sewing, poetry, music, art

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and craft, basic English, etc. approximately 8000 residents will be receiving some kind of instruction--that's something new in America. Anne is teaching English and social studies to high school seniors. The school buildings are not built (and will not be until next September--they hope.) It is proposed that the building be made from adobe, so the adobe project has some priority. The recreation halls are being used for the class rooms and they are partitioned off into three parts.

Have you seen the proposed curriculum for the relocation centers which was worked out by the Stanford ed. dept? It's a lulu. Professor Paul Hanna who supervised the program seems to be a swell guy. He was down here for a couple of days last month and talked to the teachers. I might add that the teacher training program conducted here was excellent. You might look up Hubert Armstrong who is a research man for the Oakland schools. He gave a course in ed. psych. here and he can give you plenty of dope. We told him to get in touch with you as soon as possible. If the program for the secondary schools is a lulu the proposed curriculum for the adult program is a whiz bang. We're very fortunate in having a staff here composed of seven or eight Ph.D.'s and several men in specialized fields. The core program for the seminars is the course in the great books. This curriculum was worked out by a young classicist by the name of Wilburn who is the assistant dean of St. Johns College (one of those progressive schools). He was financed to the extent of \$1,000 by the Friends to come here and work out a program and that he did with the aid of John Powell. I will send the program under separate cover. I don't think the kids will get much out of the philisophical seminars because many of them cannot contribute anything. Around the course in the great books there will be additional courses in soil science, plant pathology, business law, public administration, anthropology and sociology. A special seminar around the Tolan committee findings and

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and possibly a course in Japanese history will be given.

I don't know whether you've heard of John Powell but gal they don't come any better. He was formerly with the Meikeljohn school in San Francosco and before that with the Meikeljohn experimental college in Wisconsin. He's essentially a philosopher--pragmatist--and probably the only man on the staff who has the confidence and respect of the staff and residents. J.P. is the assistant director of community welfare and recreation and I am acting as assistant until I get into vocational guidance work. I could go on and on and tell you about Poston but since you're coming here I'd rather tell you then. One more word--Dr. Leighton and his work.

I was introduced to Leighton by Collier on the first day I was here and during the whole course of the conversation which lasted about ten minutes he uttered about five words. When I spoke to him again with Provinse--this time the conversation lasted ten minutes Leighton uttered ten words. I couldn't figure him out but lately he's broken down and speaks very freely and I found out that he was a swell guy--plenty interesting. I hear the whole staff approached him with caution because he was a navy man and he likewise. I found out that he knows Margaret Lantis--came back from Alaska with her and that Margaret is slated to come here for two or three months next spring. Leighton was sent here by Collier and here's how it happened. Leighton has a M.D. in psychiatry from Johns Hopkins and has done some work with the Indians. Just before he came here he was drafted by the Navy (he was in the naval reserve) and sent to Pensacola. Collier knew him since he did some work with the Indians and had the Navy release him for sociological work in Poston. The funny thing is that he still draws his pay check from the Navy.

He has a staff of about 20-25 kids in the three camps. With him on the staff is Spicer, a Ph.D. in anthro. from the University of Arizona--was a Guggie in Mexico before the war broke out and Tamie. I believe the staff is going to

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receive credit from the University of Chicago for the work they do. Kenny Murase was working for him until today. Tonight he leaves for school in Philadelphia. In contrast to your work Leighton plans to use his material to improve the conditions of the center. The calibre of the kids working for him is not as high as the kids working for you. He has one or two artists working for him depicting life in pencil sketches with captions/^{and} descriptions.

The calibre of the administrative staff here is beyond reproach. I believe it is the best of any of the centers. You might be interested to know that we have a caucasian personnel of close to 400 including the teachers. We seem to have plenty of engineers and two-bit clerks roaming around here. Blasidell came here two weeks ago and got a pretty rough going-over by the staff when he tried to tell them something about education. The staff is open-minded but they can make it pretty uneasy for you if you treat them like a bunch of people with hayseeds in their hair. Some of the guys here are pretty sophisticated. There seems to be a conflict of policy between the men of the Indian Service and the regional WRA office as to the role of Poston in wartime America but it is hushed up. The conflict was almost brought to a head on the problem of temporary furloughs. The WRA seems to be pressured by Washington and it is conscious itself of the manpower shortage on the outside and therefore recruiting of harvest labor is emphasized, whereas the Indian Service people have a tendency to forget the outside and concentrate on building a model community in Poston. I believe that this conflict exists within the WRA itself between the agricultural department and the employment department.

It seems that the residents and the staff aren't conscious of the fact that America is in a hellava mess. They're too isolated both in mind and body and faced with a maze of internal problems that they lose a proper perspective of the whole relocation program. I've been advocating to the staff members that anyone who has anything to do with the morale in Poston get out of here

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for a couple of days every other weeks and go on a bender. Since the radio reception is bad I've been desperately trying to keep up with the world via two-day-old Chronicles and the New Republic and the New Yorker. All of the regional officials who have visited the other centers tell me that the morale here is the lowest of all the centers. This is probably due to the heat, dust and lousy food. About 88 per cent of the people are rural minded and progressives are scarce as hen's teeth as it is with leadership material. We have plenty of freedom, probably more than at any of the other centers. We can go to the other camps any time we can get the transportation. We have been to the Colorado river two or three times for a swim.

I heard that you had planned to visit Poston around the later part of this month. I don't know how you plan to come but if you come via ~~the~~ via train from Los Angeles take a sleeper because the ride from L.A. to Poston is holy hell and the train is always four or five hours late. I hope to have the article on Tanforan ready by the time you get here. Regards to W.I. Love from Anne.

October 26, 1942

Dear Dorothy:

Here's another letter, but not too soon. It was good to hear from you and we're glad to hear that W.I. will accompany you on your trip-- we'll be expecting you. Kenny Murase left for Philadelphia about three weeks ago expecting to enroll at Haverford college, but enrolled at Temple when he discovered that Haverford didn't have a school of sociology. He's planning to get married --to whom, he wouldn't say. I hear that Lucy Adams invited you to participate in the regional meetings now being held on adult education and recreation. Ask Adams to let you see the article which Anne wrote on the Japanese. I sent it up to her about a week ago.

Sollie, but agent klmx25p no ketchum much on q.t. dope. First of all I don't see why you ever thought of competing with Leighton --- from what I can observe you haven't much competition. Leighton just returned from a two week trip to Washington, the primary purpose of which was to clarify the position of the bureau. I don't know whether you know this or not, but Leighton's primary purpose in coming here was and is to groom himself for a colonial administrator's position after the war, and the Navy thought it was fertile territory so it readily assented when Collier asked for him. As I said before he still draws his check from the Navy. As to the position of the bureau, here's the dope: all of the stuff which his assistants dig up (which isn't much) is his own and Collier and the Navy haven't any claim on it. Kinda funny if you ask me. One of the reasons why Leighton's work isn't going to well is that the residents are suspicious of his naval connections.

As to how extensive his research is I can't say because, as yet, he hasn't accomplished much. His assistants are a bunch of dopes-- so says Tamie. So far the bureau hasn't done much officially to improve social conditions. Tamie tells me that the bureau so far has only on two occasions sent Wade Head a memo on recommendations, although Leighton himself may contribute something during the staff conferences. I believe that Tamie is admitted to the conferences. Leighton has distributed the field work among his assistants so that one man covers food, another housing and another politics etc. From the reports that I get I hear that the assistants aren't too imaginative or resourceful. They don't know when they've got something good. Harvest employment plus kids going out to school have hit the staff quite a bit and now the staff consists of about 10 assistants. Leighton has started some seminar courses in anthro using Benedict's "Patterns of Culture". He has arranged with the Univ. of Chicago Extension division to give his assistants credit for their work -- approx. 12 units a year.

While he was in ~~Washington~~ Washington Leighton was trying to obtain the services of another anthropologist and two sociologists. This didn't jell because although the WRA was willing, the Indian Service didn't want to meet half of the expenses. The anthropologist was to be a woman from Harvard. Before Mrs. Spicer left last week to do a six months study on the Papagos the staff consisted of Leighton Dr and Mrs. Spicer and Tamie. I believe you know enough of Leighton and Tamie.

Dr. Spicer is a young husky, soft spoken chap of about 35. He was a Guggie doing some work in Mexico before the war broke out. He received his Ph.D. in anthro from the Univ. of Ariz. A Quaker and by the way a swell fellow. He's been detailed here by the Indian Service for the duration at 3000 per. to assist Leighton. Tamie was also slated to get 3000, but Wade Head put his foot down because she was technically an evacuee. She's fed-up with the set-up here and has been contemplating leaving at the first good opportunity she gets. I hear that Spicer is also fed up.

I should keep a carbon of my letters since I don't remember what I've already said to my friends. Well, if I repeat anything you'll know that it's still occupying my mind. At Poston we have a situation which is not common to the other center since we are under the jurisdiction of the Indian Service. Here we have an old agency with established policies operating under policies formulated by a new emergency agency, and there is conflict. The conflict is fundamental. The WRA (pressured by Washington and conscious of the war and the shortage of labor) would like to relocate the people as soon as possible whereas the Indian Service would like to see the evacuees stay and build a model community out of Poston. This conflict is being carried on backstage and it's interesting to ~~watch~~ observe the fight.

The "win the war" side is headed by Ted Haas who is the attorney and Vernon Kennedy, chief of Employment. The Indian Service side is lead by Head, Evans. Shepherd etc. Haas is now up in S.F. --you ought to look him up. He's typical of the New York intellectual Jewish ~~group~~ lawyers group. Kennedy had been formerly associated with the Calif. Labor Commissioner's office operating out of Sacramento and S.f. I heard that McEntire brought him into the WRA picture. Kennedy's here on a loan. He's on Minnidoka's payroll and would like to stay here if he didn't have to ~~x~~ join up with the Indian Service. He's afraid that if he opens his mouth too much that they could send ~~x~~ him off to the Apaches or something. Haas is up in S.F. to see if Kennedy can stay here and stay with the OEM. The only member of the staff here who is not on the Indian Service payroll is the press ~~re~~ relations man, Norris James---a dope.

We have another crowd down here from Hawaii. This group hasn't any official backing so it isn't very important outside of Poston. This group consists of Nell Findley, chief of community services, ~~x~~ who draws down 5600 (not worth 2500 if you ask me), Miles Cary, Director of Education at 4600 and the two high school principals and their stooges who also hail from the land of the pineapple. This gal Findley is a card. She held an important social welfare ~~position~~ position in Hawaii and was ~~also~~ associated with the USO before coming here. She majestically glides her large frame in and out and possesses a very regal manner. I heard that when Tamie came in from Santa Anita she nearly crushed her and wrapped some old leis around her. That's just typical of her. All of ~~the~~ or nearly all of the caucasians who come from Hawaii have a tendency to draw the color line more sharply than do the others. Most of the evacuees don't notice it and they all eat up the gushy stuff she hands out. A good gal though. You'll probably meet her up there since she went to ~~join~~ participate in the conferences.

Well when do you expect to come? We like to know because we want to make plans to accompany you to G (over)

Gila for a visit if possible. Tamie would also like to go.
I've got lots of things on my mind, but I'll wait to unload them
when you come. Hope to see you soon, Regards from Anne.

Mich

Mich

Friday, March 26

189 W. Madison
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Tami:

As I look out through the windows facing me and see the people hurrying through the streets huddled in their overcoats and watch the street cars which go by every two or three minutes I'm reminded very much of the areas surrounding Japanese town in San Francisco. As a matter of fact, a good deal of Chicago, superficially, is very reminiscent of Herb Caen's Bagdad(sp?) By the Sea -- the old, grayed buildings, downtown shops, the climate, particularly during the last two or three days. But Chicago has none of the The City's suave cosmopolitanism, its compactness, its charm -- nothing to attract the bon vivant. In spite of these drawbacks, its appalling city government, and its filth, I will say that in these tense times, it's quite a haven for the Nisei. The people, generally, are very friendly and jobs are to be had for the asking. The Friends Service Committee has a long list of job offers, but some of the kids have gotten swell jobs on their own hook. One young kid from Seattle landed a machinist's job at one of the defense plants through the USES. The pant is so pleased with him that they're sending him to school at its own expense.

The only fly in the ointment is housing. The industrial boom has created even a greater shortage of family dwellings than in the Bay Area, I imagine. Single rooms aren't so hard to find, but apartments are well-nigh impossible. I hear the same situation exists in Cleveland -- a nice prospect.

We're staying, for the moment, at the hostel operated on a cooperative basis by the American Friends Service Committee. The Com. has taken over a very nice house owned by a Domestic Arts School and charges the employed \$1.50 per day for room and board -- the unemployed \$1.00. The place is nice but too many Japs to suit us.

Mich has been going down to the office every day, and I've been dividing my ~~time~~ between the shops and the hostel. Last Tuesday Dr. Embree invited us to lunch and we made the hour's trip from town to his office in the old Rosenwald mansion. It's a delightfully peaceful atmosphere in which to work They have two Japanese girls working as secretaries. He wants Mich to talk at an IPR meeting to be held sometime next month, but we found out last night when John Thomas, Mich's boss, came to town that we'll be leaving for St. Louis sometime next week. Mich is quite glad of that since he doesn't care for Chicago at all. We understand before long we'll be given a trip to Washington, D.C., and to New York. Just what Mich has been looking for.

H. Ready-made clothes - good clothes - are
dramatically expensive - so all
accessories. \$10⁰⁰ shoes now look
like the \$6⁰⁰ ones of pre-evacuation
days and a good looking fur coat
had for less than \$15⁰⁰. Yards
has gone up too - but, of course, it's
still cheaper to make one's clothes.

I've been up until 1 a.m. the last two
nights, so I feel terribly stung.

I'd better give up for the moment and
write again -

Affectionately -

Gene

P.S.

The Madison Ave address is O.K. if you
want to write - as the Friends will forward
any mail to us.

G.

2. Thursday, April 1

We let a whole week ^{go by} without completing your letter or getting ^{it} done outside of helping at the hotel and taking care of personal odds and ends.

We were all set to go to St. Louis this morning but got a wire from John Hornes asking us to cancel the trip and proceed directly to Cleveland. The first of next week as plans are developing much more rapidly there. Mick is glad about not having to go, but it means I have to postpone my trip to the Jerome Center to see my family.

Living among Quakers and Church people is a strange and not altogether satisfying experience for us. It's particularly difficult for Mick - not from the religious aspect ~~but~~ that isn't bad as the Quakers are not ostentatiously pious) - but from the war angle. The fellows in the office (outside of Togo Tanaka, who is working with the Friends here in Chicago) are all pacifists and conscientious objectors, and because ~~of~~ they are in the minority - and a very unpopular minority - there is a silent but close bond of kinship between them. You can see that Mick ^{with his war convictions} would feel restless and thwarted in such a group. Superficially, he gets on well, but underneath the surface. I know, ~~but~~ long for a chance to chat with fellows like Kennedy and

Heav. Mick is looking forward to being in Cleveland as the Baptists, which quite conservative. Number only a few participants.

We hear through John Thomas that Roguch's Shinnos, Inc. are making speeches in New York which amount to stabbing the A.P.C. in the back. That's bad business. When we get to New York, I'm going to find out what they're up to.

You ought to come out, Sam. Get Dorothy Thomas to put you on a research project in Cleveland or something. You may have to live in a hole in the wall as Charlie's sisters are doing, but it's worth it to be free.

The other evening Dr. Samu Tashers, the Hawaiian dentist who made good (and I mean good) here in Chicago invited us out to dinner. ~~the other night~~ Have you met him? - a very agreeable extrovert. Likes to talk about himself, but has a good, healthy attitude - 100% pro-American and an ardent flag waver. The man certainly takes in the money too.

We left our card table for you in care of Fumi Kobayashi - drop by and get it when you have time. When you leave the cater, dispose of it as you will.

April 20, 1943

Dear Tomi:

At last we're here in Cleveland, our home for some time to come. The town isn't very large, reminds you somewhat of Oakland, but it's liberal, thank God'. The community is well-organized, its attitude on questions of race and labor much better than most cities of comparable size. Chicago is much more interesting from a physical point of view, but I'm glad our job assignment turned out to be Cleveland.

Fumi Kobayashi tells me you're planning to leave as soon after the conference in Salt Lake as possible. How's about coming here? Start out as a secretary in someone's office and look around for a chance to do the kind of work you're trained to do. Since you're anxious to live alone, you won't have nearly the difficulty that those of us looking for good sized apartments will have. In case you haven't guessed already, the job situation is better here than in Chicago, but the housing is much worse.

The fellows have found a swell site for their hostel -- a frat house on the WRU campus. It comes furnished with dishes, linen, grand piano and what have you. We hope to take it over lock, stock, and barrel very soon.

As you may be hearing from some of the kids I've written ~~to~~, I visited Jerome for about a week after leaving Chicago. It's a nice center as such ~~places~~ go with first rate facilities, but oh God! is it depressing. After three weeks of freedom, the purposelessness (what a word!) of the place struck me keenly. I was torn between wanting to visit longer with my family and running away from the oppressive atmosphere of the center. As you've undoubtedly heard, they had quite a rumpus over their registration. The day before I left Chicago, I met a Rev. Yamazaki from Jerome who had been beaten and talked over the telephone with Doc Yatabe, a central Cal JACL leader, who was also attacked. From all that I gathered, the opposition seems to center around a young Nisei Buddhist priest by the name of Kai, a fascist demagogue of the first order, and the evacuated Hawaiian Nisei. From the Niseis I met in Jerome, I heard nothing but unfavorable gossip about these two groups.

As my mother was sick and I came down with a peculiar ailment known as glandular fever, I had occasion to visit the clinic and hospital several times. The Japanese

head of the joint (and it is that) is an old friend of mine from Fresno. My God, was he bitter! His colleagues apparently all share his disillusionment and their work reflects their dissatisfaction. I never saw such a bunch of unsocial-minded medicos. They've got a simply stupid clinic system that calls for a fever-stricken patient standing in line for at least an hour pushing and shoving before he's finally allowed to sit down and wait for his name to be called. There is no dietician for hospital patients -- the doctors refuse to make house calls regardless of the circumstances. What a pity I'm not there. I'd sure start a people's movement against those Jap satellites of the AMA.

One thing that amused me very much was the admission on the part of the issei that the idyll of myth that the Japanese possessed greater virtues of character than any other race was now no more. Most of them expressed the profoundest disgust with the petty meanness, the backbiting, the dishonesty, selfishness, and egotism of their fellow teikokujin. My parents both agreed with the greatest sincerity that character was not to be considered as the sole possession of any one race -- that there are no racial lines where personal virtues are concerned. Fancy that -- in the face of Jap. propaganda too.

In the two-weeks that we've been here -- I should say Mich instead of we -- all kinds of interesting people have crossed our path. In Chicago we met only Quakers. The Friends are very nice, but I can't go a steady diet of them particularly in these times when their war philosophy is so uniformly the same -- those we met anyway.

What did you say the name of the restaurant owner in Cleveland was -- the one you knew? I hear there were a couple of Japanese places that closed down. Maybe he was operating one of them.

Let us know the latest dope on your plans, Tomi. Sorry, we couldn't get some cheese for you before rationing messed things up, but is there anything else we can get? Write us -----

As always
Aune

April 28, 1943

Dear Dorothy:

If I'm not mistaken I haven't written to you since your visit to Poston last Nov. You can observe from the postmark that we are not in Poston but in Cleveland. We left the project on Mar. 16 after a short visit to Gila in order to see Charlie, for Chicago where we spent three weeks before coming to Cleveland. We decided to leave the center because we felt that with the new WRA policy of relocation in effect, we could do a better job on behalf of the group on the outside, tho we maybe mistaken.

You may have heard that I am employed by the Baptist Home Mission Society as an employment officer. My boss John Thomas tells me that your reference letter was a pip and many thanks for it. We first thought that working for a church organization might cramp out style but to date our relations have been very cordial and not in the least bit strained. The church people that we've meet so far have been good liberals who have an intelligent understanding of the problem. Maybe we have been fortunate?

At the present time Anne is not working but will probably work with me on the social contact aspect of the program. We are trying to locate a site for a hostel here in Cleveland similar to that which the Friends have established in Chicago. We spent three weeks in Chicago observing the operations of the Friends' office and hostel before we came to Cleveland. We had hoped to get a hostel set for operation ~~xx~~ here by May 1, but I rather doubt now whether we can be ready by then.

Locating employment for the nisei is like shooting fish in a barrel. There are plenty of good jobs to be had both in Chicago and in Cleveland, but the bottleneck in the relocation program is housing. The housing shortage here is terrific, apts and houses are not to be had, and the racial problem doesn't help either. The housing problem is not as acute in Chicago as it is here and in Detroit since it has more apt dwellings, but it's bad enough. We have been trying to create housing by asking people who have large homes to make rooms available but it's a tough proposition.

Another and probably the most important problem in the relocation program is the adjustment of the nisei to the community. We may decry the establishment of a Jap center but we almost need ~~xxx~~ ~~xx~~ some center where they can come during the initial stages of this resettlement program. Most of the kids who have come to Chicago or Cleveland are pretty lonely and unhappy. They haven't the initiative to mix in with local groups and organizations and someone or some organization must tend to this problem if the relocation program is going to be successful. At this stage of the game I just can't see a issei relocated out here, they would be miserable.

As ~~xx~~ soon as we get a hostel established here Anne and I are going to make a trip to Washington and New York and while in Washington we hope to see the President. It may sound far fetched but we think we have a chance. Keep your fingers crossed. After the trip to Washington we plan to take a running trip to ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ some of the centers and try to give the residents a picture of the midwest-employment opportunities, housing, community sentiment, discrimination etc. To date only caucasians have gone to the centers to present the picture and we think that a fellow evacuee might carry a little more weight.

I would like to hear of your plans for your midwest conference. Regards to W.I.

Mich and Anne

COMMITTEE FOR THE RESETTLEMENT OF AMERICANS OF JAPANESE DESCENT

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Editor, The Cleveland Citizen

Miss Grace Mayette
League for Human Rights

Brigadier Wm. Spatig
Salvation Army

Rev. V. A. Peterson
St. James Episcopal Church

Miss Elizabeth Magee
Consumers League of Ohio

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Mr. Ray Livingston
Thompson Products Co.

Dr. C. V. Thomas
Y. M. C. A.

Mr. John Stewart
Y. M. C. A.

Mr. George Washington
Urban League of Cleveland

Mrs. Margaret Hawkins
Cleveland Church Federation

Mr. Max Franzen

Mr. Michio Kunitani

Miss Kathleen McCarty
Catholic Charities

Rev. Robert Zearfoss
Lakewood Baptist Church

Mr. Elmer Galt
County Relief Bureau

Mr. Don Knowlton
Hill & Knowlton

Miss Margaret Fergusson, Sec'y
International Institute, Y.W.C.A.

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Mrs. Margaret Hawkins

Mr. Robert Schmalz

Rev. Robert Zearfoss

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HOSTEL COMMITTEE

Mrs. Daniel E. Morgan, *Chairman*

Dr. D. R. Sharpe

Dean Francis Bacon

Mrs. Olive Banister

Miss Margaret Fergusson

PUBLICITY

Don Knowlton

THE CLEVELAND HOSTEL
2429 Prospect Avenue

Cleveland, O.
CHerry 7241

MAX FRANZEN,
Hostel Director

MICHIO KUNITANI,
Placement Director

August 9, 1943

Dear Tamie:

Well, my friend I hope you carry out ~~my~~ your plans to leave the reservation pretty damn quick. As far as I can see there isn't very much that you can do on the project with everything against you. Once you're out you sense the futility of working in the project and the wholly negative aspect of center life is brought into sharp focus.

I've been in Cleveland some four months now working with the nisei and I tell you for my part the less I have to do ~~with~~ with them the better. It's difficult enough to soften the community to accept and understand the evacuees but ~~when you~~ trying to get the nisei to seek new non-nisei friends and interests and to help them adopt liberal attitudes towards other minority groups, unions etc. is a headache. Our approach to the community has been to present the evacuees as Americans but actually the nisei are foreigners. They act like a bunch of foreigners. I've never met such an uninteresting group of people in my life as the nisei. It's no lie!!!!

How's everything on the reservation what with segregation, heat dust etc.? I wish that I could send you some of the beautiful weather that we have here. The cool lake breezes -----all right I'll stop. I understand Head is going to throw in the sponge pretty damn quick and Gelvin doesn't want to pick it up. Altho Head has made statements to the contrary in the Chronicle he is waiting for a commission from the army. The project employment division in Washington is more or less abolished and I believe that the reorganization is going to have some effect in the setup of the employment division in the center. Davis McEntire has resigned as chief of project employment and is now with the research staff of the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco.

Anne is resigning her position with WRA this week to go with the Consumers League of America and I plan to go with some government agency or ~~some~~ war plant as soon as I get my clearances. I believe that you asked whether Cleveland would be a good place to resettle? I think that ~~you'd like~~ New York or Washington is more to your tastes than Cleveland. As far as Chicago is concerned there're too many Japs roaming around the streets these days. New York is the only place where you can find anything half decent as far as housing is concerned.

COMMITTEE FOR THE RESSETTLEMENT OF AMERICANS

Enclosed you'll find our first payment towards our long neglected loan. We had hoped to pay back everything by three months but our expenses have been pretty high to date. At the end of this month I'll send another \$25.

Let's hear from you soon and if there's anything we can do to make your few months in Poston a little more bearable please do not hesitate to ask. Tell that guy Jim to get off his ass and come out.

Yours,

Mildred

Hello to all our friends

!!!!

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MAX FRANZEN,
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MICHIO KUNITANI,
Placement Director

Sept. 8, 1943

Tamie:

Everytime I address a letter to someone in Poston I get an urge to go back for a visit. Since I left the reservation I have been following very closely the activities of the various centers through their papers, official notices etc. and after talking to hundreds of kids I must conclude that Poston was probably the most interesting of all the centers. So what?

About two weeks ago I heard that Ned was going to Washington to take over Embree's assistant's position and yesterday I received a note from Ted Haas stating that Ned was slated to take Embree's job. What's the dope? I understand that Embree is going to be kept on as a consultant and that his fulltime job will be at the Univ. of Chicago teaching the AMGOT boys. Ted also tells me that Zimmerman and Balderston might be called by the army if they pass their physical. I thought both of them were C.O.s. If Zimmerman is taken it will be interesting to see who Wade Head appoints as chief of employment. Methinks that he will not appoint anyone.

What's new besides the heat? Last week I ran into a fellow whom I met at Tanforan who ~~says~~ says he knows you well. Rev. Mas Wakai. Do you remember him? He tells me that you're both from the same village. Mas is working in Chicago for the Congregational Union in the capacity of counselor for the evacuees in Chi. It was quite a suprise to hear that Jim ~~plans to go~~ to Savage. Has he left yet? A few days ago I met one of the former Doho boys who is teaching at the Univ. of Michigan and he tells me that they're spreading the "gospel" around quite effectively both at Boulder and at Savage.

Have any of your plans changed since you last wrote? We should like to hear from you. Give our best to our friends and pass the enclosed check to Beth. Thanks a million.

Mel