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DRAFT OF CLOSING STATEMENT BEFORE JUDGE FEE

November 18, 1942

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
COMMUNITY ANALYSIS SECTION

YOUR HONOR:

If the court please, I should like to say a few words. There is no intent to plead for leniency for myself or to request a mitigation of the punishment that is about to be inflicted upon me.

Despite the circumstances, I am compelled to pay tribute and give my unreserved respect to this honorable court for its clear-cut and courageous reaffirmation of the inviolability of the fundamental civil rights and liberties of an American citizen.

As an American citizen, it was for a clarification and the preservation of those rights that I undertook this case, confident that the American judiciary would zealously defend those rights, war or no war, in order to preserve the fundamental democratic doctrines of our nation and to perpetuate the eternal truths of America.

My confidence has been justified and I feel the greatest satisfaction and a patriotic uplift in the decision of this honorable court, for it is full of significance for every American, be he humble or mighty.

I say that I am glad, regardless of the personal consequence to me, because I believe in the future and in the ultimate destiny of America. Ever since I was a child, I have been inculcated in the basic concepts and the traditions of those great patriots who founded our nation.

I have lived, believed, worked and aspired as an American. With due respect to this honorable court, in all good conscience, I can say that I have never, and will never, voluntarily relinquish my American citizenship.

The decision of this honorable court to the contrary notwithstanding, I am confident that I can establish in law and in fact that I am an American citizen, who is not only proud of that fact, but who is willing to defend that right.

When I attained majority, I swore allegiance to the United States of America, renouncing any and all other allegiances that I may have unknowingly owed. That solemn

obligation to my native land has motivated me during the past twelve months upon three separate and distinct occasions to volunteer for active service in the United States Army, wheresoever it may be fighting to preserve the American way of life.

For, I would a thousand times prefer to die on a battle front as an American soldier in defense of freedom and democracy, for the principles which I believe, rather than to live in relative comfort as an interned alien Jap.

The treacherous attack on Pearl Harbor, the bombing of Manila, the aggressor policies of the war lords of Japan are just as reprehensible to me as to any American citizen.

If America were invaded today, I, and 70,000 other loyal American citizens of Japanese ancestry would be willing, so eager, to lay down our lives, down in the streets, down in the gutters, to defend our homes, our country and our liberties!

Be that as it may; I reiterate, regardless of the personal consequences, even tho it entail the sacrifice of my American citizenship which I regard as sacred and more dear than life itself, I pay homage and salute this honorable court and my country, the United States of America, for the gallant stand that has been taken for the preservation of the fundamental principles of democracy and freedom!

MIN YASUI

Original written in the Multnomah County Jail, November 17, 1942.

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Copy of translation of petition by
mothers of Minidoka Relocation
Center, February 10, 1944.

The mothers of those in Minidoka, who are at the draft ages.

We, the mothers of those who are at the draft ages and who are the residents in Minidoka, are woorying over the draft order just promulgated. We think that our sons, even though they are the citizens, have been in the position that makes them incapable to exercise their right as the citizens since the time of evacuation owing to severe rejection by the government and by the people.

For instance, in some states and cities, to the citizens of the Japanese ancestry:

1. Buying lands is forbidden.
2. Issuing licenses is forbidden.
3. By the order of military authority, entering the highest universities is refused.
4. Engaging in the war industry is excluded.
5. That Lieutenant General DeWitt called them "A Jap is a Jap", after evacuation, and treated them like enemy aliens, has been thought by us as the act of not only himself (DeWitt) but also as the act of the government.

From the present circumstances stated above, we, mothers, feel impatient great pains to see that they are forced only to discharge their duties fully by sacrificing their lives in fighting at the front. All of us are now passing days and nights in pain and worry.

We petition, therefore, to give you reconsideration to this matter, by sympathizing with our situation.

COPY

NISEI PETITION: Drafted by MIN YASUI

To be presented to:

President Franklin Roosevelt
Secy of War Henry Stimson
Lt. General Delos Emmons

Minidoka WRA
Hunt, Idaho
February 10, 1944

We, AMERICAN CITIZENS of Japanese ancestry, now awaiting call into the United States Army under the Selective Service, are highly gratified by the recognition by the federal authorities of our rightful place in America, and we are proud of being given the opportunity to serve our country in its hour of need. When and if called for active service, we shall do our utmost to contribute to the glories of arms of our nation and to give lie to perverted Axis doctrine of superiority of a "chosen race". We are willing and eager to add our share to the national effort in attaining an early victory and in the winning of the war.

However, in that we are now subject to all the obligations of citizenship whereas some of the rights and privileges of an American citizen have been denied to us or are temporarily suspended, we wish to point out that certain inequities exist. We respectfully submit that consistent with the highest ideals of justice and democracy, our national government should devote attention towards the correction of these inequities.

We feel that the following matters merit special consideration by our government:

1. Freedom of movement:

We believe that we, American citizens of Japanese ancestry, should be permitted to exercise the equal right of movement anywhere at anytime as enjoyed by other American citizens. We are prohibited from entering coastal areas within the Western Defense Command in which our former homes are located. We believe that no discriminatory restriction based on race should be imposed upon the movement of any citizen who is not specifically deprived of such right by due process of law.

2. Right to own property:

We believe that the prohibition against "contraband articles" by the Western Defense Command should be revoked, and that we be permitted to possess whatsoever properties and to use them as any other citizen, subject to the same penalties for the misuse of any such articles.

3. Equal Choice of Service in the armed forces:

We believe that the arbitrary designation of qualified Americans of Japanese ancestry to either the special combat unit at Camp Shelby or to the special language school at Camp Savage should be modified so as to allow inductees of Japanese ancestry an option of service in any branch of the armed forces of the United States. We feel that it would be a more effective and dramatic exhibition

of democracy in action if we are permitted to fight the enemy at the side of our fellow Americans, regardless of ancestry or color, rather than in any segregated unit. Moreover, there are many amongst us who have had specialized training and desire to serve our country in the special field in which we are best qualified and can be of most service. We earnestly request that the privilege of selecting the branch of service in which we are to serve be extended to us, subject to the usual requirements of qualification and national necessity.

4. Availability of special military training program:

We believe that Americans of Japanese ancestry should be granted the same opportunity of joining in special military training programs in colleges and universities as other American soldiers. We feel that many of us are well qualified for such training, and that our best contribution to the war effort could be made along such specialized lines.

5. Equality of Opportunity for Advancement:

We believe that advancement in the military forces should be open to all American soldiers on the basis of ability and qualification. We believe that graduates of the Camp Savage Language School and teachers of Japanese ancestry should be granted commissions on the same basis as any other American citizen. We feel that the denial of the opportunity of advancement to American soldiers of Japanese ancestry to be repugnant to the ideals and aims for which this war is fought.

6. Equality of Employment in Industry:

We believe that the fullest opportunity should be extended to us for employment in any field of industry upon the same basis as any other American citizen. A great many of us have applied for jobs in essential industries to do our share in the nation's war effort, but have been denied such employment, subject to the advance "loyalty check", peculiarly handicapping us in our contribution to the war effort. We feel that such security measures of the internal plant division of the War Department should be applied on an equal basis as other American citizens, without penalizing us on account of race or ancestry. We feel that the President's Proclamation 8802 should be carried out in fact as well as in spirit.

We believe that the above matters should be clarified by our national government for our benefit, as American citizens, as a matter of fundamental right. We feel that the cheerful and willing assumption of our obligations as American citizens reciprocally calls for the unequivocal restoration of our full citizenship rights.

Further, we feel that the following matters should be given your favorable consideration:

1. "Friendly Alien Status" for Japanese nationals whose sons or daughters are serving in the armed forces of the United States. We feel that the sacrifice of the parents and the patriotism and devotion of such soldier sons and daughters merit special consideration. We condemn and abhor the militaristic caste of Japan and their megalomaniac actions in the conduct of this war; but we believe that those of us who are making actual sacrifices to preserve the American way of life ought to be granted special recognition.
2. That the present administration formulate, initiate and enact proper legislation to make financial restitution to those of us who have suffered tremendous monetary, as well as other, losses because of the forced evacuation from our original homes. We believe that such compensation is imperative to maintain the honor and ideals of our nation.
3. That our government exert its efforts to suppress and prevent discriminatory actions and inflammatory anti-Japanese campaigns aimed directly at us, American citizens of Japanese ancestry, and our parents. There exists a program of hate on the West Coast directed not against the enemy we are fighting but against us, who, by our conduct and sacrifices, have demonstrated our loyalty as American citizens; there are a number of un-American communities which will not accept us as residents and other communities which will not permit us to engage in business or other gainful employment. We feel that federal influences must be brought to bear to eradicate such practices, or our sacrifices on the altar of war will have been in vain.

We, as American citizens, are willing to offer our lives for our country, if need be. We are eager to fulfill conscientiously and patriotically every obligation of American citizenship. Therefore, we believe the request for the restoration of every right and privilege of American citizenship cannot be denied to us. Further, we strongly feel that the derogation of the rights of any American citizen besmirches the sacredness and inviolability of American citizenship. We have faith in America, we have faith that our government will not tolerate such inequities to exist any longer than absolutely necessary.

We, the undersigned, respectfully request that careful attention be given to the above matters, and that our government issue proper statements and directives regarding the future status and treatment of American citizens of Japanese ancestry.

MOTHERS' PETITION

WE, the undersigned, a group of mothers of Japanese American sons now awaiting call under the selective service, at the Minidoka War Relocation Center, in Idaho, urgently desire to call attention to certain matters for consideration by the federal authorities, in connection with the impending draft of our sons.

We believe that the federal authorities are well aware of the tremendous unaccustomed hardships and bitter experiences that we, as mothers, and our families have had to undergo as a result of the forced evacuation from our homes on the West Coast; we are sure that the federal authorities are well aware of the great heartbreak and poignant sufferings of anxiety that we have endured, having been forcibly removed from our well loved comfortable homes and removed to the desert wastelands of an artificial frontier community surrounded by barbed wire fences.

Nevertheless, despite all these things, and a great deal more, we, as mothers, are tearfully consenting to send our sons to war, and in the true spirit of motherhood, urging our sons to serve faithfully and heroically in the service of the United States Army, even, if necessary, at the cost of their lives. We feel that our sons are Americans, a part of the good and great things of America, and that it is only fitting and proper

that they respond patriotically to the call of their country.

For us, as mothers, as nationals of an alien enemy nation, condemned and hated, this ultimate sacrifice of our sons to be laid on the altar of war moves us to the very bottom of our hearts, and to the depths of our most fundamental emotions, in a way that is inexpressible; and yet, in making this sacrifice, we deeply feel that the lives of our sons are to be dedicated to the highest ideals and principles of justice, democracy, and freedom, for all peoples, regardless of race, color or creed.

In order that the future sacrifices of our sons shall have not been in vain, we prayerfully request and petition that the federal authorities give careful consideration to the granting of equal privileges as American soldiers to our sons when they are called into active service. We do not complain that our sons are being called, but we plead with heart-felt earnestness that our sons be granted the dignity of serving in the United States Army as free and equal American citizens, and that they do not be segregated in any special combat unit or in any other way be subject to special rules and regulations on account of race or ancestry.

Copy

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 4, 1944.

Dear Mrs. Tanagi:

I have the letter signed by you and other members of the Mothers Society of Minidoka of the Minidoka Relocation Center.

The opportunity to serve through Selective Service may be the one thing which will make this nation see that Americans of Japanese decent should be treated in every way in the future like Americans after the war is over. Bitterness will pass and our sense of justice will make us treat our loyal citizens fairly, no matter what their origin.

Very sincerely yours,

Eleanor Roosevelt (signed)
per SWM

Dictated but Mrs. Roosevelt
had to leave before signing.

III - w
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON

Office of the Director

Mar 10 1944

The Mother's Society of Minidoka
12-11-H, Minidoka Relocation Center
Hunt, Idaho

My dear Ladies:

I have read your petition, dated February 29, carefully and thoughtfully, and I believe I understand the motives which prompted you to prepare it.

The reinstitution of Selective Service for American young men of Japanese descent constitutes a significant step in the direction of restoring the rights of citizenship which were removed shortly after the outbreak of war with Japan. In this instance heavy responsibilities accompany, and perhaps precede, the rights of your citizen sons. But I feel sure that mature consideration of the long-range welfare of your families, and their families after them, will lead you to the conclusion that induction through Selective Service should be welcomed rather than regretted.

Sincerely,

D. S. Myer (signed)

Director

J Mar 14, 1944 # 4

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

C O P Y

S E L E C T I V E S E R V I C E S Y S T E M
21st Street and C Street. N. W.
Washington, D. C.

in replying address
The Director of Selective Service
and refer to no
11-3.11-141

MAR 14 1944

The Mothers' Society of Minidoka
12 - 11 - H
Hunt, Idaho

Subject: Induction of American Citizens of
Japanese Ancestry

Mesdames:

The President has directed that we reply to your letter and petition, dated February 21, 1944. We also wish to acknowledge receipt of similar letters addressed to the Secretary of War and to the Director of Selective Service on the same subject.

Your communications have been carefully studied by this Headquarters and full consideration has been given to their contents. In war time, military necessity must be the first consideration irrespective of the effect on the individual citizen. While the order for the mass evacuation of all Japanese and American citizens of Japanese ancestry from the Pacific Coast is an action entirely outside the jurisdiction of the Selective Service System, we have no doubt that the military necessity of the moment dictated the decision in this matter by the War Department.

The dislocation of our ordered way of life has by no means been confined to the above case. A great many of our citizens have had their normal way of living disrupted either through force of war time conditions making necessary readjustments in home life and environment, or through direct breaking up of homes caused by the necessity for military service of sons, husbands and fathers.

This obligation, however, for military service in time of war is both a duty and a privilege of American citizens. Section 2 and section 3 of the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940, as amended, provide that it shall be the duty of every male citizen of the United States, and every other male person residing in the United States who is between the ages of 18 and 65 to present himself for, and submit to registration. Those between the ages of 18 and 45 shall be liable for training and service in the land naval forces of the United States.

J 3/14/44 #4-2

The Mothers' Society of
Minidoka

Page 2

It is, therefore, appropriate that American citizens of Japanese ancestry who are found acceptable by the armed forces partake in this common obligation for military service. An opportunity to do this and to show in a tangible way their loyalty to this country has been provided by the recent action of the War Department in authorizing the general application of Selective Service procedures to the above group of citizens.

From a review of all its actions since the declaration of war in Japan up to the present time, it appears that the United States Government has moved consistently in the direction of taking all necessary measures to insure the maintenance of civil rights for those American citizens of Japanese ancestry who have been found loyal to this country. Your cooperation in this process will assist you individually and will hasten the day when a full and satisfactory solution to this problem for all concerned may be attained.

For The Director,

GLENN PARKER (rubber stamp)

GLENN PARKER
Lt. Colonel, AUS
Manpower Division

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
COMMUNITY ANALYSIS SECTION

correct
April, 1944

Notes on Selective Service, written by C. T. Takahashi, Minidoka Center. (Takahashi is an aggressive, very successful Nisei business man in his late thirties.)

REPORT ON SELECTIVE SERVICE

Following our discussion Saturday, I approached the group mentioned in our discussion regarding the Selective Service and explained the following fact findings which I was able to obtain over the weekend. The cross section of our findings shows that among the Issei group the various elements are:

1. The rabid group who are against anything and everything; who go out of their way to be busy-bodies, and definitely a harmful element since they have no logic or sense behind what they say.
2. This group consists of the rumor-mongers who do not know what they are talking about, but go about making it their special business to disseminate rumors.
3. This group consists of those who have no personal opinion, have nothing to say, and keep quiet.
4. This is the parent group with either someone already in the Army or a potential draftee, so are concerned, and want to hang on to him as he is their only security even with their limited citizenship rights. These parents fear what is in store for them in the way of endangering their own livelihood, properties, etc., as aliens in the event their sons should be killed, especially when they lose their sons, they automatically lose everything in the way of properties, and possibly, even the right to live in this country which is their home.
5. The last group is 100% in favor without qualifications.

Now the cross section of the Nisei who have received Selective Service notices or qualify for it:

1. The large group who are bewildered and confused by all the contradictions by the Government -- taking all and giving nothing only to this minority.
2. The absolutely anti group -- through fear and bitterness at their loss through evacuation.
3. This group is in favor and desire to do their part in the war, but with reservations, also due to the contradictions.
4. This group is satisfied as they have faith in the Government

and the majority of the American people, and believe that everything will come out in the wash.

Regarding petitions -- there seems to be a great deal of talk about petitions, so the uncovered facts are as follows:

There seems to be petitions by:

1. Issei-Nisei who feel they have been treated as prisoners of war, and because of segregation and discrimination, they do not want to participate in Selective Service.
2. Nisei who will not participate in the Selective Service unless citizenship rights are restored.
3. By the mothers expressing their unwillingness and against the Selective Service because they feel the Nisei are not treated as citizens -- laws against selling them land, business, licenses, will not allow children to go to any school, not allowed to work in defense industries on equal basis as other citizens -- a general grievance petition.
4. The mothers who are in accord with Selective Service, but requesting that their sons be given their full rights of citizenship and participation in the armed force program.
5. Nisei in full accord with the Selective Service, but requesting restoration of their full citizenship rights, and be allowed to perform in the various branches of the armed service.
6. Issei-Nisei who approve but request non-segregation of the Nisei from the rest of the Americans participating in the war.

In discussing the solution with the committee, they are organizing to try to cover their respective constituents to clarify the issue of the Selective Service. It is felt by this group that any organized approach (which might look like the hand of the administration again) would be more harmful than effective to bring about a clear understanding of the issue. It is felt that the total problem is in at present in a natural state of discussion, and can be compared at this moment to a tempest in a teapot, which will, in due time, clear itself by informal discussion.

Another solution that was brought out in the course of discussion within this group, is the advantage of having an unofficial

group of representatives consisting of a few well known Nisei who have the confidence of the community, to assist as "the bureau of information"; to cope with the various problems that have come up since the announcement of the Selective Service. It is felt that to instill a more cooperative attitude on the part of the administration would be more desirable, and have the assistance of Mr. Lovell, the Project Attorney, and representatives from the Selective Service Board. Also, the parent-soldier association can be of positive influence in informing the community.

Minidoka

An open letter to residents of this block:

WRA Library Washington

No. It's no skin off your nose if Min Yasui stays cooped up in Multnomah County jail. He was a fool in the first place for having placed his neck in the noose which he himself knew would tighten around him.

But a committee, just a group of interested friends of Yasui ~~was formed~~ recently with the intention of aiding him in every way possible. We know there are others who would be willing to aid in this cause which concerns every nisei, and it is to those that this message is directed.

Those others, the committee thinks, should be informed of all the facts in Min Yasui's case, its many implications.

In both Japanese and English the facts will be aired at meetings to be held throughout the community this week.

Meetings will begin at 7:30 p.m. Everyone interested is invited to attend.

Sincerely yours,

The Civil Liberties League

Meetings Will Be Held Tonite
In Dining Halls _____ and _____

Transmitted by letter of 1/12/43

J. Bigelow

T E L E T Y P E

Washington, D. C.
February 21, 1944

Harry L. Stafford
Project Director
Minidoka Relocation Center
Hunt, Idaho

Following letter being sent to all Project Directors today. Quote: With the reinstitution of Selective Service for persons of Japanese ancestry problems may develop that require handling with care and promptness. In this letter I want to indicate certain types of problems that may arise and suggest steps we should take in certain situations.

A. Petitions may be circulated, or the opinion of groups of individuals otherwise expressed, declaring the participants loyalty to the United States, but requesting freedom of movement including freedom to return to the West Coast or other rights, be restored before their young men of military age are drafted for Military Service. In case of this sort, it must be remembered that every citizen of the United States has the right to petition for the correction of any grievances. If such petitions are presented you should in due course, forward them to me. However, it should be explained to the participants that the institution and application of Selective Service are independent to other problems and considerations, and that no real or fancied grievances can be allowed to interfere with its operation. Participants should also be told of the value to them and their community of the reinstitution of Selective Service as described in the last paragraph of this letter. If such petitions or the circumstances surrounding them indicate an intention to resist Selective Service, they will require treatment along the lines indicated in paragraphs C and D of this letter.

B1 Young men of military age may file written requests for expatriation in the anticipation that such requests will preclude or make less likely their being accepted for military service. If such requests are filed, or you receive any indication that they may be filed, you should make it clear that a request for expatriation will not preclude or delay a call for induction. On the other hand, they will make it necessary for you to institute appropriate proceedings to investigate the loyalty to the United States of the individuals concerned, with a view towards possible action in accordance with previous instructions if the individuals are found to be disloyal, taking into account the request for expatriation. The request is not, of course, conclusive evidence of disloyalty but it is a factor to be considered in arriving at a judgment on this

question. Any such requests can not fail to have a seriously adverse effect on the future of the persons making the request in the United States, and indirectly on the future of the whole evacuee population. If such requests for expatriation are received you should, of course, as is required under experimental leave clearance hearings for the evacuees involved, and should forward the results of the hearings with your leave clearance recommendations, to the Washington office. You need not, however, give such cases any special priority. If such cases do occur and the individual is not called because of his number not being reached, determination as to disposition will be made later.

C. Some persons may announce that they will refuse to report for Military Service when called, or they may actually fail to report when they receive their induction notices. Any evacuee in a Relocation Center who refuses to report for induction, when called, is guilty of violation of the Selective Service Act, and is subject to criminal penalties. This is just as much true of the evacuees in your center as it is of people who receive induction notices in any other community. The local Selective Service Boards have instructions to report such cases to the appropriate authorities. If such cases should arise and if we should receive any evidence that the Local Boards are not clear on this point, we will call it to the attention of Selective Service Headquarters. You should call the fact to the attention of the Community Council and other representative evacuees. You should, of course, keep my office closely informed if any incidents of this type occur. You should also communicate with the Selective Service Board in cases of this sort and offer them the fullest cooperation in the apprehension and prosecution of any such individuals. If any evacuee announces that he intends to refuse to report for induction when called, that fact does not, in itself, subject him to criminal penalties. The wise heads among the evacuees may want to talk to such young men, to their parents, and help them realize the serious consequences to the young man, to involved, and to the whole group. Persons announcing that they do not intend to report should be investigated and the fact that they have made such announcement must be considered in determining their loyalty to the United States.

D. Misguided or malicious individuals may participate in propaganda activities interfering with the Selective Service Laws. If any evacuee should engage in any effort to persuade others to refuse to report for induction, they, too, will be guilty of a violation of Federal Statutes for which criminal penalties can be imposed. You should report cases of this kind to the local United States attorney under the established procedures. You should request the United States Attorney to institute prosecution promptly and should offer him your complete cooperation. The reinstitution of

Selective Service was a major step toward the restoration of the rights of American citizens of Japanese ancestry and if properly accepted can lead to the restoration of many other rights which evacuees feel they should have. Any action to resist or avoid the drastic effect which might come from the unthinking actions of a few prospective or actual draft dodgers.

Unquote:

Dillon S. Myer.

T E L E T Y P E

WASHINGTON, D. C.
JANUARY 21, 194440612
F#19.800
REC'D 1/21/44H L STAFFORD, PROJECT DIR
MINIDOKA PROJECT
HUNT, IDAHO

REURTT ON NISEI INDUCTION IT IS EXPECTED THAT MAJORITY OF NISEI AFTER BASIC TRAINING WILL BE ASSIGNED TO DUTY WITH 100TH BATTALION OR 442ND COMBAT TEAM. INDUCTIONS PROBABLY WILL NOT TAKE PLACE IN LESS THAN 30 DAYS, AS JURISDICTION ON MOST NISEI MUST BE TRANSFERRED FROM WEST COAST BOARDS TO BOARDS NEWR CENTERS. INDUCTION WILL BE GRADUAL AND WILL BE IN SAME MANNER AS FOR ANY OTHER CITIZENS. RESIDENCE AT TULE LAKE OF ITSELF WILL HAVE NO BEARING ON WHETHER OR NOT AN INDIVIDUAL WILL BE INDUCTED. ACCEPTABILITY FOR SERVICE IS BASED ON CONSIDERATION OF INDIVIDUAL CASE. JOHN C BAKER

BIGELOW
CC:STAFFORD
CC:POMEROY
CC:MILLER
CC:DAVIDSON
CC:DE YOUNG
CC:BEESON
MCLAUGHLIN

Inver - Office

February 4, 1943

Laom:

George L. Townsend

Community Services

Lo:

Blk. Mgrs. 13,14,15,16,17, 19

Block Managers

Kindly announce an important meeting to be held in Dining Hall 13 at 7:30 p.m. tonight (Feb. 6 - Sat.). Speakers to be:

Mr. P. Schafer)

Mr. J. Beeson) Interpreted by Mr. Yoshito Fujii

Mr. K. Okajima)

All residents of above blocks are requested to be at meeting with special emphasis and request to all mothers as well as second generation.

Kindly announce meeting at lunch and twice at dinner. This meeting will be a block discussion on voluntary enlistment as announced by War Department.

TELETYPE

40512
F#22.400
CR#19.800
REC'D 1-21-44

WASHINGTON
JANUARY 20

H L STAFFORD, PROJ.
MINIDOKA PROJECT
HUNT, IDAHO

WAR DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCING REINSTITUTION OF SELECTIVE SERVICE FOR NISEI IN PRESS STATEMENT FOR RELEASE 9 O-CLOCK EWT TONIGHT.

DETAILED INFORMATION QUESTION AND ANSWER FORM BEING AIRMAILED TODAY

WAR DEPARTMENT STATEMENT FOLLOWS---

PLANS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED FOR THE REINSTITUTIONS OF GENERAL SELECTIVE SERVICE PROCEDURES FOR AMERICAN CITIZENS OF JAPANESE DESCENT THE WAR DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY. UNDER THE PLANS OF THE WAR DEPARTMENT, JAPANESE AMERICANS CONSIDERED ACCEPTABLE FOR MILITARY SERVICE WILL BE RECLASSIFIED BY THEIR SELECTIVE SERVICE BOARD ON THE SAME BASIS AS OTHER CITIZENS, AND CALLED FOR INDUCTION OF PHYSICALLY QUALIFIED AND NOT DEFERRED.

LAST FEBRUARY THE 442ND COMBAT TEAM COMPOSED OF JAPANESE AMERICAN VOLUNTEERS WAS FORMED. IN A LETTER TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR COMMENTING ON THE FORMATION OF THIS UNIT, THE PRESIDENT SAID "NO LOYAL CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES SHOULD BE DENIED THE RIGHT TO EXERCISE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THIS CITIZENSHIP, REGARDLESS OF HIS ANCESTRY. THE PRINCIPLE ON WHICH THIS COUNTRY WAS FOUNDED AND BY WHICH IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN GOVERNED IS THAT AMERICANISM IS A MATTER OF THE MIND AND HEART, AMERICANISM IS NOT, AND NEVER WAS, A MATTER OF RACE OR ANCESTRY".

THE EXCELLENT SHOWING WHICH THE COMBAT TEAM HAS MADE IN TRAINING AND OUTSTANDING RECORD ACHIEVED BY THE 100TH BATTALION /A FORMER HAWAIIAN NATIONAL GUARD UNIT/ NOW FIGHTING IN ITALY WERE MAJOR FACTOR IN THE PRESENT PLAN./ END OF WAR DEPARTMENT STATEMENT/

PAGE TWO

COMMENT BY DIRECTOR MYER FOLLOWS---

THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE WAR DEPARTMENT THAT NISEI ARE TO BE INDUCTED INTO THE ARMY THROUGH THE SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM MARKS ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD FOR AMERICAN CITIZENS OF JAPANESE DESCENT. IT MEANS THAT JAPANESE-AMERICAN SOLDIERS NOW IN THE ARMY HAVE PERFORMED THEIR DUTIES WITH HIGH SKILL AND COURAGE, AND THAT THE VALUABLE SERVICES RENDERED BY SUCH SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED.

THE OBLIGATION TO BEAR ARMS IN DEFENSE OF THE NATION
IS ONE OF THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP.
AS INCREASING NUMBERS OF NISEI ARE CALLED UPON TO ASSUME
THAT OBLIGATION, I FEEL CONFIDENT THAT SOLDIERS OF
JAPANESE ANCESTRY IN THE ARMY WILL ACQUIT THEMSELVES
WITH DISTINCTION AND THAT THERE WILL BE WIDENING PUBLIC
RECOGNITION OF THE STATUS WHICH ALL LOYAL AND LAW*ABIDING
RESIDENTS OF JAPANESE DESCENT CAN AND SHOULD ENJOY IN
OUR NATIONAL LIFE.

BIGELOW
CC:MC LAUGHLIN
CC:MILLER
CC:POMEROY
CC:STAFFORD
CC:DAVIDSON
CC:DEYOUNG

JOHN PROVINSE

1-21-44/J/

3-6-43

MINIDOKA RELOCATION CENTER

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
COMMUNITY ANALYSIS SECTION

Eligible to volunteer

Single	1,016
Married with children	178
" without "	<u>249</u>
Total	1,443

Volunteers

Single	247
Married with children	24
" without "	<u>17</u>
Total	288

Percentage of total eligible to volunteer 19 percent
In addition, aliens who volunteered - 11, but they are not figured
in the percentage count.

This gives a total of 299 volunteers

Over and above that, we have been given the figure of 17 year olds
that were not quite old enough to register, 136

Beeson is still taking volunteers, altho the Army team has gone.
He had one in therefor interview at that time. Mr. Myer asked if
safe to use the figure of 300. Stafford said yes, and that they
expected to go over that.

Longhand note:

Source material for teletype to all project directors, 3/8/43,
suggesting information as item to be published in project newspaper.

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS FROM MINIDOKA *

Number volunteering for Japanese Combat Unit- 289

Previous volunteers to Camp Savage - 17

Total Volunteers

306

* (Note: Not all these have been taken as yet.)

NUMBER OF FAMILIES WITH RELATIVES IN THE ARMY

Number of families with relatives in
the Armed Service prior to evacua-
tion. 298

Number of families with relatives
volunteering for Armed Service. 290

Total families represented 580

Free

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
MINIDOKA PROJECT
Hunt, Idaho

Memorandum

April 26, 1943

TO: ALL ARMY VOLUNTEERS

In order to aid in the transition period between civilian and army life, I have been requested to call a meeting of all volunteers in this center.

Lieutenant Terry of the local M. P. Unit will give a few helpful hints on army life.

There will be a short organization meeting following the talks for the purpose of taking care of incidentals prior to induction.

The meeting will be held Monday, April 26, at 7:30 p.m. in Dining Hall 23. Please be prompt!

Refreshments will be served!

H. L. Stafford
H. L. Stafford
Project Director

Volunteer
April 3, 1943

VOLUNTEERS ADVANCE REASONS FOR ACT The summary of the reasons made by the Topaz volunteers for the Japanese-American combat team was presented by John Yoshino in the Topaz Times, center paper.

Excerpts from the article follow:

Volunteering is not only an act of loyalty to the country of our birth and allegiance; it is an act of loyalty to our own group, to our younger brothers and sisters, to our wives and sweethearts, to our fathers and mothers.

BETTER CHANCES

That they may have a better chance of returning to the normal life of American, that their reception by the outside world will be as cordial and friendly as possible, it is extremely important that every opportunity be utilized to create a better public feeling toward them.

Volunteering is just such an opportunity. More than that, it is probably the most crucial opportunity that we have had since evacuation. If we fail to take advantage of it, we may endanger the success of the whole resettlement program.

WARTIME STANDARDS

In wartime, people inevitably judge things by wartime standards. Today, the soldier, the man who has pledged his very life in the nations service, stands highest in public estimation. He is the ranking citizen of the land.

But next to the soldier, it is those who have given him to the armed forces--his parents, his family, his wife, and children. toward whom public good will and gratitude are most fully extended. That the Japanese in this country have also contributed their share of soldier sons and husband and still more must be brought to public attention in the most dramatic fashion possible.

The most human reaction to all this is to say: "The hell with it, then! If that's the way the country feels about us, why should we risk our lives unnecessarily to defend her?"

WHEN TO REACT

But there are occasions in life when to react in merely the most human way is not enough, when it is necessary to rise above our natural human feelings and force ourselves to take a course of "You've got us wrong the hard way".

This is one of those occasions, and the hard way that the van guard of our group must take is that of volunteering. Why volunteering and not selective service? Because in the situation in which the Japanese in this country have been placed, the barriers which divide us from general public acceptance must be broken down by a more than ordinary demonstration of the fact that most of us are loyal.

IN RECOGNITION

In recognition of this, the government has given us the

opportunity to volunteer when all the rest of the country is on the selective service basis. Simply to wait for selective service to get, us, too, would be to have as if no special situation confronted us, as if no problem of regaining our full status as Americans existed.

But we are confronted by a special situation and we are battling desperately to regain our full citizenship status. The ball has been passed to us; it is up to us whether we shall carry it for a good gain or fumble it miserably and lose the game.

FAVORABLE PUBLICITY

The favorable publicity which would inevitably result from successful volunteer program will have a direct bearing on the ultimate success of resettlement for over 100,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans.

Those who volunteer, then, will not be marching off to any personal glory or gain.

They will be going forth both because it is the most immediate way of demonstrating their own loyalty and because they sense the importance of their action to the whole future of the Japanese in this country.

ARMY REGISTRATION

February 3.

News story, Irrigator: Quotes from various nisei leaders who endorse the combat team.

Editorial, Irrigator: In spite of hardships suffered, if nisei are to "clinch the case" for themselves, there is no course but to enlist. Professions of faith in country make it a question of "Are we to eat our words, or are we going to make them good?" This is considered the acid test and to flunk it is to damn themselves and their posterity.

February 5.

Teletype: Gratification mingled with strong resentment of separate unit. Nisei leaders applaud opportunity for service. Majority happy over recognition, but want more details before committing themselves. Others more interested in going into war industry. Quotes from above editorial.

February 6.

Staff Digest: Highlights of staff meeting devoted to subject with announcement that registration is to be given No. 1 priority and nothing must interfere with its success.

Report No. 36: Many nisei aware that enlistment involves many difficult decisions centered in relationships between male nisei and parents, particularly in regard to parents' status in this country. Japanese fatalistic attitude toward war affects even nisei.

At a "trial balloon" meeting held before arrival of army team, evacuees indicated resentment toward implication that those not volunteering would be considered disloyal. General conclusion: government asking too much. Two men left angry after talk by assistant project director, and five men and numerous women were weeping. No hysteria or undue excitement.

February 10.

Report No. 40: First six blocks registered, about 350 a day, of whom about 80 are male nisei. Opposition seems to stem from older people who are afraid of future if son is killed. Some nisei feel they will wait for draft. Army explaining that draft would hinge on success of voluntary enlistment.

Several issei who favor plan have been more emphatic than representatives of Army or WRA in addressing meetings, placing responsibility for success of program on older people, pointing out that future welfare of their children depends on its success.

Twenty-five volunteers in first three days, of whom 16 live in section not yet registered. Many volunteers married men.

February 13.

Report No. 41: Army registration took turn for better after question of selective service following the voluntary induction program was clarified. By this morning, there were 43 volunteers. Question 28 caused some confusion. Strong resistance by some who have reached point where they automatically resist any request or action by the government.

Manning of watch towers and installation of search lights unfortunately move at this time.

February 16.

Report No. 42: Growing success reported due in part to move toward frankness in presenting program. First step was explaining that regular selective service would probably not follow if voluntary program failed. Far-reaching consequences of failure of program pointed out.

As of noon, 75 had volunteered. Block managers asked Army team to reconsider eligibles in blocks already registered.

February 19.

Report No. 46: Total registration to date 4,926 in 25 blocks. About 1175 qualifying males interviewed by Army team and of these 121 volunteered. Many undecided when interviewed, but later about 50% decided to volunteer and other half declined definitely.

No new points of resistance, although believed to be more in Buddhist group than in others. Cooperation being sought through ministers.

February 25.

Report No. 47. Registration completed. Any individual not signed up may do so in the leave office. Total registered from Feb. 8-25: 6866 of which 5336 were women and non-citizen males and 1540 were male citizens. Of nisei, 175 volunteered, but 30 more volunteered later, following the first two in a new series of four meetings called by the administration with the approval but not the participation of the Army team.

Each single male citizen ~~over~~ 17 or over sent an invitation by mail. Boy Scout Drum and Bugle Corps paraded through the blocks to announce the meetings. Principal speakers were project director, assistant project director, and boys who had already volunteered. Issue put before audience in very straight-forward manner - to insure the future rights of Japanese Americans.

Meeting of girl friends and other women connected with Army eligibles to get their support not successful.

Army team to remain until March 1.

Weekly report of March 6: Lt. Deane of WAACS spoke to about 325 Mar. 5, and about one-third indicated they would volunteer if they could.

Twin Falls Times News Idaho
March 28, 1943

De Young

Secretary of War Honors Hunt Brothers



Four Sakura brothers are shown with their mother at the Minidoka relocation center after she received a letter from Secretary of War Henry Stimson congratulating her on the enlistment of her four sons in the army. Left to right, Kenny, Ted, Mrs. Misa Sakura, Chester and Howard Sakura. Secretary Stimson's letter called the volunteering of the Sakura brothers "a splendid example of true Americanism." The four brothers volunteered for service in the combat team consisting of American citizens of Japanese ancestry. Chester has three children and Howard has a baby three months old. (Staff Engraving)

Erie Dispatch Herald, Penna.
February 3, 1943

Jap Battalion in U. S. Army Is Highly Praised

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3. (AP) — There's a whole battalion of Japanese soldiers in the United States Army and "I've never had more wholehearted, serious-minded co-operation from any troops," their commanding officer, Lieut. Col. Farrant L. Turner said today.

The outfit is the 100th Infantry Battalion made up entirely of men of Japanese ancestry who are United States citizens and were born in the Hawaiian Islands. Many of their officers also are of Japanese ancestry.

Organized originally as a unit of the Hawaiian National Guard the men of the battalion, although not stationed at Pearl Harbor when war started, lost many relatives and friends there.

U.S. Japanese: Fair Play' for All Urged

The Pacific Coast Committee on rights of the majority. American Principles and Fair Play yesterday called upon California legislators to hold firm to their resolution to rise above partisanship in enactments.

It urged them to examine carefully any legislation concerning race discrimination, especially those directed against Americans of Japanese ancestry.

Formed recently in San Francisco especially for the purpose of supporting rights enunciated in the constitution, the new committee carried to the legislature with its principles the names of prominent citizens who sponsor its ideals.

Honorary chairman of the group is President Robert Gordon Sproul of the University of California, and among other members are Dr. Arthur Cushman McGiffert, Dr. Paul S. Taylor, Dr. Mary Lyman, Rabbi Irving Reichert, Galen Fisher and General David Prescott Barrows.

Voiced also by the committee were the following beliefs:

1—That attacks upon the rights of any minority would undermine the

2—That attempts to deprive law-abiding citizens of citizenship because of racial descent are contrary to Americanism.

3—That legislation to deprive Americans of Japanese descent of government.

their legal rights would be precedent-setting, and would weaken the confidence of our Allies.

4—That it is un-American to penalize persons of Japanese descent here for the crimes of the Japanese

Cincinnati Enquirer, Ohio
April 6, 1943

Japanese Is In Cincinnati Awaiting Call To Join Army

Kenji Tashiro, Los Angeles, "probably the first American of Japanese ancestry to be born in New England," is in Cincinnati awaiting a call to armed service.

A brother of Dr. Sabro Tashiro and a relative of Professor Shiro Tashiro, both of the University of Cincinnati, Kenji Tashiro is expecting final induction papers from his draft board in Los Angeles.

Tashiro, 36 years old, a former Los Angeles newspaperman, explained that he missed his first induction by two hours. Just before he attempted to enlist an order came from Washington prohibiting enlistment of "Nisei," American-born citizens of Japanese extraction.

A year ago Tashiro and his family were moved from Los Angeles to a relocation camp at Rivers, Ariz. While in camp he helped to edit a newspaper. He later was declared loyal by a West Coast examining board.

Concerning living conditions in the camp, Tashiro said that "perhaps one-third of the Japanese there are experiencing a reduced standard of living, one-third are living about as well as before, while one-third find the conditions an improvement over what they had before."

He pointed out, however, that

most of those in the camp had suffered considerable property loss.

"The undoubted loyalty of majority of the Nisei was tried by the treatment they received both at the time of the evacuation and in the camps," he added.

He emphasized that "there was no evidence of any act of sabotage by 'Nisei' or Japanese residents of Honolulu at the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor."

Speaking of the approximately 5,000 Japanese-Americans now in the armed services, Tashiro said that some of them were serving overseas. Certain of these are interpreters in the South Pacific. At least one, stationed in England, is serving as a gunner on a Liberator bomber.

When asked what his reaction would be if he were to be stationed in a South Pacific zone, Tashiro asserted that the attitude of the loyal "Nisei" was the same as that of the loyal German or Italian American.

Tashiro never saw a Japanese, other than members of his family, until he moved to Chicago. He did not learn to speak or read Japanese until he was 21, when he moved to Los Angeles.

He hopes he will be sent to Camp Shelby, Miss., where his youngest brother, Arthur, is a Staff Sergeant.

New York City P.M., New York
March 28, 1943

Japanese-American Heads Student Body

Special Correspondence

OBERLIN, O., Mar. 27.—Kenji Okuda, 20, a Japanese-American from Seattle, has been elected president of the Student Council of Oberlin College by the student body.

Formerly an honor student at the University of Washington, Okuda was given a scholarship by Oberlin last January when he was released from the Granada Relocation Project in Colorado, for Japanese, to attend school.

Washington Post, D. C.
March 28, 1943

Evacuated Farmers

While the country is trying desperately to get men back on the land and the President is talking about a land army to be composed of inexperienced youths, we hope that official Washington will not forget that thousands of expert Japanese truck gardeners are still in WRA camps. The release of those Japanese whose loyalty to the United States has been established would not, of course, solve our agricultural manpower problem. But it would substantially increase the output of food in some areas.

Less than 5000 of the Japanese who were evacuated from the West Coast have been relocated outside of camps. Some of them are on indefinite leave and others are working in the vicinity of the camps. Nearly 107,000 are still in the custody of the War Relocation Authority. It is particularly shortsighted to maintain such a large number of persons in comparative idleness at a time of manpower shortages, unless there are compelling reasons for doing so. And

in the case of loyal and law-abiding Japanese no such reasons are apparent.

The Japanese were evacuated from the West Coast in the time of excitement and confusion that followed Pearl Harbor when there seemed to be no immediate means of separating loyal citizens from potential spies and saboteurs. Now there has been ample time to examine records, to observe the conduct of individuals and thus to draw a distinction between loyal citizens and law-abiding aliens of Japanese origin on one hand and potential enemies on the other. Men who have followed the relocation movement closely believe that a large majority of the Japanese now in camps could be released without any appreciable risk. That is particularly true, of course, of the American citizens who have never been in Japan and of the older aliens who have spent most of their lives in this country.

Justice and fair play demand that American citizens of Japanese origin be reabsorbed into our economic life as soon as that becomes feasible. And the shortage of agricultural labor gives that argument special urgency at the moment. Many an acre of fertile land would be brought back into war service by allowing trustworthy evacuees to return to their former homes. The decision as to whether they may do so rests with the Army. If the Army fails to modify its evacuation order, the WRA will face a more difficult task of getting these agricultural workers back on the land in other parts of the country.

Milwaukee Sentinel, Wisconsin
February 24, 1943

Wisconsin Jobs Waiting For Japanese-Americans

Scores of Wisconsin employers already have jobs for Japanese-Americans who may be relocated in Wisconsin.

The announcement that the War Relocation authority is considering this state as a home for some of its charges already has brought in applications to the United States employment service here as well as the Office of War Information.

One truck gardener in Milwaukee county is willing to take 300 Japanese-Americans. That, however, would be contrary to WRA's

policy of relocating the Japanese in small groups.

Several other Wisconsinites want household servants.

And several Japs themselves have written here to express preference for Wisconsin. They will have to make arrangements, however, through their own WRA offices, explained George A. Mann, Wisconsin area manager for OWI.

The Japanese who will be moved are mostly adaptable to agricultural work, although some are fitted for household duties.

WRA is expected to open an office here.

Newark Evening News
Newark, New Jersey
March 26, 1943

Nisei Nurses

American-Born Japanese May Be Trained Here

Partly trained American-born—or Nisei—Japanese student nurses, now quartered in government relocation projects, may be brought here to complete their nursing course at Presbyterian Hospital. The plan is being considered by the board of trustees of the hospital, Frederick O. Runyon, president, said today.

Runyon, who has asked the trustees to submit their views, said the plan grew out of an application from a girl in one of the relocation areas who had had 1½ years' training. The trustees are asked to consider enrolling Japanese students of American birth whose qualifications meet the hospital's requirement and who are recommended by the Relocation Authority.

Runyon said these girls would go back to serve as nurses in the relocation centers, but he believed the help they would give as students would justify the hospital's expense in training them.

Little Rock Gazette, Ark.
February 21, 1943

University Women Protest Act Aimed at Japanese.

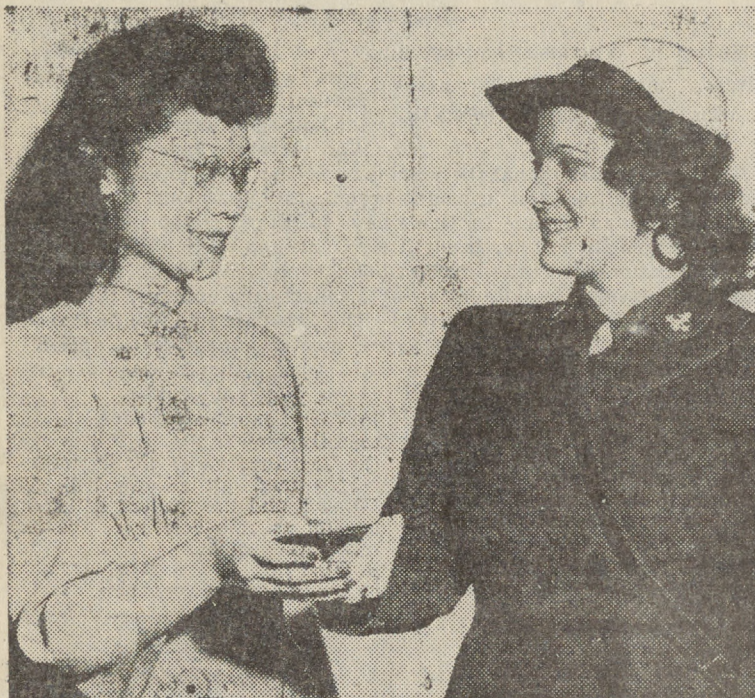
Special to the Gazette.

Clarksville, Feb. 20. — A protest against the enactment of "such un-American legislation" as that which would prevent Japanese and their descendants, regardless of citizenship, from owning land in Arkansas, was voted by the Clarksville branch, American Association of University Women, Thursday. The branch voted to register its protest with Governor Adkins.

The branch voted also in favor of naming the living fellowship on which this group is co-operating for Dean Margaret Justin of Manhattan, Kan., for many years the southwest central regional vice president of the A. A. U. W. It was announced that state and national conventions of the association had been cancelled for this year.

Mrs. P. R. Rice discussed A. A. U. W. fellowships.

Japanese-American Girl Returns WAVE's Lost \$66



WAVE'S WALLET RETURNED—Miss Sachi Anraku (left), a Japanese-American employed in the Government here, is shown returning a wallet to Geraldine Sexton, a WAVE. Miss Anraku, who was given indefinite leave from a Japanese evacuation center in March, found the wallet on a downtown street Saturday and after much difficulty located the owner.

—Star Staff Photo.

Seaman Geraldine Sexton today had her lost wallet containing \$66, because a Nisei girl employed by the Government returned it to her—without reward, since that was “only what any other American would do in similar circumstances.”

The daughter of a Japanese immigrant, Miss Sachi Anraku has been employed by the employment division of the War Relocation Authority here since given an indefinite leave from the Gila River (Arizona) Relocation Center in March. She and her family had been there and at an assembly center since last May, when they were evacuated from Los Angeles.

One of 25 Japanese-American girls certified by the Civil Service Commission for employment in Washington, Miss Anraku now looks forward to the day when the rest of her family will come East on leave.

“Two of my sisters are leaving the center next week,” she said. “They are going to Detroit with the United States Employment Service.

When they have gotten settled, my mother will join them. Another sister is still in school at the center, but my brother expects to be drafted any day now.

“He says he would have enlisted, but he didn't want to be put in an all-Japanese regiment.

“I remember our first night away from home in the assembly center at Tulare, Calif. We arrived there after an 11-hour train ride. The combination of sorting our baggage in the dark, of having a medical examination, and of being quartered in a horse stall almost broke me down. But we got along all right after a little while.

“The biggest thing we had to get over was the shock of having property taken away from us when we were American citizens and of having to be evacuated with non-citizen Japanese.

State Personnel Board Is Warned On Alien Policy

The state personnel board, which fired Japanese employees and has contemplated hearings on the dismissal charges, has been cautioned by the state department “to take no action which would be inconsistent with policy toward loyal American citizens of alien parentage.”

This was disclosed late yesterday at a meeting of the board which decided to confer on the matter “at once” with the attorney general's office.

Last year the board discharged 74 civil service Japanese employees and the state board of equalization 13. About 150 probationary and temporary workers were dismissed. Most of the workers, now in relocation centers, have asked for hearings.

Ask For Opinion

In a letter to the board, G. Howland Shaw, assistant secretary of state, advised the group to obtain an opinion from the War Relocation Authority which has jurisdiction over the Japanese in the internment camps.

Shaw also forwarded a White House letter to the war department, dated February 1st, in which the president expressed his views on citizens of Japanese ancestry.

“No loyal citizen of the United States should be denied the democratic right to exercise responsibilities of his citizenship, regardless of his ancestry,” stated President Roosevelt.

Lauds Combat Team

The chief executive lauded a proposal of the war department to organize a combat team of loyal American citizens of Japanese descent, supplementing the 5,000 American Japanese already in the armed forces.

“The premise on which this country was founded and by which it has always been governed is that Americanism is a matter of the mind and heart; Americanism is not, and never was, a matter of race or ancestry,” added the president.

Members of the personnel board were expected to arrange a conference on the problem today with Deputy Attorney General Jess Hession.

Hartford Courant, Conn.
February 6, 1943

Nisei Seeks Job At Middletown State Hospital

First Application by Japanese-American Accepted by Dr. R. L. Leak

Middletown, Feb. 5. —(Special.)— Superintendent S. L. Leak of Middletown State Hospital has received one application so far from one of the Japanese-Americans, removed to camps in western states, seeking employment at the local institution, he said Friday night.

The applicant is a young woman, born in this country but of Japanese descent, a so-called Nisei, and after reading her application and the qualifications set forth in it, Dr. Leak said, he wrote back to the camp offering employment and asking that she come to Middletown.

So far, Dr. Leak said, this is the only application he has received from any Japanese-American for work at the state hospital.

"The procedure I have been following in regard to employing Japanese-Americans," Dr. Leak said, "is that of letting them volunteer, rather than asking that a group be sent here to work. I did not write to any camp asking for volunteers but I presume residents in them are aware of openings here, as the young woman who did write has shown."

The superintendent says he hopes many more will apply as this young woman has done and if they appear qualified he will be pleased to fill vacancies with them.

"We have about 300 vacancies in our employment rolls here, and it is a great problem," Dr. Leak declared.

He said he is daily expecting arrival of a group of conscientious ob-

jectors as the result of arrangements made some time ago. He had been informed that 15 such objectors had volunteered for work at the state hospital and that some of them were planning to come with their wives, who can also be given work at the institution.

Approximately 35 patients at the hospital are helping with ward work, Dr. Leak said.

Cleveland Press, Ohio
January 29, 1943

Welcome Plan for Jap Labor Here

Leaders Ready to Aid
Loyal U. S. Citizens

Efforts of the War Relocation Authority to relieve the local farm labor shortage with Americans from the Japanese internment camps will meet with enthusiasm, it was indicated today.

Heads of agencies most likely to be asked to aid placement in the Cleveland area of skilled truck gardeners from the 10 western internment camps expressed willingness to foster the plan, provided they can be assured of the complete loyalty of the families to be moved.

Farmers themselves were the most eager to get the plan started since they need labor badly. Tolerant themselves, they did, however, question the feelings of their urban neighbors. One farmer professed readiness to apply for several Japanese-American families immediately, if his village authorities indicated their favor.

The Cleveland Welfare Federation through Edward D. Lynde, executive secretary, voiced approval of the plan. Mr. Lynde said: "It is my understanding that these people have been checked for loyalty. It is only fair that we give them an opportunity to be useful."

"We haven't reached the point in Cleveland where everyone is doing his part but will soon. We should realize that these Japanese-

Americans are American citizens fighting in our Army for us. They should be treated as Americans and, since they are so well suited to help us in Cleveland, we should welcome them."

Detroit Free Press, Michigan
February 16, 1943

Abbreviated Citizenship

THE Governor of Arkansas has signed a bill prohibiting Japanese and their descendants, whether citizens or not, from owning land in that State. With that precedent established, what is to prevent Arkansas from prohibiting citizens with blue eyes, or who smoke instead of chew, or believe in the Darwinian theory, from holding land within its borders?

The children of Japanese, who are born in this Country, are American citizens, with all the rights and duties appertaining to that status. War hysteria should not lay discriminations upon them, which subsequently can be extended to any other group or groups in the population. An American citizen is an American citizen, whatever the country of his racial origin. Any breach of that fundamental tenet opens the way to the ultimate destruction of our whole democracy theory.

Cleveland Press, Ohio

January 29, 1943

Army Will Admit Loyal U. S. Japanese

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29—Loyal

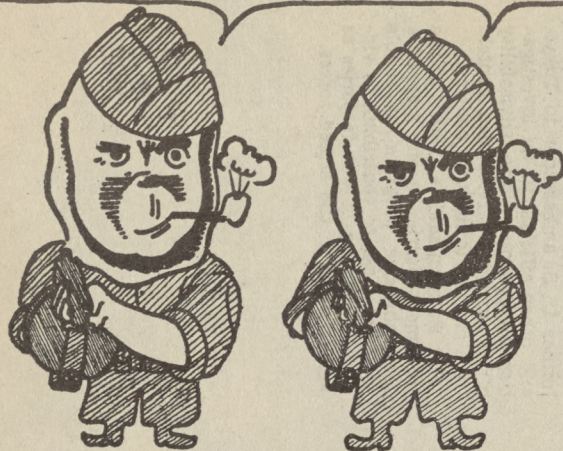
American citizens of Japanese ancestry—most of whom are now in relocation centers along with pro-Axis Japanese—soon will be permitted to enlist in the U. S. Army in "substantial numbers," Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson announced today.

He disclosed the plan as a Senate Military Affairs subcommittee heard testimony from Joseph C. Grew, former U. S. ambassador to Tokyo, and other officials in an investigation to determine the advisability of returning the relocation centers from civilian to military control.

Mr. Stimson said relaxation of the enlistment barrier is one step of a comprehensive program to enable loyal Japanese to contribute to victory by working in war factories as well as serve in the armed forces.

He's Fighting for AMERICA!

C-0125 P6 bu



THE announcement that the privilege of voluntary application for induction into the Army of the United States has been extended to Americans of Japanese ancestry is, to us, a most conclusive demonstration of American democracy at work.

We use the word 'privilege' because we consider it just that. Somehow we can't focus a picture in our mind's eye of Hitler, Mussolini or Tojo giving even the most fleeting thought to such an idea in their countries. Why? Because their ideas of government do not permit any voluntary action.

We can conceive of slave labor battalions, supervised by armed guards and billeted in concentration camps. But arm and train them? Never. Americans of Japanese ancestry could ask no better demonstration of America's belief in their loyalty. Nor could they ask a better way in which to demonstrate their loyalty than has been offered . . . and accepted so spontaneously by so many.

We are proud to be Americans . . . and proud of our fellow Americans who have shown where their loyalties lie.

MOTOR SUPPLY, LIMITED
H O N O L U L U , H A W A I I

Honolulu
Star Bulletin
February 27,
1943



Kansas City Inter-City News, Mo.
March 26, 1943

Recent Addition to Inter-City News Staff Has Deep Faith in Uncle Sam

(This column is written by Robert Hosokawa, recent addition to the Inter-City News. He and his wife, American-born of Japanese ancestry, lived in the Pacific Northwest prior to their evacuation. Hosokawa is a 1940 graduate of Whitman college, Walla Walla, Wash., where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and was president of his senior class. He volunteered this month for special work in the U. S. Army.—Ed. Note).

We like this community in the heart of America. Its people are earnest and generous. We have walked along the quiet streets where huge poplars and locusts stand. And we have seen blue stars in the windows. Each time, like all Americans, we are filled with pride and appreciation.

Not many springs ago I was in college. There was no war, only peace and a few clouds in the sky. In the coolness of twilight my friends and I sat to talk of many things . . . life, love, picnics, baseball, ideals, the future . . .

But one day the tide of fascism, too evil to remain where it was born, surged across to sear the heart of America.

Somewhere in a distant tropical scene my best friend pilots a U. S. Navy bomber. He had no hate in his heart, only love for humanity. But love dies when treachery comes.

Pete Mills, another college friend, went down in battle in the sky above Dutch Harbor. He was given a Distinguished Flying Cross posthumously. Among many others, a campus roommate of mine is missing off Bataan.

Yesterday a letter came from my cousin, another American with a Japanese face. He is a sergeant in the U. S. Army, stationed somewhere in New Guinea

fighting the common enemy.

"How did you like the way our boys smeared the Japs in the Bismarck Sea," he said.

When my wife and I were evacuated from the Pacific Coast with 110,000 others, two-thirds of whom are American citizens, we lived in government relocation centers. It was not easy but we were willing if it helped our Uncle Sam. Our faith in him never wavered.

As rapidly as possible, after thorough investigation, the government is releasing us to normal living in some useful phase of the war effort. We know through experience that freedom is worth fighting for.

That is why my wife and I are here. We have come as good citizens, with faith in America and our sleeves rolled up to work for victory over tyranny.

Canton Repository, Ohio
January 30, 1943

Loyal To America

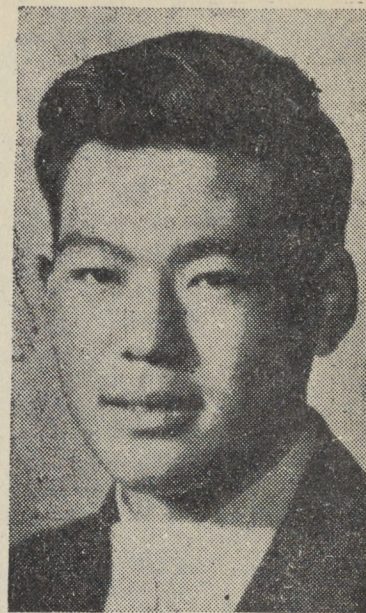
THE RELOCATION program for loyal Japanese who want to contribute to the war effort outlined by war relocation board is a challenge to that American way of life we talk about so much.

One vital part of the American way has been this country's confidence in its ability to assimilate all nationalities, requiring only that they be loyal to the principles on which the nation was founded. Our population and our fighting forces contain representatives of every nationality, all bound together by common devotion to freedom.

The Japanese have presented a special problem because of the color difference that makes them conspicuous. But there are loyal Japanese, just as there are loyal Germans, Italians, Rumanians, Austrians and Hungarians. There is no more reason for holding all Japanese in internment camps than there is for holding other minorities. Indeed, when the Japanese so held are native-born citizens of the United States, there is every reason to give them a chance to prove their loyalty.

Their relocation in areas where they might be useful is an experiment, and it shouldn't be allowed to fail. If it succeeds, it will be proof beyond dispute that in America there is only one test of an individual's worth—the test of his loyalty to American principles. No nationality or race is excluded arbitrarily from participation in the American way of life.

Schenectady Union Star, N.Y.
March 31, 1943



EARNs CITATION—Richard Ko Watanabe, Brooklyn-born Union College student, was cited for "patience, dignity and sincere American patriotism" by Dr. Dixon Ryan Fox, president of Union College, at Prize Day exercises in Memorial Chapel this morning. "Dick," whose parents are Japanese, also lived in Oregon before coming here.

Tribune Maw Finds No Pampering Of Japanese at Topaz

"These Japanese are pioneering a project . . . They're not living the life of Riley, and they're not being pampered," was Governor Herbert B. Maw's appraisal of the 8500 residents in the Topaz relocation center.

The Utah executive addressed the residents of the Japanese center at a program on Thursday evening. Governor Maw inducted the 34 councilmen who will direct the affairs of the Topaz community government.

"It's not luxury when six persons of a family live in a single room," Governor Maw observed. "I found that these thousands are not getting more than their share of coffee, sugar, meat or any other commodity. The ration regulations are rigidly adhered to by the project director's staff."

The executive said that the attitude of the men, women and children is very good.

"While many, including the 20 American Legionnaires who served in World War I, who have proved their loyalty feel 'hurt and bruised,' they are resigned to do their best and to feel that this is their contribution to the winning of the war," he added.

"I don't think they're vindictive nor embittered."

The governor predicted that the Japanese would make a major contribution to the advancement of Utah agriculture, because the camp's population included more than 500 university and college graduates, many of whom are farming experts.

Business has been brisk in Delta as the result of the new camp's establishment, while the mail orders to California and Utah ran into thousands of dollars every month, the governor was informed.

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
COMMUNITY ANALYSIS SECTION

Minidoka
Letters

COPY

February 15, 1943

Dear Pa:

I don't know how you will take this letter nor what you will think of me but I feel it my duty to tell you just how the situation looks to me. I hope that you will be able to see things as I do.

When war was started last December you remember that I tried to join the air forces and other branches of the U. S. Army. I was rejected every time on account of 'technicalities' as they put it. Then you were pulled in. Your only reason to be arrested was that you were an enemy alien. You aren't eligible for citizenship so what else could you be.

Then all of the Japanese were evacuated from the coast for no reason except that they were Japanese. No prroof of guilt for any crime was used as excuse.

When we were notified that you were to be permanently interned last July, we couldn't take any more. Therefore, we signed repatriation papers. If I was to be considered guilty without evidence or fair trial, there was no use of my holding U.S. citizenship papers. All that I was taught in schools were not true. Everything that I was told about democracy didn't seem to apply to us at all. Therefore at that time I felt that I did the only thing that I could do to keep my balance.

I would have wanted to go to Japan before the end of the war rather than at the finish because any fool can take up and work when someone else has done the dirty work. I wanted to help in the dirty as well as the good work.

Since about three months ago, the American government has changed its attitude about us. There was a mistake. This was admitted. Of course there are those that want to be put back exactly as they were before the war. They are fools. What has been done is done; there can be no turning back to former days ever. It is expected that most of the people are bitter, I am too. Yet, since the government is changing its policies as to Japanese, don't you think that everyone should help, and forget the past if the future is assured?

The point I am leading up to is this. The Army is calling for volunteers. Forty-five hundred from the camps. This camp quota is ^{about} 350. As expected most of the parents don't like it at all. I can't blame them. Both sides are right in any argument. There is no need to argue. Most of the anti reasons are these: we were kicked out - we won't get privileges anyhow - we will be shipped to Japan

after the war - we don't like this special battalion - we don't want our sons segregated from others - we want to wait for the draft rather than volunteer.

The pro reasons are these: this is a chance for the Japanese Americans to show their loyalty - a sacrifice such as this can't do any harm, rather it will change public opinion for us - if there isn't enough volunteers, then, there won't be a draft for there would be no reason. Also there won't be any reason to let the people go out.

I would be a sacrifice of 4500 volunteers to insure a place in the U. S. for the other 100,000 in this country. Isn't it worth the price? A special battlaion, I think, is for propaganda purposes rather than for anything else. After all, what is 4500 soldiers when there are over eight million in the whole army? I think that the government is changing its attitude toward us. This is the price to pay.

I will not volunteer if it were only to get you out of that camp. I do not consider you a hostage, to be exchanged for my services as a soldier.

I will not volunteer just to be able to get out of this camp. Such reasoning is too small, there is more at stake.

I will not volunteer just because some of my friends are thinking of going. You should know that I got a mind of my own. I never do things because others do something. Rather I do the opposite.

I will volunteer if I think that the government is going to give us better treatment after this is over. That means equal rights and privileges for all of us instead of the dirty treatment we have been receiving the last year. Of course, I realize the war makes lots of things different so that we can't expect too much just now.

Monday morning, I expect to see the head of this camp about this matter. I will offer to volunteer. I hope to be accepted. However, due to my repatriation papers, I cannot say what will happen. I may be rejected. I can't blame them. Still since the government has made a mistake and then changed its policies, I can't see why I can't have the privilege to change my plans too.

I have talked with Ma, Mr. Fujii, O.P., and others. Nobody is enthusiastic about it naturally. Still they say that if my mind is made up - to go ahead. I realized just what I am doing. And what I am giving up. Also that if I go I expect to be a good soldier so will expect the worst. There is no use in doing things half-way.

I am pretty mixed up but I must make up my mind now. If you

were here I would feel a lot better but I don't think that you will come for a while yet. The Attorney General said that as far as he is concerned, you should be paroled to us here at Hunt. But due to WRA policies there is a question of transfer.

There is nothing more for me to say. If the government will not accept me, it will mean that I made a mistake of signing repatriation papers and must go through with it. Although things have changed I won't have a chance to rescind. Well, I took the chance so I won't fight. If the government will accept me as such, then I will go and do my part.

Naturally this may surprise and shock you. Especially after what I have been saying for the last six months. But as I have said before, things are changing fast.

I hope that this will not upset any of your plans or hurt you too badly. I don't know how you feel. I wish that you will agree with me.

At any rate I don't need to answer for a week yet. I have a conference with the big-shot this morning. I wanted to get a release and then go out to work but I don't think that I will do that because it looks like I want all the good and none of the bad.

If possible, please wire me whether you will approve or not approve what I plan to do. I would appreciate it very much.

I don't think that I can say any more at this time so until another time,

Your son,

Tats

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of the original letter written by Tatsuro Hayasaka to his father who was interned at the time he received this letter from his son. This letter shows stamp of the U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service and was examined by Inspector No. 24-2.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

5.00

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"Letter from Japanese-American
soldier stationed at Ft. Riley,
Kansas to a friend in Minidoka."

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
COMMUNITY ANALYSIS SECTION

April 25, 1943

Hi George!

Glad to hear from you again, am really prompt this
time, ain't I?

Boy! wait till you hear what I have to tell you
about what heppened to us today and the four days pre-
ceding.

Remember the day the War Department broadcast
and revealed the fact that several American army officers
held as prisoners in Japan were executed for unknown
reasons? The very next day after that broadcast, we re-
ceived orders from our Detachment commander that all of us
Jap boys were confined to our barracks not as a punish-
ment, but purely to protect us from physical harm which
may occur to us due to some ignorant people around here.
Of course, there was some sense in that and I didn't mind
but the Japs in the Motor Pool and headquarters were per-
mitted to wander around the post area and visit the can-
teens and theaters but we were strictly confined to our
barracks.---- couldn't even go to P.X. We found out that
the order was to be confinement to post area and not to
our barracks, but our stinking captain was so damn
prejudiced that he took advantage of that order and nat-
urally, we couldn't go out. Yes, I read General DeWitt's
statement -- our commander seems to have the same thought
about us. By the way, did you read Senator Stewart's
statements. His thoughts are much more radical than
DeWitt's.

Today, Easter Sunday, we experienced an action
which I'll never forget as long as I live. President
Roosevelt came to our camp on his way home from Mexico and
we Japs were all told to fall out in dress uniforms. We
all fell-out with the thought of seeing the president, but
what happens? The Captain gives us a speech telling us
how much appreciated our cooperation in conducting
ourselves as a soldier and gentlemen during our four days,
of confinement; and he had the audacity to wish us a Happy
Easter when he knew all the time what was to follow. I
bet, you won't believe it, but it actually happened here.
We were marched double file all the way to the motor pool
and as we approached one of the mechanized school buildings,

there were about fifty armed guards with rifles and bayonets posted around this building. Boy! I sure felt lousy when we were told to march single file into this building between two guards standing by the entrance ready to take a pot-shot at us if we made any false moves. Inside this building there were more Japs huddled in a group from Motor Pool with about fifteen armed officers to watch us. Yup, we were in the same category as prisoners of war. In fact, I even felt like one. Yes, we were wearing the same uniforms as the men outside watching us. Why? One of the officers mentioned something about precautionary measures so that no harm would befall the president while he was inspecting our camp. Ypp, we were wearing the same uniforms as the fellows guarding us and they don't trust us. Boy! a million thoughts kept hammering in my head as we were in there as prisoners. I asked myself---what the hell is the use of wearing this uniform....they don't trust us and we aren't accorded the same privilege as the other men wearing the same uniform purely due to our racial ancestry. At least, I know the score down here now. This camp is run by a bunch of prejudiced men who believes in the same doctrines and principles dominant in a dictatorship and totalitarian form of government. What the hell have they got to holler about persecution of the Jews in Germany when they're just about doing the same thing to us down here? No fooling, if they don't trust us, why in the world don't they come out and say so and discharge us. I wonder how those fellows who volunteered for Camp Shelby and Camp Savage would feel if they heard about this incident. As far as I'm concerned, I'm really disillusioned and discouraged. They haven't given us the chance to realize what we're fighting for. Of course, in fairness I must say that it isn't like this in all the camps. In Texas where the Commandant is broadminded and understands the psychology of the human mind actually showed his trust for the Nisei boys in service by permitting them to guard the railroad track so that the President could pass through safely. Over here, it was entirely an opposite situation. They used negative psychology.

You know, I'm actually wondering as to whether or not our company commander, who happens to hate all Japanese regardless of how loyal he is, is planning to break our morale or treating us in this manner so that we would crack-up and make a slip so that he could pin something on us. If that's the case, he's going to have a hell of a time cause we're determined to prove that General De Witt was wrong in shooting

-3-

off with his bigoted statements. The hard part is that most of the fellows have just about reached the limit of their endurance.

* * * *

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
COMMUNITY ANALYSIS SECTION

Extract from letter of Nisei
Tulean upon his arrival at
Minidoka, October 4, 1943

(at Minidoka)
You know the administration's attitude here. Well, the people's attitude is that small inconveniences should not be protested because the administration is doing its best for the people. The philosophy of the Tuleans have been more rugged. If you want anything, get organized and fight for it. Their organization may be poor, but they are not quite as helpless as the Minidokans. These two points of view clashed as soon as we got here. There weren't enough rooms for couples and families of three and many of them were put in poorly partitioned or not partitioned at all recreation halls. The administration asked that they double up into a large room for 5 or 7 (20 x 20) and 20 x 24) until smaller rooms were available through exodus on seasonal and indefinite leave. The Minidokan leaders asked the same thing. Those who cooperated would be given first consideration when rooms were opened up. The Tuleans were indignant at the cold reception they got and banded together. They had a meeting and decided as a group to stay in recreation halls until small rooms were made available. After all, a blanket stretched across a room is not much privacy. The administration may plead a lack of construction workers to do the job or lack of material. A check-up of materials and the number of apartments vacant is being made. We are having another meeting. I say "we" because I feel close to recreation hall residents because my fiancée is one. The disgusting thing is that Minidokans aren't willing to fight or ask for decent treatment for fellow evacuees. The ability of the administration to maintain what Spicer termed a "benevolent dictatorship" is being put to a test. The number of recreation hall Tuleans is far too small to cause much of a stir, but it can serve as a wedge to change the future course of the political situation here. At any rate, I regard this conflict as a healthy one.

To go back a little ways, the protests of the Arkansas-bound people were adequately handled. About that time Best issued his "tough" statement about no changes. The liberals found that they were no longer in the saddle, but they went ahead with their work as best they could. Carter made himself available and let them cry on his shoulders. Then he issued a firm letter saying that they would have to go. It worked. A few adjustments were made, especially for medical reasons. The rest resigned themselves to go. Only four families, totaling 18, did not go on the first train, but that many probably miss all of the trains. When Best was told that the resistance of the Arkansas group was broken, he is said to have remarked, "I'm glad for the people".

A more interesting thing happened after that. Fanny Friedman and Davis were given the top social welfare jobs of counselor and assistant counselor without any warning. Carter's status is uncertain, but he is now handling community activities and civic organization and Dorothy

is staying with her welfare department. The interesting thing is, of course, the gradual decline in the influence of the liberals on administrative policy-making. They have to be credited, though, for handling the segregation program in Tule Lake successfully.

I would appreciate your comments on the Minidoka housing conflict from your position in Washington. It's a small affair, but nonetheless interesting.

Minidoka is a cleaner place than Tule Lake and on the whole a pleasanter place to live.

T

5-4:5-6-44

50812

F#19.800

Selective Service System

Robert M. Thompson, Chairman

By Marian J. Stata, Clerk of Board

Seattle, Washington

Re: Maki ji Mack Yamamoto Order No. 2587.

Response to letter of May 2 re physical
examination of our registrant named above.

McLaughlin

T

3-4:5-6-44

50812

F/19.800

Selective Service System

Robert M. Thompson, Chairman

By Marian J. Stata, Clerk of Board

Seattle, Washington

Re: Makiji Mack Yamamoto Order No. 2387.

Response to letter of May 2 re physical
examination of our registrant named above.

McLaughlin

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19.800
P5.00

SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM

Local Board No. 11
Seattle City

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633

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253 Co (STAMP OF BUILDING BOARD)
Seattle, Washington

May 4, 1944

LEAVE SECTION

Ass't. Relocation Program Officer,
Minidoka Project,
Hunt, Ida.

Re: Makiji Mack Yamamoto
Order No. 2587

Dear Sir:

In response to your letter of May 2nd regarding physical examination of our registrant named above, wish to state this boy made request for transfer for physical examination to Logan, Utah. However, he did not stay there long enough to complete the examination.

In the meantime, his papers were forwarded, through the office of our State Director, to Local Board No. 4, Modoc County, Alturas, Cal., which is the board having jurisdiction over the Tula Lake area. We will contact this board and have them return the papers to us. We will then transfer them, through the office of our State Director, to the Local Board No. 1 at Jerome, Ida.

We hope he stays in his present area long enough to complete this physical examination.

By Direction of

LOCAL BOARD NO. 11
ROBERT M. THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN

By

Marian J. Steen

Clerk of Board

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cc:CF

50812



May 24, 1944

Mr. Harry L. Stafford, Project Director
Minidoka Relocation Center,
Hunt, Idaho.

Dear Director Stafford:

On March 15, 1944 an Army-Navy College Qualifying Test was administered at the Hunt High School, Minidoka Relocation Center, Hunt, Idaho. At the time the test was given it was stated that the selection candidates would be based upon age and ability only, and that racial ancestry would not be a part of the criteria.

The information sheet of "Army-Navy College Qualifying Test" states nothing about racial requirements and other sources of information tended to imply the same thing (see enclosed material). It was upon this basis that the A.S.T.P. tests were given. I have recently (week end of May 20th, 1944) contacted in person officials associated with the A.S.T.P. offices in Salt Lake City and I find no agreement nor understanding as to the basic reasons for sending notices of qualifications to Japanese-Americans of their acceptance, and then refusing to allow them to appear for training.

On a form letter dated April 20, 1944 two of these young men, Mr. John A. Matsushima and Mr. John Kanno, who took the Test received word of their acceptance as candidates for the A.S.T.P., and for them to report to Fort Douglas at the earliest possible date. On May 1st and 2nd, 1944 these two young men were in Salt Lake City contacting the A.S.T.P. induction officer. Mr. Matsushima and Mr. Kanno were told to return to Minidoka and fill in Form 304-A, and return all of the papers to Headquarters 9th Service Command, A.S.T.P., Fort Douglas, Utah. This they did on May 6, 1944. The two young men were still being encouraged to think they would be accepted into the A.S.T.P. The Army had not given them any statements as to their racial disqualification. The WRA officials had not been notified of the negative position of the nisei who had taken the Qualifying Test on March 15, 1944. However, in a letter received by Mr. Matsushima under date of May 13, 1944, and one received by Mr. Kanno under date of May 15, 1944, notice was given that Japanese-American were not accepted. (See enclosed letters). There are at the present time some 6 nisei boys in Minidoka Center out of 45 taking the test on March 15th, who have received their letter for appearance at Fort Douglas in connection with the A.S.T.P., and at least 10 or 12 others are in line for receiving such notices in the near future.

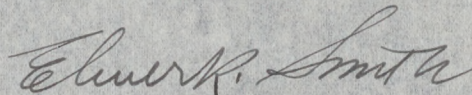
Some points for immediate consideration:

- (1) What is the Army trying to do by presenting these

letters for acceptance to nisei and then complicating matters by turning them down because of race? The situation in relation to Army induction is complicated enough to date. (Report to Community Analysis Section on "Some Factors Involved in Requests for Repatriation and Expatriation as Possibly Related to Selective Service in Minidoka). Is it possible to have the Army Specialized Training Division's position clarified for all concerned? It seems quite inconsistent to the residents to have Sgt. Kuroki here one week to raise morale and have the Army by its contradictions in orders destroy that morale.

- (2) Is it possible to have some financial compensation for the expenses endured by Mr. John Matsushima and Mr. John Kanno during their trip to Salt Lake City and return at the request of the Army as of their letter of April 20, 1944? The expenses for each boy would be covered by \$15.00 each. These young men are known by other residents to have paid their own expenses for the above purpose, and now by this refusal of acceptance because of their ancestry some serious questions are arising in the minds of nisei as well as issei as to why these boys should not be paid expenses, even if they have been turned down, since selective service nisei who were not accepted have their expenses paid to Fort Douglas, Utah.
- (3) What directive may be given for other nisei who have received the A.S.T.P. acceptance letter or will receive such a letter? This question is being asked by the nisei interested. This should be clarified before June 20th, because A.S.T.P. is to be put into operation by July 3rd, 1944.

Sincerely,



Elmer R. Smith
Community Analyst

P.S. Mr. Matsushima and Mr. Kanno are not reacting negatively to the situation, but are rather taking their rejection as a part of the general military program. As much cannot be said for other persons on the project.

Incl

HEADQUARTERS NINTH SERVICE COMMAND
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
Fort Douglas, Utah

May 13, 1944

Mr. John Matsushima,
13--10--C
Minidoka Relocation Center
Hunt, Idaho

Dear Mr. Matsushima:

This headquarters is in receipt of your letter of 8 May 1944.

Because you are an American citizen of Japanese ancestry it is impossible for you to enter the Enlisted Reserve Corps under present regulations. As enlistment in the Enlisted Reserve Corps is a necessary prerequisite for training in the Army Specialized Training Reserve Program we regret to inform you that it will not be possible for you to participate in the Program.

You are eligible for induction into the service upon reaching the age of 18 but there is no method by which it is possible to send you to school, as a civilian or reservist on inactive duty, under current regulations.

The inclosed Form 304-A is being returned to you for your use. The time you spent in obtaining this form was not wasted in view of the fact that it is necessary to have the form in your possession when you are inducted into the Army, after reaching the age of 18.

Sincerely yours,

LOUIS B. PERRY,
Captain, A. C. D.,
Chief, Classification and Training Branch
Army Specialized Training Division.

Encl

ARMY SERVICE FORCES
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL, NINTH SERVICE COMMAND
FORT DOUGLAS, UTAH

May 15, 1944.

Mr. John Kanno.
21-9-C.
Hunt, Idaho.

Dear Mr. Kanno:

This headquarters is in receipt of your letter of
May 6, 1944.

A brief investigation has revealed the fact, unknown to this headquarters heretofore, that you are an American citizen of Japanese ancestry. In view of the fact, stated above, it will not be possible for you to enlist in the Enlisted Reserve Corps for purposes of taking work under the Army Specialized Training Reserve Program under current regulations. Your time, however, was not wasted in procuring DSS Form 304A since it will be necessary for you to complete this form in order to be eligible for eventual induction into the Army upon reaching the age of 18.

Sincerely yours,

LOUIS E. PERRY,
Captain, A. G. D.
Chief, Classification and Training Branch,
Army Specialized Training Division.

1 Incl.
DSS Form 304A.

ARMY SERVICE FORCES
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL, NINTH SERVICE COMMAND
FORT DOUGLAS, UTAH

April 20, 1944

Mr. John Akire Kataushima,
13-10-G,
Hunt, Idaho.

Dear Sir:

The Commanding General has directed me to inform you that you have *ach*ieved a satisfactory score on the Army-Navy College Qualifying Test administered on 15 March 1944, at which time you indicated a preference for eventual service in the Army. Congratulations on this achievement - it may easily have an important bearing on your entire career. You have earned the opportunity to start college training under the Army Specialized Training Reserve Program. This A.S.T. Reserve Program is a form of military scholarship offered by the War Department to highly qualified young men. The scholarship includes transportation to a designated college or university, uniform, tuition, housing, messing, necessary instructional material, and such medical care as is normally provided by the institution. The uniform equipment includes the regulation uniform of a soldier, with special insignia for the A.S.T. Reserve Program.

Participation in the A.S.T. Reserve Program requires enlistment in the Enlisted Reserve Corps. This may be accomplished by going to the nearest recruiting station and presenting this letter and the attached form after it has been filled out and signed by you and your parents or guardian. The signature of both parents is required unless one parent is deceased or absent for an extended period, in which case, the signature of the other parent will be sufficient. You must do this before 1 July 1944, and as much in advance of that date as is practicable. Upon your graduation from high school, if you have met all the requirements outlined in this letter, you will be instructed to report to a college or university designated by the War Department. There you will receive your academic training, in uniform but as an inactive member of the Enlisted Reserve Corps. If you have already graduated from high school, similar instructions will be issued to you upon your enlistment in the Enlisted Reserve Corps.

If you were born between 1 October 1926 and 1 January 1927, you can look forward to two terms (six months) of training, provided your work and conduct are satisfactory to the authorities of the college to which you are assigned. If you were born between 1 January 1927 and 1 July 1927, you can look forward to at

least three terms (nine months) of training under those same conditions.

Those who successfully complete the prescribed courses of the Reserve Program will form the group from which selection will be made to fill most of the vacancies in the Advanced Phase of the Army Specialized Training Program. The number of vacancies existing at any one time will control the number of A.S.T. reserve trainees thus selected. Only those with the highest qualifications will be selected for this advanced work. Those chosen will be given thirteen weeks of basic military training, following their graduation from the A.S.T. Reserve Program, and then returned to college to continue a prescribed advanced course. Selection will be made on the basis of the academic record of the individual, and through special aptitude tests and interviews given at the school.

A.S.T. Reserve Program graduates who are not selected for advanced work will receive Army assignments, following their basic military training, commensurate with their aptitudes and specialized training.

The inclosed Information Bulletin contains additional information about the A.S.T. Reserve Program. The A.S.T. Reserve Program is an opportunity which deserves your careful consideration. The training given under the Army Specialized Training Reserve Program enhances your worth, not only to the United States Army, but also to the nation in the postwar period.

All correspondence in connection with the A.S.T. Reserve Program should be addressed to the Commanding General, Ninth Service Command, Fort Douglas, Utah, Attention: Army Specialized Training Division.

This letter is important to you and should be kept as evidence that you are eligible for consideration for the A.S.T. Reserve Program. Actual participation in the Program, however, will depend upon your taking the action indicated at the earliest possible date. You are urged to complete the attached forms without delay.

If, after consulting with your parents, you decide to accept this military scholarship, these are the steps to take:

1. Fill out the attached acceptance form in full. Be sure that the necessary signatures are included.
2. Present yourself for enlistment in the Enlisted Reserve Corps at the nearest Army Recruiting Station. Submit this letter and the accomplished form to the Recruiting Officer.

Whatever your decision is, you have my best wishes for your success.

Sincerely yours,

L. E. BANKER, JR.,
Major Field Artillery
Executive, Army Specialized Training
D-15510

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WASHINGTON

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MARCH 6, 1944

F#64.500

REC'D 3-6-44

HARRY L. STAFFORD, PROJECT DIRECTOR
MINIDOKA PROJECT
HUNT, IDAHO

ARMY AND NAVY HAVE ANNOUNCED PLAN FOR COLLEGE TRAINING OF 17-YEAR-OLD HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES. EXAMINATIONS TO BE GIVEN ON MARCH 15 AT HIGH SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. WE HAVE ASKED THAT FULL PARTICULARS AS WELL AS TESTS BE FORWARDED TO RELOCATION CENTER HIGH SCHOOLS. HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO SECURE DEFINITE INFORMATION AS TO OPPORTUNITIES FOR JAPANESE AMERICANS OTHER THAN A LIMITED NUMBER MAY BE ACCEPTED.

JOHN H PROVINSE

KLEINKOPF

LIGHT

cc:McLAUGHLIN

cc: BEESON

cc:AMERMAN

3-6-44

5-19-44

cc:ACREE

cc:SMITH

COPY

Minidoka Relocation Center
Hunt, Idaho

High School Principal

October 6, 1944

Mr. S. L. Crawley, Regional Director
Qualifying Tests for Civilians
Army Specialized Training Program
Colorado State College
Greeley, Colorado

Dear Mr. Crawley,

I have but recently received the letter concerning the qualifying test for civilians. It is probable that we could use a hundred information bulletins and subsequently an equal number of tests, if our students and graduates are eligible.

We have made a local attempt to determine the eligibility of Americans of Japanese ancestry for this program without success. I suggest that if American citizens of this extraction are eligible, you send us the materials without further comment. If they are not eligible, please let me hear from you to that effect.

I would like further to suggest that if there is any question about this matter, that we give the tests, thus having our young men in a position to enroll, if and when they are permitted to do so.

Very sincerely,

Jerome T. Light
High School Principal

JTL:kt

Extracts from-----

INFORMATION
ARMY-NAVY COLLEGE QUALIFYING
TEST
(March 15, 1944, 9: A.M.)

THE ARMY SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAM

The purpose of the Army Specialized Training Program is to provide technicians and specialists for the Army. Those selected for this program will study, at government expense, at colleges and universities in fields determined largely by their own qualifications. They will be soldiers on active duty, in uniform, under military discipline, and on regular Army pay. They are under no obligation to serve in the Army longer than any other soldier.

The curricula vary in length from one to eight 12-week terms, except that the medical and dental curricula are of the length in use at accredited colleges. The successful trainee advances uninterruptedly to the completion of his course. However, all trainees are subject to call to other active duty at all times. ASTP trainees are expected to receive college credits for their work.....

Some of the major fields of study for ASTP trainees, and the branches of service to which some of them lead, are as follows: Chemical, Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, Marine, or Sanitary Engineering (trainees utilized by the Army Air Forces, Ground Forces, or Service Forces); Medicine or Dentistry (trainees utilized by the Medical Department); Personnel Psychology (trainees utilized by the Adjutant General's Department); Foreign Area and Language Study (trainees utilized in the Army Air Forces, Army Ground Forces, Signal Corps, Military Intelligence Service, and Office of the Provost Marshal General); Veterinary Medicine; Surveying; Internal Combustion Engines; Communications and Optics; Military and Physical Training.

The Army-Navy College Qualifying Test makes it possible for men to become earmarked for special consideration for the ASTP in advance. Civilian men who will be 17 but not yet 22 on July 1, 1944, who are high school graduates or who will graduate by July 1, 1944, are eligible to take this test. Those who receive satisfactory scores are instructed to present their qualifying notices to Army authorities after induction. These candidates are then sent to special Army training stations for their thirteen weeks of basic military training. During this basic training period selection is made to fill the vacancies in the ASTP courses. The number of vacancies will vary due to the changing needs of the Army, and can be predicted for only a month or two in advance. (page 1.)

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR QUALIFYING TEST

EDUCATION You must belong to one of the following groups. Check the group to which you belong.

1. High school or preparatory school graduates, whether or not in college.
2. High school or preparatory school seniors who will be graduated by July 1, 1944.
3. Students who do not hold certificates of graduation from a secondary school but who are now continuing their education in an accredited college.

AGE You must be within the age limits of one of the two groups indicated below. Check the group in which you belong.

1. Students who have attained their 17th but not their 20th birthday by July 1, 1944. (Date on birth between July 2, 1924, and July 1, 1927, inclusive) IF YOU ARE IN THIS AGE GROUP YOU MAY APPLY TO EITHER THE ARMY OR THE NAVY. YOU MAY NOT APPLY TO BOTH.
2. Students who have attained their 20th but not their 22nd birthday by July 1, 1944, (Date of birth between July 2, 1922, and July 1, 1924.) IF YOU ARE IN THIS AGE GROUP YOU MAY APPLY ONLY TO THE ARMY. YOU ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO TAKE THE QUALIFYING TESTS AS AN APPLICANT FOR THE NAVY COLLEGE PROGRAM.

Unassigned Army reservists on inactive status are eligible to take this test. All other men now enlisted in any branch of the armed services, including assigned reservists, are NOT eligible to take this test.

Final selection for the Army Specialized Training Program and the Navy College Program depends on the candidate's meeting certain additional qualifications which are listed below. It is not the responsibility of the principal or test supervisor to certify that a candidate meets these qualifications. A student should be advised, however, that there is little point in his taking the Qualifying Test if he obviously fails to meet the qualifications.

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE ARMY SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAM

1. Be morally and physically qualified. (See above).
2. Evidence potential officer qualifications, including appearance and scholarship records. (page 4)

COPY

MATERIAL RELATIVE TO ARMY-NAVY SPECIALIZED
TRAINING PROGRAM TAKEN FROM DAILY INFORMATION
SHEETS SUPPLIED BY THE NATIONAL JAPANESE
AMERICAN STUDENT RELOCATION COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 22-23-24, 1944

ARMY SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAM --Helen C. Paul for
Gleta Dunbar, W.R.A. Washington.

Information received from the PWGC: "The ASTP program is being greatly curtailed and I am informed by the office of Col. Fitts in the War Dept. (he is in charge of the medical and dental phase of the program) that no more men will be accepted for that program. They also say that no special order was issued by their office, but that the restoration of the eligibility of Japanese Americans for Selective Service automatically made them eligible for ASTP on the same basis as other men in the service."

MARCH 29, 1944

ARMY SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAM --Letter from
Harrison A. Gerhardt, Lt. Col., General Staff Corps,
Exec. to Asst. Secretary of War, to Dr. Mason.

"As you know the Army Specialized Training Program has been drastically reduced to meet the manpower requirements for the Army. It is unfortunate perhaps that this reduction was coincident or nearly so with the reinstitution of selective service and that this coincidence has given rise to cry of discrimination. I am sure you will understand that there is no racial discrimination in this whatsoever."

INFORMATION BULLETIN
For successful candidates on 15 March 1944 Army-Navy College
Qualifying Test.

THE ARMY SPECIALIZED TRAINING RESERVE PROGRAM

(A. S. T. R. P.)

WHO IS SELECTED

In general, to receive a military scholarship under the A.S.T.R.P., a candidate must:

Have successfully completed his high school education by 1 July 1944.

Have successfully passed the Army-Navy College Qualifying Test.

Enlist in the Enlisted Reserve Corps. (This requires parents' or guardian's consent and ability to pass the physical examination.)

Be not over 17 years 9 months old on 1 July 1944.

"It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion.

" That we here highly resolve that these dead should not have died in vain; that their nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that the government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address

RECOMMENDATIONS OF TOPAZ CITIZENS FOR THE PRINCIPLES OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

(NON SEGREGATED UNITS)

In a public statement directed to the Sec'y of War Stimson, on Feb. 1, 1943, President Roosevelt expressed his views on the Nisei's exercising their responsibilities of citizenship as follows:

"The proposal of the War Dep't to organize a combat team consisting of loyal American citizens of Japanese descent has my full approval. The new combat team will add to the nearly 5,000 loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry who are already serving in the armed forces of our country. This is natural and a logical step toward the reinstitution of the Selective Service procedures which were temporarily disrupted by the evacuation from the West Coast.

"No loyal citizen of the U.S. should be denied the democratic right to exercise his responsibilities of his citizenship regardless of his ancestry. The principle on which this country was founded and by which it has always been governed is that Americanism is a matter of the mind and heart; Americanism is not, and never was a matter of race or ancestry. A good American is one who is loyal to this country and to our creed of liberty and democracy. Every loyal American citizen should be given the opportunity to serve this country wherever his skills will make the greatest contribution--whether it be in the ranks of our armed forces, war production, agriculture, gov't service, or other work essential to the war effort.

"I am glad to observe that the War Dep't, the Navy Dep't, the War Manpower Commission, the Dep't of Justice, and the WRA are collaborating in a program which will assure the opportunity for all loyal Americans, including Americans of Japanese ancestry, to serve their country at a time when the fullest and wisest use of our manpower is all-important to the war effort."

After reviewing the action of the 100th Battalion in Italy, the War Dep't has taken a great step in reinstating the Selective Service to American citizens of Japanese descent; "The excellent showing which the combat team has made in training and the outstanding record achieved by the 100th Battalion, a former Hawaiian Nat'l Guard unit now fighting in Italy, were major factors in the present plan."

Before and after Pearl Harbor, through evacuation, and relocation the nisei, American citizens of Japanese descent, have shown their loyalty by complying with all government regulation although it meant undue hardship. After a thorough investigation of the activities of the nisei prior to and after the war, responsible government agents have made the following statements:

- a. James Rowe, Jr., assistant to the Attorney General on April 20, 1942: "Mr. John Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, has advised me there was no sabotage committed by Japanese there (in Hawaii) prior to Dec. 7, on Dec. 7, or subsequent to that time."
- b. Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of War, on March 30: "The War Department has received no information of sabotage committed by Japanese during the attack on Pearl Harbor."
- c. Honolulu Chief of Police, Gabrielson: "....There were no acts of sabotage committed in the City and County of Honolulu Dec. 7, nor have there been acts of sabotage sabotage reported to the Police Department since that date."
- d. Chief Agent, Hawaii, Federal Bureau of Investigation to Blake Clark, summer of 1942: "You can say, without fear of contradiction, that there has not been a single act of sabotage."

To further test our loyalty to the U.S. the 100th and the 442nd Japanese American Infantry Battalion combat teams, composed mostly of volunteers, were organized. Tried as no other citizens have been tried and proven to be worthy Americans, we feel no further proof of our loyalty is necessary.

We are not only fighting for the sameness of purpose with other fellow Americans, but we are also fighting the war of American prejudice and intolerance at home.

President Roosevelt has stated that Americanism is a matter of the mind and heart; Americanism is not, and never was a matter of race or ancestry, but in actual practice the acceptance of the people of this statement can only be achieved by fighting side by side with other free Americans of other descent; and with the co-operation of the War Department.

With the above facts and the principles of American democracy in mind the Topaz Citizens Committee is opposed to the discriminatory segregation of all Japanese American draftees. Therefore, we make the following recommendations to the President of the United States and to the War Department.

1. No further segregated units of Japanese Americans be formed.
2. Draftees are not to be made replacements for the segregated 100th nor the 442nd Battalions.

3. All draftees to be assigned to various units of the army as other Americans.
4. If qualified, all branches of the armed forces to be opened to the Japanese American draftees.

In making these recommendations we are thinking of the post war advantages in fighting side by side with other Americans. Our fight for equal rights, equal privileges will not stop with the armistice. Our fight must continue, because we must fight the war of American prejudice. As well as sinning the war at the battle front we are desirous of winning the war against intolerance that has subjected the minority groups at home. Buddies, regardless of color or ancestry, made on the battle fields can best help to accomplish this great task that is before us--a task that is for a greater America.

Topaz Citizens

Chairman:

Frank Yamasaki

Secretary

Seiko Yakahi