

5112

CORRESPONDENCE

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NOV. 1945

C-A

171

reply
11/5/45

144 E 24 Street
New York 10 NY

November 1, 1945

Committee on American Principles and Fair Play
2234 Telegraph Avenue
Berkeley 4, California.

Gentlemen:

Won't you be good enough to send me one copy each of
your pamphlets, as follows:

--A BALANCE SHEET ON JAPANESE EVACUATION
by Galen Fisher

-- AMERICAN FIGHTING MEN SPEAK OUT.

sent
11/5/45

I enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope, and shall
be glad to remit any charge for the pamphlets if you
will advise me.

Thanking you for your courteous attention, I am

Very truly yours,

Gudrun Frey
Gudrun Frey

Encl

November 5, 1945

Mr. Gudrun Frey
144 E. 24 Street
New York 10, New York

Dear Mr. Frey:

Under separate cover I have sent you, today, material pertaining to the work of the Committee and other informative material distributed by the Committee, which you may find interesting.

If we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to call on us. There is no charge, for the material.

Very sincerely yours,

Constance Halliday
Secretary

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First Vice-President
MRS. J. D. BRAGG

Second Vice-President
WILLARD M. WICKIZER

Recording Secretary
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297 FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 10, N. Y.
TELEPHONE GRAMERCY 5-4658

Executive Secretaries
EDITH E. LOWRY
MARK A. DAWBER

November 1, 1945

Dear Miss Halliday:

I am returning your report with many, many thanks. The manuscript is finally ready after several revisions. I used your material rather freely, quoting therefrom. I hope you do not mind seeing your name here and there. The book will be out in the first part of 1946 under the title of "Beyond Prejudice"- "A Story of the Church and Japanese Americans." The Friendship in New York is the publisher.

Very sincerely yours,

Toru Matsumoto

Toru Matsumoto,
Director, Committee on Resettlement
of Japanese Americans

Miss Constance Halliday, Secretary

c/o Committee on American Principles and Fair Play

Headquarters: Room 203, 465 California Street

San Francisco 4, California

THE MAYOR'S COMMITTEE
ON
CIVIC UNITY OF SAN FRANCISCO

Maurice E. Harrison, Chairman

November 1, 1945

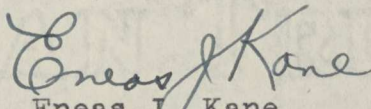
Mrs. Ruth W. Kingman
Chairman, pro-tem
Organizing Committee of California
Committee on American Principles
& Fair Play
Room 203, 465 California Street
San Francisco 4, California

Dear Mrs. Kingman:

This will acknowledge your
form letter of Oct. 25, wherein you
ask that the Committee consider the
By-Laws of your organization and for-
ward any suggestions to you before
November 15.

This matter was considered
by the Committee at its meeting on
Wednesday, October 31, and it was de-
cided that such action did not come
within the province of the Mayor's
Committee.

Very truly yours,


Eneas J. Kane
Public Service Assistant
to the Mayor

EJK:MK

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ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO:

Eneas J. Kane, Public Service Assistant to the Mayor, Room 200, City Hall, Market 0163

THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
BERKELEY 4, CALIFORNIA

ROBERT M. UNDERHILL
SECRETARY AND TREASURER

November 2, 1945

Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play
Alta Vista Building
2287 Telegraph Avenue
Berkeley, California

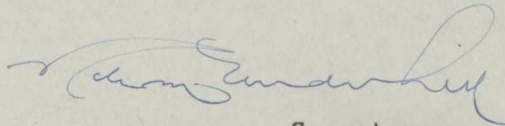
Gentlemen:

You will please take notice that the month-to-month tenancy under which you occupy space, to wit, Room 215, in that certain building located on the northeast corner of Telegraph Avenue and Bancroft Way in the City of Berkeley, County of Alameda, State of California, commonly known as the Alta Vista Building, is by this notice terminated, effective as of December 31, 1945, and you are hereby notified to remove from said space and to surrender possession thereof not later than December 31, 1945.

Very truly yours,

THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

By



Secretary

Neonah
CHIEFTAIN BOND

THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
BERKELEY 4, CALIFORNIA

ROBERT M. UNDERHILL
SECRETARY AND TREASURER

November 2, 1945

Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play
Alta Vista Building,
2287 Telegraph Avenue,
Berkeley, California

Gentlemen:

For the purpose of adding to the grounds of the University of California, The Regents of the University of California, through condemnation proceedings, has acquired title to, and now owns, the land on the northeast corner of Telegraph Avenue and Bancroft Way in the City of Berkeley, County of Alameda, State of California, and the building located thereon, commonly known as the Alta Vista Building.

To make this land available for university uses, it is intended to tear down the building immediately after the first of 1946. It is also necessary to wreck the building because it is unsafe. In this connection, the Building Inspector of the City of Berkeley has written the prior owner as follows:

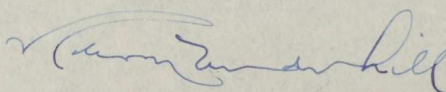
"At this time we regret to inform you that the above five story wood frame building, which is owned and maintained by you, is in a dangerous and unsafe condition and unfit for occupancy. Owing to the hazardous condition of this building, it must be demolished."

Although with this letter you have been handed a formal notice terminating your tenancy as of December 31, 1945, you are advised that your occupancy of the building after November 1, 1945 will be solely at your own risk, and that The Regents of the University of California will not be responsible after that date for death or any injury to you, or damage to any of your property because of the unsafe condition of the building. Accordingly, you are urged to vacate the building at the earliest possible date. No rental other than what may have been paid the prior owner will be charged you, or accepted from you, for the period commencing November 1, 1945.

Very truly yours,

THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

By



Secretary

E. D. MINTON, PRESIDENT
OWENS MINTON, SEC'Y-TREAS.
VAN E. JOHNSON, VICE-PRES.

PHONE MTN. VIEW 523

Minton Lumber Company

INCORPORATED

Lumber and Millwork

599 FRONT STREET
MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIF.

Nov 4, 1945

Mrs. Ruth W. Kingman, Chairman
Committee on American Principles and Fair Play
465 Calif. St.
San Francisco, 4, Calif.

Dear Mrs. Kingman:

Correspondence for the Mountain View Council
for Civic Unity has been addressed to me. Out of town business
interests keep me away from Mountain View most of the time, so I
request that you address correspondence to either or both

Rev. Robert N. Boswell

748 Mercy St. Mountain View

Kenneth M. Slater

620 Calif. St. Mountain View

Both these gentlemen are active in the Mountain View Council, which
is doing good work.

Sincerely,

E. D. Minton

*Slater - check this from
names on list of "Sacramento Conference"*

*O.K. 11/28/45
es.*

November 5, 1945

Mr. Maurice E. Harrison
111 Sutter Street
San Francisco 4, California

Dear Mr. Harrison:

You may have noticed in the Chronicle of Sunday, November 4, on page 9 the item entitled "S. P. Accedes to Protest By Legion", which I enclose herewith. It seems to Professor Paul Taylor, vice-Chairman, and myself, that it would be especially appropriate if you, as Chairman of the Advisory Board, were to write a letter to some official of the Southern Pacific, expressing regret that it should have taken this action in deference to a protest from a single group, the American Legion, and pointing out that the Company makes itself liable to receiving similar protests against other groups such as Mexicans, Irish, etc. and that it is manifestly an un-American procedure.

You will, of course, be free to phrase it in any way that seems to you appropriate.

Sincerely yours,

Galen M. Fisher

GMF:cch

November 5, 1945

Miss Helen Murphy
465 California St., Rm. 203
San Francisco 4, California

Dear Miss Murphy:

The following contributions have been received
in this office:

Mr. Charles H. Martin	\$ 2.00
4056-a LaSalle Avenue	
Culver City, Calif.	

Very sincerely yours,

Constance Halliday
Secretary

P.S. Also enclosed is a bill from the Allen's Press Clipping
Bureau. Since Mrs. Kingman is away would you please
take care of it.

COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN PRINCIPLES AND FAIR PLAY
Room 203, 465 California Street, San Francisco, 4.

November 6, 1945

c.c.: Mrs. McWilliams
Mrs. Kingman

Dr. J. C. Geiger
Director of Public Health
San Francisco, California

Dear Dr. Geiger:

Please accept the heartfelt thanks of this Committee for your prompt and efficient response to the request made by Mrs. Robert McWilliams on behalf of the Committee in regard to the improvement of facilities in the Buddhist Hostel for resettling evacuees of Japanese ancestry. I feel sure the management of the hostel and its residents would wish to join in thanking you.

Such cordial cooperation by a municipal department is most gratifying and reflects credit upon Mayor Lapham as well as on yourself.

Sincerely yours,

Galen M. Fisher
For the Executive Committee

GMF:ams

Eastern Office:
Room 1109
299 Madison Ave.
New York City 17, N. Y.
Phone: Murray Hill 2-2459

Mid-West Office:
Room 1008
189 W. Madison Street
Chicago 2, Illinois
Phone: Franklin 8840

Japanese American Citizens League

An All American Organization of American Citizens

National Headquarters

413-415 BEASON BLDG.

TELEPHONE 5-6501

SALT LAKE CITY 1, UTAH

November 6, 1945

Tri-State Office:
615 E. & C. Building
17th and Curtis
Denver 2, Colorado
Phone: Cherry 5990

San Francisco Office:
1860 Washington Street
San Francisco 9, California
228 MCALLISTER STREET
SAN FRANCISCO 2, CAL. MA. 8442

Mrs. Ruth Kingman
c/o Miss F. Burnett
MacDougal Alley
New York, N. Y.

Dear Ruth:

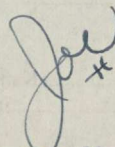
The enclosed is a copy of a memorandum submitted by this office to Saburo Kido of what we feel to be the top priority problems here on the West Coast and which have, as well, a national bearing.

A copy of this has also been sent to our Eastern representative, Peter Aoki. It may be possible, I understand, that Dr. T. T. Yatabe, our Midwest Office representative, will be on hand to speak of the West Coast problems from a personal visit which he made some time ago.

One of the problems which I have not pointed out particularly is the need of some arrangement with the Federal Public Housing Authority transmitted by a directive to the local public housing authorities to enable returnees to secure public housing. Those who have been living in hostels and with friends are not eligible for public housing unless they are the distressed heads of the families of a war veteran. Surely, it would seem that Japanese Americans, displaced by war, should obtain consideration in procuring war housing under the Federal Public Housing Authority.

My best wishes to you for a pleasant trip and a successful conference,

Cordially,



Joe Grant Masacka
REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

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DR. WILL W. ALEXANDER
 RAYMOND SWING
 MR. AND MRS. CHARLES P. TAFT

HAWAII

DR. MILES E. CARY.....Honolulu, T. H.

COMMITTEE ON AMERICAN PRINCIPLES AND FAIR PLAY
Room 203, 465 California Street, San Francisco, 4.

November 7, 1945.

Mrs. Robert McWilliams,
901 California Street,
San Francisco, California.

Dear Mrs. McWilliams:

I was delighted to receive your report on the work done so promptly by Dr. Geiger. As you will see, I have written him a letter of thanks.

It is a great pleasure to be able to turn to someone like yourself who knows how to get things done quickly and well.

Sincerely yours,

Galen M. Fisher

GMF/KB
encl.

cc Mrs. Kingman

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PACIFIC COAST

Committee on American Principles and Fair Play

(INCORPORATED)

Headquarters: Room 203, 465 California Street, San Francisco 4

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Executive Secretary
MRS. RUTH W. KINGMAN
Office: 2287 Telegraph Ave.,
Room 215
Berkeley 4
Telephone: ASHberry 6214

November 8, 1945.

Copy
Files: Do not publicize this
Fisher.

Mr. A. T. Mercier,
President,
Southern Pacific Company,
65 Market Street,
San Francisco, California.

My dear Mr. Mercier:

The Committee on American Principles and Fair Play has asked me to express its regret that the Southern Pacific Company, as reported in the San Francisco Chronicle of November 4, has acceded to a protest of a local post of the American Legion by removing Japanese employees from Shingle Springs in El Dorado County. It appears from the company's statement that the workmen in question had been certified to be loyal by the government and the inference from the statement is that they have lost their employment because of local racial prejudice. If the company's example is followed by other employers, it will mean that workmen of particular ancestry, whether Oriental or Mexican or Irish, are in peril of losing their positions whenever an aggressive local group expresses their racial antipathy. Such a result would in our opinion be deplorable. We realize the problem presented in some isolated communities where law enforcement officers are not willing or able to protect citizens against the attacks of organized hoodlums: but in California both the Governor and the Attorney General have expressed their desire to preserve law and order in situations of this kind. We hope that the Southern Pacific Company will feel free in the future to resist demands for the discharge of its employees on the ground that they belong to a particular race.

Yours very truly,

Arthur Cushman McGiffert

Chairman,
Committee on American Principles
and Fair Play.

MEH:FH

C O P Y

SOUTHERN PACIFIC COMPANY
65 Market St.,
San Francisco 5.

D.J.Russell
Vice President

November 9, 1945

Mr. Maurice E. Harrison, Chairman,
Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles
and Fair Play,
465 California Street,
San Francisco 4, California.

Dear Mr. Harrison:

In Mr. Mercier's absence in the east I am acknowledging your letter to him of November 8th regarding recent newspaper dispatches dealing with the protests against the employment by this Company of Japanese workers at Shingle Springs in El Dorado County.

It should be pointed out that in former instances when the War Relocation Authority sent Japanese labor to us the Authority not only certified as to the loyalty and character of the Japanese so furnished, but prior to such action also determined whether their presence would be acceptable to the community to which they were to be assigned. The incident at Shingle Springs arose because of the failure of the Authority to investigate the attitude of the community. This was particularly unfortunate as it subsequently developed that no Japanese had worked in El Dorado County prior to the war and the difficulty came about because of the failure of the Authority to appreciate this situation.

As our need for labor of this class is urgent at many places, I authorized the transfer of these men to another location where their services could be promptly utilized.

Yours truly,

(Signed) D. J. Russell



TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON 25



OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE

ADDRESS REPLY TO
COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE
AND REFER TO

IT:P:T:1

RET

File with copies of questionnaire signed by Taylor & F. the

NOV 8 - 1945

Committee on American Principles and Fair Play
Room 203
465 California Street
San Francisco, California

Gentlemen:

Reference is made to the information submitted for use as to whether contributions made to you are deductible in the income tax returns of donors.

Before this matter may be properly determined, you are requested to furnish this office with specimen copies of printed matter sold by you, copies of letters sent in furtherance of your purposes to the various legislators or administrative officers of City, State or Federal Governments, and copies of speeches made by your officers and members.

The data requested should be furnished not later than thirty days from the date of this letter, reference being made to the symbols IT:P:T:1-RET.

Very truly yours,

Norman D. Cann

Deputy Commissioner

By

L. K. Sunderlin
Chief of Section

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RAY LYMAN WILBUR
C. C. YOUNG

PACIFIC COAST

Committee on American Principles and Fair Play

(INCORPORATED)

Headquarters: Room 203, 465 California Street, San Francisco 4

November 9, 1945.

Mr. A. T. Mercier,
President,
Southern Pacific Company,
65 Market Street,
San Francisco, California.

My dear Mr. Mercier:

This is by way of supplement and clarification of my letter of yesterday, with respect to the removal of Japanese employees of the company in El Dorado County.

The letter referred to the possibility that the company may have had in mind the danger of violence against these employees and deficiencies in law enforcement. There was of course nothing in the company's published statement to indicate that this was the ground of the protest made in the particular case. We have no reason, therefore, to believe that the protestants — the members of the local post of the American Legion — suggested, or even had in mind, any such possibility of violence or did more than express their opposition to the continued employment. But the company, in reaching its decision and issuing its statement, had to consider all elements of the situation, including reports of past violence, and it seemed difficult to believe that it would decide on a policy of discharging employees of a particular race merely because members of a community had expressed sentiments of antipathy toward the race, or unless it apprehended some serious result from continuing the employment. It was for this reason that I called to your attention the considerations which seemed to be involved and which caused us to express our regret at the company's decision. There may be a real danger that in our natural revulsion at the methods of our enemies during the war, we may tend to forget that our army was made up of many races, including many soldiers of Japanese ancestry,

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FRANK S. GAINES
RICHARD R. PERKINS
GEORGE WILSON

Executive Secretary
MRS. RUTH W. KINGMAN
Office: 2287 Telegraph Ave.,
Room 215
Berkeley 4
Telephone: ASHberry 6214

Mr. A. T. Mercier

2.

all of whom contributed to our victory, and that we may thus lose sight to some extent of our American ideals of fair play as between persons of different racial origin. It is because of our interest in problems of this kind that we have ventured to give you our views on a question of employment which would ordinarily be of no concern to those outside the company.

Yours very truly,

Chairman,
Committee on American Principles
and Fair Play.

MEH:FH

C
O
P
Y

SOUTHERN PACIFIC COMPANY
65 Market St., San Francisco 5

D. J. Russell
Vice President

November 10, 1945

Mr. Maurice E. Harrison, Chairman,
Pacific Coast Committee on American
Principles and Fair Play,
465 California Street,
San Francisco 4, California.

Dear Mr. Harrison:

Your further letter of November 9th regarding employment of Japanese workers on our line in El Dorado County, crossed my reply of that date to your first letter of the 8th.

I think my letter of the 9th clarifies the situation insofar as we are concerned. You will note, of course, that we did not discharge the Japanese in question, but sent them to another location where we had need for their services.

Yours very truly,

D. J. Russell

CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE
Stanford University, California

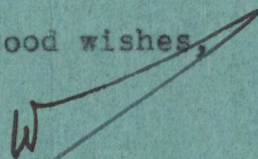
November 10, 1945.

The Reverend G. E. Harms,
First Baptist Church,
Auburn, California.

My dear Mr. Harms:

All of us who are interested in keeping America a "land of the free" are very much pleased to see in the public press the position of leadership which you and the members of your Church and the family of Orrin Lowell have taken in support of law and order by raising funds for the restoration of the home of Sgt. Cosmo Sakamoto, which was burned down by hoodlums. What you and your associates are doing to protect the rights of American citizens, regardless of their racial origins, should set a far-reaching example of true patriotism.

With much appreciation, and all good wishes,

Faithfully, 

R.L. Wilbur/ELF

b--CC to Pac.Coast Committee on
Amer. Principles and Fair Play,
2287 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 4.

466 East California Street
Pasadena 5, California
November 10, 1945

Mrs. William E. Hansen
President Council of Social Agencies
25 South Euclid
Pasadena

Dear Mrs. Hansen:

Our executive committee in reviewing the questionnaires was greatly pleased that so many constructive suggestions came to you, proof that many thinking people are aware of Pasadena problems relating to minorities. It was also gratifying that so many suggested that now it was time to add a citizen of Japanese descent to the Interracial Commission. We believe, also, that good will come out of the study that 35 organizations made in answering the questions.

We noted, however, that many did not know the personnel of the Commission nor have much idea of what it had been trying to do. Even though it seems wise to keep the activities quiet, I believe it would be wise to let the public know that such a representative group is at work. Of course you have done this in the fine bit of education insending out the questionnaires.

The many suggestions made for enlarging the Commission and publicizing its work may possibly end the method of work it has set up. On the other hand the fact that these suggestions were made seems to prove that there is a need in this community for a larger group which will attempt to seek facts as to racial tensions and problems and then make the community aware of them. It seemed to us to resolve itself thus-- either an enlargement of the present set-up and more publicity in its work or some new organization. If you will refer to my letter to Dr. Blake of October 4th you will find embodied our suggestions along this line.

From the growing interest among groups of race problems, the large meeting a week ago at Lincoln School at which it was voted to organize to work along this line, it seems to us that there may soon be such a new organization and we hope very much that it will be led by people who will work constructively and with a long time policy. With the experience acquired by the Interracial Commission we believe they could be most helpful in planning for such an organization although we are not sure whether it could be set up under the Council of Social Agencies.

With appreciation for what the Commission has already accomplished,

Sincerely yours,

Name - Confusing -

Purpose vi

Wrote Mr Inyer.
" Mrs Hansen.

NOVEMBER.
~~October~~ 11, 1945

Mr. Galen Fisher

ORINDA
~~San Francisco~~, California

(Tule Lake)

Dear Sir:

We are writing to you in connection with the very difficult problem arising from the renunciation of our United States nationality. We feel that you have been informed of the situation which has arisen from this problem and we hope that your understanding of our problem in this center may assist us in the contesting of the test case.

During the months of January, February and March of this year, The Department of Justice under Mr. John Burling conducted a mass renunciation hearing of our United States nationality. We feel that you have been informed by various sources of the great number of applicants who signified their intentions of renouncing their allegiance to this country. However, the great majority of those persons who resorted to such action are conscious of the fact that it was not their own wish but they went through this mechanical process of being heard by the hearing officer, as there was a state of duress in existence in this center. These individuals who realized that they were under such state have written numerous letters to Mr. Edward J. Ennis, Director of the Alien Enemy Control Unit, requesting that they withdraw the approval received on their renunciation of their citizenship. We know for a fact that it is very unfortunate that so many citizens of Japanese ancestry have foresaken their allegiance to this country but we feel that the Justice Department, as well as the whole government's attitude toward the Japanese people, was responsible toward our taking such drastic action. The Justice Department permitted a very small minority group to obtain a stranglehold on the general populace of this Center. This group was originally called the Sokoku Kenkyu Dan and they had the motive of requesting resegregation of all persons wishing to return to Japan. This organization outbranched into a semi-militaristic organization called the Hoshi Dan, and they proceeded to utilize the usual fascistic methods of coercion and intimidation to spread falsified rumors to increase their membership. Thus, this group had a great influence in creating an atmosphere of duress in this center during the renunciation hearing. It is very regretful that the Justice Department, realizing this situation, proceeded to conduct the hearings in this center. In other words, it was an open invitation to the public in an unfree society to renounce their allegiance to this country.

We feel that there should have been in the renunciation law a provision whereby the hearing be conducted after a certain lapse of time from the date the actual application has been filed so as to provide a cooling-off period. If such a precaution had been taken in the enactment of the law, we feel that many individuals would

have had greater opportunity to think on a rational basis. During the renunciation hearings, the Army Intelligence group were conducting their hearings and were distributing the exclusion orders to all the male residents. This also had a tendency to aggravate the situation and gave further material for propaganda purposes. The months of January, February and March of this year have been very black for all persons of Japanese ancestry residing in this country; as upon the lifting of the exclusion order the race-baiters on the West Coast began their vicious campaign to intimidate the Nisei from returning to their former homes. The incidents as those witnessed at Hood River, the dynamiting and the arson cases in California really made the picture pitch-black for the future of the Niseis in this country.

Also during this period there were constant rumors furnished by the State Department as to the possibility of exchange of the Japanese and American nationals. Thus, in another word, the individuals residing in this center were forced into a situation whereby they felt that this was the only way out. We feel that the problems arising from our renunciation of the United States nationality have been motivated by the United States Government's policy of evacuating all persons of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast. With such a situation, we feel that there would not have been a single case of renunciation of the United States nationality by persons of Japanese ancestry in this country. In view of the fact that we are conscious of the prevailing situation, we are attempting to organize our defense committee to bring forth this situation in front of the general American public. We shall challenge this issue with the administrative branch of the government as they have transgressed upon our civil right.

We feel that you are in a position to understand our problem very fully and we are taking this means of corresponding with you so that you in turn may understand our situation and inform the general American public. We are enclosing herewith the clipping from the "Pacific Citizen" dated September 22, 1945, in regard to the story behind the Tule Lake segregee. This article will really indicate the problems which the persons of Japanese ancestry had to endure. We hope you will understand our problems fully and lend us full support to the pending situation.

DEFENSE COMMITTEE

Kiyoshi Taketaya

Orinda, Calif.
November 24, 1945

Mr Hirayuki Taketaya
Defense Committee
2605 D
Newell, Calif.

Dear Mr. Taketaya:

Your letter of November 11, 1945 together with Mr. Hamanaka's statement have been received. They make an impressive presentation of the case. As you know, not only I personally, but many of my associates on this Committee, are fully convinced of the injustice of the threatened deportation of many of the renunciants, and we believe that rehearings, with all possible safeguards, should be offered to those who desire them.

You have rightly stressed the principle of duress, which I understand is likely to be the only possible basis for any rehearings and for reversal of the verdict. I also understand that the Department of Justice is proceeding on the assumption that some rehearings may be granted. How far this proposal has been advanced, I do not know, and you should not publicize this possibility, solely on my statement, since I did not gain the information directly from any Government source.

I believe that everything practicable and wise has been done by persons like myself in behalf of rehearings. Now you and all of us must await action by the Department of Justice. I am confident that the Attorney General is committed to as liberal an interpretation of the law as to renunciation as will be approved by the Courts.

Please accept my thanks for your strong communication, and be assured of my sympathy for those who acted under duress.

Sincerely yours

Galen M. Fisher

President
HERMANN N. MORSE

First Vice-President
MRS. J. D. BRAGG

Second Vice-President
WILLARD M. WICKIZER

Recording Secretary
MRS. C. S. SMITH

Treasurer
EDNA R. HOWE

HOME MISSIONS COUNCIL OF NORTH AMERICA

THE INTERCHURCH AGENCY OF HOME MISSIONS BOARDS AND SOCIETIES OF TWENTY-THREE DENOMINATIONS

CONSTITUENT BODIES

NATIONAL BAPTIST
NORTHERN BAPTIST
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
CHURCH OF GOD
CONGREGATIONAL-CHRISTIAN

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST
PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL
EVANGELICAL
EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED
FRIENDS
UNITED LUTHERAN
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION
COLORED METHODIST EPISCOPAL
METHODIST
AMERICAN MORAVIAN
PRESBYTERIAN, U.S.A.
PRESBYTERIAN, U.S.
UNITED PRESBYTERIAN OF NORTH AMERICA

CHRISTIAN REFORMED
REFORMED IN AMERICA
UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST
UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY
AMERICAN SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION

297 FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 10, N. Y.
TELEPHONE GRAMERCY 5-4658

Executive Secretaries
EDITH E. LOWRY
MARK A. DAWBER

November 15, 1945

Dear Mrs. Kingman:

You will recall that at the National Conference on Japanese Americans the delegates authorized the executive committee to draft a letter addressed to the President of the United States. The draft is ready and two copies are enclosed.

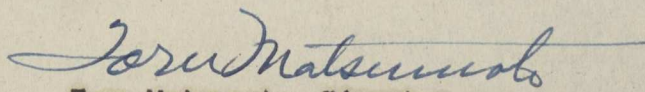
The understanding was that each organization should have absolute freedom to endorse it or reject it, but should notify the Committee on Resettlement within ten days of the receipt of this letter of any action taken.

For the sake of uniformity, it is suggested that each organization approving the letter authorize a responsible person to attach his signature in its behalf. If approved, it is requested that one copy, signed, be returned, and the second retained for your file.

In case your organization is unable to take action in ten days, please present the letter to your next official meeting, and indicate when we may expect to hear from you regarding this letter.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,


Toru Matsumoto, Director
Committee on Resettlement of
Japanese Americans

Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play
Mrs. Ruth W. Kingman, Executive Secretary
2287 Telegram Avenue
Berkeley 4, California

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JAPANESE AMERICANS

DRAFT

Hon. Harry S. Truman
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

We address you in behalf of the Japanese minority in our country evacuated from the Pacific Coast defense area in the early months of the war with Japan as a measure of military security. It would appear now from the record that the fears then expressed that a substantial portion of this minority was disloyal were wholly without foundation. No case of espionage or sabotage occurred. Thousands volunteered for the armed forces and thousands more were drafted and served with great distinction on the battlefields of Europe.

It would appear, therefore, that so unprecedented an evacuation on purely racial grounds was not in the event justified by the fears of disloyal activities. Yet to thousands of our loyal citizens grave injustices have been done, and the entire social and economic life of a whole group of people long resident among us has been uprooted.

Since the relocation procedures went into effect in October, 1942, a substantial number of those evacuated have resettled away from the Pacific Coast and are making their way successfully in American life. But thousands returning to the Coast, now that the centers are being closed by December 15, 1945, are confronted with serious problems in securing housing, employment and assistance in re-establishing self-support.

Moved by the urgency of these problems, a national Conference on Japanese Americans was held in New York on November 8th, attended by 65 representatives of 40 national organizations engaged in aiding in one way or another the people of Japanese ancestry in re-establishing themselves. The conference was called together by the Committee on Resettlement of Japanese Americans of the Home Missions Council of North America.

As a result of its deliberations, the conference desires to request you to take the following action. The organizations officially endorsing this request are represented by the signers. Representatives of other organizations present were in entire agreement but their official action has not reached us within the short time following the conference.

We request:

1. That you authorize by executive order the creation of a special agency within the Department of the Interior to continue the necessary federal services to the evacuees after the War Relocation Authority goes out of existence next June. Our experience has shown that the several federal departments concerned with housing, social security and employment require coordination of their work in relation to this particular minority, whose problems are distinct and for whom the government has a peculiar responsibility, since the problems were created by the evacuation.

2. That you recommend to the Congress procedure for the consideration of the legitimate indemnity claims of this minority, whose property losses as a result of the forced evacuation were enormous. They were obliged to sell property at a fraction of its value or lease or rent it at nominal figures. Confusion reigned under the pressure of the army's orders for speedy internment and many lost land, buildings, and movable goods

altogether. Since this was a war measure, it is clearly the responsibility of the federal government to make proper restitution. These war claims certainly have as strong a moral justification as others recognized by the government. But there is no way of meeting them without Congressional appropriations out of which the Federal courts may meet what they find to be legitimate charges against the government.

3. That the Department of Justice be requested to adopt a policy in the deportation to Japan of interned aliens and of those who renounced their citizenship not more onerous than that already in effect for German enemy aliens. That policy, we understand, provides for the deportation only of those who were leaders in pro-Axis organizations or who were otherwise actively pro-Axis. Consideration should also be given to the fact that many of the aliens have American-born children, some of whom have served honorably in our armed forces. Such families should not be broken up. These humane considerations, we understand, obtain in the case of German aliens and they should equally obtain with the Japanese. All aliens who desire to remain in the United States and concerning whom there is no convincing record of disloyalty should be given hearings.

We trust, Mr. President, that these requests will have your consideration with appropriate instructions to the administrative departments and with a request to Congress for consideration of the claims. We speak as American citizens concerned for justice to a minority which is the victim of war-time and other prejudices and whose integration in American life is a necessary obligation of our democracy.

We are, with great respect,

Sincerely yours,

George A. Wieland, Chairman
National Conference on
Japanese Americans

President
HERMANN N. MORSE

First Vice-President
MRS. J. D. BRAGG

Second Vice-President
WILLARD M. WICKIZER

Recording Secretary
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297 FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 10, N. Y.
TELEPHONE GRAMERCY 5-4658

Executive Secretaries
EDITH E. LOWRY
MARK A. DAWBER

November 21, 1945

To the Delegates of the National
Conference on Japanese Americans

Dear Friends:

Since my letter to you of November 15, 1945, my attention has been called to an error both in that letter and also in the draft of the letter to the President.

Will you please correct the second paragraph on page two to read as follows:

"As a result of their deliberations, the members of the conference desire to request you to take the following action. Their names are attached herunder, representing their personal endorsement of this letter to you."

I trust that this clears up the confusion. I shall deeply appreciate hearing from you soon.

Sincerely yours,

Toru Matsumoto
Toru Matsumoto, Director
Committee on Resettlement
of Japanese Americans

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
WASHINGTON



November 15, 1945

Mrs. Ruth W. Kingman
Executive Secretary
Committee on American
Principles and Fair Play
2234 Telegraph Avenue
Berkeley 4, California

Dear Mrs. Kingman:

We are sorry there has been this delay in reporting to you on your request for the assignment of Captain Masao Yamada to your committee by the War Department for a West Coast speaking tour.

The matter was taken up with the War Department immediately, but since the special assignment was to be made to a private agency, considerable delay ensued before consent for the assignment was obtained.

Now, with permission granted, we are informed today that Captain Yamada has been reassigned to overseas duty, and is already in the Pacific area, so that it will be impossible for him to be given any special detail.

Those things will happen every now and then.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tozier".

M. M. Tozier
Chief, Reports Division

File with letter from Tozier re: Yamada assignment

November 8, 1945

Speakers' Branch
War Department
Room 2C865
Pentagon Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Gentlemen:

This will confirm your telephone conversation of this date with Mr. Bankson of our office, concerning assignment of Captain Masao Yamada, 0521875 to the Committee on American Principles and Fair Play, for a speaking tour within the area of the Ninth Service Command.

Since Captain Yamada was attached to the 442nd, Infantry Combat Regiment, composed of Japanese American soldiers, and is himself a Nisei, we feel that he would render invaluable service in creating good public relations on the West Coast, in connection with the resettlement of Nisei soldiers, their families and other Japanese Americans.

Captain Yamada is presently stationed at Ordnance Barracks 6835, Camp Beale, California. He has informed us that he is willing and eager to accept an assignment to the above named committee, and to engage in the proposed speaking tour.

We would appreciate having him assigned for a period of 30 days, beginning as soon as the assignment can be made after this date. We would like to have him report to Mrs. Ruth W. Kingman, executive Secretary, Committee on American Principles and Fair Play, 2234 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley 4, California.

As in the case of the several other Army officers who have been assigned to WRA, Captain Yamada's Travel Authorization should cover the Ninth Service Command and should cover his transportation expenses and per diem. We would like to have a copy of his orders to complete our files.

We appreciate the fine cooperation which the Speakers' Branch has always given this office.

Sincerely,

M. M. Tozier

M. M. Tozier
Chief, Reports Division

cc: Mrs. Ruth Kingman
Exec. Secy, Committee on American Principles
and Fair Play
2234 Telegraph Avenue
Berkeley, California

C O P Y

GALEN M. FISHER
11 El Sueno
Orindo, California

November 16, 1945

Dear George:

I was glad to have yours of the 12th, and fully agree with you on Ralph Merritt's fine character and insight.

What the agencies around Los Angeles are doing is admirable, - I mean for the resettlers.

As to the Nisei at Tule Lake, much has been done, especially in direct contact or letters to Atty. Gen. Clark and Mr. Ennis at Washington. Mrs. Kingman was there conferring with them and several others in power only last week. Then from here, letters and telegrams from a few men of influence have helped to bring assurance that some rehearing process will be instituted. But we have been asked not to publicize this. The only loophole in the law appears to be that the renunciants were under duress and that their renunciation was void. I believe, as you do, that such duress was present, and have several times pressed the point, in connection with petitions for reconsideration, and others more influential, have done the same.

Another instance of how direct dealing with those in authority works (after your own technique in trouble-shooting) has been the exchange of letters with the President of the Southern Pacific Company about the discharge of some Japanese track workers in Eldorado Co. in deference to a protest of the local American Legion. This happened only last week, and the eminent member of the Fair Play Committee who wrote the letters said that the Company had decided not to give in to the Legion.

In the incident of Sgt. Sakamoto's house being burnt, and the contributions for rebuilding it, the Fair Play Committee instigated scores of letters of commendation to the Auburn citizens and church members who started the fund, and helped swell it by gifts from other parts of the State.

Hollis Wilbur has asked me for more copies of my October 24th article in the Century, but I have none, and had not thought it worth multiplying. Similar articles of mine appeared also in Common Sense for November and Far E. Survey for September 26th. I'll discuss multigraphing the Century article.

Thank you for writing.

cc: Dr. George Gleason
139 No. Broadway
Los Angeles 12,
California

As Ever

Galen M. Fisher.

November 16, 1945

Reverend G.E. Harms
First Baptist Church
Auburn, California

Dear Reverend Harms:

Please accept my commendation for being vocal in your disapproval of the offenses against returning Americans of Japanese ancestry, and for being practical in taking a collection to help the victims financially to repair unwarranted damage done them. Accompanying this letter is a small check to add to the fund.

I see the action of your church not only as a "protest by church people against lawless forces", but as a positive support for the principles of democracy as expressed in our Declaration of Independence, and for the equality of American citizens regardless of ancestry.

Yours very truly,

JHR CW

JOHN HENRY RUSSELL

Enclosure

C.C.: The Family of Orrin Lowell
Mr. Homer D. Crotty
Mr. Paul S. Taylor

California Club
LA 13

NATIONAL JAPANESE AMERICAN STUDENT RELOCATION COUNCIL

1201 CHESTNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA 7, PENNSYLVANIA

RITTENHOUSE 9372

JOHN W. THOMAS, Chairman
ANN M. GRAYBILL, Director
NAO TAKASUGI, Placement Counselor

November 16, 1945

File
Mrs. Ruth W. Kingman
Executive Secretary
Pacific Coast Committee on
American Principles & Fairplay
2289 Telegraph Avenue
Berkeley 4, California

Dear Mrs. Kingman:

In connection with the discussion at the National Conference on Japanese Americans held in New York City on November 8, I think you may be interested in the enclosed excerpt from a letter which we have received recently from Dr. J. C. Reagan. Dr. Reagan was the Student Relocation Council at the Gila River Relocation Center in Rivers, Arizona.

Today I have received a copy of the splendid letter to President Truman drafted by the Executive Committee from the National Conference on Japanese Americans. On Tuesday of next week I will have an opportunity to present it to John Thomas, the present Chairman of NJASRC. I sincerely hope he will authorize a signature from the Student Relocation Council.

May I tell you again how very much I enjoyed your presentation at the New York meeting. I heartily endorse the work which your committee is doing on the West Coast and realize how much of this work is due to your fine leadership. At your convenience, I would welcome suggestions from you regarding the work of student relocation.

Sincerely yours,

Ann M. Graybill

ANN M. GRAYBILL
Director

AMG:lws

Enclosure: Excerpt

THE COUNCIL

This Council was organized at the request of the War Relocation Authority and with the approval of the War Department. The purpose of the Council is to assist in the relocation of students who have been evacuated from West Coast war zones and who wish to continue their studies on the college or university level.

JOHN W. THOMAS, <i>Chairman</i>	ANN M. GRAYBILL, <i>Director</i>
CARL ACKERMAN.....	Dean, School of Journalism, Columbia University
FRANK AYDELOTTE.....	Director, Institute for Advanced Studies
REMSSEN BIRD.....	President, Occidental College
PAUL BRAISTED.....	Program Secretary, Hazen Foundation
EARL R. BROWN.....	Executive Secy., Board of Missions and Church Ext. of the Methodist Church
E. FAY CAMPBELL.....	Director, Dept. of Colleges and Theological Seminaries, Presbyterian Church
C. REED CARY.....	Assistant Executive Secretary, American Friends Service Committee
MRS. SANFORD E. COBB.....	Reformed Church in America
CARTER DAVIDSON.....	President, Knox College
MARK A. DAWBER.....	Executive Secretary, Home Missions Council
WILLIAM F. DELONG.....	Board of National Missions, Evangelical and Reformed Church
MONROE E. DEUTSCH.....	Provost, University of California
CLARENCE A. DYKSTRA.....	Provost, University of California, Los Angeles
WALTER C. EELLS.....	Executive Secretary, American Association of Junior Colleges
MILTON S. EISENHOWER.....	President, Kansas State College of Agriculture and Applied Science
MRS. MARTHA FLETCHER.....	Staff Executive of American Unitarian Youth
RAY GIBBONS.....	Director, Council for Social Action, Congregational Christian Church
FRANK P. GRAHAM.....	President, University of North Carolina
JOHN O. GROSS.....	Secy., Dept. of Educational Institutions, The Bd. of Ed. of the Methodist Church
CAROLUS P. HARRY.....	Secretary, Board of Education, United Lutheran Church in America
CARL HEINMILLER.....	Executive Secretary and Treasurer, Missionary Society of the Evangelical Church
HAROLD B. INGALLS.....	Associate Secretary, National Council of Student Christian Associations
THEODORE H. JACK.....	President, Randolph-Macon Women's College
SABURO KIDO.....	National President, Japanese American Citizen's League
J. W. MARSHALL.....	Foreign Mission Board, Southern Baptist Convention
WILLIAM O. MENDENHALL.....	Former President, Whittier College
KARL W. ONTHANK.....	Dean, University of Oregon
CLARENCE E. PICKETT.....	Executive Secretary, American Friends Service Committee
EDWARD B. ROONEY.....	Executive Director, Jesuit Educational Association
ABRAM LEON SACHAR.....	National Director, B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations
ALFRED SCHMALZ.....	Clergyman, Congregational Christian Church, Darien, Connecticut
ERNEST L. SCHOFIELD.....	Executive Secretary, World Student Service Fund
LEE PAUL SIEG.....	President, University of Washington
KENNETH C. M. SILLS.....	President, Bowdoin College
GUY SNAVELY.....	Executive Director, Association of American Colleges
ROBERT G. SPROUL.....	President, University of California
LINCOLN B. WADSWORTH.....	Secy., Dept. of Cities, American Baptist Home Mission Society
ROSCOE WEST.....	President, Association of State Teachers Colleges
WILLARD M. WICKIZER.....	Executive Secretary, Committee on War Services, Disciples of Christ
GEORGE A. WIELAND.....	Dir. Home Depart. National Council of the Protestant Episcopal Church
RAY LYMAN WILBUR.....	Chancellor, Stanford University
YOLANDA B. WILKERSON.....	Interracial Ed. Secy., Nat'l Stud. Council, Young Women's Christian Asso.
M. R. ZIGLER.....	Executive Secretary, Brethren Service Committee
GEORGE F. ZOOK.....	President, American Council on Education

Consultants:

BESS GOODYKOONTZ.....	Assistant Commissioner of Education, United States Office of Education
JOHN H. PROVINSE.....	Chief, Community Management Division, War Relocation Authority

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL

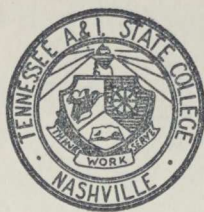
JOHN W. THOMAS, <i>Chairman</i>	Professor, Crozer Theological Seminary
EARL R. BROWN.....	Executive Secy., Board of Missions and Church Ext. of the Methodist Church
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C. REED CARY.....	Assistant Executive Secretary, American Friends Service Committee
HAROLD B. INGALLS.....	Associate Secretary, National Council of Student Christian Associations
JOHN W. NASON.....	President, Swarthmore College
EDWARD B. ROONEY.....	Executive Director, Jesuit Educational Association
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GUY E. SNAVELY.....	Executive Director, Association of American Colleges
GEORGE A. WIELAND.....	Dir. Home Depart. National Council of the Protestant Episcopal Church
YOLANDA B. WILKERSON.....	Interracial Ed. Secy., Nat'l Stud. Council, Young Women's Christian Asso.

(Titles are given for identification only and in no way commit the institution to which the council member belongs.)

Excerpt from Dr. J. C. Reagan's letter of November 7, 1945 to
Ann M. Graybill. Received 11/13/45

There are several things which should be done, and perhaps you are in a position to pass the suggestion on to where it might get results. The old people, though usually provided for with admirable filial piety by their sons and daughters, sometimes find themselves helpless and alone. There should be a home for them, I should say a farm where they could be made to feel that they are doing something to support themselves, among those who understand them and speak their own language.

Another thing: Hundres, perhaps thousands, of American boys and girls of Japanese ancestry have, under undue influence of families into which they have married, renounced United States citizenship. I am sure that it now can be shown that they did so under such conditions as to render the act irresponsible. They should be permitted to regain their lost birth-right.



TENNESSEE

Agricultural and Industrial State College
Nashville, Tennessee

Sociology and Social Administration

November 19, 1945

The Committee on American Principles and Fair Play
2234 Telegraph Avenue
Berkeley 4, California

Gentlemen:

For use in connection with our classes in race relations, races and nationalism, minority groups, and social problems in general, will you please send me a copy of:

AMERICAN FIGHTING MEN SPEAK OUT. *6*

Thanking you for your courtesy, I am

Sincerely yours,

Hugh H. Smythe

Hugh H. Smythe,
Lecturer in Social Studies

HHS/ng

*mailed
11/28/45
es.*

President
HERMANN N. MORSE

First Vice-President
MRS. J. D. BRAGG

Second Vice-President
WILLARD M. WICKIZER

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MRS. C. S. SMITH

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HOME MISSIONS COUNCIL OF NORTH AMERICA

THE INTERCHURCH AGENCY OF HOME MISSIONS BOARDS AND SOCIETIES OF TWENTY-THREE DENOMINATIONS

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CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
CHURCH OF GOD
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EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED
FRIENDS
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AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION
COLORED METHODIST EPISCOPAL
METHODIST
AMERICAN MORAVIAN
PRESBYTERIAN, U.S.A.
PRESBYTERIAN, U.S.
UNITED PRESBYTERIAN OF NORTH AMERICA

CHRISTIAN REFORMED
REFORMED IN AMERICA
UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST
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AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY
AMERICAN SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION

297 FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 10, N. Y.
TELEPHONE GRAMERCY 5-4658

Executive Secretaries
EDITH E. LOWRY
MARK A. DAWBER

November 19, 1945.

mg 11/21/45

Mrs. Ruth Kingman,
2287 Telegraph Ave.,
Berkeley 4, Calif.

Dear Mrs. Kingman:

Enclosed is the Summary of the National Conference on Japanese Americans held on November 8th. I thought I would submit a copy to you for your inspection before I have it mimeographed. Please return it at your earliest convenience with your corrections.

Thank you very much again for your part in the conference.

Sincerely yours,

Toru Matsumoto

Toru Matsumoto
Director, Committee on Resettlement
of Japanese Americans

TM/R

November 20, 1945

Mr. Toru Matsumoto
Committee on Resettlement of
Japanese Americans
297 - Fourth Avenue
New York 10, New York

Dear Toru:

Here I am back in the office and it is hard to believe that I have been to New York and back, except that the reports from the hostels and Army barracks living quarters are increasingly distressing. Everything seems to be about the same as when I left. I never cease to be amazed at whatever it is in Dillon Myer's mind that makes it possible for him to accept responsibility for what is happening out here. All we can hope is that this phase will soon be over and that responsible groups will pick up their task of putting the pieces together.

Yesterday I received the letter drawn up by Roger Baldwin. Galen Fisher looked it over and I will have a Committee vote on it within a week. I hope that will not be too late and I will wire you our confirmation as soon as it is available.

I do not envy you having to whip into shape the findings of the Conference. That is always the most thankless job in connection with such a project. However, as it is exactly the sort of thing you seem to have an extraordinary flair for, I look forward to its being a very finished piece of work. When it is available, I hope that it will be made possible for us to get several copies as all of our various organizations are waiting for a full account of the Conference.

Will you please let me know what comes of the meeting of the two delegates from the Conference with Miss Jane Hoey, as I feel some responsibility for that follow-up. I am writing to Miss Hoey today merely thanking her for the good time she gave me in Washington, and referring to the meeting I presume has been held before this date.

It was good to meet you at last. Do let me know when you are coming to the West Coast as we will try to see that you get in touch with all the persons out here who can be of help to you and whom you in turn can help.

If you will send me a note with the names of the church leaders you asked me to write to I shall be glad to get the letters off immediately. Don't hesitate to suggest what you feel should be pointed out in those letters.

Very sincerely yours,

Ruth W. Kingman

RWK:es

Nov. 23, 1945

Mr. Toru Matsumoto,
Japanese Committee on Resettlement

New York City, N.Y.

Dear Toru:

I am typing this myself, so please pardon the inevitable errors.

As I remember the preliminary form of the Conference Summary, which you sent to me for comment, you did not include any notation of the statement sent in by the American Council on Race Relations, as presented by Clarence Pickett.

As much if not most of the work out here on the coast will soon be under the sponsorship of the Council, I think that it is very important that these points be noted, if for nothing else, in the interest of good public relations with the Council.

Somebody of Sandy Liveright's letter got into my Briefcase during the afternoon session, and perhaps that is why it slipped from your mind. At any rate, I feel sure that you will wish to note the "Suggestions for Action" to which Mr. Pickett referred. There was a lot of good discussion in that latter period which was not covered in that summary, and this may be helpful in recalling it to you and your secretary.

I hope that this won't slow things up, and I know how maddening it is to receive additional material, but I also know that you wish the summary to be as comprehensive as possible.

Very sincerely yours,

Ruth W. Kingman

President
HERMANN N. MORSE

First Vice-President
MRS. J. D. BRAGG

Second Vice-President
WILLARD M. WICKIZER

Recording Secretary
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297 FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 10, N. Y.
TELEPHONE GRAMERCY 5-4658

Executive Secretaries
EDITH E. LOWRY
MARK A. DAWBER

November 27, 1945

Mrs. Ruth W. Kingman
2287 Telegraph Avenue
San Francisco, California

Dear Ruth:

I have your letters of November 20 and November 23, 1945. Thank you very much for both. I am certainly glad you have ^{returned} this recommendation from Mr. Liveright. I have been wondering about it.

The first item of business today is to let you know about the American Council on Race Relations. On November 17th they adopted a resolution to endorse the objectives contained in the letter to the President and also resolved that we should appoint a delegation to present the letter to the President in person. The Committee on Resettlement, meeting on November 23rd, authorized such a delegation and we are seeking an opportunity to see the President. Personnel of the committee will include Clarence Pickett, representing the American Council, Roswell Barnes representing the Federal Council, and a person of Japanese ancestry representing the Home Missions Council.

Although most people think that I should be the one to represent the Home Missions Council and also the person of Japanese ancestry, I feel strongly that this place should go to a Nisei veteran.

When you put your heads together with Galen and others, you might have recommendations to the President which you might want us to take to him, if and when we get an opportunity to see him.

Also at the meeting of the 23rd, it was decided that the Committee on Resettlement will be terminated by the end of the year. We are now in the process of negotiation with the Federal Council hoping that the

3
Federal Council will ^{absorb}~~absolve~~ our work in their Department on Race Relations and Social Action. The recommendation from Galen Fisher on this will have weight. Address all communications to Dr. Roswell P. Barnes, Federal Council of Churches, 297 Fourth Avenue, New York City.

My visit to the west coast will also depend upon the decision of the Federal Council. I will get in touch with you as soon as I know.

Very sincerely yours,

Toru
Toru Matsumoto, Director
Committee on Resettlement
of Japanese Americans

I wish you were here so you could
go to the White House with us.

tm/cc

We are also meeting Miss James J.
Social Security Board today in N.Y.

J.M.

November 20, 1945

Miss Florence Burnett
5 McDougall Alley
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Florence:

What with the rain and the cab coming so soon and being poured into it by the Navy, I didn't get much of a chance to thank you and Doris for the fun week I had with you in the Alley.

I do hope that my presence didn't add that extra straw to your busy days and nights which might have proven just too much for either of you.

Now that I am back in my office the Alley and Carousel and Harvey, and the automats, et al, seem very much in the Harvey aura. However, with Frank Fay I enjoy that general sensation, and it is all I can do to answer most of my friends' questions with his stock answer "What have you got in mind?"

Thank you and Doris again very much, not to mention the Navy, for a wonderful week. Do come to San Francisco sometime and we'll see what we can offer out here.

Very sincerely yours,

Ruth W. Kingman

RWK:es

November 20, 1945

Miss Elsie Harper
Room 464
600 Lexington Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Miss Harper:

It was good to talk with you while I was in New York and to know that there is some chance that you might be coming to the West Coast before too long. Upon my return to Berkeley, I tried to reach Helen Flack, but was unable to call the office in Oakland in time to make an appointment.

The situation here in California seems to be increasingly grim for the returning evacuees. The whole program of the War Relocation Authority appears to be taking a more abortive turn every day. Even some of their own Caucasian personnel seem to be suffering from pangs of conscience over the results of the present policy.

There appears to be no possible modification to be suggested. That being the case, I think that we will simply have to call it a day as far as WRA is concerned, and see what other government agencies and the private agencies can do to patch the thing up.

We can hope that the New York Conference pointed up some of the places where private agencies can do a job. How effective that job will be will depend, in no small degree, on how much support the local agencies can get from their national headquarters.

It is good to know that the YWCA can always be counted on both locally and nationally. Your suggestion that a strong board member be assigned to do some work here on the Coast seems to me to be a particularly sound one, as most

of the opposition to work for the American Japanese comes from "the board member constituency" in the state.

Please let me know when you are coming out as I want very much to see you here in California.

Very sincerely yours,

Ruth W. Kingman
Executive Secretary

RWK:es

November 20, 1945

Miss Mary Hurlbutt
New York School of Social Work
122 - E. 22nd Street South
New York, N. Y.

Dear Miss Hurlbutt:

I was very sorry to have had to leave you before the hors d'oeuvres arrived. Perhaps it was just as well as I went straight from you to a meeting with a couple of my Jewish friends who took me to my first Kosher feast. It was great fun and I enjoyed all the food, but I was glad that there was somewhat of a void into which it might be placed.

I am still wondering if our Conference accomplished anything like we hoped it would. Also, I am still thinking about what you said when you assured me that the degree of coordination of liberal forces out here has reached a higher degree of effectiveness than that so far attained in the East.

In one way it was encouraging and in another way bitterly discouraging as we feel that we still have practically the whole way to go. Yesterday I talked for a few moments with Annie Clo Watson who told me that in San Francisco, at least, they are trying to move towards something like concerted action in support of the returning evacuees. How far that move will be successful has yet to be seen. There is bound to be a report available sooner or later and I shall see that you receive whatever is put out on the subject.

Thank you again for the nice "interim period at the Grammercy Park Hotel." I hope that it will not be too long before it can be repeated in San Francisco.

Very sincerely yours,

RWK:es

Ruth W. Kingman

November 20, 1945

Dr. Wm. S. Bernard
National Committee on Post-War
Immigration Policy
Room 815
36 West 44th Street
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Bernard:

Following our conversation the day before the Conference on Japanese Resettlement, I told Mr. Matsumoto that I was delighted that you expected to attend at least one session of the Conference.

We were glad to see you there and hope that at least some of the discussion proved applicable to the problems you are trying to solve in your organization.

I was glad to meet you personally and hope that our paths will cross again in the not too far distant future.

Sincerely yours,

Ruth W. Kingman
Executive Secretary

RWK:es

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HERMANN N. MORSE

First Vice-President
MRS. J. D. BRAGG

Second Vice-President
WILLARD M. WICKIZER

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297 FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 10, N. Y.
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Executive Secretaries
EDITH E. LOWRY
MARK A. DAWBER

November 20, 1945.

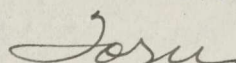
Mrs. Ruth W. Kingman,
2287 Telegraph Ave.,
Berkeley 4, Calif.

Dear Ruth:

I have just received your telegram about the manuscript. I wish to thank you for your kindness in calling my attention to this. I shall take care of the matter.

If you have a chance to see Eleanor Breed,
Please thank her for me.

Sincerely yours,



Toru Matsumoto
Director, Committee on Resettlement
of Japanese Americans

TM/R.

November 21.

MINNEWAWA VINEYARD

ROUTE 3, BOX 529 211

FRESNO, CALIF.

Dear Mrs. Kingman:

That was good in you to reply to my note in the midst of all your work - particularly when I felt so like a "bad bet" about not doing that job. But it was about a month too soon after the operation. I've had a chance to talk with one of the Social Security Board staff since, however, and found an instant agreement that it was still too early for me to do State work

which would involve contact with the Boards of Supervisors in the counties, so perhaps it was just as well all round.

Last week I was in Los Angeles and visited some of the FPHA housing projects which are giving temporary shelter to the Japanese returning. Conditions are pretty primitive, but I found the housing people as well as the WRG working long hard hours in a tremendous attempt to lessen the difficulties. I met one of the Japanese

MINNEWAWA VINEYARD

ROUTE 3, BOX 529

FRESNO, CALIF.

WRA men who particularly wanted to be remembered to you - I'm not too good at names, but think his was Nokimara (?). Certainly they deeply appreciate the work of your committee! The critical need seemed to me to be jobs for those returning, and it seemed to me that the federal people wanted to do all they could. At best, it's a heart-breaking situation - made all the more so by the newspapers

which were busily attacking
FPHA for housing the Japanese,
when veterans were house-less.
All of which would make it
pretty hard to do very much
either way!

Best wishes for the holidays.

Sincerely

Martha Chickering

THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
BERKELEY 4, CALIFORNIA

ROBERT M. UNDERHILL
SECRETARY AND TREASURER

²³
November 1, 1945

Miss Ruth W. Kingman
Alta Vista Building,
2287 Telegraph Avenue,
Berkeley, California

For the purpose of adding to the grounds of the University of California, The Regents of the University of California, through condemnation proceedings, has acquired title to, and now owns, the land on the northeast corner of Telegraph Avenue and Bancroft Way in the City of Berkeley, County of Alameda, State of California, and the building located thereon, commonly known as the Alta Vista Building.

To make this land available for university uses, it is intended to tear down the building immediately after the first of 1946. It is also necessary to wreck the building because it is unsafe. In this connection, the Building Inspector of the City of Berkeley has written the prior owner as follows:

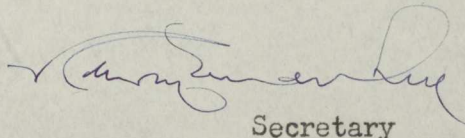
"At this time we regret to inform you that the above five story wood frame building, which is owned and maintained by you, is in a dangerous and unsafe condition and unfit for occupancy. Owing to the hazardous condition of this building, it must be demolished."

Although with this letter you have been handed a formal notice terminating your tenancy as of December 31, 1945, you are advised that your occupancy of the building after November 1, 1945 will be solely at your own risk, and that The Regents of the University of California will not be responsible after that date for death or any injury to you, or damage to any of your property because of the unsafe condition of the building. Accordingly, you are urged to vacate the building at the earliest possible date. No rental other than what may have been paid the prior owner will be charged you, or accepted from you, for the period commencing November 1, 1945.

Very truly yours,

THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

By


Secretary

THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
BERKELEY 4, CALIFORNIA

ROBERT M. UNDERHILL
SECRETARY AND TREASURER

²³
November ~~1~~, 1945

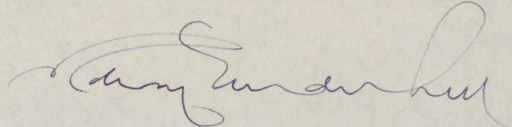
Miss Ruth N. Krigman
Alta Vista Building
2287 Telegraph Avenue
Berkeley, California

You will please take notice that the month-to-month tenancy under which you occupy space, to wit, Room 215, in that certain building located on the northeast corner of Telegraph Avenue and Bancroft Way in the City of Berkeley, County of Alameda, State of California, commonly known as the Alta Vista Building, is by this notice terminated, effective as of December 31, 1945, and you are hereby notified to remove from said space and to surrender possession thereof not later than December 31, 1945.

Very truly yours,

THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

By


Secretary

November 24, 1945

Mr. Marvin O. Adams
P. O. Box 115
Los Altos, California

Dear Mr. Adams:

Your letter came while I was in New York, and I have only now reached the place in my pile of correspondence where it has awaited my return.

Your inquiries re compensation for loss are very interesting, and should probably be turned over to the American Civil Liberties Union, whose lawyers are handling most of the cases of Japanese Americans.

I do not think that letters to Congressmen will prove effective in the case of indemnification. It will require individual action on each case, and, therefore, will need considerable legal procedure.

Mrs. Josephine Duveneck, whom I am sure that you know, is quite familiar with what is being done, and can keep you "up" on developments.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Ruth W. Kingman
Executive Secretary

RWK:es
Enc.

Los Altos, Calif.
Nov 7, 1945.

11/27/45
Dear Mrs Kingman

Tried Australian & got by pass. Tried New Zealand
on chance & got enclosed " " " Saw where
Mr. Butthorse talked with a section of Commonwealth
Club & got dope enclosed. (= pure luck)

Will you be so kind as to return Mr. Butthorse
letter or a copy of same? Also I would be
receptive as to suggestion(s) as to next steps.

Maybe a little talk to right parties - might
locate persons who would write congressmen and/or
papers. Then perhaps a well written letter to
N.Y. Times - but only if there is proper groundwork
and followup.

Sincerely,

Wanda O Adams

P.O. Box 115

ENC: —

November 24, 1945

Mr. Hollis Wilbur
25 South Euclid
Pasadena 1, California

Dear Hollis:

Galen Fisher asked me to inquire re the cost of mimeographing his Christian Century article of October 24th. I found that the cost for 500 copies would be approximately \$20.00, at the rate of \$11.00 for the first 200 copies and \$2.80 for each additional one hundred.

As we do not contemplate any wide use of the copy and had not expected to have it mimeographed, it might be simpler if you people had it reproduced for your own use, rather than have the expense incurred to cover mailing from here.

However, if you wish us to do so, we can have it done here provided you pay for the copies you wish to order.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Ruth W. Kingman
Executive Secretary

RWK:es

cc: Mrs. Thayer.

PASADENA COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES, INC.

25 SOUTH EUCLID AVENUE

PASADENA 1, CALIFORNIA

TELEPHONE SYCAMORE 2-7131

MEMBER
COMMUNITY CHEST OF PASADENA

Nov 20 1945

ERIC W. GIBBERD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Ruth

Ealen writes me that you are back from the east and at the office of ACSR preparing, among other things, to mimeograph his article in Christian Century for those who wish it.

Mrs Thayer will be writing you for some. I should like twenty five. The article is very timely but its usefulness will decrease rapidly with time, so I'd like to get mine distributed before the rush of Christmas mail, if possible.

I wrote a few days ago to Mr Hemes on the proposed organization. This was because I understood you were working in the east and Nov 16 was fast approaching. I hope to hear from you or from him on this subject.

yours cordially
Hollis

November 26, 1945

Rabbi Irving F. Reichert
Arguella and Lake Street
San Francisco, California

Dear Rabbi Reichert:

Enclosed you will find a copy of a letter I sent to our several chairmen, containing a report of a conference I attended in New York City on November 8th.

Together with it, you will find a copy of a letter to President Truman, drawn up by a committee designated by those present, for signature by representatives attending the conference. Approval of the various organizations is now being secured, and I am suggesting that the members of our Executive Committee give us permission to sign. I will phone you within one or two days for your judgment. Personally, I feel that the letter carries very pertinent suggestions, all moderately stated, and all of which are well within our established policy and program.

As the evacuees return, and are meeting with little open antagonism and most gratifying community support, much of the work of our Committee now appears to have been satisfactorily undertaken by local groups.

Our organization was originally effected to provide support for "law abiding persons of Japanese ancestry" during an emergency period when we were virtually the only group on the Pacific Coast willing to give that support. Now that other organizations, and to some extent, the federal government, is undertaking the integration of the returnees into normal community life, it is apparent that the major part of our work is done.

The By-Laws of the Committee, on page 4, read as follows:

"23 - DISSOLUTION: The Organization may be dissolved by the Executive Committee at any meeting of which not less than ten days' notice in writing shall have been mailed to each member of the Executive Committee, which notice shall state that it is intended to consider the dissolution of the Organization."

At the request of Vice-Chairmen, Paul S. Taylor and Irving Reichert, I am calling the meeting for 4:00 o'clock p.m., on Wednesday, December 12, 1945, to be held at the University of California Young Womens' Christian Association on Allston Way, Berkeley, California.

May this letter be considered the "not less than ten days' notice of a meeting to consider the dissolution of the Organization?"

Next week you will receive a reminder in the form of a reply card, which I hope you will return marked "I will be present."

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Ruth W. Kingman
Executive Secretary

RWK:es
Enc.

cc: Mrs. Wallace Alexander
Miss Leila Anderson
Monroe E. Deutsch
Richard R. Perkins
George Wilson

November 23, 1945

Mr. Homer Crotty
Dr. Henry Tyler
Dr. Hubert Phillips
Mrs. Maynard Force Thayer
Mrs. Gracia Booth

Dear _____ :

Although you will soon receive a full account from Toru Matsumoto, Director of the Committee on Japanese Resettlement, of the November 8th Conference in New York, I thought that, perhaps, you might be interested to hear about some of the points discussed, and action taken.

When I was asked by Mr. Matsumoto to "keynote" the Conference, I was both alarmed and gratified. Alarmed for fear that my contribution would prove inadequate, and gratified because it gave me an opportunity to present to leaders of our strongest social agencies and religious organizations, at the national level, some of the problems which face the returning evacuees.

Two objectives were before us. (1) The establishment of an on-going responsibility on the part of the Federal Government for the re-establishment in normal community life, of persons of Japanese ancestry evacuated from the Pacific Coast, and now free to return. (2) The development of policies and programs by non-government welfare agencies and church groups which can assist in the integration of the relocatees in their chosen communities.

From the first, it was felt that the War Relocation Authority's coercive relocation program could not be expected to receive the cooperation of either the evacuees or the community groups who are interested in fair play. Based, undoubtedly, upon the irrefutable premise that center life is undesirable and, therefore, to be cut off as rapidly as possible, the WRA policy has, nevertheless, created much havoc in the lives of the persons forced to leave the centers. With little or no prospect for a normal life ahead, the relocatees, particularly those now returning to the Pacific Coast, have little assurance of any degree of security.

Because of our lack of confidence in present WRA policies, their representatives were not invited to the Conference. Rather, representatives of the following agencies and organizations were called together, to confer and to try to reach some conclusions which might lead to a long term program in behalf of the Americans of Japanese ancestry.

American Baptist Home Mission Society
American Civil Liberties Union
American Friends Service Committee
Board of National Missions, Evangelical & Reformed Church
Brethren Service Committee
Camp Fire Girls Inc.
Child Welfare League of America

Common Council for American Unity
Community Chests and Councils, Inc.
The East and West Association
Family Welfare Ass'n. of America
Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America
Girl Scouts of America
Home Missions Council of North America
Intercultural Education Workshop
Japanese American Citizens League
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
National Board YWCA
National Child Labor Committee
National Committee on Post-War Immigration Policy
National Conference of Catholic Charities
National Federation of Settlements, Inc.
National Japanese American Student Relocation Council
National Organization for Public Health Nursing
National Social Work Council
National Student Council, YWCA
New York School of Social Work
Nisei Week (Japanese American News Corp.)
Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play
Presbyterian Board of Christian Education
Protestant Church Commission for Japanese Service
Protestant Episcopal Church
Religious News Service
Union Theological Seminary and New School for Social Research
United Council of Church Women
Woman's Division of Methodist Church
Women's International League
The Salvation Army
Foreign Missions Conference of North America
Committee on Friendly Relations Among Foreign Students
Federal Council of Churches
Brethren Service Committee
Woman's International League for Peace and Freedom
Japanese American Committee for Democracy
American Council on Race Relations

Attached you will find a copy of the Agenda, together with an outline of my talk on "Conditions on the West Coast."

I am deeply appreciative of the data provided me by Gracia Booth, Joe Masaoka and John Yamashita, whose careful documentation of hardship cases added greatly to what I could offer from my own information.

At the conclusion of the Conference, an executive committee drew up a letter to be sent to President Truman which covered the three points of deepest concern of the Conference.

You will find a copy of this letter enclosed - for your information only - not to be used until all organizations attending have had an opportunity to sign or reject it (about two weeks from now), at which time we will suggest a further distribution of the letter.

Prior to going to New York, I went to Washington and while there I talked with the Social Security director of Public Assistance, Miss Jane Hoey, who asked that two or three representatives of the Conference be delegated to confer with her on the best methods of integrating the work of the federal and private welfare agencies. The two delegates were appointed, and we should have Miss Hoey's report on their talk very soon.

Miss Hoey also had an excellent suggestion to make as to more effective means of supplying federal service rather than mere "charity" to the relocatees in need of help in adjusting to a fully self-supporting life. Her suggestions are being worked on through State Welfare channels and should soon become effective.

As soon as she lets us know how it might best be handled, we shall let you know what your local group can do toward putting pressure on Social Security to obtain additional funds.

It is always puzzling to me to know just how to let you people know what the "central office" is doing. So much of it is indefinable, and often nebulous in character, and yet, we feel that it is of greatest importance that it be undertaken.

This is a mere sketch of some of the work we've been concerned with lately. You will receive your copy of the digest of the entire Conference as soon as it arrives.

Until then, and again with my best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Ruth W. Kingman

RWK:es

AGENDA

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JAPANESE AMERICANS

Sponsored by

Committee On Resettlement of Japanese Americans,
Home Missions Council of North America

Parkside Hotel, 18 Gramercy Park South, New York,
Thursday, November 8, 1945

Dr. George A. Wieland, Chairman, Presiding

- 10 a.m. "Conditions on the West Coast" (1) Up to the Evacuation
(2) Since the Return of the Evacuees
by Mrs. Ruth W. Kingman, Executive Secretary, Pacific Coast Committee
on American Principles and Fair Play.
- "The Closing of the Relocation Centers"
by Mr. Jobu Yasumura, American Baptist Home Missions Society.
- Noon Adjourn for lunch
- 12:15 p.m. Luncheon. Guests of Honor: Nisei Veterans of World War II.
"The Concern of Nisei Soldiers"
by Mr. Bill Ugifusa
- 2:00 p.m. "Unsolved Problems of Japanese Americans"
by Mr. Peter Aoki, Regional Representative,
Japanese American Citizens League.
- 3:00 p.m. (a) "Legal Problems".
Discussion led by Mr. Roger N. Baldwin, Director,
American Civil Liberties Union.
- (b) "Community Adjustment Problems"
Discussion led by Mrs. Ruth W. Kingman.
- 4:30 p.m. Closing Session

OUTLINE OF TALK GIVEN BY

Ruth W. Kingman

on

"CONDITIONS ON THE WEST COAST"

at

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JAPANESE AMERICANS

November 8, 1945

New York City

A. Conditions Prior to Evacuation

- I. Population
- II. Employment
- III. Public Attitudes
 - a. Education
 - b. Labor and Management
 - c. Social Agencies
 - d. Religious

Little Anti-feeling prior to Order

B. Summary of Effects of Evacuation Order on Public Attitudes

- I. Press, Radio, Screen
- II. Education
- III. Labor and Management
- IV. Law Enforcement Agency
- V. Anti Oriental Organization
- VI. Church
 - a. Protestant Church Commission
 - b. Staff for WRA, etc.
 - c. from Missionaries returning from Japan
(Too little recognition of needs of Nisei as
Americans, rather than as subjects of Mission-
ary program)

C. Situation facing returning Evacuees.

- I. January 1945 - June 1945
 - a. Largely antagonism
- II. June, 1945 - September 15, 1945
 - a. Decreasing overt antagonism
 - b. Increasing housing shortage
- III. September 15, 1945 - to present time.
 - a. Housing shortage increases
 - b. Antagonism lessens
(Subtle, economic)

- c. Lack of funds
- d. Pressure from WRA
- e. Lack of coordination of government and private agencies

D. Facts to be faced

I. Unfavorable

- a. Eastward trek of Nisei leaders.
- b. Recurrence of Li'l Tokyo
- c. Uncertified welfare cases.
- d. Distrust of WRA.
- e. Confusion among agencies as to scope of responsibility.

II. Favorable

- a. Public better informed, particularly re Nisei, due to reports on 442nd, Intelligence of Army and Navy.
- b. Dispersal away from Pacific Coast.
- c. Acceptance by social agencies of a special responsibility in solution of evacuee problems.

CONCLUSION

A. Outstanding problems still unsolved

- I. Housing - temporary and permanent
- II. Upgrading
- III. Legal questions
 - a. Renunciants
 - b. Deportation
 - c. Indemnification for losses suffered
 - d. Acceptance of federal responsibility for full restoration of evacuees' rightful place in communities.

B. Outlook for Future. Entirely up to Nisei and interested community and national groups.

- I. Nisei responsibility - Interpretation of Issei to Community and Community to Issei.
- II. Group responsibility

Nisei)	
Welfare)	A co-ordinated program of
Church)	<u>Integration</u>
Labor)	
Education)	not Segregation and Separation.
Management)	

November 28, 1945

Dr. Robert Stone
O. P. A.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Stone:

I hope that Vernice Chamberlain Jensen told you how sorry I was not to have been able to reach you when I had two days in Washington last month. I tried, but had no luck, and was not there long enough to try more than the three times I called.

As it was, the day after my return, after a week in New York, I was very glad to be here in time to attend Al's and Margaret's lovely wedding. I told Harry that I would tell you that he and Beverly (now a WAC stationed at McClellan Field in Sacramento) sat on the "groom's side" of the church, and pretended we were family for him.

It was a beautiful wedding, and it must be a delight to you to be welcoming Margaret into the family. You know that Al has always been one of "our boys", and "Fish", as her friends call her, is a magnificent person who claims the deep affection and admiration of more persons than any other girl I know.

I don't expect my work to take me back to Washington again, so you'd better come here to Berkeley before too long. It's nice here!

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Ruth W. Kingman

RWK:es

November 28, 1945

Mrs. Evelyn Cooper
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

Dear Evelyn:

How was the New Orleans trip? I hope that you flew down, as my recollection of the horrible trains in the South strikes no pleasurable note.

As one usually is, I'm still 'way behind in my paper work, and as one usually does, I'm putting off the biggest job of all - a full report of the work of the Committee during its entire existence - to be presented to the Executive Committee when we meet to "consider dissolution." --Ah me!

When are you going to come out here with PAC or what have you? Also, what is the thinking in Washington re the Marshall appointment?

You'd better come West, young woman!

Cordially,

Mrs. Ruth W. Kingman

RWK:es

November 30, 1945

Mrs. Helen Gahagan Douglas
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Helen Douglas:

Thank you again for giving me so much time the day I met you in the gallery of the House. It is always a pleasure to see you and you may be sure that it is encouraging to many of us out here in California to know that you can be counted on to maintain your attitudes.

Mr. Paul Taylor came in the other day and suggested that I send you the enclosed material. You may wish to add it to the other stuff I gave you when I was in Washington. If you feel that it is important, perhaps you will send copies to Mr. Lamb as you did before.

You will be glad to know that Dorothea Taylor is making a remarkable recovery from her critical illness. We are all delighted, of course, as she is a choice person.

I understand George Outland is coming out next week to address the Commonwealth Club. Please tell him I hope to see him while he is here.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Ruth W. Kingman
Executive Secretary

RWK:es
Enc.

November 30, 1945

Mrs. Phyllis Gardiner
811 - 25th Street
Sacramento 16, California

Dear Mrs. Gardiner:

Ever since our Conference in Sacramento in July I have been wanting to send you a small check which, while I know is not adequate payment, will, I hope, show some degree of our appreciation of the work you did for us that day.

I have been trying unsuccessfully all these months to get your full name and address, and only recently has Dr. Tyler had time to send it to me.

Thank you again very much for the Committee. It was good of you to give so much time and effort.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Ruth W. Kingman
Executive Secretary

RWK:es
Enc.

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF THEATRICAL STAGE EMPLOYES AND
MOVING PICTURE MACHINE OPERATORS OF THE UNITED STATES AND
CANADA, INTERNATIONAL BUILDING, 630 FIFTH AVE., NEW YORK 20, N.Y.



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WILLIAM C. BARRETT, *Eighth Vice-President*, Apt. 304, 1609 No. Normandie Avenue,
Hollywood 28, California.
LOUISE WRIGHT, *Ninth Vice-President*, Apt. 3, 5012 Victor St., Dallas 14, Texas.

TELEPHONE: GLADSTONE 7187

HOLLYWOOD OFFICE
6636 HOLLYWOOD BLVD., ROOM 218
HOLLYWOOD 28, CALIFORNIA

November 30, 1945

Mr. Homer D. Crotty, Chairman
Executive Committee of Los Angeles
Committee on American Principles and Fair Play
465 California Street, Room 203
San Francisco, 4, Cal.

Dear Mr. Crotty:

Mr. Walsh has asked me to acknowledge and thank you for
your letter of November 9th. Inasmuch as the matter referred
to concerns our Local 659, we are referring it to them with
the request that they give it proper attention.

Thanking you, and with best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Roy M. Brewer,
International Representative

RMB:JS

McKinley High School

SOUTH KING STREET • HONOLULU • TERRITORY OF HAWAII

MILES E. CARY
Principal



JANET R. LANDGRAF
Vice Principal

November 30, 1945

Mrs. Ruth Kingsman
California Council for Civic Unity
Room 203 - 465 California Street
San Francisco, California

Dear Mrs. Kingsman:

A number of people in Honolulu have become interested in the plight of some 1,000 or more people detained at Tule Lake, California, who are endeavoring to regain their American citizenship and to stop their deportation to Japan.

Is there anything that we might do to assist in this situation? Is there a need of funds for providing the necessary legal counsel?

My own view regarding the matter is set forth in my letter to Mr. Ennis.

Very sincerely yours,

Miles Cary
Miles E. Cary
Acting Chairman

P.S. Enclosed are copies of correspondence bearing on this matter.

C
O
P
Y

2656 Hillside Avenue
Honolulu, Hawaii
November 12, 1945

Mr. Edward J. Ennis
Director, Enemy Alien Control Unit
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I am writing to you on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Yoshimi Kamei who I understand are now interned at Tule Lake, California. I do not know how much discretion your office has in this case; nevertheless, if you are in a position to grant them a special hearing, and if extenuating circumstances are to be taken into account in their behalf, then I plead and urge that they be allowed to take the necessary steps to recover their United States citizenship, and that Mr. Kamei be permitted to return to Hawaii with his wife, Mrs. Yoshiye Kamei. In the paragraphs that follow I shall endeavor to set forth the arguments that support my position in the matter:

1. It seems quite clear, from this vantage point, that Mr. Yoshimi Kamei is now in this predicament as a result of a chain of circumstances that were quite beyond his control:
 - a. His having been taken to Japan in infancy and his sojourn there during the impressionable years of childhood;
 - b. The absence of a public program of adult citizenship education to which he might have turned for help upon his return to Hawaii in 1935--since the beginning of this war the leaders in Hawaii have begun to give serious consideration to this serious deficiency in our program of public education;
 - c. The fact that his cousin, Mr. Calvin Shimogaki, got him a job in one of the vital defense areas--Hickam Field--where he was taken into custody by government agents;
 - d. The fact that he was removed from his relatives and friends and placed in a "relocation center" on the mainland of the United States without benefit of trial;
 - e. The probable conditions of frustration and confusion in the Topaz, Utah, center up to the time that he was removed to Tule Lake--I was Director of Education at the Poston, Arizona, center from July 1942 to July 1943, and know something of the disintegrative psychological conditions under which the evacuees were living; and that it required a thorough grounding in American-democratic ideas and experience to enable these people to remain firm in their confidence in America and democracy in those trying days;

- f. The fact that Mr. and Mrs. Kamei remained aloof from Japanese nationalistic societies in Tule Lake in spite of the terrific pressures to which they were subjected--as described in their letter (attached) to Mr. Calvin Shimogaki.
2. Mr. Yoshimi Kamei has close relatives in Hawaii, among whom are discharged veterans of our Army, who unqualifiedly vouch for his character and who stand ready to assist in his rehabilitation in our community.

This judgment is supported by statements (attached) by:

Mr. Calvin Shimogaki
Mr. James T. Nakamura, and
Mr. Kazuto Shimogaki

3. Here is an opportunity to gain adherants for the cause of democracy in the world situation in which the forces of communism, fascism, and democracy are struggling with each other for ascendancy.

It is quite clear that we are involved in a world civil war. Democratic forces are struggling for survival against a heady, strident communism and a fierce reactionism called fascism. Every individual that is won over to the cause of democracy is a grain of sand added to our side of the balance. While I know that we must avoid a stupid sentimentality; nevertheless, we must endeavor to be intelligent in a world situation in which the very security of our children and our democratic cause are at stake. In this case either a formal legalistic or a "hard boiled" policy would overlook the crucial long-run consequences which ought to motivate those who are making decisions regarding the future of these people. I believe that we can win these two people over the cause of democracy--if we will.

4. We have proclaimed to the world that we are endeavoring to foster the emergence and development of a democratic movement and government in Japan; that our future security in the Pacific depends upon this eventuality. If this is so, then it seems both unwise and contradictory to send back to that country, now, persons who are embittered and confused as a result of tragic experiences which they have had in a country that claims to be the champion of the democratic cause. If we are genuinely and deliberately earnest about our avowed policy in respect to Japan we will certainly avoid sending there persons who may turn out to be positive liabilities to the very movement we say we are endeavoring to foster. Furthermore, how will the rest of the world judge us if we should behave so obviously inconsistently?

At this point we must make a crucial decision: we can either make these people positive assests to democracy if we rehabilitate them in America, or we may make them frustrated bitter enemies

November 12, 1945

of democracy if we force them to go to Japan. The point is: that one's attitudes are dynamic and tend to change in light of the social conditions in which one lives; i.e., we make people loyal or disloyal by the way we treat them. Note: that in early 1943 when the War Department asked for American Japanese volunteers only about 1500 men volunteered from the Evacuation Centers while nearly 10,000 volunteered in Hawaii!

5. Here is an opportunity for us Americans to demonstrate to the world our regard for the virtues justice and fair-play.

It seems quite clear to me, at this distance, that Mr. Yoshimi Kamei has been a victim of circumstances over which he had little or no control. We can now use him as a "whipping boy" to satisfy certain of our baser psychological urges--if we will. But if we do this we will be denying those rational, humane, Christian impulses which also struggle for expression. Again I plead that, in dealing with this case, our constituted authorities be intelligently humane rather than short-sightedly hard boiled.

Mr. Ennis, I do not know all the facts regarding the case of Mr. and Mrs. Yoshimi Kamei, but, if they are, substantially, as set forth in their letter of November 1, 1945, to Mr. Calvin Shimogaki, and in Mr. Shimogaki's letter to you of November 10, 1945, then I put myself on record as follows:

First, I earnestly pray that Mr. Kamei be permitted to return to Hawaii now and to bring his wife, Mrs. Yoshiye Kamei, with him;

Second, that our government give every possible consideration legal and otherwise, to their plea that they be allowed to recover their American citizenship;

Third, I stand ready to join with Mr. Kamei's relatives and friends in Hawaii in guaranteeing his good conduct, should he be allowed to return here, and to assist actively in his reorientation to American life in this community.

Sincerely yours,

Miles E. Cary

MAILED NOV 15 1945
Fidelity Union S.S. Co.
Guthrie

5817-A
Newell, Calif.
November 1, 1945

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Shimogaki:

From the cold wintery colony of Tule Lake to the warm island of Hawaii, we extend our greetings and our heart-felt "thank you" for the wedding gift we received several days ago. We were very glad to receive a letter from your mother, but you can imagine what a surprise it was to unfold the check which was enclosed. It was very kind of you, and we wish we could fully express the deep appreciation we feel. Thank you very much.

In one of your mother's recent letters, she mentioned the good news that you are now proud parents of a son (Kazuo). Congratulations! -- and we hope both the mother and the baby are doing well. About a week ago we sent the little baby a small package. Although it's not very much we do hope you will like it.

I am afraid we've asked a big favor of you in asking you, through Misao, to ask a friend of yours to write a letter of recommendation to the Justice Department for us. We hope we are not putting you through too much trouble.

Perhaps if I explain why we renounced, it will be easier for you to understand our situation.

There are approximately 6,000 renunces here in Tule Lake, and more than half of these persons renounced, not on their own free will, but were compelled to do so through force and intimidations by the Hoshi Dan. The Hoshi Dan, a large group of agitators who believed that people here should act and do everything exactly as the people of Japan, was organized in the early spring of 1944. This organization was divided into three groups, as follows: Shokuji Kikoku Hoshi Dan for the alien group, - Joshi Seinen Dan for the young girls, - and the Seinen Dan for the young boys. Each morning the members would arise at reveille call (5:30 a.m.) and gather in the firebreak (a large open field). First of all they would face east and bow in silent worship to the Emperor of Japan. Then militaristic-like exercises and marches would follow. Even the girls would act and march like soldiers, with a group of buglers leading them. The girls who were members, were strictly forbidden to wear make-up; permanent wave their hair (had to be in braids); or to act or dress like hakujins. By dress, I mean fancy trimmings and ornaments. All the men folks had to shave their head--so men and young boys from kindergarden age to sixty, had shaven heads, and they all wore a sweat shirt with a Japanese emblem on it. We, the non-members used to call them the "boza-gumi" and we resented their actions very much, for the actions made the standpoint of the people in general of Tule Lake very bad, when looked upon by the Caucasian personal and visitors.

Then, in the latter months of the fall of 1944, the Renunciation Bill was passed and signed by Congress. When hearings for renunciations began, the Hoshi Dan members were the first to apply. At the hearing they were very rude and often made very unpleasant remarks. Then, in hopes that we would all renounce, they began spreading terrorism, rumors, and menace which gripped the center. Many people were threatened and several seriously wounded, merely because they had no intentions of renouncing. We were more or less compelled to renounce since the atmosphere of the camp was as it was. There seemed to be constant fear, although it could not be seen, it just seemed to be in our minds.

We've tried to have our renunciation cancelled by writing to the Justice Department, but it was of no avail. As a last resort we have (more than a thousand of us) decided to fight in court the repatriation to Japan which seems inevitable at the present time, and if possible, to have our citizenship returned. Luckily for us, the very capable lawyer, Mr. Wayne M. Collins of the Civil Liberties Union took a great interest in our case and is certain that the case can be won. There are several other lawyers working with him.

Besides that, we were told that if we know friends who were influential, it would be a great help to have a letter of recommendation written, so we have turned to you. I know the favor we have asked of you is an unpleasant one, and, we hope sincerely that it will not be too much trouble for you.

With best regards to all.

Gratefully yours,

Yoshimi and Yoshiye Kamei

C
O
P
Y

1931 Kahai Street
Honolulu, T. H.
November 10, 1945

Mr. Edward J. Emsis
Director, Enemy Alien Control Unit
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Subject: Petition to cancel the renunciation of American Citizenship by
Mr. and Mrs. Yoshimi Kamei.

Dear Sir:

I hereby petition the cancellation of Mr. and Mrs. Yoshimi Kamei's renouncement of American Citizenship who are now interned in Tule Lake, California.

I am a returned veteran with fifty-eight months of service with the United States Army; also, with six and a half years of service with the Hawaii National Guard. I fought with the 100th Infantry Battalion for which I was cited with The Silver Star and the Purple Heart medal. I am thirty-two years of age with a wife and one child. At present, I am a civil service employee at the Naval Air Station, Honolulu. As to my character and references, the following persons can be referred to:

- (1) Dr. Miles E. Cary, Principal of McKinley High School
2656 Hillside Avenue, Honolulu, T. H.
- (2) Lt. Col. Harrant L. Turner (retired) Vice-President, Lewers & Cooke, Ltd.,
2520 Makiki Hgts. Rd., Honolulu, T. H.
- (3) Capt. Clarence J. Olds, United States Army
708 18th Avenue, Honolulu, T. H.
- (4) Capt. Isrel Yost, Chaplain, United States Army
5 Chestnut Avenue, Nazareth, Pa.

Yoshimi Kamei is my first cousin. I have known and associated with him since his return from Japan in 1935. From 1935 to 1940 he worked for the Honolulu Plumbing Company as a plumber's helper. I knew him as an honest and hard-working man. He was never arrested or brought before court for any crime or misdemeanor. In October 1940, he visited Japan to see his parents and also for a vacation. He hurriedly returned home to Hawaii in June 1941 when conditions between United States and Japan were uncertain.

On his return, I got him a defense job in Hickam Field as a carpenter's helper with Robert E. McKee, Contractor. Since I was formerly employed by Robert E. McKee, before I went into the Army, it was not difficult to get him a job. According to his foreman, Mr. Jerry Okamura, of 909 Pumehana Street, Honolulu, Yoshimi was a very good worker; never was he loafing on the job. For being a good worker, Yoshimi received several wage increases. He worked steadily every day until he was picked up by authorities on May, 1942. He was not picked up while in the act of sabotaging or because of any offense against the government, but in the interest of internal security. As an American citizen, Yoshimi deserved every right under the Constitution of the United States, but was denied those rights. Great injustice was done to him.

Mr. Edward J. Ennis

-2-

November 10, 1945

He was sent to Topaz, Utah in the Spring of 1943, where I often corresponded with him. At that time, I was stationed at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, with the 100th Infantry Battalion. He was not happy in the Relocation Camp. He felt bitter and hurt to be sent away from his home, relatives and friends for no crime at all.

Later, he was sent to Tule Lake, California. There he met Yoshiye and was married in the month of October, 1944. While in Tule Lake, Yoshimi and his wife took no part in any acts of terrorisms; uprisings were openly practiced by agitators in Tule Lake Camp and Camp authorities did nothing to put an end to these.

I am enclosing a four page letter, written to me by Mr. and Mrs. Yoshimi Kamei, in which they explained the reasons for their renunciation. They do regret their loss of citizenship and have asked me for help. I feel that great injustice has been done to Mr. and Mrs. Yoshimi Kamei, when camp authorities did not offer ample protection to American citizens but let agitators force them to renounce their citizenship under threats.

I have asked Dr. Miles E. Cary, Principal of McKinley High School, to assist me in my petition in behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Yoshimi Kamei. I have known Dr. Cary since my high school days and he has taken a great interest in this petition.

In conclusion, I humbly beg you to reconsider Mr. and Mrs. Yoshimi Kamei's renouncement to their American citizenship and pray that they be permitted to live in Hawaii, even while investigations are pending. I have already arranged a job for Mr. Kamei with the Nakamura Feed Store, 4220 Waialae Avenue, Honolulu, if he and his wife are permitted to return to Hawaii. This store is owned and managed by his sister's husband, Mr. Shigeru Murata. Mr. Murata is willing to pay him a reasonable salary and to provide quarters for him and his wife. I have faith in my cousin, Yoshimi. I know that he will make a good citizen if he is given a chance. I am willing to sponsor Mr. and Mrs. Yoshimi Kamei's parole and will offer whatever bond necessary for their stay in Hawaii. I am also willing to pay their passage to Hawaii.

Trusting that you will give this petition your kind attention at the earliest convenience, I am

Very truly yours,

Calvin K. Shimogaki

Yoshimi Kamei
Yoshiye Kamei

Family No. H-306
" " "

Camp Identification No. 464-A
" " " 464-B



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
Manzanar, California
November 27, 1945

PERSONAL - CONFIDENTIAL

from Ralph Murillo

My dear Galen,

Thank you for yours of the 20th enclosing your letter to George Gleason of the 16th. I have read both letters and your article in Far Eastern Survey with much interest. In view of the fact that Dillon Myer is to be in San Francisco on December 5th, and because I understand that the Fair Play Committee is planning to dissolve about the first of the year, I want to take this opportunity to chat with you informally and confidentially to give you my own views on the present situation for whatever they may be worth.

I believe that the Fair Play Committee has rendered excellent service during the war and that the kind of service which it has rendered should not be discontinued, particularly at this moment when many problems yet remain to be understood and clarified. Such a group of outstanding people as represent the Fair Play Committee can render a unique service at this time, because their position in the defense of American principles can not be challenged. ✓

There are quite a number of things that alarm me as much or more than any of the events since the evacuation.

While the liquidation of the centers can be defended on the grounds of the desirability of getting children back into normal life and avoidance of creating a large and dependent minority group, yet the liquidation has been marked by many events which are a disgrace to the American record. Some of these events are described in the recent bulletin of the American Baptist Home Mission Society. While the closing of Manzanar was accomplished nine days ahead of

✓ schedule and we did not resort to force or cruelty, the fact was that older and dependent people were sent out without adequate care at the point of destination and hundreds of people who went out smilingly are living under conditions that violate the law of the State Board of Health, and they find themselves unable to make a living and re-establish their American way of life.

But beyond all this, there are the experiences which I had within the last two weeks at Tule Lake. I had never seen another center and wanted to visit Tule to get first-hand information. I was prepared to see and experience a situation that was far different from Manzanar, but I was not prepared for the confusion of issues and the state of mind that exists in that center.

✓ While I was attending a staff meeting in Ray Best's office, a United States Marshal served Mr. Best with the papers drawn by Attorney Wayne Collins of San Francisco on behalf of the Civil Liberties League bringing suit for more than nine hundred renunciees. Mr. Best told me that Mr. Collins had received more than \$94,000 in money orders from the evacuees at Tule Lake, as a fee in this case. Whatever the purposes of the suit may be and good as the intentions of the Civil Liberties League may be, it seems to me that a fee of \$94,000 raises a question whether the suit is brought in the interests of the renunciees or as a racket of amazing magnitude. This is the kind of suit which calls for the highest type of legal talent, the kind that is represented on your Advisory Board by Maurice Harrison, Bartley Crum, Mendel Silberberg. I hope that these men may be drawn into a discussion with the legal points that are actually involved.

I read the complaint as it was served on Mr. Best, and it seemed to be based on the points of habeas corpus and cancellation of renunciation. The basis of the action appeared to be that the Government had permitted pressures to operate within the center and the renunciees had renounced as a result of pressures for which the Government was indirectly responsible. Your own letter to Dr. Gleason seems to reflect this point. I wonder if these points are the major issues involved.

I do not assume to speak with any authority on the subject of such an important legal matter, but I do not know any better place to express my views than to you.

✓ I understand that Attorney General Clark has said that Public Law 405, approved July 1, 1944, is constitutional and he expects to deport every renunciee who has acted under this law. Taking a look at the brief wording of the Act itself, I am impressed with the fact, as I understand it, this is the first time in the history of a civilized nation that a government has permitted a citizen, during a state of war, to renounce his citizenship and to join the citizenship of a country with which war was in progress. I understand that civilized countries have never permitted such a renunciation due to the well-known reactions of war hysteria. The first question would, therefore, be whether the law conforms to the usual procedures of the international code. The Act states that the "...Attorney General shall approve such renunciation as not contrary to the interests of national defense..." In this case, the Attorney General permitted only citizens of Japanese ancestry to renounce their citizenship. The second question, therefore, is whether Congress has properly restricted the delegation of authority and whether the action of the Attorney General may not have been contrary to the interests of national defense. The issues raised in this suit are showing there was pressure for which ^{this is also true} the Government may have been indirectly responsible and ~~may~~ have been contrary to the interests of national defense.

✓ If, however, it is assumed that the law is constitutional, and it seems to me that there are many doubtful points involved, I do not believe that there is a case to be made in behalf of the majority of the renunciees insofar as the loss of citizenship is concerned. Those who were twenty-one years of age and who held dual citizenship and who by renunciation automatically became citizens of Japan are therefore aliens comparable in status to all other aliens of Japanese ancestry in the United States. I believe it is a very great mistake to support those persons in this group who were so wobbly and weak as to express a desire to go to Tule Lake and to be segregated from the more loyal elements in the relocation centers, and who, when they were at Tule Lake, themselves became members of so-called pressure groups, and, after a thorough and very sympathetic hearing by representatives of the Department of Justice, and with full knowledge of all facts involved, renounced their United States citizenship. These people have asked to become aliens and to attempt to restore their citizenship is to condone their weakness and to suggest that citizenship is a football to be kicked around by the winning side. They have asked

✓ to be aliens; however, the question then arises as to whether there is any legal authority to detain a renunciate who has become an alien, and there is even greater question on the right to deport such a person who wishes to stay in the United States. I thoroughly concur with the idea that unless these people can be shown to be dangerous to the internal security of the United States, there is no legal basis under which the Government can hold them in detention when the war is over. Therefore, the court should grant habeas corpus provided security can be shown. The next point involved is deportation. If I remember correctly, Harry Bridges fought deportation for a number of years and finally won his case. The only basis for the deportation of an alien is that he violated the immigration laws in entering the country or that he is a danger to the internal security of the United States. The renunciates are certainly beyond any charge of illegal entry. The matter of danger to the internal security is an individual case to be considered and proven by the Department of Justice. So much for the conclusions to which I have come on the group which have dual citizenship and which are over twenty-one years of age.

✓ There are two other groups in which, as I read the law, the Government has acted without authority or due consideration of the interests of national defense. In the total group of renunciates I am told that there are five or six hundred boys who are less than twenty-one years of age. Upon what legal basis does the Government accept the signature of a boy and how can the Government defend the deportation of any one, whether he is a volunteer or otherwise, who, at the age of less than twenty-one years has renounced a citizenship which he can not yet exercise? There are also in the group of former citizens those who have no dual citizenship. They have renounced their American citizenship and there is no reason to believe that they will become Japanese citizens. How can the Government deport a person to Japan who expresses unwillingness to go to Japan who has no Japanese citizenship? I believe that one of the prime essentials to "national defense" is the maintenance in any country of a solidarity of its citizenship and that deliberately to create a group of irresponsible citizens who have no citizenship will, if carried to an extreme, destroy any country. The Government has embarked on this principle in permitting persons to renounce American citizenship who have no other citizenship upon which to rely. The Government compounds its error when it says it will deport to Japan a man who has no legal affiliation to Japan, as that does not benefit Japan nor assure the individual of any future citizenship status.

We have had in Manzanar an eighteen-year old boy who had no Japanese citizenship who is now at Santa Fe, New Mexico. I believe that he has announced his intention of being a volunteer to sail to Japan this week. In permitting Albert Inouye to become a member of that group, I believe that the Government is violating its own mostsacred principles of citizenship rights.

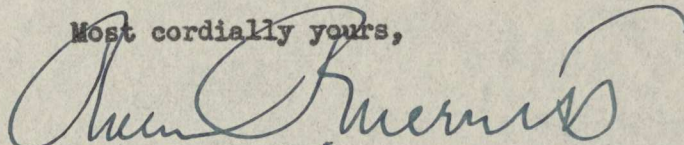
Forgive me for discussing matters that might better be left to the lawyers, but if you think that my points are well taken, I should like for you to test them with friends like Maurice Harrison and others to see if there is not a better line of procedure to protect American principles and fair play than those which are embodied in the legal documents of Mr. Collins.

I don't know anything about my future plans as yet, but in a few days I shall write you further on that subject.

Margaret D'Ille apparently wants to go back to Japan, either under the Government or under some church or educational organization.

With all best wishes

Most cordially yours,



RALPH P. MERRITT

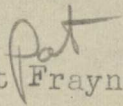
Mr. Galen M. Fisher
11 El Sueno
Orindo, California

Mrs. Ruth Kingman,
Berkeley, Calif.

Dear Ruth:

Joe Masaoka
has sent the attached to
all West Coast dailies.

You may want this
for your files.


Pat Frayne

[Nov. 1945]

Editor:

During the past week the Navy Department (Washington, United Press, Nov. 10) revealed that Japanese Americans would be accepted into the Navy.

The American Veterans Committee (New York, United Press, Nov. 14) announced it has been informed that the Navy was reversing its previous policy barring Nisei (American born of Japanese parents).

I feel free, then to reveal at this time the full text of a letter sent to me by Admiral Chester W. Nimitz on this subject, which you may publish. The letter is attached:

Joe Grant Masaoka,
Regional Representative
Japanese American Citizens League
228 McAllister St., San Francisco, Cal.

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UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET AND PACIFIC
OCEAN AREAS

HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

21 October 1945

Dear Mr. Masaoka:

"I acknowledge with thanks your letter of October 11.

"Americans of Japanese ancestry have served with distinction in the forces of the Pacific Ocean Areas and elsewhere. They have performed duties as interpreters, as fighting men, and in other activities.

"The Navy Policy of non-acceptance of such citizens was promulgated ~~as a matter~~ of general expediency early in the war. The Navy Department has stated that this policy is not to be construed as reflecting on the loyalty of any applicant. I feel that I cannot comment upon this policy because I have borne neither responsibility nor authority in its formulation.

"However, such a policy is always subject to re-evaluation. Personally, I have no objection to acceptance by the Navy of United States citizens of Japanese descent, provided they meet all other usual requirements.

"I am fully aware that the majority of Americans of Japanese ancestry are loyal Americans, willing to serve their country in any capacity, and I am sure that Naval personnel everywhere recognize this fact."

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ C. W. Nimitz
C. W. NIMITZ
FLEET ADMIRAL, U. S. NAVY

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C. W. NIMITZ
FLEET ADMIRAL, U. S. NAVY

Dr. Fisher:

[Nov. 1945]

Mrs. Robert McWilliams telephoned her report for you on the Japanese situation as follows:

Dr. J.C. Geiger, Director of Public Health, San Francisco, sent in a top investigator on the basis of the report that Mrs. McWilliams made to Dr. Geiger. Remedial steps have been taken to improve sanitary conditions. Partitions have been put up in the temple to ensure more privacy for the families there. If you would like a detailed report please let her know and she will be glad to send it. She asks that you please send a letter of appreciation to Dr. Geiger for the very prompt and effective service given on the call of the Committee.

KB

Telephoned Saturday

To Mrs. Kaufman
2287 Telegraph