

1:19

Janaka, Joga

Research Correspondence

1945

Department of Sociology
May 17, 1945

Mr. Togo Tanaka
5538 South Ellis
Chicago, Illinois

My dear Togo:

As I promised you, I am going to keep you in touch with what I send out to the people you named for me as possible collaborators. I would be glad to have you criticize frankly the form letter of which I am enclosing a first draft. When you read it, imagine yourself as each of your acquaintances in turn to see whether it would be inappropriate to any of them in the sense of producing a negative response. Corrections could take the form either of a revision to be incorporated in all the letters, or a reservation of certain names for some special modification of the letter.

For any particular names on the list - or for all of them if you so advise - my letter could go out with some informal endorsement written or signed by you personally.

I have also requested from Dorothy Thomas whatever she is willing to share of the standard methodological principles or instructions under which their general study is operating in the analysis of such documents. I hope thereby to gear in my own study with hers, and make materials all the more valuable sociologically.

We are looking forward to your visit next week.

Cordially yours,

Thomas D. Eliot

Enclosure

scotch 6/10/45

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Department of Sociology
May 17, 1945

My dear ----

Our mutual friend, Togo Tanaka, has given me your name because he believes that you may be willing to help me in an inquiry which calls for confidential sharing of rather personal materials.

I am attempting a study of the development of personal attitudes among Nisei during the period from Pearl Harbor to the current revocation of evacuation orders. To some extent materials can be got from the camp papers and the Pacific Citizen. Sociologists find, however, that the most valuable sources for the analysis of attitudes are private documents such as diaries and personal letters, written privately during such critical periods of social and personal change. W. I. Thomas' great work on The Polish Peasant in Europe and in America was based on such documents.

Access to such materials depends upon the confidence of informants in the wisdom, integrity, and good will of those sponsoring and carrying on the research. I can assure you that I would respect the confidence of any one sharing such materials, and would not quote any passage without either (a) so disguising it as to make its source unrecognizable (but not destroying its sociological significance); or (b) submitting the passage to the informant for specific consent to quote.

It may interest you to know that two of my former students - both of them sociologists - have had a prominent and useful part in mitigating the tragic and difficult experiences of relocation. Through them, and through my acquaintance with a considerable number of Nisei in my home and elsewhere, I feel that I already have a considerable understanding of their problems. I am sure that Togo Tanaka would be glad to write you further in regard to my interests and reliability if you care to ask him.

If any documents you care to send are such as you wish to have returned, I would ask you to send them by express collect (if bulky) since that serves also as insurance, and mark them specifically with your name and address and the request for return. In selecting correspondence it would be well to include letters which indicate the general background of the writer and reveal his or her feelings in relation to events and conditions, not only of his own family, but of the group as a whole, and regardless of whether you personally happen to agree with the opinions expressed. Withhold names entirely if desired.

make plural

✓ Peggy Kaoru Fujioka

22-14-c

Heart Mountain, Wyoming

✓ Rev. Tom Fukuyama

23-5-c

Hunt, Idaho

✓ Sam Hohri

Hillcrest Sanitarium

La Crescenta, California

✓ Miss Maki Ichijasu

y. w. c. a.

Milwaukee,

Wisconsin

✓ Naomi Kashiwabara

2138 Sedgwick

Chicago, Illinois

Mr. Khan Komai

✓ Apt 24

1018 Burton Ave.

Cincinnati 29, Ohio

Herbert Nicholson

1554 Las Lunas St

✓ Pasadena 4, Calif

?

Harper Sakane

✓ 16-11-B

✓ Rohwer Relocation Center

McGehee, Arkansas

✓ Eiko Yoshihashi

75 W. Norwich Ave.

Columbus 1, Ohio

Mrs. Dyer -

Department of Sociology
May 11, 1945

My dear Mr. So and So:

Our mutual friend, Togo Tanaka, has given me your name because he believes that you may be willing to help me in an inquiry which calls for confidential sharing of rather personal materials.

I am undertaking a study of the development of personal attitudes among Nisei during the period from Pearl Harbor to the current relaxation of evacuation orders. To some extent this can be got from the camp papers and the Pacific citizen. Sociologists find, however, that the most valuable sources for the analysis of attitudes are private documents such as diaries and personal letters, sent and received during such critical periods of social and personal change.

Access to such materials depends upon the confidence of informants in the wisdom, integrity, and good will of those sponsoring and carrying on the research. I can assure you that I would respect the confidence of any one sharing such materials, and would not quote any passage without either (a) so disguising it as to make its source unrecognizable (without destroying its sociological significance); or (b) submitting the passage to the informant for specific consent to quote.

It may interest you to know that two of my former students - both of them sociologists - have had an active and useful part in mitigating the tragic and difficult experiences of relocation. Through them, and through my acquaintance with a considerable number of Nisei in my home and elsewhere, I feel that I already have a considerable understanding of their problems. I am sure that Togo Tanaka would be glad to write you further in regard to my interests and reliability if you care to ask him.

If any documents you care to send are such as you wish to have returned, I would ask you to send them by express (if bulky) since that serves also as insurance, and mark them specifically with your name and address and the request for return. In selecting correspondence it would be well to include any correspondence which indicates the general background of the writer and reveals his or her feelings in relation to events and conditions, not only of his own family, but of the group as a whole.

Department of Sociology
May 24, 1945

Mr. Togo Tanaka
5538 South Ellis Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

My dear Togo:

This is to express again and more formally the appreciation of my students as well as my own thanks for your generous gift of time and trouble in coming out to us, and for the excellent exposition and exemplification of attitudes in the experiences of Japanese-Americans.

I am hoping next week to issue to the set of names the letter which you approved. Among the names, however, is that of Herbert Nicholson. Because this name is not Japanese, I wonder if it calls for a different type of letter. If so, would you be kind enough to re-write an appropriate letter either for your own or my own signature.

Cordially yours,

Thomas D. Eliot

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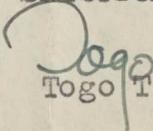
June 4, 1945

Dear Tom Eliot:

1554 Las Lunas
Your form letter of May 17 needs no re-
vision at all in forwarding it to Herbert
Nicholson in Pasadena. ⁽⁴⁾ The Nicholsons are
Friends, members of the Orange Grove meeting.
They probably have had more individual con-
tacts with more evacuees from California
than any non-evacuee. I have no idea as to
the extent of the material Herbert Nicholson
might have but would hope that he might be
helpful. I'm sorry to have missed you after
the meeting last Monday night.

As soon as I am able to complete my Univ. of
California writing this month, I will have more
time to go through my files carefully and for-
ward other data to you. With kind regards,

Sincerely,


Togo Tanaka