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GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

MISCELLANEOUS

1945

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

JUL 7 1945

Mr. Wayne M. Collins
Room 1721
220 Bush Street
San Francisco, California

Dear Mr. Collins:

I notice that in the Pacific Citizen of June 23 you are quoted as saying, while acting as attorney for Mr. and Mrs. Ichizo Kitahara and their children, "that while persons of Japanese ancestry have been released from relocation centers they are still subject to War Relocation Authority leave clearance."

If you actually made such a statement, you were in error. Since the revocation of the mass exclusion orders by the military last December, the Army--more specifically, the Western Defense Command--has been responsible for deciding who may or may not leave a center or return to the West Coast. Our leave clearance procedures were abolished on December 18, 1944.

Sincerely,

D. S. Meyer
Director



October 17, 1945.

Robert R. Best, Esquire,
Director, W. R. A.,
War Relocation Center,
Newell, Modoc County,
California.

Dear Mr. Best:

I shall arrive in Klamath Falls on the Oregonian on Friday morning, October 19th, for the purpose of visiting and advising a number of clients in your Center, among whom are Hiroyuki Taketaya of Block 8007-I and Roy Shiraishi of Block 606-D, who have requested my presence.

If you could arrange for me to occupy a room at the Center until Sunday afternoon, October 21st, I would be grateful.

Very truly yours,

WMC/W

WAYNE M. COLLINS

ATTORNEY AT LAW
MILLS TOWER, 220 BUSH STREET
SAN FRANCISCO 4, CALIFORNIA
TELEPHONE GARFIELD 1218

October 31, 1945.

State Department
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

Each of the persons whose name appears on the list which is annexed hereto and incorporated herein is a native-born American who has had Japanese in his or her ancestral line. Each of said persons for many months has been and now is interned and held under duress at the Tule Lake Center situated at Newell, Modoc County, California, presently being detained there by the Officer In Charge, United States Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service. Each of said persons there is held under a fictitious claim that he or she is an alien enemy and that his or her internment and detention is based upon an asserted claim of color of authority of the Alien Enemy Act, 50 U.S. Code, sec. 21 et seq.

Each of said persons whose name appears on said list of names is a native-born American, a citizen and national of the United States, a person and inhabitant of the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction of the United States. None of them is an alien enemy and none of them at any time whatever has been an alien enemy or an alien or a national of or a citizen of or a subject of any foreign sovereign, government, power or nation.

As the attorney duly authorized to represent and representing each of said persons whose name appears on the said list of names, and for and on behalf of each of them, I hereby withdraw, retract, rescind, revoke, cancel and annul any and all requests, pleas, demands, consents and applications heretofore made by any of them for any repatriation, transfer or deportation to Japan or to any other foreign country, if any such request, plea, demand, consent or application heretofore was made by any of them to you, your office, the United States or any agency or representative thereof, or to any foreign government or any agency or representative thereof, or to any other legal or political entity or person.

This revocation and cancellation of any and all such requests, pleas, demands, consents and applications is made and based upon the facts that if any of the said persons at any time whatever made any such request, plea, demand, consent or application, the same was contrary to his or her will, intent and desire and was made without his or her consent and was exacted from him or her while he or she was held in unlawful confinement in a concentration or internment camp by the United States government and its agents, as the warden, jailor and custodian of said person, and was exacted from him or her while he or she was laboring under governmental duress and was made the unwilling victim of the duress, menace, fraud and the undue influence of pro-Japanese groups and gangs of lawless persons confined to said Center who were permitted to and did establish and maintain a rule of tyranny and terror over such persons and compelled them involuntarily to execute such requests or applications.

Very truly yours,



Wayne M. Collins
1721 Mills Tower
San Francisco, 4, Calif.
GARfield-1218

As Attorney for each of the persons
whose name appears on the annexed and
incorporated list of names.

WAYNE M. COLLINS

ATTORNEY AT LAW
MILLS TOWER, 220 BUSH STREET
SAN FRANCISCO 4, CALIFORNIA
TELEPHONE GARFIELD 1218

October 31, 1945.

Swiss Legation
(Japanese Interests Department)
2514 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

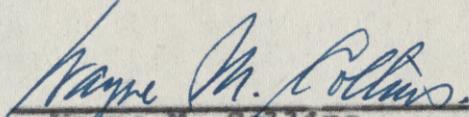
Each of the persons whose name appears on the list which is annexed hereto and incorporated herein is a native-born American who has had Japanese in his or her ancestral line. Each of said persons for many months has been and now is interned and held under duress at the Tule Lake Center situated at Newell, Modoc, County, California, presently being detained there by the Officer In Charge, United States Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service. Each of said persons there is held under a fictitious claim that he or she is an alien enemy and that his or her internment and detention is based upon an asserted claim of color of authority of the Alien Enemy Act, 50 U.S. Code, sec. 21 et seq.

Each of said persons whose name appears on said list of names is a native-born American, a citizen and national of the United States, a person and inhabitant of the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction of the United States. None of them is an alien enemy and none of them at any time whatever has been an alien enemy or an alien or a national of or a citizen of or a subject of any foreign sovereign, government, power or nation.

As the attorney duly authorized to represent and representing each of said persons whose name appears on the said list of names, and for and on behalf of each of them, I hereby withdraw, retract, rescind, revoke, cancel and annul any and all requests, pleas, demands, consents and applications heretofore made by any of them for any repatriation, transfer or deportation to Japan or to any other foreign country, if any such request, plea, demand, consent or application heretofore was made by any of them to you, your office, the United States or any agency or representative thereof, or to any foreign government or any agency or representative thereof, or to any other legal or political entity or person.

This revocations and cancellation of any and all such requests, pleas, demands, consents and applications is made and based upon the facts that if any of the said persons at any time whatever made any such request, plea, demand, consent or application, the same was contrary to his or her will, intent and desire and was made without his or her consent and was exacted from him or her while he or she was held in unlawful confinement in a concentration or internment camp by the United States government and its agents, as the warden, jailor and custodian of said person, and was exacted from him or her while he or she was laboring under governmental duress and was made the unwilling victim of the duress, menace, fraud and the undue influence of pro-Japanese groups and gangs of lawless persons confined to said Center who were permitted to and did establish and maintain a rule of tyranny and terror over such persons and compelled them involuntarily to execute such requests or applications.

Very truly yours,



Wayne M. Collins
1721 Mills Tower
San Francisco, 4, Calif.
GARfield 1218.

As attorney for each of the persons whose name appears on the annexed and incorporated list of names.

November 1, 1945.

Mr. Hiroyuki Taketaya,
Block 8007-I,
Tule Lake Center,
Newell, Modoc County,
California.

Dear Mr. Taketaya:

Enclosed find copy of the letter I have sent to Attorney General Tom C. Clark, various immigration officials and others.

I am also sending a similar copy to Mr. Fumio Masuoka, Block 5603-C.

I have wired Mr. Harry Uchida, Block 3717-D, to call on Henry, Tsuginori and Marianne Iriye, Block 8014-H, and Arthur Murayama, Block 8014-I, and ascertain if they wish to be dropped from the test cases but have not yet heard from him. Henry Iriye wired me to drop them from the list but I cannot take a telegram as authority for so doing but must have written authority from each of them.

I would thank you to take the enclosed letter to the committee - there you can re-check the names on the lists. If any names are misspelled it is of no importance - but you can or the committee can let me know if there are any misspelled names.

We are proceeding with all speed.

Very truly yours,

WMC/W

MILTON S. KOBLITZ
 ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT LAW
 611 ESTRELLITA WAY, BEL-AIR
 LOS ANGELES 24, CALIF.

November 14th 1945

Mr. Wayne M. Collins, Atty at Law,
 San Fransisco, California.

Dear Mr. Collins-

I have been asked by the family of Albert Yuichi, age 18, Barracks 69, Santa Fe Internment Camp, Santa Fe, New Mexico, to intervene in his behalf to avoid deportation due to the alleged renunciation by him of inchoate citizenship rights-he was born in the U.S.A. It is alleged that he never realized the import of statements attributed to him that he renounced his citizenship. Such was never his intentions-and he has come to realize fully and completely his obligations and duties to our country. He has no relatives abroad-his father and mother have resided in the U.S.A. over 30 years- likewise his grandfather-he has two sisters both of whom are American natives, ~~sisters~~. Lilli, age 23, is employed by our family as a housemaid. I know the parents and other sister. I do not hesitate to vouch for their loyalty-and am convinced that a gross injustice would be worked if the boy was deported. I am personally acquainted with Dillon Meyer, Relocation Chief and with Sec. of Interior Ickes and in time past have helped in solving the problem raised by the racial antagonisms between our citizens. in California. My services at all times in these matters is gratuitous. I have been a member of the California bar since 1904.

I am acquainted with Mr. Irving M. Wixon, having had official contacts with him when he was stationed in Montreal, Washington and as at present. I am generally interested in your task and would be happy to co-operate where principles of justice are involved as opposed to racial intolrances. I'll appreciate any suggestions you can make as to the case of Albert Yuichi-it would be my opinion that he could make no valid renunciation as a minor- specially in opposition to his parents' wishes- and that such renunciation if made could be revoked before he arrived at his majority. However, I do know something about Washington routine and the rigors of precedent unrelated as it most times is-and also a little about implications of a political nature. With best wishes, I beg to remain,

Cordially yours

Milton S. Koblitz
 (Milton S. Koblitz)

November 29, 1945

MILTON S. KOBLITZ, Esq.,
Attorney and Counsellor at Law,
611 Estrellita Way, Bel-Air,
Los Angeles, 24, California.

Dear Mr. Koblitz:

I regret that I have been unable to communicate with you previously, due to my visit to Tule Lake Center.

Since filing a series of habeas corpus and equity suits, to determine the validity of the detention of the Tule Lake residents, the Department of Justice has informed me that temporarily, at least, deportations will be placed on a voluntary basis only, whether the persons are confined at Tule Lake, the Santa Fe internment camp or the Bismark internment camp. I am informed by the Department that, within the very near future, it will hold conferences to determine what its policy is to be with reference to deportations and detentions.

It is my opinion therefore, until such time as the Department's policy has been determined, that Albert Yuichi will be detained at the Santa Fe internment camp, but without being forcibly deported to Japan.

A number of the internees in both the Santa Fe and the Bismark camps have requested me to represent them, and, when the Department's policy has been determined, suits on their behalf to determine their status and to obtain their release from detention, will be instituted. These actions will be class actions.

I shall be glad to notify you prior to the time of the commencement of such actions.

Yours very truly,

WAYNE M. COLLINS.

WMC j1

November 29, 1945.

Mr. Milton S. Koblitz, Es

Upland, California
~~mailed~~ November 19th, 1945.

American Civil Liberties Union,
San Francisco, California.

Re:
Gentlemen: Writ of habeas corpus in behalf of renunciants of
United States citizenship.

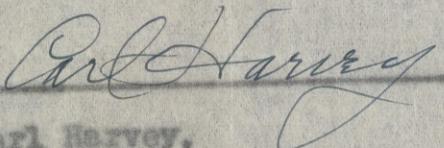
First, please let me make it unquestionably clear that I am not interested in any race, color nor creed in connection with U. S. citizenship. I am deeply interested in the rights of any citizen of the United States and the rights of anyone who has renounced U. S. citizenship, whether they are foreign born, naturalized citizens or AMERICANS by the right of birth, ancestry, service in the armed forces of the U. S. and/or parentage of an American serviceman serving his country overseas.

Not being an attorney I cannot definitely say what evidence would be valuable to the defendant's attorney in such cases. However, I am unquestionably convinced that I have an enormous volume of pertinent documentary evidence that would be of inestimable value to anyone truly concerned with the protection of citizenship rights or the rights of anyone who has renounced their citizenship through duress and/or personal strength and courage to resist the forces that make a mockery of democracy in order to illegally enforce AUTOCRACY ~~and~~ even to the astounding extent of deliberately sabotaging the war effort in order to accomplish their vicious purpose, and later being protected by the Legislative, Administrative and Judicial departments of the Roosevelt-Truman administrations. I am not a politician, nor am I talking politics. I am an AMERICAN, talking AMERICANISE.

I congratulate Mr. Wayne M. Collins, the Attorney in the above captioned case, for his ability to get an action filed in the Federal Courts. I have some very pertinent documentary evidence along this line too.

If the American Civil Liberties Union, or Mr. Collins, have any idea that I might be of value as a witness or that I may have documentary evidence (safely stored under lock and key) that could be submitted I would welcome your inspection of what have to offer.

Yours very truly,



Carl Harvey,
376 North 11th Avenue,
Upland, California.

Copies to:
Mr. Collins, President Truman,
Attorney General Tom Clark,
John Edgar Hoover of the F.B.I., Senators O'Daniel and Connally,
Representatives Ed Cossett of Texas and Harry R. Sheppard of Calif.

The original and Mr. Collin's copy will be mailed 11/19/45. All other copies are being mailed 11-15-1945.

AIRMAIL on all but the original and Collin's copy.

4/11/44

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CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

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Columbia Law Review
Columbia University
in the City of New York (27)
KENT HALL

December 5, 1945

Mr. Wayne M. Collins
1721 Mills Tower
San Francisco 4, Calif.

Dear Mr. Collins:

We are very much interested in the case of the 985 Japanese of Tule Lake who are to be deported under the Alien Enemy Act. Will you be kind enough to send us the brief, and if possible, the pleadings, which were filed by you in that case?

Thank you for your kind cooperation in this matter.

Very truly yours,

COLUMBIA LAW REVIEW

Naomi Bronheim

Naomi Bronheim

NB:S

December 13, 1945

Columbia Law Review
Columbia University in the City of New York
Kent Hall
New York, 27, N.Y.

Attention: Miss Naomi Bronheim

Gentlemen:

I have not as yet filed a brief in the Tule
Lake cases. When I do prepare a brief, I shall be
glad to forward a copy to you, together with the plead-
ings in the cases.

Yours very truly,

WMC jl

1224 East 57th St
Chicago 37, Illinois
7 December 1945

Mr. Wayne Collins
Mills Tower Bldg.
San Francisco, California

Dear Mr. Collins:

Mr. Larry Tajiri, editor of the Pacific Citizen, has suggested that since you are most intimately connected with the defense of Tule Lake renunciants you might be able to give me the kind of information I am collecting in preparation for an article to be published in some liberal magazine like the Nation or the New Republic---also in defense of the renunciants.

I would appreciate it very much if I could have a written statement of your opinion concerning their case, which I might use. Perhaps you could tell me some case histories, typical of the renunciants, which will also be valuable examples to use.

When the war came I was already in the South and later in the Midwest so that I have never been in any camp, except vicariously. I am deeply concerned with the renunciants' case because I believe it hurts America more than it does the affected persons and because the problem has international complications. I am neither Issei nor Nisei myself, but am in this country as a student. I want to stop the "deportation" of these persons not only for their sake but also for the sake of democratic principles which I desire my fellow countrymen in Japan to know and understand. So anything that you can do to help these people will be appreciated. I shall look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

Tsuyoshi Matsumoto

Tsuyoshi Matsumoto

December 13, 1945

Mr. Tsuyoshi Matsumoto
1224 East 57th Street
Chicago, 37, Illinois

Dear Mr. Matsumoto:

I have discussed the contents of your letter of December 7, 1945, with Mr. Ernest Bessig of the American Civil Liberties Union, situated at 216 Pine Street, San Francisco. He will forward to you the material that may shed some light upon the Tule Lake cases and which may be illuminating to you.

Very truly yours,

WMC jl