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Shiraishi, Roy

1945

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October 17, 1945.

Mr. Roy Shiraishi,
Block 606-D,
War Relocation Center,
Newell, Modoc Co., Cal.

Dear Mr. Shiraishi:

I shall arrive in Tule Lake
on Friday morning, October 19th, to visit and
advise you.

Very truly yours,

WMC/W

October 31, 1945

Attorney Wayne M. Collins
1721 Mills Tower
San Francisco, California

Dear Attorney Collins,

I heard that you been trying to get in touch with us by phone. We try to call you back, but there seem to be having trouble here. I believe it is due to the heavy rain we are having and the line between here and Tule Lake, is out-of-order.

We started the second membership drive on the wrong foot, but everything is all straighten out now. What happen was that they had a meeting for all the Wards and Block Representatives, and we were to give them more-or-less a pep talk and to give them instruction. I talked to Larry Kataoka and other able persons, to put the idea over that we lack so much from our last membership drive, therefore we will only except hundred dollars membership, until our goal is obtain and then we will except hardship cases. This way we could squeeze all the hundred dollar members and the real hardship will be the remainers. They won't put out the hundred dollars, unless it is necessary. Most of us agreed upon this plan. Well, we thought everything was arranged and understood, but at the meeting "Kaku" the fellow who had lunch with us, pops up at the meeting and announce that you told him that we should except anybody and any amount. He made this statement without confering the Executive Board and without authorization. (What you told us was to the Executive Board and not to be anounced to the public)

Well the damage was done and the others try to patch it up, but when we open our door for membership, 80% was hardship cases. Some \$8 and \$10 cases came in, and the old members feel that it is almost impossible for all this to be hardship cases and they feel that lot of persons

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who could pay hundred dollars are in the hardship list. So I talk this over with the Executive Board and the Advisors, and decide to close the membership drive and talk this over with you before we get too many old members too discouraged.

I heard that you did get a few cancellation of membership. Well Mr. Uchida, went to see them and the reason he received was that their mother insist that she wants to go to Japan and therefore they decided to go with her. Thats the reason we received and I guess we have to take it for what it is worth.

There has been rumors going around saying that we are so hard up for membership that we will take any amount. The fellows who were taking membership, for some reason or other afraid to refuse or to ask them if they would at least raise \$25 for the registration fee. But I feel that they put over the idea that \$100 is the minimum and they are to pay for the balance as they are able to. Lot of people has the idea that they will get thae same service for twenty-five dollars as those who pay hundred dollars. There are people like that and there are people who really can't afford anymore. So to cover both group in case they write to you on this question, will you just tell them you will do your best and in the meantime we will try to get the money out of persons who can afford to pay and have not or weave them out.

It has come to a point where we must only except hundred dollars membership or we will lose the faith of our old members who has paid hundred dollars. We gave the hardship cases a week to come in and I feel we gave plenty of time to join us and if they did not join us by this time it is not our fault. You can understand what myself and others are up against, when fellows like "Kaku" and others who will butt in from the side and do lot of damage, but they ^{NEVER} come to the office

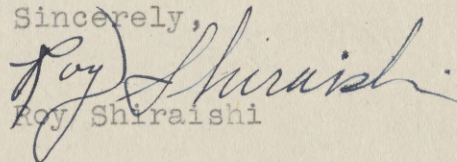
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to help us. They always seems to be busy some place else. That was about the second time he came to the Executive Board meeting and then he mixed everything up. It is very discouraging. I did not have much faith in him and I did kind of gave you the hint while you were here. I guess he's what you call 10¢ Prima Dona, a show off. After havin g lunch with you he act like he had a personal conference with you and Larry Kataoka, had to shut him up at the meeting, because he was going way off the subject, we were discussing. I guess its partly my fault for not being at the meeting but it was call hurrily and the word did not get to me. You know that I wish no glory or credit or anything else. All I want is my citizenship and to have this organization go smoothly and they can have all the credit.

It is pitiful to see how the backs of these people who have been held in ^{camp, war} been broken. These people before entering camp were able people, but now being pushed around so long ^{that} they don't seem to have a will of their own. They seems to sway from one side to other like a person who has lost its mind, or ability to think. It really makes heart bleed to see this kind of thing.

Like myself, I'm sticking by you to dooms day, because I know you are the only person who can help us and this is the only thing for us to do. And I feel now that my American citizenship is the most important thing next to my life. There's lot others like myself.

Sincerely,


Roy Shiraishi

P. S.

This letter is just between you and I, I believe we understand each other.

I believe everything is under control now at the present time.

December 2, 1945

Dear Attorney Collins,

I been laid up with a cold for the last week, but I thought, I'll just drop you a few lines. From the reaction of the newspapers, and the Justice Department and from your "Telephone Information" which Larry Kataoka, brings to me. I feel that everything, so far has worked out much better than what we have expected. I know that this splendid work is due to your great and brilliant effort and to your good and precise decisions and judgements on your part. I'm sure your efforts will continue to give you satisfactory results.

Larry Kataoka, has been doing an excellent job of bring your "Telephone Information" to the Executive Board and to the Members of the Defense Committee. He is also working very hard to keep things progressing at this end. He has been dropping in every-evening and we have been discussing the daily progress of our situation, and how we can help you from within this camp. We have been encouraging the members to write to their Caucasian friends and have them, write to the President of the United States. I have been talking to Larry, that there should be a closer unity between the Executive, Advisors, and Ward and Block leaders and the members, so that we can keep a closer contact with our members.

Publicity is the most important thing at the present, but I believe it is also important to keep our finance straight. Since we are finally catching up with ourselves, I think it will be a good idea to go over the hardship cases, since we did not have the time up until now. They should be classified into about three groups: 1. Dead Asset, (This group will be the cases of person, who just cannot pay at the present time). 2. Accounts Payable, (This is the group, who has made part pay-

Attorney Collins

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ment and are willing to pay the balance from their monthly income, but at the present time, we have no real system of collecting this money, and I believe all this should be straighten out now. 3. Accounts Which Should Be Paid In Full, (This group are the ones who have the money, but only made part payment, because at the time they did not have the full confidence in our Organization at the time. With the wonderful progress you have made in court, I'm sure these people will be willing to pay the balance. By using tact and explanation by person like Larry Kataoka, and few others, I know that many of our hardship cases, can be marked off paid in full.)

Eddie Masuoka, George Tsuetaki and several other have done an excellent and a splendid job of keeping the account so far and I know they will continue to do so. These fellows more-or-less took it upon themselves as volunteer to keep the account and did a mighty fine work. I am inviting them over as soon as I can to discuss this matter with them. I have already discuss this with Larry and we intend to get together with the group. Even if we get it down in black and white, then we know exactly where we stand and sone day we may need every dollar, we can get.

Due to the postponement, I guess, I will not be able to eat Christmas dinner or celebrate New Year, with my family but I guess, I will be able to celebrate Chinese New Year, with them. Keep up your fine work and if there is anything we can do to help you, please let us know. We have all the confidence in you and if things do not turn out, I know it will not be any fault of yours. Best of Luck

Faithfully yours,

Ray Shiraishi

December 13, 1945

Mr. Roy Shiraishi
606-D Tule Lake Center
Newell, Modoc County, California

Dear Roy:

I thank you for your letter of December 2nd.
I doubt that you will be able to eat your Christmas dinner
or celebrate New Years as a free person, and I agree
with you that I hope you will be able to celebrate Chinese
New Year with your friends outside the concentration camp
in which you are now detained. By-the-way, wheninnell
is Chinese New Year?

Very truly yours,

WMC jl

December 18, 1945

PERSONAL

Attorney Wayne M. Collins
1721 Mills Tower
San Francisco 4, California

Dear Attorney Collins:

Thank you for your letter of December 13th. I believe that the Chinese New Year is in February, but I do not know the exact day of the month which it falls on.

Yesterday, I happened to meet Attorney Noyes and we had quite a long chat. I believe that you already know that Attorney J. B. Tietz was here through your telephone conversation with Attorney Noyes. Attorney Tietz came to see some persons who had written to Attorney Al Wirin, who were new and old clients. After these persons met with Attorney Tietz, they came to see Attorney Noyes. Attorney Noyes got in touch with me after the meeting with them, since he knew that I knew these persons rather well.

There were certain matters that Attorney Noyes could not discuss with these persons as a project attorney; therefore, he felt that I was in a better position to go over the whole matter with these persons. These persons later introduced me to Attorney Tietz, and I had quite a talk with him. I will discuss my conversation with Attorney Tietz with you personally at my first opportunity. After seeing Attorney Tietz, I had a long talk with Attorney Noyes. I checked Mr. Tietz's activity here by taking up most of Mr. Tietz's time until he left for Los Angeles with Attorney Noyes, who is spending Christmas Holiday there. I feel that Attorney Noyes has more than Christmas Holiday on his mind and ^{since} he will be in Los Angeles he will feel more free to discuss all these matters with you personally. I feel that he may have some interesting information for you. I received an inkling of your misunderstanding with Mr. Wirin and Mr. Noyes seemed to be very much concerned over the whole matter. As you know, Attorney Noyes has worked very hard for us and he is a friend of all of us. I feel that he has high regard for you and can help towards a successful conclusion of our case. Attorney Noyes gave me the impression that he had several things on his mind which developed through his discussions with Attorney Tietz and the persons Attorney Tietz came to see which he would like to discuss with you. I feel that such a discussion with Mr. Noyes may possibly help us in our case. I understand that it is possible to contact Mr. Noyes either through Mr. Paul Robertson, who is the head of the WRA Office in Los Angeles, or at Mr. Noyes' sister's home, 962 Manning Street ---c/o David Noyes --- Los Angeles, California. I

Attorney Wayne M. Collins

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would recommend such a meeting knowing you have our full cooperation. We are 100% behind you on whatever decision you make, since your past judgments have been accurate and precise and therefore the results have been very favorable. It is my sincere wish that you keep up with this good work.

Sincerely,

Roy Shiraishi
Roy Shiraishi
U.S. Activist

March 8, 1946

Dear Attorney Collins,

I'm sure you did not quite understand what we were trying to get at. I thought, I had a idea here with which we could blast the WRA of the map, like the "Slave Labor Business". I talked it over with Larry and he thought the idea was good, so that is the reason, we called to make the final check with you.

Now, this is what happened, a new regulation was made do to shortage of workers, that no passes will be before 10 a.m.. So I missed the bus. But I got a ride with the breadman and I was suppose to arrive in Klamath Fall, around 2 o'clock, but that day, he took longer than usual and we arrived at Klamath Fall, close to 3 o'clock. The reason for going to Klamath Fall; (1.) To talk to you over the telephone without the WRA listening in or making recordings. (2.) To check price with the WAR PRICE & RATIONING BOARD. I intend to go to the OPA, first before calling you, but do to lack of time I called you soon as I got to Klamath Fall, after I went to Union Telegraph Office and got the information. Because I knew that the bank would close by 3 p.m.. Because I figure, I would like to close the deal right away if I is on the up and up. Because there is an another person who wants to buy this same car. While I was calling you, a WRA employee came from nowhere and took the next telephone booth, and this un-nerved me very much, because here I came 50 miles to get away from the WRA, and here comes a WRA man while I am phoning. At that time, I thought he was spying on me, so that is why I cut the telephone conversation, without telling you the big object that was on my mind. Now that I think about it, I'm sure it was just coincidence and my conscious.

I'm sure you were not able to make head or tail out of my con-

Attorney Collins

March 8, 1946

versation. That is reason I had Larry, call you the second time. Larry shouldn't of mention about \$400.00, that wasn't nothing offical. I'm sure we miscalculated because we only took the 56 percent of F. O. B. price and the freight rate, and did not allow for the dealer.

Remember when you were here last, you asked us, if there wasn't any more thing like the Slave Labor Business, so that Mr. Besig, could blast the WRA again. Well, this is what I had in mind, and it came to me when I got the idea that I would like get a car and go out. Many of the WRA personals, where going out and buying cars cheap, and selling to the evacuee at a price way above the ceiling price. It thought if I could catch one of the WRA personal red handed, with marked money, I thought Mr. Besig, could blow the top-off of the WRA. And wonderful material for his paper "WRA Personals Running Black In Tule Lake Center" My intention ^{was to} get all the serial number from the bills I was going to use. T^hk, and couple of other fellows were willing to go and witness the transaction, so they could be my witness later. I did not intend go through ^{with this} without your okay, and double check with you so that none of us would get into trouble. I guess, Larry and I, both did a bad job of getting the point over to you, by telephone.

But from what you say, if the buyer and the seller both get punished the same, then we better not touch it because lot of the Japanese boys will also get into trouble and we don't want that.

I'm sorry I cause you lot of trouble and my brain storm did not work out the way I hope. I think so much of you and the case that I was willing to risk a a little to help you, and our case and all my friends who are being detained. ^{WE WERE TOLD HERE THAT}
ONLY THE SELLER WAS BREAKING LAW
NOT THE BUYER, BUT I GUESS WE WERE
WRONG.

Sincerely,

Ray Sherail