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JAPANESE-AMERICAN EVACUATION

RELOCATION CENTERS: GRANADA, COLORADO

1944

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3/30/44

The draft age evacuee Americans of Japanese ancestry have been and are responding to the call of the government to accept military service and civilian responsibilities in the war effort.

As it is known to all of us, the evacuees suffered severe economic losses and hardships and they are faced with numerous problems both present and future, as a direct consequence of evacuation. There is, as a result, a deep and general concern among the residents of the center as to the future security and welfare of the dependents and relatives of the Americans of Japanese ancestry being called into service.

We believe, however, that the rights and privileges of citizenship should, in all justice, be combined with the duties and obligations of citizenship. Therefore and pursuant to widespread appeal made by the citizen residents of the community, we, the Amache Community Council, hereby submit the following requests which they have asked us to forward:

1. That equal opportunity for service and advancement in all branches of the Armed Forces and Services be opened and offered to Japanese American draftees solely on the basis of individual merit and qualification.
2. That Japanese American servicemen who are called to the colors hereafter be co-mingled with citizens of other racial extractions and not be assigned to segregated units.
3. That evacuee's right to travel and live wherever he chooses within any of the 48 states and territories of the United States, on the very same basis as any other American citizen or resident, be restored without delay.
4. That all evacuees be accorded all the rights and privileges which the Constitution of the United States gives them.
5. That any resettlement policy of the evacuees still remaining in the centers be coupled with adequate government protection and the economic means to start life anew.
6. That clarification be made regarding the voting and residenceship status of Japanese Americans who become of age in the centers.



7. That the right to become naturalized citizens of the United States be extended to the alien Japanese.
8. That pending complete resettlement, relocation centers be preserved and evacuees remaining therein be accorded treatment befitting loyal Americans and law-abiding residents, and that adequate wages be paid them scaled according to U. S. Army standards.
9. That immediate and more vigorous effort be made by the United States Government towards enlightening the misinformed American public with truth regarding the Japanese in America, and that the factual difference between the people of Japanese extraction who are loyal citizens and law-abiding residents of this country and the Japanese people in Japan be clearly presented.
10. That students of Japanese ancestry be freely admitted to all the schools on the same basis with students of any other racial extraction.
11. That the United States Government establish adequate precautionary measures so that the sad experiences of evacuation will never again be repeated either with the Japanese or with any other group because of race, color, or creed.

These requests are made to you insofar as they fall within your jurisdiction.

Since we feel keenly that democracy is the ideal way of life, we are making these requests on behalf of every American in the hope that our democracy may be made more perfect for the benefit of everyone.

Respectfully yours,

Community Council  
Granada Relocation Center  
Amache, Colorado