

2:37

ORGS

FRIENDS OF THE AMERICAN WAY

1944-45

CA

171

FRIENDS OF THE AMERICAN WAY

305 Kensington Place
PASADENA 3, CALIFORNIA

Date.....

In appreciation of the work which is being done by Friends of the American Way, and desiring to share the opportunity of participating in it, I hereby ^{pledge} give the sum of \$..... for the promotion of this work during the remainder of this calendar year.

I prefer to pay the above sum as follows:

.....
I am (am not) able to serve on a committee.
.....

Xth Century - Oct. 1

Relocation up to date
Dispersion

Relig. & church outlook

Lead in Centes
Amazing resourcefulness
Gull Lake

Assimilability & American
war record
Return to Coast.

Jobs, living &
friendship

Longer future -
Jesse - federal aid
cf. Ralph W's letter
Intermarriage - T.H.
N.Y.

COPY
MIGHT LETTER

April 22, 1945

*reply
4/26/45*

Honorable Earl Warren,
California gives the San Francisco Conference evidence
that we are self-seeking hateful hypocrites who have lost
the right to respect and trust as good world neighbors.
Here among ourselves we stoop to hate and use Nazi methods
to accomplish our bigoted ends. Witness the Fresno April 15
action of executive committee Legion's California Department
in sustaining Horton in taking over Hollywood World War II
post and turning Lechner loose on them. Witness coming
Sacramento meeting to banish California citizens and law-
abiding aliens. We urge you to again speak up for decency.

FRIENDS OF THE AMERICAN WAY
By Wm. C. Garr, Chairman

*Mrs K. A. Hark -
suggest to address judgment in new, in June 9
new shooting, strategy possible government chance in
Just on War Dept to take story action
approval of families of same man, at least.
as many persons as possible with
to that end, we are suggesting that
to that end of Wm Garr we do
agreed at the Fairview Hotel SF.
demanding protection for
associates of same man
of 7 am to*

FRIENDS OF THE AMERICAN WAY

1360 WEST COLORADO STREET • PASADENA 2, CALIFORNIA

REPORT ON DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

150 letters, lately sent to the War Department by individuals and families in and about Pasadena, promise temporary homes, aid in finding employment, and a spirit of genuine friendship when the Government permits Japanese-Americans to return to the West Coast.

These letters promise 50 jobs and 125 homes, temporary or permanent, to our former neighbors. A small informal group, trying an interesting social experiment, sampled the sentiment in one important California community; 150 letters were the response. Goodwill, inarticulate and underground, is thus rising to the surface. The plan was simple and should succeed in other communities.

But --- everywhere there is community feeling to be mended, vicious legislation to be defeated, many urgent jobs calling for attention from real friends of the real America. What is your community doing?

The Pasadena group welcomes a chance to work and share experiences with others who would help preserve the democracy at home for which we fight abroad. We are writing you in the hope that you may enlist in this enterprise. We will gladly furnish suggestions if you will communicate with

FRIENDS OF THE AMERICAN WAY

By *Mary J. MacNair*
(Mrs. Jerome W. MacNair)
for the Committee

SCRAPS FROM THE MAIL BAG

"I am a student at P.J.C. and believe I express the sentiment of many of the students when I say we would be more than willing to have our fellow-students of Japanese ancestry again in our midst. We are sending our school paper out to them each week; we carry on a personal correspondence and keep the life-lines of friendship open and now feel we can help our friends in their readjustment and reintegration into a normal pattern of life."

- - - - -

"My husband, a public accountant, is very busy and could plan his work so that a former evacuee who has had training in accounting could have full or part time work."

- - - - -

"I shall be glad to provide living quarters in my home for any of the _____ family of Poston, Arizona, and for any of the _____ family, also of Poston, while they seek employment. This letter is written by one from whose home have gone two men into the service. I should be ashamed to face them on their return had I not fought here for those same rights for which they are fighting away from home."

- - - - -

"By profession I am a gardener and we need the Japanese gardeners back to help us this very minute. We gardeners who are left are meeting the shortage the best we can but are met daily with frantic pleas for help. Most home-owners would be willing to hire a loyal citizen of Japanese ancestry."

- - - - -

"We shall be glad to entertain Mr. and Mrs. _____ of Manzanar in our home while they are seeking employment. We will then turn the house over to them, as it belongs to their oldest son, now relocated in Chicago."

- - - - -

"It has been our intention for some time to take into our home, Mr. and Mrs. _____, formerly of Pasadena. This is an elderly couple, but the lady is still capable of doing dress-making and has many former customers longing for her return. She could work in our home and there would be no problems either financial or from our neighbors."

- - - - -

"I shall be happy to assist them with my friendship and active good will to become reestablished. I shall be glad to help them find employment by any means within my power, especially by helping my friends and neighbors to realize the value of their services and also to express appreciation of their loyalty to our land which is also theirs."

- - - - -

"It is our responsibility to be willing to demonstrate our convictions through our way of life... We would like to do our part by having a young Japanese girl live with us and work for us while attending school."

- - - - -

"As a group of neighbors we would like to offer hospitality to individuals or families of Japanese ancestry and will do all we can to facilitate their adjustment. We feel we represent the feeling of other families in this area."

- - - - -

"I am interested to provide home and shelter, food and employment for one family, and would welcome Japanese friends and neighbors. They are an asset to a community. I have found them honest, industrious, and dependable."

- - - - -

"I should like to go on record as being willing and eager to employ from 20 to 25 former Japanese Pacific Coast residents in my factory."

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FRIENDS OF THE AMERICAN WAY

1360 WEST COLORADO STREET • PASADENA 2, CALIFORNIA

Dear Reverend Foster,

We hold the view that an overwhelming majority of Americans, including many thousands in California and West Coast States, want American citizens of Japanese ancestry to get a "square deal" - want them treated as all other Americans. Certain groups motivated by sordid selfish interest, certain organizations with false notions of patriotism and dangerous nationalistic spirit, and still other groups with Fascist tendencies determined first to force the mass evacuation and now work to keep these people from their West Coast homes. The evidence is that their propaganda works a distinct disservice to our country at this critical time when it is necessary to show Asia that we have the capacity and the will to be good neighbors.

We hold the view that it is high time that all churches, synagogues, educational institutions, and many other organizations make their position emphatically clear and demand fair play toward Japanese Americans and all other racial minorities. A few organizations have done this. Their stand has been helpful. We are convinced that what is needed just now is for hundreds, perhaps thousands, of truly patriotic bodies to make public in every possible way resolutions or statements favoring the release of evacuees to locate in the West Coast States or elsewhere as they may desire. The small FBI list of disloyal and suspects are, of course, to be detained.

Enclosed are what we consider sound reasons for the action proposed in paragraph two. Please give them careful consideration and use them in discussion. This communication is a sincere and earnest appeal to you to take this vital matter up very quickly with the organizations with which you are affiliated, to urge favorable action, and to give such action the widest possible publicity. May we receive copies of such statements or resolutions so that those on our mailing list may be encouraged by your action?

Sincerely yours,
FRIENDS OF THE AMERICAN WAY

Beatrice M. Carr	Mrs. A. D. Nance
Wm. C. Carr	Herbert Nicholson
Katherine Fanning	Leonard Oechsli
Gertrude Klause	Alice L. Pearson
Jerome W. MacNair	Esther B. Rhoads
Mary MacNair	Gale Seaman
Margaret S. Moritz	Gladys Weaver

P.S. - Personal letters to the secretaries of War and Interior will be helpful, too.

CONSIDERATIONS FAVORING THE RELEASE OF JAPANESE AMERICANS
FROM RELOCATION CENTERS WITH COMPLETE FREEDOM TO
REESTABLISH THEMSELVES

- 1) All thoughtful persons see the dangerous inconsistency of drafting young Nisei to fight for "democracy" while their families are behind barbed wire in desert camps. One mother writes of the thoughts freely expressed by some of the draftees, "We must have something to be fighting for. What would we be fighting for with our folks left in a dump like this?"
- 2) Evidence accumulates that the Federal Government and military authorities are both ready and eager to release and assist in resettling increasing numbers as fast as public opinion will give them support. The big question is, will we help or hinder? FORTUNE magazine (April, 1944) remarks, "Perhaps the Army forbids the evacuees to return home less for military reasons than because of strong California pressures and threats." Significant this!
- 3) The solemn guarantees of our Constitution are being violated, not only at the expense of 70,000 American citizens but at the cost of national honor. Again in April 1944 FORTUNE - "The American custom in the past has been to lock up the citizen who commits violence, not the victim of his threats and blows. The doctrine of 'protective custody' could prove altogether too convenient a weapon in many other situations. In California, a state with a long history of race hatred and vigilanteism, antagonism is already building against the Negroes who have come in for war jobs. What is to prevent their removal to jails to 'protect them' from riots?" Last month Secretary of Interior, Harold L. Ickes, said in San Francisco, "Americans who oppose decent treatment for these citizens and loyal aliens don't believe in the Constitution of the United States."
- 4) In deference to selfish interest groups and war hysteria, we are robbing the nation of much needed manpower. Dr. Galen Fisher of the University of California in the CHRISTIAN CENTURY (September 8, 1943) says of the un-American individuals and groups persecuting Japanese Americans, "They have robbed the nation of millions of work days by making efficient manpower idle, despite the desire of the War Manpower Commission and the Army to put it to work." Quoting FORTUNE again, "The American Legion, since its founding in 1919, has never once failed to pass an annual resolution against Japanese Americans. The Associated Farmers in California had competitive reasons for wanting to get rid of Japanese Americans who grew vegetables at low cost on \$70 million of California land."
- 5) Most of the 100,000 evacuees are not even under suspicion by the Government. The experience of two years internment has (a) so disappointed and discouraged some that they have lost faith in democracy and have asked expatriation or repatriation, and (b) raised serious questions with other minorities among us - questions which may plague us and prove costly in the future.
- 6) With over 9,000 Japanese Americans in uniform fighting and dying for American ideals and a better world for all people, one degrades himself by berating all indiscriminately. A serviceman remarks in TIME (February 14, 1944), "We are just back from overseas where we were trying to preserve democracy for the very same people who say the Nisei should be deported ... I wish to God that some of the people who say 'Democracy is for the white race only' could be made to get out and fight for it."

7) Those fostering race discrimination and hatred are blind or willfully indifferent to all that is involved in goodwill and friendly relations with a billion people across the Pacific Ocean - highly important even in trade with that half of the world. "Too few, however, realize what persistent and effective use Japan has been able to make, throughout the entire Far East, of U.S. imprisonment of persons of Japanese descent."(FORTUNE) Thus we prolong the war and make insecure the coming peace.

8) While race baiters and shrewd, unprincipled politicians are criticizing and damning the Federal Government (through WRA and the Department of Interior), we should openly and vigorously support these agencies. This is especially true now that Secretary Ickes has so bravely declared in San Francisco that the WRA will not "under my jurisdiction ... be stampeded into undemocratic, bestial, inhuman action and will not be converted into an instrument of revenge or racial warfare." He concluded with, "I hope that the clamor of those few among you who are screaming that the situation should be resolved on the basis of prejudice and hate will soon be overwhelmed by the stern remonstrances of those among you - an overwhelming majority - who believe in fair play and decency, Christianity, in the principles of America, in the Constitution of the United States." By group resolution and by personal letters to Secretary of War, Henry L. Stimson, and to Mr. Ickes let us, in the name of common decency, ask for the evacuees the immediate restoration of all civil rights including the basic one of returning to their West Coast homes.

FRIENDS OF THE AMERICAN WAY

1360 West Colorado Street
Pasadena 2, California

305 Kensington Place
Pasadena 3, California
November 17, 1944

Dear Friend:

As long as 110,000 persons are exiled from their West Coast homes, work on their behalf is needed in every community.

Since the Army has given permission for some evacuees to return on an individual case basis, we should work for such return of others while we continue to press for removal of the exclusion order.

In considering the return of an individual, the Army checks the availability of a job, living quarters, and friends to work for community acceptance. Letters should therefore be written to Major General Charles H. Bonesteel, The Presidio, San Francisco, offering jobs, homes, and friendship. Evacuees should be encouraged to apply for permission to return. Nisei in the Army should be heartened by letters from home-town friends telling of specific steps being taken for the homecoming of those dearest to these men and women. Community good will needs to be cultivated in pulpit, platform, press and radio; printed material needs distribution; social action groups and other community organizations need to be incited to action; politicians must be shown that it is political suicide to pit race against race.

Such work is greatly facilitated by the formation of a citizens' committee for this specific purpose. Has your community such a group? If not, will you help form one? The opposition is well organized. If you are within a 25 mile radius, one of our members will meet with your group upon request. In any case, we shall be pleased to correspond and to furnish material. Please let us hear from you.

Cordially,

THE FRIENDS OF THE AMERICAN WAY

By Hugh H. Anderson

305 Kensington Place
Pasadena 3, California
March 6, 1945

Dear Friend:

Since February 1944 some of us have been organized to give active expression to a concern that our Japanese American friends and neighbors be permitted to return to their homes in our community.

We called ourselves the Friends of the American Way because our concept of America demands that we promote a realistic democracy in which the people gear themselves into action. Only by making their voices heard can they overcome the influence of well-organized selfish interests. We all know that the great evils of our time have come to pass as a result, not of a few demoniac characters who dominate the world, but rather of the indolence of the "people of good will".

In January the military authorities terminated the exclusion order and some of our friends have now begun to return. It has been a pleasure to greet them, but we should be deluding ourselves if we considered our work completed. The sudden chaos and financial ruin which the evacuation order imposed three years ago were further aggravated by long, profitless months in the relocation centers, so that today these evacuees, although free to return to the Coast, are in grave need of assistance in obtaining housing and employment.

Cooperative organized effort is needed in every community to bring about the acceptance of members of this group in their former communities. Showing friendliness to evacuees from your community by letters, and by providing temporary housing and help in finding jobs and permanent housing, is very helpful. Other things, affecting the total West Coast picture, need to be done. We urge you to do your part with others in your community in the following projects:
(In order to unify our efforts may we request that you send us a copy of the letters you write to the indicated agencies?)

- 1) Create and extend community friendliness, essential to the success of job- and house-finding efforts
 - a) by statements in the local press
 - b) by use of pamphlets such as "Wardens of Understanding" (published by the Pacific Coast Branch of the East and West Association, 17 E. Carillo Street, Santa Barbara)
 - c) by promoting favorable mention of the subject in pulpits and in public meetings.
- 2) Urge the federal government to take full responsibility for assisting returnees in matters of jobs and housing. (Write directly to the President)
- 3) Urge the National Housing Authority, Washington, D.C. to provide critically needed housing for ALL West Coast racial minority groups, including Japanese.
- 4) Urge members of Congress to establish a Claims Commission to reimburse those who suffered losses due to evacuation.

May we send inquiries from evacuees about your community to you? It would be helpful to us to know what your community is doing for returnees.

Cordially,
FRIENDS OF THE AMERICAN WAY
Education Committee

By Hugh H. Anderson
Hugh H. Anderson, Chairman
Margaret Moritz Walter Godfrey
Harold Alexander Afton D. Nance
Gertrude Klause Katherine Fanning

NIGHT LETTER

May 27, 1945

HON. CLARENCE CANNON
CHR. HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WASHINGTON, D.C.

GENERAL PRATT SAID QUOTE THE WAR DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT THE
PEOPLE OF THE PACIFIC COAST AREA WILL ACCORD RETURNING PERSONS
OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY ALL THE CONSIDERATIONS TO WHICH THEY ARE
ENTITLED AS LOYAL CITIZENS AND LAW ABIDING ~~XXIXXX~~ RESIDENTS
PERIOD UNQUOTE IN PLACE OF THAT THERE HAVE BEEN TWENTY SHOOTINGS
WITHOUT AN ARREST PERIOD UNDER THE GUISE OF PATRIOTISM THE WEST
COAST PROMOTES THE MASTER RACE WAY OF LIFE AND COUNTENANCES
VIOLENCE PERIOD UNTIL THIS COAST BECOMES MORE AMERICAN WE URGE
YOU TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS SO WRA CAN HELP MAKE FOR THE DECENT
TREATMENT ASKED BY THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

FRIENDS OF THE AMERICAN WAY
BY WM. C. CARR CHAIRMAN

305 KENSINGTON Place