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MINIDOKA WAR RELOCATION PROJECT

Hunt, Idaho

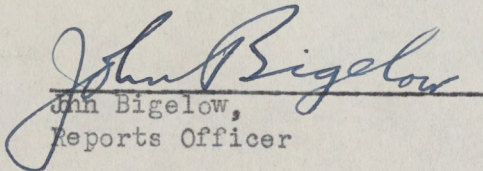
OCT 22 1942

TO: EDWIN BATES, Chief
Regional Information Division

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For your information I am sending copies of a letter and a resolution written by a Hunt resident, Dyke Miyagawa, which are an impassioned and noteworthy plea and appeal by union workers of Japanese ancestry to take part in the industrial part of the U. S. war program.

Miyagawa is now in Chicago to attend the cannery union convention.


John Bigelow,
Reports Officer

COPY

8-2-E

Minidoka War Relocation Center

Hunt Branch

Twin Falls, Idaho

October 19, 1942

Donald Henderson
International President
United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing
and Allied Workers of America, C.I.O.
Hamilton Hotel
Chicago, Illinois

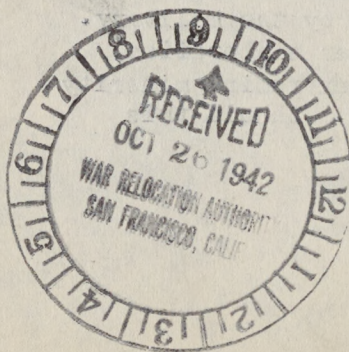
Dear Sir and Brothers:

Enclosed herewith is a resolution "Concerning Resettlement, Employment and Utilization of Evacuated Japanese-American Members" for which we are extremely anxious to secure your personal introduction and support at the Fourth Constitutional Convention.

The issue presented by the resolution is, I think, sufficiently explained therein. I believe it should be stressed and reiterated, however, that the issue is not merely the product of our collective desire to breathe again the free air of the United States proper. Over and over again, while we languish on our "reservation", we read in the press and hear over the radio news items relative to the critical problem of manpower which obstructs the road to victory. We do not hesitate to make known our feeling that, for those of us who retain what we believe to be an unassailable record of anti-fascist activity in the labor movement, it is insufferable to bear for long the role of spectators on the sidelines, dissipating our time and energies as wards of the government, while others fight a war that will decide the future course of history and humanity and ourselves. Our place lies with the rest of the nation and the millions in the ranks of the world-wide army which is preparing the grave for fascism on a thousand fronts.

We have submitted ourselves to the program of evacuation to this point because we were appreciative of the fact that it was conceived of military necessity. We are now convinced, however, that the time has come to sift the suspect and the loyal, and to offer to the provenly loyal a just and deserved position in the war effort. There is no better nor more appropriate place where this may be begun than in the councils of organized labor.

The War Relocation Authority, as the resolution states, is committed to a program which seeks to return as many evacuated Japanese as possible to a normal place in American life. Naturally, these people will have to be resettled in the interior, beyond the borders of those western States in which presence of any and all Japanese is prohibited by the military. The outcome of this program, it goes without much further elaboration, will determine to a very great extent whether our complex racial minority problem in this particular respect is solved or bungled. Should this



TO: Donald Henderson--Page 2

program fail, it will mean that this nation will have to face one or all of a number of possible and extremely ominous problems. Unless an appreciable number of the 100,000 Japanese, two-thirds of whom are citizens of the United States, are rehabilitated before the end of the war, it is a reasonable expectation that an unnecessary amount of chaos and confusion will have to be borne when the 100,000 attempt to dump themselves on the labor market. An alternate possibility is that the government will be burdened with a continuation of the present impasse, maintaining a whole network of "reservations" for the Japanese from the West Coast.

And in any case, unless the present problem, however vexing it may be, is solved in the process of winning the war, the net result will be the embitterment and complete disillusionment of thousands of Japanese-Americans who have been accused of no crime other than that they bear the facial characteristics of those despised servants of Hirohito who planned and executed the treachery of Pearl Harbor. The sacrifices which the thousands of Japanese-Americans have made to this moment are second to none in civilian America, and their only hope is that they will be given a more constructive opportunity to prove, positively and actively, their democratic faith and convictions.

We add, finally, our greetings and expressions of heartfelt solidarity to the delegates present at the Fourth Constitutional Convention, and give assurance that, regardless of the fate which our resolution will meet on the Convention floor, our sentiments and our hopes will continue to lie with the men and women of labor and the cause of the United Nations.

Fraternally yours,

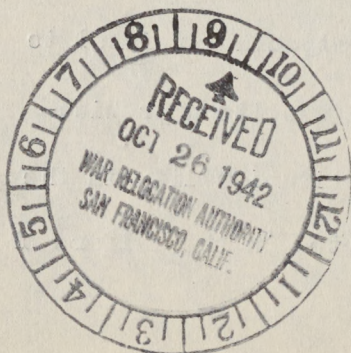
Dyke Miyagawa
Local No. 7

R E S O L U T I O N

Concerning Resettlement, Employment and Utilization
of Evacuated Japanese-American Members of the United
Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers
of America

Whereas, in consequence of the order of the Western Defense Command which removed them from their homes, property and means of existence in the States of the Pacific Coast, hundreds of American-born, American-bred, American-minded Japanese members of the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America are at present confined together with alien-born Japanese in various Relocation Centers established under the War Relocation Authority and are thereby absent from the mainstreams of American life and find themselves shorn of the privilege of actively discharging their obligations to embattled America; and

Whereas, their attachment to the United States and the cause of the United Nations has been acknowledged and commended repeatedly by both civil and military authorities who are aware of the proof of loyalty which Japanese-Americans are establishing through their representation in the nation's armed forces, through their willing compliance with the military order of evacuation, and through their steadfast refusal to alter their faith in democratic America despite a predicament which is raising questions of constitutionality in the minds of many Americans who are interested in the welfare of



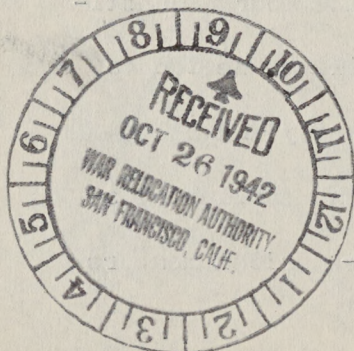
the country's minority groups; and

Whereas, the continued absence from the production front of these American citizens of Japanese ancestry is a deplorable waste of available manpower in the face of a nation-wide shortage of labor which is most acutely felt in those fields of industry where UCAPAWA exercises its jurisdiction, as is evidenced by the closure and threatened closure of vegetable canneries in the Middle West and the loss of needed crops in various parts of the country; and

Whereas, the service which these Japanese-Americans can perform for the nation in the present crisis is being amply demonstrated in the agricultural fields of the West and the Southwest where they, through the institution of a temporary work furlough program by the War Relocation Authority, are today saving valuable crops which otherwise would have been lost to the war effort; and

Whereas, it is the announced policy of the War Relocation Authority to attempt to effect permanent relocation in the interior for a maximum number of evacuees prior to termination of the war, be it therefore

Resolved: that the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America shall establish at its Fourth Constitutional Convention such machinery as will be needed to negotiate with the War Relocation Authority and other agencies of the Federal Government for the earliest possible release of its evacuated Japanese-American members



for resettlement and utilization on the production front outside of those military zones in which presence of all Japanese, regardless of citizenship, is prohibited by the Western Defense Command; and be it further

Resolved: that UCAPAWA shall introduce at the next annual convention of the Congress of Industrial Organizations a resolution calling for the similar release of all evacuated Japanese-American C.I.O. members; and be it finally

Resolved: that copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the national headquarters of the War Relocation Authority, the Congress of Industrial Organizations, the War Manpower Board, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Seattle and San Francisco C.I.O. Councils, the national headquarters of the Japanese-American Citizens' League and the labor press.

Fraternally submitted,

Karl G. Yoneda
Local No. 5

George K. Takigawa
Local No. 7

Dyke Miyagawa
Local No. 7



MINIDOKA

W-1

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LITERAL TRANSLATION OF AN ANONYMOUS LETTER WRITTEN IN JAPANESE

(Letter Undated but Received July 21, 1943)

restricted

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
COMMUNITY ANALYSIS SECTION

Our Dear Mr. Schafer:

In spite of this hot weather, we appreciate your effort in serving and helping us. Please accept our heartfelt thanks.

Next, in this block, a person who lives at 2-8-A, namely -----, is spreading many funny stories. At the present, he is a cameraman, and as a photographer and connected with "Outgoing Employment Office", he gathers many stories from the outside and from 10:00 P.M. to 2:00 A.M., five to six persons or sometime twelve to fifteen persons congregate and drink coffee together.

He tells food is getting bad here and we are supposed to entitle to forty-five cents per day for meals but we are getting only twenty-eight cents worth of food. This is because Mr. Schafer is a Jew, and he puts all the money in his pocket. Look at those coal we are getting. Those coal don't burn because they are inferior in quality. If outsiders come here and take a glance at these coal, they look bad, so he transferred coal to the vicinities of this Project. Besides, there are a carload of food stored in the Eden's Garage and after he took the commission, they feed us.

All the Japanese in this Center is peace-loving people, so nothing happens here, but if a such thing happens in other centers residents will report to Washington, D.C. and there will be a big trouble. If Spanish Consulate find out such fact this will become a big issue.

Recently, WRA is trying to get us out from here, but if we stay we don't have to worry about room or board. It is better to stay here than go out and suffer in a strange place. Look at those boys who went to Chicago! Everyone is having tough time. It is all right for boys, but all the girls are suffering and from what I hear some become prostitutes or whores and doing the business with colored people. My sister's friend, who is American, recently came back from Guadalcanal wounded, and in his letter American soldiers assaulted Japanese hospital and killed all the Japanese wounded soldiers (there were forty-five) and also attacked five women by taking turns, then killed them. I think it is a very cruel conduct on the part of American soldiers. It certainly surprised me to hear so I showed my letter to my mother, and she was so shocked that she couldn't talk for while. What do you think of such story? In fact, Americans talk about liberty and something else, but in reality, they are beast. In

the United States Americans mistreat negroes. Other day, there was racial war in Detroit. Action speaks louder than words.

Here in the Northwest, the Government sent Japanese to the relocation centers, and Germans and Italians are enjoying their freedom. After the war, we should get even with for such mistreatment. He also addressed to the people who cannot read newspapers and to those who cannot understand English and convinced them that he is talking nothing but truth.

Since the kitchen windows are open, neighbors can hear all the noise and they cannot go to sleep at night. There are many more things to tell, but I shall not write any more.

After reading this letter, you come to Block 2 dining hall around 11:00 P.M. and find out for yourself. ---- is talking his head off. I think the Mess Hall is our dining hall, and it is not the place for foolish talks or to play "Shogi" or "Go". Some people believes his stories because he goes out to work. If we let him stay here, we, the good elements of this Center, will be also looked upon as suspicious people. It is better to relocate him to the segregated camp where disloyal elements will be kept. We, the residents of Block 2, asking you to do this favor.

Our Dear Mr. Stafford:

----says, "Recently, there were many volunteers for the army. They are a big fools. They (volunteers) don't realize the fact that their parents and brothers are placed in the Relocation Center and treated miserably, and still they are trying to offer their service to America."

"As soon as armistice is here, the America will kicked them out and their citizenship will be denied. The good example is during the World War I. Soldiers from Hawaii were promised citizenship but after the war was over they could not obtain citizenship."

Other day, when we had the election for the ratification of the Charter, he was against the Charter with the block managers by saying what is the use of such thing.

"He refers all the big shots of the Administrative Staff as Jew, including Mr. Stafford, and in case of emergency, they have already prepared the ways of escape, etc. This he relates many fantastical stories.

Minidoka

Letter by evacuee complaining of unfairness in labor cut.

Segregation

W-1

18 July 43

**WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
COMMUNITY ANALYSIS SECTION**

Dear Sir

May I ask you for about only one thing to loyalty and disloyalty. How would you draw a line of this affairs between loyalty and disloyalty, of course it must be pick up by the past times individual identification note. It's act a fairness and impartiality, But in this times I found a matter for regret about in the action of labor quotas eliminate. Instance. Some loyalty family lost a job and disloyaltys continuous his job under steward, kitchen or Dining Hall. Among the all Japanese knowing those men or woman who had signed to go back Japan its really disloyalty for U.S.A., everybody know it. But why U.S., authourity to give job and clothing allowance to such disloyalty after distinctly provided to-day? Some craftily has revoke his farmer statement which they signed to go back Japan even before because they don't like to move another Camp again, also they have small or big property in Japan. If a man who have property or his own parents in his native, how could pledge loyalty for another country just as in Japanese condition which to have particulality nation. We need must to know the man whos pledge loyalty to this country to have no property nor parents in Japan. This is actual phenomenon in such time. But I suppose the Stewards nothing to know to investigate of our individuals identification note. Some family working 3 or 4 mans in one family. Some another family lost all job in one family, and also disloyal family who had signed to go

back Japan Mr. and Mrs. they are continuous working now. I discovered such treat unfairly here and there: Block 17 and 19 and another Block too. I am two family and supporting a little girl (age 10) so that I lost my store-keeper job in this time.

The Steward gave my job to single men (morning timekeeper) But he had signed repatriation applicants before, However he withdraw his statement before June 30. I am unknown. Must be investigate for this. There's many old Japanese and Kibei Japanese (Japanese American born who had educated in Japan) are so much bluff and so much tell a lie. How I know it of course I have learned by investigating race psychology for last many years, beside with working at Sawmill or another many kind job, for last 34 years in this country. I was never go back Japan even before But I worked with Japanese for last 20 years over. Almost Japanese forman and Hotel Business man tell lie with in cold blood. Here I discovery instance in this center. On the day of Dec. 14 (Monday 2:20 p.m.) 1942 at Sanitation office, I had call to Sanitation Head formans Min Tai for his misconduct. When he brought another 11 sanitation forman to the office and against me by his crews false evidence before George Takigawa (mediator). Them Takigawa taken act with in fair. I thanks for his conduct. In that time Min Tai said, I want to take much money from U.S. Government and to give to many Japanese; and I know too many sanitation worker now. (in that 7 mens worker except foreman each Block and work about 50 minuet in the morning,

afternoon 30 minuets there about. average everyday)
If I cut down half number other half number can not make
money in such easy work!! How do you think this Tai words?
please judge by your Commoncense I think Min Tai s pledge
royal for U.A. by his only his mouth. If not--must be
taken co'operation with economic system to U.S. government
too.

Another Hotel Business Man told to me on the day of Oct
25 - 1942 at Boiler Room his names Akagi about 10:00 a.m.
Block 26-1-C. Sanitation foreman of Block 26 and 28.
The all Japanese Hotel Business are so (good) higher for
last 3 years: last for 2 years I had make money 6 hundred
Dallar month or 7 hundred Dallar every month so that I
reported to taxation office of my income 4 handred Dallar
or some month 5 hundred Dallar. But for last 1 year every
month 8 hundred Dallar income. -- So that I could not cook
the tax any more last for 6 month. When I sold out my
Hotel before we move from Seattle. I told to new Hotel
buyer for income 6 hundred Dallar over every month. After
some day the new Hotel owned caled me at Pyallup assembly
center and he told about the making money every month 8
hundred Dallar income and he look so much joy and gladly'!!
This Hotel are between Washington St. and Main steet in
Seattle city. One day in last winter time. I talk this
story with aother Seattle business man, They said the
Tax Cooking are making sweeping.--Its better no talk such a

things How is your observation about this. This is only for your reference to wrote. I wish you are knowing for this not my supplicate to take back my job. I hope authorities taken act with in fair everythings.

/s/ 

July 17-43

P.S. Some one told to me at Block 42. A volunteers family all 3 worker lost all 3 job by this time Labor eliminate system. Thats family head asked to the office, the office man told him to take wait about a week for investigate. Such unfair act come out here and there.

Another things there's widely taking about Sanitation foremanunnecessariness. all Block manager could be control with Block mans and co-operation with each Block people should be cleaned up everywhere near the each Barrack now.

July 18-1943