

1:20

TAKEUCHI, HARRY

to & from T. NAKAMURA / TLDC

1946-1954

78/177

C

May 11, 1946.

Mr. Harry Takeuchi
Alien Internment Camp
Crystal City, Texas.

Dear Harry:

I suppose by this time you have become quite adapted to the Texas sunshine. It seems as though a few weeks ago that I last visited you at Santa Fe.

As you may be familiar lot have transpired meanwhile, and I was down in Los Angeles for two weeks visiting the Santa Fe Peruvian Japanese nationals. They are presently confined in the Immigration and Naturalization jail at Terminal Island. Originally they were scheduled to be deported on the 6th of May, but that boat was cancelled. Thus there is no immediate fear of deportation, but everything has been prepared in event of any deportation proceedings.

I suppose the boys down at Crystal are getting kind of impatient, as releases has now dwindled down. We are doing everything possible to give you boys the maximum of protection. The motion of the government to strike the Abe Fortas letter on the 13th was again extended till the end of this month. This was due to the fact that Judge St Sure is presently ill.

I believe you have been kept informed by Mr. Collins on the latest of all the news. It may be probable that I shall be in Texas again sometimes in the early part of June. I shall endeavor to drop by in Crystal City, but I hope you will receive your release prior to that date.

Please convey my regards to all the boys, and give them some assurances that everything possible will be done on their behalf.

Very truly yours,

Tex Nakamura

Nov. 24 1951

Dear Tex:

See - but it's been a long time hasn't it, Tex. I sincerely hope that this note finds you and your family in the very best of health. As for me - well - I've been plugging along - and since this last time I talked to you I've gotten hitched and have a 7 weeks old son, Wayne Whitaki, by name.

Well - to get down to business - my folks asked me to write you concerning my younger sister Matenge who is one of the parties in the suits, but who has not received any notices (\$200⁰⁰) or letters, such as the one you sent my brother-in-law and sister (Mrs. Amy Milum of Del Rey). Please check the list and send my sister Matenge a similar letter + request for payment. The folks' address is at Rt 13 Box 399 Fresno. It seems that there a mix-up her name was listed on the "unknown addressees" list, so I immediately wrote to Mr Collins giving the above address. There could ~~of~~ have been some kind of a

stop-up, as there are so many people in the suits, although - I sent in the correct address 3 years ago.

To date Mr. Collins hasn't said a thing concerning the collection of the 200⁰⁰ from each client, but if you have any hope - will be glad to hear about it. Will be more than glad to give my time and gas to collect same. The response has been disappointing I know - but maybe if we press it, more will pay up. Now that the grape harvest is over.

So please check your list for Matange Takemchi, and Kenneth Takemchi (U.S. Army, now) and if possible might just as well ~~not~~ include in the 1228 in suits. Kenneth was under age at the time as he is 23 now. Do GI's have to pay?

Looking forward to your kind service and reply, I remain

Thanks a lot, Tex!

Yours sincerely,
Henry Takemchi

November 27, 1951

Mr. Harry Takeuchi
Rt. 13 Box 399
Fresno, California

Dear Harry:

I wish to acknowledge your air mail letter of the 24th, and I am glad to hear that you are now married and a proud father of a baby boy.

Quite a few developments has occurred since I last saw you in Fresno. Your mother called yesterday morning by phone in reference to the status of the case.

We mailed from this office on the 17th of November, a report on the status of the case to those renunciants who are minors, and adults. Early this year Mr. Collins mailed a personal letter to each renunciants requesting contributions to carry the case on an individual hearing. He was then aware of the danger of this case coming down for individual trial.

However, we have been fortunate in having approximately 1,228 minors restored their citizenship. As for the rest of the adults the government has prepared photostatic copy of all the evidence for trial purpose. At this stage it is very difficult to predict how the trial may be conducted in the district court. We know the government is just as tired as we are to conduct this trial, but we cannot show any sign of faltering. They have expended more than 2 million dollar defending this case. As to what extent they may wish to compromise is something which we are just waiting to see.

In due course of time we must get in touch with all the renunciants to pay their full share of the expense. The minors will not have their name inscribed into the court decision until they have made a proper payment to Mr. Collins. As to the adult--we shall not undertake to conduct any individual hearing until they have paid their share. We will have to ask you to introduce or show us around in Fresno this winter so that we could contact them individually and get their reply when everything is fully explained to them.

As to the member of your family, Mr. Collins has stated that they should not be charged in the similar extents as all the committeemen. That is the reason why you have not received any letters from the committee or from Mr. Collins.

May 24, 1952

Mr. Harry Takeuchi
Rt. 9 Box 557-A,
Fresno, California

Dear Harry:

I wish to thank you for your letter of May 18th.

Also I wish to acknowledge receipt of the remittances of George Shigeru Ikemiya--\$100; Kiyoshi Nishikawa--\$100; and Yoshio Nishikawa--\$100.

The receipts from your district to date are as follow:

Noboru Ebisuda--\$200; Toshiye Ebisuda--\$200;
Henry Haruji Mayeda--\$200; Shigenori Kitauchi --\$200.

Active list:

Masaichi Kitauchi \$50.00; ..

I just returned last night from Penryn, California. We had about 30 persons turning out for such meeting. We covered quite a bit of ground there, and I think we could get a good result. That is one territory that paid up 100% last time. I called the committee men from Stockton and Sacramento simultaneously at Penryn. Therefore we expect to cover those territory in June. So things will roll on. There has been quite a bit of misunderstanding, and lots of malicious rumors being spread by Joe Masacka--Jacl big wig.

As to the accounts of renunciants in Japan--for the Active list; they must pay the full \$300.00 before we will ask Mr. Collins to bring them back for trial purposes this year. We cannot possibly bring them for trial purposes without this payment. Mr. Collins will be duty bound to try their case if we undertook to bring them here. It will mean the dissipation of the funds of those renunciants resident in this country. We cannot let this happen. As to the minor of those on the judgment list--they must pay the full \$300. The services has already been rendered, and if they refuse to cooperate with the group--we shall undertake to have Mr. Collins sue for his reasonable attorney's fee.

COMMITTEE

Y. HONDA
Y. KAKU
T. KONO
J. KIMURA
Y. KIYOHRO
M. MATSUMOTO
K. MATSUOKA
I. NAMEKAWA
T. NAKAMURA
R. NARIMATSU
H. OKITA

TULE LAKE DEFENSE COMMITTEE

Room 215, 124 South San Pedro Street
Los Angeles 12, California
Michigan 4728

COMMITTEE

T. OBATAKE
M. SASAKI
Y. SHIBATA
I. SHIMIZU
T. SHONO
H. TAKETAYA
G. TSUETAKE
H. TAKEUCHI
H. UCHIDA
M. YAMAICHI

I think this is a better approach. Ask them to cooperate with the group in paying their individual assessment as the work has been already accomplished. All that remains is the inscribing of their name. Inasmuch as the case was brought up as a group matter, the cost has been very cheap. The price as a group is \$300. If they do not care to go with the group, they must pay their individual attorney fee's to Collins. We have set this individual fee to be \$2,000. If they wish to pay through the nose they can do so. We are not going to let any of those persons on the judgment list get away. This applies to those person in U.S. and Japan. As until they pay we will not give them the proper credentials and advice.

This should be the only and the most logical method of approach. They were given enough time to show their good faith in the matter, and I am going to crack down on all the persons on the judgment list. At times we must be rude to them for their own benefit.

As to the adults the matter becomes more simple as it is either they pay or no representation. We should encourage them to continue as the case could be decided favorably for the majority of the renunciants this year.

Other week I found that Mr. Collins has received the outright release of all the 302 persons. So there is no longer the danger of involuntary deportation....

Take things easy, and try to contact them whenever you have the spare time. The weather was really hot when I passed near Fresno last days or so.

If there is any further development I shall let you know.

Very truly yours,

Tex Nakamura

June 10, 1952

Mr. Harry Takeuchi
Rt. 9 Box 557-A
Fresno, California

Dear Harry:

Thanks for your informative letter of June 6th. On the whole people sure moves around a lot. This has been so in every district, and it is quite a job just keeping up with their changes of addresses.

Since I last reported to you the following are the contribution from your district:

Seichi Yamakawa	\$50.00
Toyaji Yamakawa	\$50.00
Noboru Takasaki	\$100.00

As to Tsutomu Tom Yamashita and his wife, I cannot seem to locate any parties by that name in our list. I shall give you the list of all the Yamashitas, and you may judge for yourself if any of them is one of the party that may have moved to Fresno. You may contact them and collect whatever balance is due from them.

Active list:	Former address	Balance
Yamashita, Fumiko Mrs. IOU	Japan	\$300.00
Yamashita, Fumiye Mrs.	411 North La Rica Ave., Baldwin Park, Calif.	250.00
Yamashita, Gekishi MR	Rt. 4 Box 85, Lodi, Calif.	300.00
Yamashita, Harry Kaichi	Japan	300.00
Yamashita, Hisako	Japan	300.00
Yamashita, Kazuo	Japan	300.00
Yamashita, Mary Fumiko	Japan	300.00
Yamashita, Masano	114 Union St., Watsonville	PAID
Yamashita, Masashiro INST	Rt. 3 Box 22, Lodi, Calif	60.00
Yamashita, Nobuo	Rt. 2 Box 341, Bellevue, Wash.	200.00
Yamashita, Saburo	Japan	300.00
Yamashita, Sadae	Rt. 2 Box 341, Bellevue, Wash.	200.00

I feel it might be Nobuo and Sadae Yamashita--that you have in mind, as they are the only parties from Washington.

I am enclosing the letters mailed to all the person on the judgment list to Japan. This letter is getting pretty tough on them gradually. After I am through with all the meetings in Northern California, I am going to bear down on all the renunciants...both Active and Judgment. For the person on the judgment who will not cooperate, a reasonable attorney's fee will be charged to increase our group fund. This will be

done through legal proceedings in San Francisco by Collins.

As to the Active List, I am planning to go around to each individual in a final manner to get their Yes or No. I am going to get their signature on a written document--if they do not wish to continue. In this way the group could be protected from any responsibility latter on when their citizenship status has not been clarified. This in a way would be a threat upon them, and it also indicates that we mean business this time. I am planning to use this as a last resort as it will be a tedious task to go to every renunciants. But if it is necessary I am planning to do it during this summer. I could count on you to finish most of the work in your territory. However, I have other district where there is no committeemen at all.

Well so much for planning, and it is best to take the thing as they come. Most of them will react very badly...so it is very difficult.

Oh yes the other day a letter came from your district. It was from Mrs. Kimi Nishiyama, 2304 Jensen Ave., Fresno, California. She is the sister of Sakiko Yano, who is now in Fukuoka ken, Japan. Mrs. Nishiyama was down at Shim's place, and Shim told her to write to me.

I instructed Mrs. Nishiyama to pay the sum of \$300.00, and we will assure her that Sakiko Yano will be brought back for individual trial sometimes this year. Therefore I would appreciate your contacting her and straighten her out a little bit. On these Active Japan case--it is now absolutely necessary that they pay the \$300.00 in advance, as it is a difficult task to collect anything from them after they come back. We cannot possibly use the group fund for their protection any more. The Judgment list has been terrible, and it is to be expected that the Active list will be even more worse.

Very truly yours,

Tex Nakamura

June 16, 1952

Mr. Harry Takeuchi
Rt. 9 Box 557-A
Fresno, California

Dear Harry:

Thanks for your mail of June 13th with enclosure of a personal check of Bill Kondo for \$250.00, and a U.S. Postal Money Note for \$20.00--credited to Takumi and Haruye Omi.

Today I received a U.S. Postal Note in \$100.00 from Hiroshi Kuramoto of Selma, Calif. His former address was Rt. 1 Box 174, Selma, Calif. He is now residing at 13480 South McCall Ave., Selma, Calif.

I noticed that there is other Kuramoto's residing at the Rt. 1 Box 174 address. Namely Takumi, and Yoshiye. Probably they now resides at the S. McCall address. Hiroshi Kuramoto has a remaining balance of \$175.00, and he asked to pay it by monthly instalments of \$25.00 per month.

I am leaving tonight for Sac'to, as driving during the day is awful. On the night of 18th--after the Stockton meeting is over, I am planning to drive back. Therefore if I am in Fresno at any reasonable hour, which is not too early I will call you. Otherwise I shall drive on through. If there is any necessity of my coming up there--you may call me by phone. I could then make the trip.

In July---the final showdowns of the Active list will be started. I am going to obtain a written statement from these individuals who will not cooperate. This will absolve the committee from any future responsibility on their case. I think this maybe the last resort, and it is getting to be foolish to waste our times on them any longer.

I wish to thank you for your notification of changes of addresses. They sure move around a lot...

Will let you know how the meeting in Sac'to and Stockton turns out.

Very truly yours,

August 6, 1952

Mr. Harry Takeuchi
Rt. 9 Box 557-A
Fresno, California

Dear Harry:

This will acknowledge receipt your letter of August 4th with enclosures of checks and postal money order totaling \$950.00.

I wish to thank you for your attention in contacting all the judgment list with such a success. Here in L.A. the going is very tough, and I am quite sure quite a few legal action must be contemplated to receive the fee.

Although we are not quite definite, we are figuring on making the trip next week. We have been very busy with the work here, and we cannot afford to leave the office vacant.

Therefore we might be in Fresno next Tuesday or Wednesday.

We are hoping that committeemen in other district has fared just as well as you have. It is indeed a dastardly thing. Many in the cities are pure ingrates, and it often makes me wonder why we ever took to continue with their case.

As to Toshio Oku, I suggest that you deliver the document to him; as he is doing his utmost to pay while in the services.

As I have furnished to you, the letters to the ACTIVE list went out. The response is pretty good. However, as a last resort we shall have/a written release signed from those who simply refuses to cooperate. I furnished you with a sample of what it was.

On our trip up north, we shall contact Collins and tell him what the whole set up is. He should not take any cry babys in connection with this case. Well--we shall see you on our way up, and furnish you with any informations that may be very vital.

Very truly yours,

T. Nakamura

January 19, 1953

Mr. Harry Takeuchi
Rt. 9 Box 557-A
Fresno, California

Dear Harry:

I forgot to furnish you with a reply relative to the two renunciants from Japan.

Yoshio Grace and Yukimi Mary Yamada were furnished with their individual ORDERS..to their addresses in Japan by Mr. Collins.

They have not paid a cent--so get their address. Ask them to pay in a nice manner, and if they refuse--we will sue them.

As to Kozukis-- I told Collins to drop them from the case, and I think he will do it. We cannot use the group fund for the purpose of defending them.

Very truly yours,

TULELAKE DEFENSE COMMITTEE

BY:

August 7, 1953

Mr. Harry Takeuchi
Rt. 9 Box 557-A
Fresno, California

Dear Harry:

Thank you for your letter dated August 6th with enclosure of \$80.00 in postal note for Mary Yamada. This will complete her payment on her account.

I wish to inform you that Mr. Collins has returned from Washington, D.C. His negotiation with Mr. Burger of the Justice Department has been quite successful. In about 3 weeks from now we shall be more on a sure footing as to how many cases could be determined in an administrative manner. That is we will be alleviated the burden of trying each individual case. By this method we desire to conclude the cases for 80 to 90% of the person in the suit.

To bring this about Mr. Collins is calling all the renunciants from Japan for trial purposes. This has been arranged with the State Department officials and the Justice Department's attorney. For this reason within the next 60 days, each individual renunciants in Japan will receive a notice from Mr. Collins to follow the proper instruction. We are bringing these persons home to U.S. so that the position of the U.S. renunciants will be in a more favorable picture. Once we have accomplished our purpose, the group have furnished proper protection to all the person in the suit. From henceforth--the individual renunciants from Japan should seek their own representation to try their own individual case.

We realize how bad the Judgment list has reacted. For this reason the group, as well as Mr. Collins feel that it is not advisable to prolong the obligation of the group to the persons in Japan. We shall look after their interest as far as bringing them back to the U.S. will but from henceforth they must pay the proper fee to their own attorney.

I feel that you have a same reaction to this problem. This case is going on 8 years, and it is high time that we wind up the obligation of the group. We shall do so when we receive a definite reactions for the benefit of U.S. renunciant.

Mr. Collins is now on vacation, and he is expected to be back in S.F. at the later part of this month. After his return, we shall hear more of the latest development.

Please extend our best wishes to your family.

Yours very truly,

Fresno Calif.
March 4, 1954

Dear Tex:

I sincerely hope that this note finds you, your family members + Mr. Leno enjoying the best of health.

I am writing you because a person called me tonight ^{complaining} ~~saying~~ that Jack W. Ota had received affidavit forms from Mr. Collins, even though he owes \$200.00, and this party wanted to know why, because he is paid up but has not received his as yet. Of course, very few have received their affidavits as yet, but the guys who are paid up are raising hell, and you can't blame them. It might have been a mistake, but here's hoping

that not too many are sent out.
I hear this Ota goes around
saying - it isn't necessary to
pay, because you get ^{the} same
benefits. Even though he got his forms,
he tells others that he isn't going
to fill them out, since he doesn't
care to restore his status. Maybe,
it's a lot of baloney he's spreading -
but it's guys like him who are
gumming up the works.

Please don't tell Mr. Collins, I wrote
you about Jack Ota, but you might
inquire, stating that someone ^{else} complained, ^{as}
that is the truth. Those paid up should come first.

Till again, So long! Just,
P.S. What is Jack Ota's designation? *Harry*
He isn't on my list, just curious.

COMMITTEE
T. AKUNE
A. HAYASHIDA
Y. HONDA
K. IKEDA
Y. KAKU
L. KATAOKA
J. KIMURA
Y. KIYOHRO
T. KONO
T. KOSUGI
M. MATSUMOTO
K. MATSUOKA
K. MORISHIGE
T. NAKAMURA
I. NAMEKAWA
R. NARIMATSU
T. OBATAKE
H. OKITA

TULE LAKE DEFENSE COMMITTEE

Room 215, 124 South San Pedro Street
Los Angeles 12, California
Michigan 4728

March 6, 1954

COMMITTEE
M. SASAKI
Y. SHIBATA
I. SHIMIZU
R. SHIRAIISHI
T. SHONO
K. TAKAHASHI
M. YEGO
H. TAKEUCHI
M. TOYOTA
G. TSUETAKE
H. UCHIDA
B. WATANABE
M. YAMAICHI
T. YAMAMOTO
M. UEDA
K. UYENO

Mr. Wayne M. Collins
1701 Mills Tower
220 Bush Street
San Francisco 4, Calif.

Dear Wayne:

The other day I talked to you about your office's mailing these affidavit forms to the unpaid members.

I received a letter from Harry Takeuchi today. He is quite disturbed of the fact that your office mailed one Jack Ota the form when he still had the balance of \$200.00. This fellow is going around spreading the news that he is going to receive the benefit. Although Harry has told me not to inform you of this fact, I am letting you know.

You should make positively sure before you mail the letter that they have shown some indication that their payments has been made recently. This is so if they are making an installment payment. We hate to repeat this warning, but it is absolutely necessary to abide by this rule. Otherwise the morale of the paid up member will be shattered, and you will not get any form of cooperation from your committee member.

It was difficult for us to receive the committee members' assistance, and you must give us your word that it will be carried out. It may be possible that this Jack Ota is spreading lots of rumor that he has received it when in fact he has not received it.

For this reason I would appreciate your compiling the lists of the members to whom you have mailed these letters. It should assist us in compelling the persons on the installment to finish up their payments.

Very truly yours,

TULE LAKE DEFENSE COMMITTEE

BY:

Lex Nakamura

March 6, 1954

Mr. Harry Takeuchi
Fresno, California

Dear Harry:

I wish to thank you for your recent letter. I am surprised that Mr. Collins has mailed those affidavits to Jack Ota.

I wrote to Mr. Collins this morning to watch for this inadvertance. About two days ago I spoke with Mr. Collins over the phone about this matter, as there were few cases in Los Angeles.

The paid up member came into our office and complained of the fact that an unpaid member received the affidavit. However, they have not seen this mail. For this reason it might be a lot of hot air that they are speeading. However, to make it double sure I spoke with Mr. Collins. He indicated to me that under no circumstances will these form go out to unpaid member. There are few members we asked him to mail. These are the members who are paying on an installment basis. That their records has indicated the consistent payments.

Mr. Collins has indicated that if these mail should go out by inadvertances, he will not put the affidavit into the administrative board. It will be held at the source.

Jack Ota's classification is XII-A.

I know how boiled up a paid members and the committee men feel about this thing. We have taken enough dirt from these fellows to date, and I have indicated to Mr. Collins that if he does not abide by our principle--he will not get any cooperation from the paid up members or the committee members. I had a difficult time convincing many of the committee member on the second drive. As they were mad as a devil--because Mr. Collins gave the unpaid members the free ride. I feel that your point is well justified...so I shall see to it that our policy is firmly carried out.

Yours very truly,

March 16, 1954

Mr. Harry Takeuchi
1288 N. Cornelia Ave.,
Fresno, California

Dear Harry:

I wish to thank you for your recent letter with enclosure of \$100.00 on the account of Kenji Fukuda.

It was quite fortunate that Fukuda came to yourself, and you were able to catch this sum. I have called Mr. Collins about 2 times about this matter. Some of the fellows with unpaid balance are receiving these affidavits, and it really burns me up. I think on the whole it is a clerical error at the office, but it really is disheartening to find such mails going out to them.

As to that Jack Noboru Ota---the mail sent there to him was a mistake. There was another Noboru Ota in Fresno. He is now resident at Mt. View. Mr. Collins has written to Jack Ota to return this form and affidavit, as it did not pertain to him. However, he has not furnished any reply.

At any rate we will not assist them at all--evenif they should receive these affidavits.

In Los Angeles we are facing with difficult problem, as a bunch of racketeer are trying to make hay with the unpaid members. Since they have not received these mail, they are going to these racketeer to apply for passport application. You don't realize how these thing affect the program. Especially this is so in the light of the fact that the local Japanese newspaper editor is running the racket himself.

Our chief and primary obligation is to the paid up member, and after that is accomplished--the hell with the rest. Pardon my language.

Very truly yours,

Tex

Mar 13, 1954

Dear Tex:

July 11, 1952 - 100

I wish to thank you for your detailed letter of the 6th, regarding Mr. Collins' mailing out of the forms, etc.

This is just a note with an enclosed check for 100⁰⁰ to be credited to Kenji Fukuda, of Rte 5, Fresno Calif. who is now paid up. He came over because he had received his affidavit, tho' he owed 100⁰⁰, so I asked him to pay or else, & Mr. Collins would hold his forms at S.F. even tho' he might mail them in, as he paid up. I hope no others are sent out to unpaid members, but it is a good thing that Collins

will not send them to the Adm.
board. Please notify Mr Collins,
about Kenji Fukuda being paid
up, as we wouldn't want him to
be held up because of error.

I know for fact, that if only
the paid members get these forms,
that most of those who owe balances,
will pay up damn quick;
after this news gets around, but
I'm not going around to solicit,
unless they wish to come see
me + pay up.

Well - I guess that's about all
for now. Please extend my best regards
to all + as long, Tex!

Just,
Harry