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TO MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY BOARD AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

It is a pleasure to address an open letter to the members of the Advisory Board and the Executive Committee of the Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play. I regret that I shall not be in San Francisco next week to meet with you in full discussion of the future policy and program of the Committee.

It is heartening to know that further consideration is being made of some of the questions confronting the nation in our approach to one of its most challenging problems. That challenge is presented in our attitude toward and resulting treatment of a racial group within our citizenry, whose ancestors unfortunately came from a nation with which we find ourselves at war.

Just how we in America conduct ourselves in relation to our loyal citizens of Japanese ancestry may well set a precedent for the manner in which we may be expected to conduct all future relationships with non-Caucasians or non-Aryan groups here at home or abroad.

We are on trial before our own professed principles and the verdict must rest on a basis of national and not sectional interest and concern.

Large sections of the press and certain politically minded individuals are joining in a concerted condemnation and persecution of an entire racial group within our national borders. (R.G.S. see quotation from Army's "Guide to Orientation Program.") It is good to know that farsighted and fairminded individuals are giving their time and effort to maintain fair, just and truly democratic attitudes.

The outcome of the Civil War decided that there shall be no second class citizenship for our people. This decision is upheld in the expression of confidence from the Department of Justice, thru Mr. Biddle, the State Department thru Ambassador Grew, and finally by the War Department, which has included more than 9,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry in the armed forces. (R.G.S. see Grew and Biddle statements)

Every necessary measure for the maintenance of national security must be vigilantly maintained. In this we have confidence in our War Department and in the Department of Justice. (R.G.S. see Grew

It is our constant duty to make a conscious contribution to unity in our national effort. To that end, it is increasingly obvious that continued support of the government's policy of decrying racial separatism within our ranks is of paramount significance. (R.G.S. see Army Guide)

Dr. Paul Taylor suggests that you might wish to refer to Lincoln's letter to Joshua F. Speed, written in Springfield on August 24, 1855, as follows:

"When the Know-Nothings get control, --- I shall prefer emigration to some country where they make no pretense of loving liberty..."

The entire quotation is as follows:

"When the Know-Nothings get control, it will read 'all men are created equal, except Negroes and foreigners and Catholics.' When it comes to this, I shall prefer emigrating to some country where they make no pretense of loving liberty -- to Russia, for instance, where despotism can be taken pure, and without the base alloy of hypocrisy..."

Personally, I prefer the following quotation from Lincoln:
"What constitutes the bulwark of our liberty and independence? It is not our frowning battlements, our bristling sea-coasts, the guns of our war steamers, or the strength of our gallant army. These are not our reliance against a resumption of tyranny in our land. All of them may be turned against our liberties without making us stronger or weaker for the struggle."

"Our reliance is in the love of liberty which God has planted in our bosoms. Our defence is in the preservation of liberty as the heritage of all men, in all lands everywhere."

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