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WA191 150 NT-SANTAMONICA CALIF JAN 5  
CONGRESSMAN LELAND FORD

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES 1942 JAN 6 PM 12 05

MY DEAR LELAND

WHY NOT URGE LEGISLATION TO COMPEL ALL JAPANESE  
TRUCK FARMERS WHO CONTROL NEARLY EVERY VITAL FOOT OF  
OUR CALIFORNIA COAST LINE WITH THEIR VEGETABLE ACREAGE  
TO RETIRE INLAND AT A SAFE DISTANCE FROM THE CALIFORNIA  
COAST WHICH HAS BEEN DECLARED A COMBAT ZONE. MEXICO  
HAS DONE THIS AS A PRECAUTION AND TO WE CALIFORNIANS  
THAT SEEMS GOOD SENSE. WHY WAIT UNTIL THEY PULL SOME-  
THING BEFORE WE ACT. I TRAVEL EVERY WEEK THROUGH A  
HUNDRED MILES OF JAPANESE SHACKS ON THE WAY TO MY RANCH  
AND IT SEEMS THAT EVERY FARM HOUSE IS LOCATED ON SOME  
STRATEGIC ELEVATED POINT. LET'S GET THEM OFF THE COAST  
INTO THE INTERIOR. YOU KNOW AND I KNOW THE JAPANESE  
SITUATION IN CALIFORNIA. THE EASTERN PEOPLE ARE NOT  
CONSCIOUS OF THIS MENACE. MAY I URGE YOU IN BEHALF OF  
THE SAFETY OF THE PEOPLE OF CALIFORNIA TO START ACTION  
AT ONCE. PERSONAL REGARDS

LEO CARRILLO

House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.  
Jan. 6, 1942

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The Honorable Cordell Hull  
Secretary of State  
Department of State  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I am enclosing herewith a copy of a telegram received from Leo Carillo, Santa Monica Canyon, Santa Monica, California, with reference to the removal of Japanese from the coastline, where they are operating truck farms, etc., to the interior. I thoroughly agree with the attitude expressed in Mr. Carrillo's telegram.

I can see, too, however, some of the complications that might arise, particularly where land might be operated by a nativeborn Japanese. Nevertheless, these are war times and I do not believe we could be any too strict in our consideration of the Japanese in the face of the treacherous way in which they do things, not only to this country, but in the accomplishment of any end they may have in view.

I shall be pleased to hear from you as to what we might be able to do to remove these people from the Coast.

I would be pleased, also, if you would let a carbon copy of any correspondence we may have go to Leo Carrillo, Santa Monica Canyon, Santa Monica, California.

I have the honor to remain, Mr. Secretary

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Leland Ford

Enclosure

CONGRESS OF U.S.  
House of Rep.  
Jan. 16, 1942

Leland M. Ford,  
16th Dist., Cal.

Letter

To: Mr. J. Edgar Hoover;

Letter to Hon. Frank Knox, Sec'y of the Navy - Jan. 16, 1942  
in file (D. of Justice) (see note 1. below)

I have recently received many letters and telegrams from Californians with reference to the internment of all Japanese and moving them from the Coast areas inland. The thought in mind, of course, is to prevent any fifth column activity.

I know that there will be some complications in connection with a matter like this, particularly where there are many native born Japanese, who are citizens. My suggestions in connection with this are as follows.

1. That these native born Japanese either are or are not loyal to the United States.

2. That all Japanese, whether citizens or not, be placed in inland concentration camps. As justification for this, I submit that if an American born Japanese, who is a citizen, is really patriotic and wishes to make his contribution to the safety and welfare of this country, right here is his opportunity to do so, namely, that by permitting himself to be placed in a concentration camp, he would be making his sacrifice and he should be willing to do it if he is patriotic and is working for us. As against his sacrifice, millions of other native born citizens are willing to lay down their lives, which is a far greater sacrifice, of course, than being placed in a concentration camp. Therefore, any loyal Japanese should not hesitate to do that which is absolutely the best for the country, and to operate in such a manner that his particular activity would be of the greatest benefit.

I would be glad to have your opinion on this matter.

Sincerely yours,  
L. M. Ford

Jan. 31, 1942

Letter to Ford from James Rowe, Jr., Alien Enemy Control Unit, acknowledging receipt of above from Hoover.

Note 1. Letter noting transmittal to Office of Naval Intelligence. "In view of the fact that the problem is one which comes under the Department of Justice, the Secretary of the Navy hesitates to express an opinion at this time." (no date - serial # 126916)

Hon. J. Anderson

- 3 -

Jan. 16, 1942

We employ some 450 to 500 people of which two-thirds are white people, and one third are Filipinos and Mesicans, the latter two being field labor. We did, ~~we~~ until December 7, 1941, employ a few Japanese field workers but have found since then that we can get along better without them.

Lets give the white farmer a chance.

Yours truly,  
RALPH E. MYERS COMPANY

By (Signed)  
Ralph E. Myers

January 24, 1942

Honorable John Z. Anderson  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Congressman Anderson:

The Secretary of the Treasury has referred to me your letter to him of January 5, 1942, in which you quote several paragraphs from a letter received by you from one of your constituents in Salinas, California, regarding Japanese nationals.

This Department is conducting a continuing investigation into the activities of Japanese, both aliens and native born, on the West Coast. As you know, several hundred Japanese nationals have been taken into custody, and all are subjected to stringent controls. The necessary criminal prosecutions will be undertaken in the cases of American born persons found to be engaged in subversive activities.

Your constituents can be of great help to us in this matter by reporting to the Federal Bureau of Investigation any indications of fifth column activities which come to their attention. I can assure you that any such information received will be given immediate and careful attention.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,  
(signed) Francis Biddle

Attorney General

COPY

February 20th  
1942

Alfred J. Elliott, Congressman,  
Tenth California District  
Room 232,  
House Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Alfred:

Thanks for your air mail letter which arrived this morning with reference to the Japanese infiltration into Tulare County and the San Joaquin Valley. Your letter was especially welcome in view of the fact that I had planned to write you today concerning the matter. There are certain developments and pressing situations which too many of our governmental officials overlook or seem little concerned about.

You appreciate, of course the difficulty of impressing official Washington with the Japanese situation in California and on the West Coast. It is not a new problem; it is only one which has been fanned into a white heat by what took place at Pearl Harbor. People of this state during the past half century have not been oblivious to the inroads of the Japanese into various farming activities as well as commercial ventures. Add to this the fact that you have a people unassimilable and you have about as nasty a race problem as any community or section ever faced. I doubt if any state, aside from California, has this picture clearly in mind.

Let me assure you that the crisis the people here are facing is real; it's on everyones' lips and in everyones' mind. Meetings which have been held in the valley and telegrams and letters which have been sent to officials in Washington and elsewhere have not been the undertaking of those easily inclined to hysteria, or written by the "crackpots"; but by the thoughtful leaders in every county community, and were I to name them you would easily recognize them as such.

They are concerned with only one thing:  
THEY WANT THE JAPANESE ALIEN AND THE AMERICAN  
BORN JAPANESE AS WELL, PEGGED SO THAT NO HARM  
MAY COME TO AMERICAN CITIZENS, AS WELL AS THE  
JAPANESE THEMSELVES, IN THIS GREAT COUNTY AND  
VALLEY DURING THE PRESENT TENSE SITUATION.

In the event of a "token" bombing, while even a genuine one is not remote, or during an attempted invasion, our American defenders must not be stabbed in the back or sabotaged at home while fighting an enemy in front. Furthermore, let me point out that what took place at Pearl Harbor, the careless burning and sinking of the Normandie at her pier in New York, together with the progress of the war in the Far East, has made the people of this area

Elliott-2

very skeptical and many of them doubt the ability of certain government officers and departments to hand the situation. The indignation of the public is something to contend with and the attitude of the people of this section towards the Japanese, citizen or non-citizen alike, with the influx of thousands into the valley from evacuated area, is one that will not stay within bounds for long, hence the urgent appeal of citizens to you and other government officials and agencies for immediate action.

We must not have another "Pearl Harbor" catastrophe in California; that is what the people are so frightened about and it is not beyond the realm of possibility when you consider the number of Japanese in the state and their absolute freedom of movement with cars and trucks.

AND WHY SHOULD OUR PEOPLE BE SUBJECTED TO SUCH AN EVENTUALITY? Why does not the Army, the Department of Justice, or whatever government office under whose jurisdiction it may be, declare a modified form of martial law in California, or better yet, all Pacific Coast states, so that this problem can be handled NOW? According to press reports from Washington, February 18, it was believed some definite action would be taken within 72 hours; this morning's releases say March 15. Let me assure you, for the safety of all concerned, the Ides of March will find action too late. ACTION MUST BE TAKEN NOW!

It doesn't appear that all Japanese need be evacuated from this area. Those whom the people of this county know, and who have lived among us for many years, engaged in agricultural pursuits, should perhaps be licensed to remain. However, their movements should be greatly restricted. As a safety precaution they should not be allowed the use of any type of motor vehicle. They should be confined to their homes between nightfall and daylight and during the day their activity should be prescribed.

Permit me to emphasize again the urgency of this matter and that action be not further delayed.

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Attached is a copy of a telegram received by George R. Goldman, orchardist of the Cutler district whom you know, which was doubtless sent in response to a telegram, copy of which you received, from a large number of representative citizens from this section of the valley.

WHO IS THIS RICHARD M NEUSTADT?

Let me inform you that the tone of the wire from a government official to citizens of this section merely served to make them fighting mad and made them have still less faith in some of our government officials on whom we are asked to rely. The person who wrote that wire shows an utter lack of understanding of the situation in which we find ourselves; it is false as to facts, and deals in generalities which have nothing to do with the pressing

situation which we in the valley face. The Department of Justice may be "vested" with authority to handle alien problems, but as far as the people are concerned, the problem is not being handled. It may be within the province of the Department of Justice to permit or move Japanese into this area, but the people who live here are not going to receive them and let them run around like a band of unherded sheep. Nor are the people interested in what "present regulations" are; they are in no mood to stand for an influx of Japanese into the valley.

Then the prize "bonehead" statement of all: "There is no movement of aliens (meaning Japanese, I suppose) into Tulare County". (While I have been writing this letter, two carloads of Japanese with all their earthly possessions, it appeared, stopped in front of my office to inquire the way to the oriental section of Dinuba). Then Neustadt winds up with what amounts to a statement that the people mind their own business. That's about what they are going to do.

Let me further point out that raids which have been made on Japanese in various sections of California, not excluding our own county, have produced all the evidence any one should need to prove their disloyalty to this country. In California, and all along the West Coast from Alaska to San Diego, we must be in a position to control the Japanese and other enemy nationals as well.

This feeling of insecurity which prevails among the citizens of this valley by reason of the thousands of Japanese among us must be changed. The situation must be changed from one of insecurity to one of stability; then we can go ahead with this "all out" effort to win the war.

Permit me to emphasize that there is no movement on foot in this vicinity that is not 100 percent patriotic and in the best interest of the United States; but somewhere we must cut red tape or whatever it is that is holding up action on a matter which threatens security.

Respectfully yours,

J. JACOBSEN

Publisher, The Advocate.

Copy to  
Earl Warren, Attorney General  
Ford A. Chatters, Lindsay Publisher.

undated

H

Halman speech. No  
layer of invasion.

Letter to Knox of Feb. 27 - same  
idea.

*Apparently this is  
speech to Halman.  
Not if! No real danger  
of invasion*

**Speed of Production:**

First, as to new plants: If industry, during normal times, seeks given areas as operating sites, it is an infallible evidence that there is some economic advantage. Included in these economic advantages must be speed of production. Any proposal to force war industries away from their natural habitat, and especially into sparsely settled regions, is bound to slow up production.

Second, as to existing plants: Administration officials, at the inception of the scare following Pearl Harbor, referred only to forcing new industries back from the Pacific Coast area. You, Mr Secretary, following the recent alleged airplane reconnaissance over Los Angeles, definitely discussed as a possibility moving existing, operating industries back from the coastal area, by taking them one unit at a time.

Your statements are probably the most disheartening and demoralizing for the people of the Pacific Coast area which could be made. We have an earnest desire to be a vital, virile portion of the United States in this war crisis. We have produced many war necessities, and can produce vastly more, if not up-set by our own people. To the end of continuing a powerful factor in this issue, we want to ask you some questions:

Have you made a study of the delay in production of war necessities which would result from the plan you suggested of moving existing industries back from the Pacific Coast to the interior. If you have not made such a study, with the utmost thoroughness and care, we want to urge this upon you at the present time. It is our conviction that any plans involving potential loss of production at this very critical period should be studied with the utmost thoroughness before they are put into effect.

We have observed that England with no area more than possibly 75 miles from the sea and with all of its factories within easy and short bombing range from German operated bases on the Continent of Europe is able to continue an enormous production of airplanes and war necessities despite the heaviest bombing ever inflicted upon any nation.

Observing this condition in Europe and then noting that the Japanese our enemy in the Pacific have no bases for airplanes probably less than 4,000 or 5,000 miles from our continental shore, will you give us your opinion of the relative disadvantage we face.

It has been suggested by some that there might be an occasional token carrier raid visited upon the Pacific coast. This would mean that a carrier probably small in size, was able to get through the naval and air patrols of the Pacific and put a few planes over some of our coast cities. Would this in your opinion constitute a menace that would justify moving the great producing industries of the Pacific Coast back to the interior with all of the consequent delay involved?

If there is a greater danger than a token raid, it would probably mean that the whole Japanese fleet was able to defeat the American fleet on the Pacific and if so doing would make a demonstration force against our shores. Since the Japanese fleet would have to cross the Pacific in accomplishing this, may we ask you if you regard this a serious potentiality, namely something that would justify interruption of airplane and essential metal production on the Pacific Coast?

The morale of our people is not injured seriously yet by discussions of those in power. This morale can be wrecked by taking a position indicating that the Pacific Coast is in grave danger and may be lost to the enemy. Do you not feel that we should go on the theory that in America and on the Pacific Coast, there are some elements like those found on the Bataan Peninsula under McArthur who are ready to fight furiously and scientifically to defeat any enemy attack.

Instead of a sea raid upon the Pacific Coast, would it not be more logical that the Japanese would attack this continent if they attacked at all through Alaska and Western Canada. If they did this, would their forces not be launched against the inter-mountain country of the Pacific coast rather than immediately on the coast line.

A. J. ELLIOTT  
TENTH DISTRICT  
CALIFORNIA

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, D. C.

COMMITTEES:  
CHAIRMAN, DISPOSITION OF  
EXECUTIVE PAPERS  
ROADS  
PUBLIC LANDS  
FLOOD CONTROL  
ELECTION OF PRESIDENT, VICE  
PRESIDENT, AND REPRESENTA-  
TIVES IN CONGRESS

February 27, 1942.

General John L. DeWitt,  
4th Army Western Defense Command,  
San Francisco, California.

My dear General DeWitt:

Supplementing our previous correspondence concerning the Japanese situation within our Western States, I am enclosing copy of my remarks before the Congress last Tuesday, February 24th.

I am also enclosing copy of a Japanese paper published in Los Angeles, and have marked the article wherein a definite invitation is given to all Japanese to settle in California's rich Central Valley.

You know, as I know, that the people throughout our State are justly concerned about this hazardous situation. Mass meetings have recently been held in Tulare County and the heavy correspondence I am receiving daily threatens that the people will form a Vigilantes Committee. They state that they will rid the State of these Japanese and in a manner that perhaps we cannot be proud of, but will be effective, at least.

Under stress of the existing conditions, if such a movement is started, there is no question but what our enemy will retaliate on the youth they now hold as prisoners.

The City Council of Lindsay, California, today sent me the following telegram:

"LOCAL CITIZENS URGENTLY REQUEST THAT EVACUATED JAPANESE FROM OTHER DEFENSE AREAS NOT BE ALLOWED TO REHABILITATE THEMSELVES IN OR AROUND LINDSAY, CALIFORNIA AND THOSE HAVING ALREADY SETTLED HERE BE MOVED. THIS LOCALITY IS OUT OF ANY AREA DESIGNATED FOR ALIEN CONTROL. WE ARE A HUB TOWN FOR 3 MAJOR ARMY AIR FIELDS-RANKIN, SEQUOIA, AND VISALIA-DINUBA AIRPORT. ALSO PROPOSED PORTERVILLE FIELD. NECESSARY ELECTRIC POWER PLANTS ARE JUST EAST OF US VULNERABLE TO SABOTAGE. TWO MAJOR

- 2 -

HIGH VOLTAGE POWER TRANSMISSION LINES ARE WITHIN A FEW MILES AND BOTH HAVE JAPANESE SETTLEMENTS VERY NEARLY UNDER THEM. THEY HAVE FARMS BORDERING OPEN WATER CANAL SERVING SOME TWELVE THOUSAND ACRES AND HUNDREDS OF FAMILIES. WE BELIEVE THEIR PRESENCE ENDANGERS CIVILIAN LIFE AND PROPERTY AND WE RESPECTFULLY SOLICIT IMMEDIATE ACTION FOR OUR PROTECTION."

Not only the defense facilities, referred to in the above telegram, would be jeopardized, but also our extensive oil fields and strategic highways located within this great Valley would be in jeopardy.

I again urge you to remove both alien and American-born Japanese from our Coast States, under the authority recently given you by the President.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

A. J. ELLIOTT

THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA  
SAN FRANCISCO

Office of  
The Department Commander

February 27, 1942

Honorable A.J. Elliott,  
House Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

My Dear Congressman:

Thank you for your letter of February 19.

Let me urge you to keep up your activities and see that immediate drastic action by the War Department is taken to eliminate the fifth Columnists here on the Pacific Coast. So far, General De Witt has done nothing to protect us since given the authority under executive order by the President.

Please build a fire under him -- it will be the most popular thing you can do during your term of office!

Very Truly yours,

/s/ Robert F. Garner, Jr.,  
Robert F. Garner, Jr.  
Department Commander

RFG:gem

TRUE COPY:r

A. J. Elliott  
Tenth District  
California

(Copy)

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

March 4, 1942

Mr. Harold H. Buckles,  
Secretary to Congressman Tolan,  
Chairman, House Committee Investigating  
National Defense Migration,  
Room 550 Old House Office Building,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Buckles:

I have your letter of March 3d, together with enclosed copies of telegrams.

In January, when I was in California, I suggested to Lieut. General John L. DeWitt, the removal of all Japanese, alien and American-born, alike.

Upon returning to Washington, Congressman Lea appointed John Z. Anderson of California, and myself, to interview officials of the Department of Justice. At that meeting, we asked for the removal of all alien and American-born Japanese, and also suggested the appointment of an Alien Property Custodian and Coordinator to assist in handling the Alien Enemy Problems in the States of California, Oregon and Washington.

Personally, I believe every House Member of California realizes the danger of alien and American-born Japanese remaining in our coast areas. Weeks before the Tolan Committee even thought of making a trip to California and the rest of the West Coast, many of us were working on the problem day and night, and we were assured long before the Tolan Committee went to the West Coast that plans were being worked out to handle all problems relative to the alien and American-born Japanese.

The Dies Committee had a most complete report regarding the Japanese situation even before war was declared, and I believe, as many others do, that the trip of the Tolan Committee to Investigate National Defense Migration is just another useless expenditure of Federal funds.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ A. J. Elliott

A. J. ELLIOTT

Appendix  
The Army and Evacuation — II  
Document I.

April 24, 1942

Mr. R.E. Stark  
Lindsay-Strathmore Irrigation District  
Lindsay, Calif

Dear Mr. Stark:

The Commanding General has asked me to write you concerning your request that the boundary of the First Military Area be projected easterly from its present line between Exeter and Porterville to include the Lindsay Strathmore Irrigation District, and an additional area to cover the approaches to the works of the District. In this connection, considerable data and information has been made available to this Division, consideration of which was supplemented by my recent visit to Tulare where the District was personally inspected and the matter was discussed with yourself, Congressman Elliott and others. It is believed, therefore, that the conclusion which has been reached is based upon sufficient familiarity with all the factors involved.

The following figures have been compiled at my request and were fully considered in connection with the decision reached. During the period of March 12 to April 21, 1942, the normal population of Tulare County was increased to the extent of 1129 persons of Japanese ancestry. Migrations during this particular period and the resultant net gain in population is attributable to voluntary movements on the part of the Japanese, in anticipation of prospective exclusion orders effective in the First Military Area. Of this total gain, 454 of the class of persons referred to have settled in Zone B of the First Military Area and will be shortly evacuated, and 675 have settled in the Second Military Area and are not amenable to restrictive and regulatory controls. In the latter category there were originally 764 such persons, but 89 of them had migrated out of the county prior to April 21. In order to draw a comparison, it may be of interest to you to know that during this same period, 2779 persons of Japanese ancestry have settled in Fresno County, lying adjacent to Tulare County.

It is fully appreciated that the physical works and facilities of the District represent an investment of close to \$2,000,000 and that the annual value of crops produced therein is said to approximate \$80,000,000. In the event of the destruction of the physical properties of the District, it may be conceded that under conditions existing at the present time, which presumably will continue to exist for the duration of the war, that very little could be done to effect a restoration of the District to a degree that would even approach its present effectiveness.

Attention has been directed to the fact that prior to the commencement of hostilities, that of the 1500 total population of the District approximately 250 were Japanese and that among them were included a number of aliens. Reference has been made in the foregoing ~~that~~ to the fact that subsequent migrations into Tulare County have probably increased this proportion of the district's population, and that Japanese are presently situated in locations therein which are readily accessible to critical physical properties of the District, such as pumping stations, lines, canals and flumes.

You have been advised that the establishment of military areas and zones is

is based wholly upon policy of military necessity. General DeWitt and this Division have been subjected to considerable pressure from many sources, covering numerous operations and establishments seeking inclusion in military areas through the process of extending boundaries. It is no exaggeration to state that the granting of all such requests would include, territorially, the greater portions of the States of Washington, Oregon and California. It became immediately obvious to General DeWitt that the evacuation program was generally confused with the broader campaign against sabotage and subversive activity which the Army cannot undertake alone and at the same time continue its organization and training program for combat purposes. Responsibility for the success of this latter campaign is a divided responsibility and must be shared by individuals, corporations, both public and private, and other governmental agencies, as well as the military. It has been and still is the intention of General DeWitt to conduct the evacuation program in accordance with a policy of direct rather than indirect military necessity, and this term is construed in its narrower sense.

The term "military necessity" as used in this connection must be construed and limited to relate to the tactical and logistical defense of the territory of this Command against physical attack. The coastal strip and the strip North of the Mexican border (Military Area No. 1) are the regions of greatest vulnerability. In this strip are included the major portion of all West Coast vital war industries such as shipyards and aircraft factories. Further inland, east of this strip, many additional prohibited areas have been set aside. These are likewise vital to the successful defense of this coast and represent a great variety of installations such as naval, military and air establishments, air ports, ammunition dumps, arsenals, bridges and tunnels on highway and railroad rights of way, dams, power plants and lines, communication nerve centers, including radio, telegraph and telephone, and many others. The irrigation district does not fall within this category.

The responsibility for the protection of the facilities of the District rests fundamentally and inherently with the District itself and with local enforcement authorities. Even in the event the requested extension was granted, and as a result thereof all Japanese were excluded from the District, this in itself would be no guarantee as to the security of the works if left unprotected and unguarded. They would still be vulnerable to a planned and organized sabotage attack.

You are advised, therefore, that the boundary of Military Area No. 1, from Exeter to Porterville, cannot be altered to include the Lindsay-Strathmore Irrigation District. If a contrary decision were reached, consistency would require that similar extensions be made throughout the entire length of the line from border to border, and no limit can be foreseen as to where such extensions should logically cease.

Very truly yours,

KARL R. BENDETSON  
Colonel, ~~222~~ G.S.C.  
Assistant Chief of Staff  
Civil Affairs Division

cc: Congressman Elliott

# CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

# WESTERN UNION

1201

# SYMBOLS

DL=Day Letter

NT=Overnight Telegram

LC=Deferred Cable

NLT=Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

A. N. WILLIAMS  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

WASHINGTON, D.C., APRIL 27, 1942.

COLONEL KARL F. BENDETSSEN  
WARTIME CIVILIAN CONTROL ADMINISTRATOR  
PRESIDIO SAN FRANCISCO  
CALIFORNIA

SINCE OUR RECENT TRIP THROUGH TULARE COUNTY THE JAPANESE SITUATION HAS BECOME MORE CRITICAL DAILY. THE INFLUX CREATES A HAZARD TO OUR FORESTS AND UTILITIES. HAS A DECISION FOR THEIR REMOVAL BEEN REACHED? ADVISE ME BY WIRE. MY PEOPLE BECOMING VERY MUCH ALARMED. WHEN CAN WE EXPECT JAPANESE REMOVED FROM EASTERN AND NORTHERN TULARE COUNTY? YOU SAW THE DANGER.

*Copy of Bendetsen's  
reply to State of April 24 -  
sent in reply to him.*

A. J. ELLIOTT

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

A12-051

C  
O  
P  
Y  
HARRY L. ENGLEBRIGHT

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

Committees:

Mines and Mining  
Public Lands  
Flood Control

April 28, 1942

Honorable Claude R. Wickard  
Secretary of Agriculture  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Wickard:

I am herewith enclosing a copy of a resolution adopted by the Tulalake Chamber of Commerce, the Siskiyou Farm Center of California, the Malin Grange, Merrill Service Club, Malin Chamber of Commerce, and the Klamath Falls Chamber of Commerce, Oregon, opposing the establishment of a Japanese evacuee camp in the Klamath Reclamation District.

It would appear that the people within Tulalake and other communities within this Reclamation project were not consulted in the subject, and that the land to be used by the Japanese is valuable agricultural land that was expected to be settled by white settlers. The settlers and homesteaders of the Tulalake and Klamath Reclamation district are principally war veterans and have worked diligently and hard for many years to make a success of this project for themselves.

Would you be kind enough to advise me as to the procedure followed in the establishment of this camp, and what protection will be given to the rights of the settlers, both as to their interest in the project and to the future social conditions that will prevail in this, more or less, isolated community.

I fully realize the difficulties of the problem, but in my opinion state and local authorities should be advised before such camps are established on fertile land and in the midst of white American citizens.

I most earnestly urge that the proposed Japanese evacuee camp at Tulalake be established at some other spot.

Would be so kind as to let me hear from you on this problem, and oblige,

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Harry L. Englebright

MC 2nd District of California

HLE:MLD  
Enc:

## Resolution

Whereas, it has come to the attention of the Tulelake Chamber of Commerce that it is the intention of the United States government to locate an encampment in which to concentrate certain aliens and American-born citizens of foreign descent; and

Whereas, it is recognized by the chamber of commerce that it is the duty of and a matter of vital importance to the government to segregate and remove from vital areas, adequately protect and suitably provide for both enemy aliens and certain American citizens of foreign descent for the duration of the present emergency, and

Whereas, it has come to the attention of the chamber of commerce that valuable lease land in the Tulelake basin now being farmed by native American citizens has been proposed for occupation of concentration camp evacuees, and

Whereas this land is highly developed and in full production; that the present operators are all local people who have a considerable investment in their operations; that it is now producing crops that United States D. A. Secretary Wickard has asked be increased for war emergency; that because of short growing season but one crop a year can be grown, rendering the land unsuitable for truck farming, and that revenues for the lease which applies on the bonded indebtedness will cease, thus depriving land owners of benefit of income from rentals in addition to actual production of crops.

Whereas, this area is only 125 miles from the Pacific Coast, well within the 150 mile limit which we have been informed by the press has been set aside as a defense area, and

Whereas, the proposed camp site is located within the Klamath Reclamation project, the farmers and settlers on which are now engaged in the production of food for national defense and which is dependent upon an extensive system of laterals, canals, dams, dikes and pumping plants, all of which are readily susceptible to sabotage, and

Whereas, this area is highly developed and has been settled by ex-service men of previous wars, and that it has been a matter of pride that the settlement has been confined to the white race, and when six Japanese made voluntary residence within the basin they were forcibly removed, and

Now, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Tulelake Chamber of Commerce that protests be lodged with the proper governmental authorities against location of such a camp in this area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U. S. army be requested to substitute as a camp site the Madeline Plains, a vast area of which ten or twelve thousand acres are watered, ninety miles south of here and fifty miles north of Noney Lake Valley, a fertile area similar to ours which would be as desirable for such concentration camp and from which such farm labor as needed could be used by both valleys, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be sent to senators and representatives of both Oregon and California and to the commanding general of this area and to other governmental agencies concerned.

TULELAKE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

By \_\_\_\_\_  
President

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

Resolution

April 13, 1942

We, Siskiyou County Farm Center of Tulelake, Calif., hereby go on record as opposing the establishment of a Japanese camp in the Tulelake area.

If said camp is established, we ask that the same be kept under guard at all times and that at the end of the war all Japs be removed from the area.

(Signed) E. W. STAUNTON  
Pres. Tulelake Farm Center

Appendix  
The Army and Evacuation - II.  
Document II.

May 9, 1942

Mr. R. E. Stark  
Lindsay  
California

Dear friend Dick:

This morning I received your telegram and was pleased to know that the Directors will not accept Col. Bendetson's letter as final.

Late last evening, I sent an air-mail letter to Claude Nelson and requested that he telephone you advising of its contents, it being my thought to confer further with officials here and at that time write you direct.

Yesterday I met with Col. Bendetson and also Mr. Eisenhower, who has charge of the evacuation of Japanese on the West Coast, and we discussed the Japanese situation for three hours. This is the third meeting we have had in the last ten days, and there is no doubt but what General DeWitt has taken an arbitrary position.

After talking with officials higher than the General, I am confident that things will be beginning to shape around where consideration will be given our side of the picture, and I do not believe I am wrong in advising you that by the end of this month, or sooner, there will be a change in the boundary line in Tulare County, and it is likely that all Japanese will be moved from the State of California.

One other thing in addition to my contacts here which will be necessary to bring this about is to put the pressure on General DeWitt.

You realize, Dick, that no publicity can be given this suggestion, but I would suggest that civic organizations continue to urge him to remove all Japanese. I cannot help but believe that the course I have taken here was responsible for the visit of Col. Bendetson and Mr. Eisenhower, and I assure you that I will continue my operations for the eventual removal of all Japanese.

With warm regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

A. J. Elliott



# HOLME & SEIFERT

CALIFORNIA VEGETABLES

SALINAS, CALIFORNIA

May 12 1942

Honorable John Z. Anderson  
House Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Jack:

Thanks so much for yours of the 4th with  
your H.J. RES. 305.

I should have been amazed to learn of the  
great opposition but I was not, simply because I  
have heard expressions of opinion by various people  
which would indicate there would be opposition.

Many people have the idea we should demon-  
strate to the Japs what good people we are and by  
treating them like white brothers and welcoming them  
into our midst with wide open arms, we would be setting  
the example for all the world to follow.

Idealistic, but BALONEY!

Unquestionably there are some Japanese who  
will remain loyal to the United States and America  
under all circumstances. Personally I wouldn't bet  
on any one of them no matter what his past record  
was, not because I don't believe there are some  
intensely loyal ones but who is there to tell which  
one or ones, would be loyal under all circumstances.

Last week's issue of Saturday Evening Post  
ran an article by Frank Taylor, "THE PEOPLE NOBODY  
WANTS", which doesn't give the true picture as you  
well know, particularly that portion which is a very  
large portion, referring to Tom Yuki.

There are two very interesting and enlighten-  
ing articles in the current issue of Readers Digest  
which refer to Commodore Perry and the Japanese. If  
I remember correctly the articles are entitled "WE FIND  
THE JAPANESE" and "THE JAPANESE FIND US", which very

- 2 -

graphically portrays the Japanese characteristics as they were then and as they still are.

You and I and thousands of other Californians know that if the Japs are permitted to own or lease land (when I say Japs I mean American born as well as aliens) it will only be a question of time when they will own all of the best farming land on the Pacific coast and will be strong enough politically to be the predominating factor in the western part of the United States.

Personally, as far as it will effect my own life and fortune, it makes no difference but I am thinking of the generations of Americans to come who altho they are not yet here, are looking to us to protect them and keep our beloved country in our hands and not give it away to the Japs.

If it were not for the "white skinned Japs" in this country there wouldn't be any Japanese question.

What can you suggest that I do and thousand of other Californians be led to do, that may make it possible to get rid of all Japs, sending them back to Japan either before or after the war is won. I am convinced that if it is not done or at least the action completed before the war is over, it will be impossible to get rid of them.

If I understand your H.J.RES. 305 correctly I would interpret it to mean that if the Constitution is amended accordingly, no children born to alien Japanese parents may become citizens. In other words, any Japanese who come to this country and have children while here will not benefit their children in the form of their automatically becoming American citizens. Is this understanding correct?

If my understanding is right, then it would mean that all American born Japs now living and all their children and their childrens' children, can become American citizens, in fact, would automatically have citizenship. This means that the Japanese population would increase at a far greater rate than the white population is increasing and evenutally by force of numbers alone, would take our country. This as you know, would not be true of any white race but because the Japanese cannot be assimilated as the white races we must do everything we can to stop them now as we have a golden opportunity now and may never have it again.

Sorry to have written such a long letter but I would appreciate your views and suggestions.

Very truly yours,

E. M. SEIFERT, JR.,

ems/mek

COPY

May 14, 1942

E. M. Seifert, Jr.  
Holme & Seifert  
Salinas, California

Dear Ed:

This will acknowledge your letter of May 12 with further reference to H. R. Res 305.

Your interpretation of the resolution is entirely correct and it is the only method I know of by which the subject can presently be approached. It is going to have no effect on Japanese citizens presently residing in the United States and this very important matter must be approached from a different angle. As you undoubtedly realize the most essential need is for an aroused public opinion and a strong movement that would support any program for the removal of Japanese aliens and/or citizens.

I do not believe that the general public has yet recognized the seriousness of the situation and whatever you can do to arouse them to the potential dangers that exist will certainly be most helpful. I know that several of my colleagues share my views on the subject but it is also true that undoubtedly a majority of the members of Congress, guided by idealistic thinking, might look with disfavor upon any plan that is proposed.

If you can think of any good method of approach that will impress all of them as well as offer the general public the seriousness of the Japanese situation I will appreciate your suggestions.

Trusting this finds you well and with best regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

*John E. Anderson*

Appendix  
The Army and Evacuation - II.  
Document III.

STARK AND WADDELL PACKING CORPORATION

SUNKIST

Oranges, Lemons, Grape Fruit  
Lindsay, Calif.

May 14  
1942

Honorable Alfred J. Elliott  
Member of Congress  
Washington, D.C.

Dear friend Alfred:

Appreciated very much receiving yours of May 9. As stated in my wire to you, our Board of Directors cannot accept Colonel Bendetsen's letter as final. I am enclosing herewith a copy of letter to the Colonel which is being forwarded by authority of the Board.

Have conferred with Claude at Porterville and will arrange for a meeting with representatives of the Cattlemen's Association, American Legion, Farm Bureau, and other important agricultural groups, within the next few days. I believe it would be well if our Boards of Supervisors representing Kern, Tulare, and Fresno Counties could be persuaded to take an active interest in this matter. It is the intention of our group to approach them.

It is the consensus of opinion of all those with whom I have talked about this matter during the past few days, that the feeling towards the Japanese is rapidly crystallizing and because of this I am fearful that acts of violence may occur at any time, and this, by all means, should be avoided, and the one and only way it can be avoided is the removal of these Japanese residents to concentration camps. Your cooperation in this matter is, I assure you, greatly appreciated. Will you please advise if you have any suggestions that you feel might be helpful.

Thanking you, and with kind personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

/s/ R.E. Stark

R. E. Stark

RES:a

TRUE COPY:R

Appendix  
~~Re~~ Evacuation and the Army - II  
Document IV

May 14, 1942

Col. Karl R. Bendetsen  
Assistant Chief of Staff, Civil Affairs Division  
Western Defense Command  
1231 Market Street  
San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Colonel Bendetsen:

Your letter of the 24th of April has been given our careful study and consideration. We are particularly impressed with the fullness and frankness with which you express your views and, even though our conclusions differ, our high confidence in the army is not diminished by it.

And so, with equal frankness, I would like to state our attitude and position.

It goes without saying that our most immediate concern is our own system and works, but we have always appreciated the fact that our local problem is only a part of a much larger one. For that reason we have heretofore confined our statements to our own local situation it being our idea that, once this situation is brought to your attention, the military would design a general scheme which would comprehend the solution of as many local problems as possible. We regarded the zone lines drawn in the original order as ones drawn more under compulsions of the immediate necessities than as a finished or final solution of the problem. For those reasons we also refrained from "joining in" any concerted action with any others designed to, as you say, "bring pressure." We did not and do not wish to unnecessarily add to the already heavy burdens and responsibilities of the army; but we do look to the army for informed leadership.

We are unable to understand the reasoning whereby an open road or highway running along the valley floor and which, for a considerable distance, follows fairly close to the natural contours of the foothills, should be a military boundary. The road as it is situated could not, so far as we are able to see, stop or limit military action, but the hills themselves might. If such a boundary line is supported only by the reason that the boundary "must stop somewhere" and that the road is a convenient and easily traced line, then it follows that we in the area are left exposed to danger in order to simplify the job of the surveyor.

We think we fully appreciate the difficulties implied in your statement that the evacuation problem is confused with the general campaign against sabotage and the subversive activities, but the enemy will not be much concerned with the logical niceties of our analytical breakdown. He will invade, sabotage, subvert whenever and wherever and however he can in order to attain his end. In our present situation the district and, so far as we know, all other civil authorities, have no legal power under which the area can be cleared or practically or effectively policed or protected against the saboteur which is the danger we immediately fear and the army is the only agency we know of which possesses the legal power to make such protection possible. Now, our point is that it would be better for not only ourselves but for all concerned in the protection of this Western area, including the army itself, if the territorial limits which the army places upon its own exercise of that power were drawn along natural and not artificial lines. In this locality such a line would run along the peak of the Sierras, or the Eastern boundary of the State, rather than along a high-

May 14, 1942

2/

way which has no apparent natural relation to the terrain over which it runs or the developments therein.

. . . . . To run such a natural boundary would add but a small burden to the evacuation; but it would be the only way in which the area as it naturally exists. . . could be dealt with as the natural unit which it is for all purposes.

. . . . .

R.E. Stark



S. V. Christierson  
CALIFORNIA VEGETABLES  
Salinas, California

TELEPHONES: 2100  
2101

May 19, 1942

Honorable John Z. Anderson  
House of Representatives  
Congress of the United States  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Jack:

What has become of the Resolution you introduced in Congress several weeks ago, providing for a Constitutional amendment that would make it possible to ship all these Japanese, whether of foreign or American birth, back to Japan as soon as the War is over?

I would greatly appreciate having a copy of this Resolution, in fact, fifty of them, as I would like to send a copy to all of our directors in the Western Growers Protective Association, asking them to support this measure to the fullest extent. I feel that now is the time to do this and do it right. If we wait until after the War is over the "sob sisters" are going to hold sway again and we will never be able to get such a Resolution through Congress and the various State Legislatures.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,

S. V. Christierson

SVC:BT

✓  
May 22, 1942

Mr. S. V. Christierson  
California Vegetables  
Salinas, California

Dear Mr. Christierson:

I am enclosing herewith several copies of the House Joint Resolution which I introduced with reference to the Japanese citizenship status.

You apparently misunderstood the purport of my resolution, which you will note has to do with future generations of Japanese who are born of alien parents in this country. This is the only approach I know of which might have any chance of success at the present time.

The matter has been discussed in correspondence with our good friend, Ed Seifert and although he favors your plan he does not know just how we can accomplish the desired objective.

My resolution is presently pending before the House Judiciary Committee and I do not anticipate that any action will be taken on it until a report is received from the Attorney General of the United States.

Thanking you for your interest and with best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

✓  
May 22, 1942

Mr. S. V. Christiersen  
California Vegetables  
Salinas, California

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Thanking you for your interest and with best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

A. J. ELLIOTT  
TENTH DISTRICT  
CALIFORNIA

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

3 Copies  
COMMITTEES:  
CHAIRMAN, DISPOSITION OF  
EXECUTIVE PAPERS  
ROADS  
PUBLIC LANDS  
FLOOD CONTROL  
PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

June 16, 1942

Mr. R. E. Stark,  
Lindsay, California.

Dear friend Dick:

Although I have not written you recently concerning the Japs in eastern Tulare County, I have been active here to secure their removal.

Today I was informed that those Japs now frozen in the eastern part of our county would be moved to an evacuation center as soon as there is available room.

It is my opinion that this will be accomplished by July 15th. You can be assured that I will continue to keep after this problem until we are rid of them.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

A. J. ELLIOTT

STANDARD TIME INDICATED

RECEIVED AT

TELEPHONE YOUR TELEGRAMS  
TO POSTAL TELEGRAPH

Form 16

# Postal Telegraph

Mackay Radio  
Commercial Cables



All America Cables  
Canadian Pacific Telegraphs

THIS IS A FULL RATE TELEGRAM, CABLE-  
GRAM OR RADIOGRAM UNLESS OTHERWISE  
INDICATED BY SYMBOL IN THE PREAMBLE  
OR IN THE ADDRESS OF THE MESSAGE.  
SYMBOLS DESIGNATING SERVICE SELECTED  
ARE OUTLINED IN THE COMPANY'S TARIFFS  
ON HAND AT EACH OFFICE AND ON FILE WITH  
REGULATORY AUTHORITIES.

Washington, D. C. July 9, 1942

GEORGE W. TRAUGER, SUPT.  
LINDSAY STRATHMORE IRRIGATION DISTRICT,  
LINDSAY, CALIFORNIA.

REPORTED HERE THAT FARMERS REQUESTED RETENTION JAPS SAN JOAQUIN  
VALLEY AND MEETING BEING HELD TODAY SAN FRANCISCO WITH GOVERNOR.  
CHECK THIS AND IF UNFOUNDED HAVE FARM ORGANIZATIONS PROTEST.  
I HAVE WORKED WITH WAR DEPARTMENT FOR WEEKS TO EXPEDITE REMOVAL  
AND NOW THAT AUTHORITY SECURED DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE PERMITTED  
TO ACT. DOING MY UTMOST TO GET MEXICAN LABOR TO RELIEVE SHORTAGE.

A. J. ELLIOTT M C

OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
TENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
CALIFORNIA

Regional Files 103, Wash. D.C.  
Miyamoto

A12.051

Teletype from Roy Nash to Fryer  
July 19, 1942

Congressman Leland Ford in Associated Press Dispatch dated 18th complained of federal employees who were fed steaks fried potatoes etc denied Japanese at adjoining tables stop This was practice under Wartime Civil Control Administration which I ended immediately on taking control and before Ford was at Manzanar stop He is repeating what I told him of previous condition not what he saw