

COPY

Tokyo, Japan
4 Apr 49

Miss Dorothy S. Thomas
Mr. Richard S. Nishimoto
c/O University of California Press,
Berkeley, Calif.

Dear Miss Thomas and Mr. Nishimoto:

Some time ago Mr. Joe Kurihara brought the book "The Spoilage" to my attention suggesting that I read about what part he had in the evacuation. I believe Joe knows Mr. Nishimoto's brother who resides in Tokyo. Though I have not had the opportunity to meet Mr. Nishimoto, I have known Joe ever since March or April '42 when both of us were among the first group of voluntary evacuees after responding to the now memorable call from General Dewitt, "those who go early will be amply rewarded....." and found out to our dismay what was in hold for us in the early months of our lives at Manzanar.

Now, I am working as a DAC translation team captain for the ATIS. I am a veteran of the last war. I left Manzanar in November 1942 for Camp Savage to become a civilian instructor and thus was fortunate enough to be away from the scene at the time of the bloody riot in December '42, but my wife and then four year old daughter were there, living in an apartment only two houses away from Fred Tayama's. I volunteered for the army after my family came to Minnesota and spent the latter half of '44 and first 10 months of '45 as a member of Pacific Mil. Intell. Research Section under War Dept. G-2 at Camp Ritchie, Md. In Nov. '45, we flew out to Japan on a special mission (then I was a M/Sgt), which lasted until April '46 when several of us were offered jobs with the occupation forces and were discharged here. For the last three years, I have been working as one of the four nisei interpreters for the International Military Tribunal for the Far East. Three out of the four of us hail from Manzanar, Sho Onodera, who volunteered as a recruit from Manzanar in Dec. '42, Lanny Miyamoto, who has been with Michigan University faculty and then with OSS as well as USBAS during the war and after the war, and myself.

Now, most of us nisei DAC's in Japan have been so busy or otherwise occupied that we have not had much time to remember and go over those trying days in relocation camps until very recently. We are now going into a somewhat quieter mode of living, with the occupation becoming more routine in nature. That is how I have come to read your book and to wish to communicate to you to express my appreciation for your strenuous efforts in assembling and editing the masses of data and for coming out with a clear cut record of 'behaviour of human beings in a crazy environment under the pressure of a crazy turn of event'. I really enjoyed reading your book. And, furthermore, I wish to tell you about what I know of the Joe Kurihara as a citizen of a defeated and occupied country.

Though you may have heard from him directly, I have come to know him rather intimately only in the recent months. Sometime in the summer of '48, he came to Tokyo from Kyushu looking for job and met quite accidentally another ex-Manzanaiite who had met me in Tokyo before. Joe came to see me that evening and since then I have had him for dinner a number of times, and at present some of my Japanese friends are trying to get a job for him. Apparently Joe is not too happy being a Japanese citizen, and perhaps due to his honesty and sincerity, he is finding it a hard going to live and get along in this confused and bewildered community of human beings, who are feeling more and more keenly as the days go by that they have become a sort of international political foot balls. (I may have occasion to go further into this subject some other time).

News from home that we get through our army paper, Stars and Stripes, is very meager, but I heard recently about the petition being filed by some of ex-Tule Lake segregants who had to forfeit American citizenship (either to settle in the states or come to Japan). I wonder if you can tell me as to the chances of Joe being invited or permitted to return to the states as a sort of "victim of circumstances". I do not even know whether you are still connected with the study of this subject, but I am finding myself being compelled to at least look into the situation to see if 'anything can be done on behalf of Joe', who, I believe, does not belong here and does not deserve to be left forgotten.

I know many of my fellow nisei veterans in Japan or in the states would condemn me if they heard about my interests in Joe's future, for I, too, used to be a target of suspicion both as "Inu" as well as a "fence-sitter" or a "two-faced Kibei who played ball with both camps". But at least I have a long string of army commendations (including a Legion of Merit which was given to me on the first anniversary of V-J Day for a little job I did as a Sgt in War Dept G-2) and record of the past seven years. Joe used to feel proud of his record as a World War veteran and a successful navigator in San Diego in pre-war days. But today, he says (mark you, he maintains) he is proud of being a Jap. He still maintains that he wants to remain a loyal Japanese contributing to the democratization of Japan. In the cold reality of life, however, Joe is not being afforded opportunity to realize his aspirations. The average Japanese is too smart and selfish to be impressed by him. In getting jobs, he has the constant difficulty of being regarded as too old to take up a new job. Yes, it is true he is one of the most capable material as an English-speaking "liaison business specialist", but he is still unknown in this huge metropolis of 4 million people. His identity is limited to WRA people and his fellow evacuees from Manzanar and Tule Lake.

Recently he resigned from his position as an accountant for a large drafting firm with a good connection with occupation authorities. He was well liked by those who came in contact with him until he discovered what he figured to be a shady, dirty deal committed by his employer and headman of the company. He termed it the swindling of a large sum of money which rightfully should have been paid to his some eighty fellow employees. So he exposed the boss in front of his colleagues in a employee-management conference. He came to see me

when he wanted to appeal to the American MG authorities for help in vindicating his just cause. Just like the crusader that he is. I still don't know what has become of his latest battle. But one thing I do know is that he quit the job in a belief that he had to be a free, unobligated man to carry the fight to "the bitter end". To my wife, when they are alone, it seems he has been confiding his secret hope that someday he may be able to go back to his native land, Hawaii. But in facing me, his pride would not have it. He still claims that he would not accept a trip to the states unless he is given a clean slate bill and "invited" to become a citizen again. What do you think can be done about this fellow?

I admire him for his forthrightness and courage, but pity him for that fact that at his age he still is finding it hard to adjust himself to the hard, cold facts of life (that human beings are base at the bottom of their hearts, that justice is noticeable only when men can afford to be benovolent, and that there are very few who are lucky enough not to become victims of circumstances) I too, may be risking my position if not social standing in the limited sense of nisei community by finding something in common with this man Joe. I, too, have to spend many a sleepless night wondering, indignantly sometimes, why we nisei, after all the proving we had to do and we did with a wonderful record, have to be content with the lot of being unknown and underpaid (relatively speaking) interpreters without being given a chance to prove our skill as some of the policy making personeel or advisory personeel of this program for 'democratization of Japan, our ex-enemy country, to defeat which we all had to rack our brains and exercise our nerves to the limit. But when we think of hundreds and thousands of other fellow Americans, negroes, Italians, Irish or what not, who have to go on "hoping and bucking, and hoping sometimes against hopes", what can we say but to comfort ourselves saying, "let's wait and hope for another day when we may have some say about mending the damages wrought by our present day leaders".

My letter has become much, much longer than I had intended. I shall not wear you out with my sad meditations and protestations. My last statement is that I am hoping to be given your permission to translate your book into Japanese so that some day when I am a free citizen instead of a DAC, I may be able to have this book published for the benefit of Japanese readers, who have not yet been given an opportunity to read any authentic account of this great experiment in the history of American society, that is, compulsory emigration and relocation of some 100 thousands people.

You see, I spent 17 out of 20 years of my early life in Japan, and after my return to California in 1931, I was a Japanese language reporter, translator, and columnist for a bilingual newspaper in Los Angeles for some seven years until I went to Manzanar in March 1942. For six months between May and November of last year I was a sort of nisei editor-in-chief of the translation of the judgment of Tokyo trial, supervising a staff of some thirty nisei and Japanese national linguists. All my life I have been an aspiring literarti (in Japanese first, and then in English), though I have not yet published any book. During the war, when I was a civilian and then enlisted instructor of the language school at Savage and Snelling, I used to contribute to the Colorado Times under the pen-name Savage-sei and

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with the approval of the army authorities. So, I can say I have some experience in writing. I did entertain an ambition to write a true and realistic account of my observations of the early phases of the evacuation as well as the pre-evacuation events in Little Tokyo in Los Angeles when I was in Manzanar, but that ambition has withered away since I read your book and another one by Mr. McWilliams, for I can never hope to add anything useful to those two books.

Hoping to hear from you,

Yours very sincerely,

David A. Itami
DAC, G-2 TIS, GHQ, FEC.
APO 500, c/o PM,
San Francisco, Calif.

P.S. The magazine TIME published some of my letters on two occasions, once in the issue of 16 Mar 42 and another in June or May of the same year. For personal reference, you may refer to Mr. John Aiso, 112 N. San Pedro St., L.A., Mr. Roy Takeno, Denver Post, Denver, Colo., or Larry Tajiri of Pacific Citizen in Salt Lake City.

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF RECORD

Name Nishimoto, Shigeaki Place and Date of Birth Tokio, Japan, August 23, 1904
Address _____
I. Attendance: Matriculated April 19 25 in Lower Division to School of Engineering 3/28
Graduated June 17 19 29 Degree A.B.
II. Present Status: Entitled to honorable dismissal NOV 24 1952

III. Entrance Units: From Lowell (San Francisco) High School
Fifteen units, including a minimum of two units in English, required for first-year standing.
IV. College Credits: _____

Summary: Total entrance units credited 16 College credit by transfer -- quarter units Total Undergraduate credit 18 1/2 quarter units
Stanford credit earned 18 1/2 quarter units Graduate credit -- quarter units

[illegible]

180 university (quarter) units (and grade points equal to the number of units of registered work), together with the physical or military training prescribed for Lower Division students, required for graduation. One quarter unit represents one hour of recitation or three hours of laboratory per week for approximately twelve weeks.

A, B, C, D, *passing grades*, corresponding to "excellent," "good," "fair," "barely passed"; +, *passed*, without defining grade; \pm , *condition*; (—), *failed*. The letter \pm placed after a grade mark indicates *incomplete work*; inc., *incomplete without defining grade*. The letter \pm placed after a grade mark indicates *continuous course*, final credit not being given until the work has been completed in the following quarter or quarters. W indicates withdrawal from class before a definite record has been made: O.K., condition or incomplete made good. Grade A counts 3 grade points per unit; B, 2; C, 1; D, 0; \pm , 1; condition removed, 0.

I certify that the information above is correct

Laurel Palmer
Recorder ^{Registrar}

The charge for a transcript of record is fifty cents.

February 27, 1952

Dear Dorothy:

This letter is comprised of two parts: Part I deals with the now-untitled opus by Ten Broeck and Barnhart; and Part II has to do with my woes in job hunting.

Part I: I didn't realize how much work was really involved when I accepted the job you asked me to do. I gathered from your letter that the manuscript is pretty bad and not anywhere near a publishable form. Well, that statement of yours was an understatement with undue restraint. As you probably know, their book is composed of three parts, each written by ^a ~~three~~ different persons. The first part, written by a graduate student in Poli Sci by the name of Floyd Matson, was the worst; and the last part by Chick was the best. Even though Chick did very well, a tremendous amount of work in revision is necessary for his chapter on the equal protection of law. Altogether I have spent two full days and three half-days in conference with them (Matson is now in Okinawa, however.) The last half-day session was yesterday afternoon. Besides these hours, I actually spent ten full days, sometimes staying up until 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning, and giving my exclusive attention to this matter. The work of critique was slow and tedious, for at least one criticism had to be made on every page in the first two parts and the equal protection chapter in the last part. Occasionally there were pages where I had to criticize every statement. At times I could go over only five pages in one hour. This above description is intended only to show that you can't do any sloppy irresponsible job when you are asked to act as a critic for a manuscript for

publication. A few of my criticisms might be regarded as quibbling on my part, but I thought it's up to them to evaluate, reexamine the points in question and do whatever they want to do with my criticisms. Although you warned me to be tactful, I have disobeyed it. As you know, I am not a tactful person to start with, and I was convinced that I couldn't do my best if I pulled my punches. I warned them, therefore, at the beginning that I would say what ^{ever} I wanted to say without any regard ^{for} to their tender feelings, because I was sure that that way would bring the best result. I also told them that you had instructed me to be "tactful," adding that she has known me as a person too outspoken ^{ly} diplomatically. I had to do all this ground-preparing work at the start, because ^{they thought} they had done a very good work, which was now ready for publication, and would be very much discouraged after our sessions were over. Oh, I could tell that they did a tremendous amount of research, and that they had gathered new valuable data. I told them so, too. The upshot of the whole thing is this: They took my criticisms exceptionally well, were now convinced that the manuscript is in a bad form yet, and have renewed vigor and enthusiasm to overcome the shortcomings and whip it into something very worthwhile. At one time, there were so many criticisms that clichés such as "What's next, Mr. Moto?" were exchanged among us. They are now convinced you were right when you told them that I was of "unique value." (I might not ^{have} told you this: When I was with them about three years ago for the first time, they didn't think I could do much for them, and they thought the field of Japanese-American study was simple and easy to get into, and they could do without outside help. Now they know differently.) Their final estimate of me now is: "You

are a hard person to please, but there is no question you are a well-qualified expert. Also, "without your help, we would have made serious faux-pas." Their deadline was originally set for March 15, when the Editorial Committee meet, but it is now postponed indefinitely.

Throughout the proceeding, I acted, and they regarded me, as your emissary. Therefore, I asked them to send you a detailed critique of my work. By looking over such a report from them, we would know how much improvement you can expect and how good or bad the final form may be. If the final form be satisfactory to us, they deserve any and every support you can give them. I sincerely believe they need it. Your support is absolutely essential. I promised them that I would go over their revised manuscript, provided I am available then. (It ties up with what I tell you in Part II of this letter.) My most conservative estimate is that the necessary revision would take at least four months. By the way, Barney is going back East in April, first to Alexandria, Va., to look over WDC files, then to Washington and New York to interview more government officials of the time, and then to see you. He has just received some money from the University for this trip. I want to predict with much pleasure: If they succeed in revising the present form in the ^{proposed} manner, which I ~~know~~ ^{hope} they are capable of, it is going to be a tremendous book. It would be a worthy companion to our The Spoilage and ^{your} The Salvage. It is to be re-oriented to be the American-American side of the Japanese-American Evacuation. The newly revised Conclusion by Ten Broeck is terrific. It gave me the conviction, "This is it." If and when the revising is completed and the final form is satis-

tory to both of us, (After all, we are very hard persons to please, you know.) Grodzin's book will be discredited beyond any dispute. Will his face be red then! My only concern is as to Barney's ability. His chapter V on theories deals with Grodzin's directly. Confidentially, he is not quite mature, nor ^{as} brilliant as TenBroeck, and has all the shortcomings common among persons disciplined in Psychology. I hope he does his job well. We will go into this in more details later. Chick, on the other hand, is brilliant. And I am not giving any allowance for his physical handicap. The alertness and keenness of his mind are just amazing. I have met only two others in my life by whom I was impressed to such ~~a~~ degree. Of course, I am not naming these two persons here in order to avoid giving any impression of "posterior osculation." This is my observation now: Chick realizes that he is carrying two weak persons, and he must do much of the final work as much as academic etiquette allows.

Incidentally, it was a drawback for me in this work that I hadn't read The Salvage. But I knew the conceptualization and the data going into the book. Any suggestion to them as to the use of The Salvage for any particular point of discussion was, therefore, purely ~~a~~ guess work. The Framework of this Volume II, as judged from the preface and the table of contents, is not any different from what we were talking about while we were in Berkeley. It was strange to hear you say that the final form is very different from the original idea. Well, that could wait. I will know more about it when I see it as a book.

Now, I will give you samples of my criticisms. I will type at random without giving much thought to in what order they appear

1. The work is disjointed as it is now. Some events are repeated over and over, while certain others events or phenomena popped suddenly in the summary or in the equal protection chapter. I have called their attention to many specific instances. Here I give two examples. The term "picture bride" suddenly pops up in Chick's chapter without giving the reader any prior knowledge. Or, about the Kibei. The reader wouldn't know what they are talking about until he comes to the very last part of the book.

2. They lacked ^{full understanding of} the sociological implications of the various events. For example, they treated the school segregation incident of 1906 as something resulting from the anti-Japanese agitation. In this instance, the secondary sources are at fault. I explained much in detail the condition existed in schools at the time (primarily, elementary schools.) I had to tell them about the nature of the Japanese immigration at the time; the fact that school boys, mostly fifteen years or older, enrolling in elementary school, usually beginning at the first grade, in order to learn English, etc. It was the teachers and parents who originally protested ~~the~~ their mingling with the Caucasian children, younger than, say, ten years of age. It caused much lurid imagination as to the "immoral" consequences (race prejudice in the purest form of definition.) As Chick's group put it, there danced the anti-Japanese groups for political gains in the absence of teachers' and parental objection. Again, the Kibei matter. You can't understand the idea of sending the American-born to Japan without describing the sociological significance. This was one ~~difficult~~ ^{difficult to convey} aspect ~~to drive into~~ them. At the begin-

ginning they protested repeatedly, "Yes, but this is not a sociological book." At the end, however, they came around to my point of view that you cannot appreciate any event without being fully aware of sociological background or implications. I emphasized the fact that what they have in the equal protection chapter is mostly sociology.

3. Their statistics were bad. Offhand, I remember two instances. One, they said that the Japanese immigration decreased after 1915. Another, the Japanese population in California decreased after 1910. They promised that they would go over all the statistics. (Your "demographic article" was very useful. It is very good. I have only one minor quarrel with it; ~~it is~~ ^{which} indeed, is an eagle for the hole.)

4. They have inherited all the bias of the secondary sources, giving a compounded biased result. One glaring example was the fact that they inherited an instance of academic dishonesty by McWilliams. They have taken in toto what McWilliams did. That is, discussing the Japanese in agriculture on the Pacific coast, and concluding it with the findings by Rademaker. After all, Rademaker wasn't such a bad scholar to claim what he found about the Japanese farmers in the White River region applied to all the Japanese farmers on the coast. I have gone over in great detail the bias of each and every author on the Japanese subject. Strong, Mears, Reynolds, Bogardus, Kawakami, McWilliams, Ruth McKee, Col. Irish, etc. I was able to use concrete examples to show his or her bias, because so many quotations from the secondary sources were available in their manuscript. As a result, for one thing, much or all of Kawakami, McWilliams, and McKee quotations are coming out

of the revised manuscript. If any of theirs is to be used, for example, Col. Irish's or Kawakami's, it will be used as a statement made by a pro-Japanese protagonist.

5. They, especially Matson and Barney, tended to show events in a clear cut cause-effect relationship. There were too many instances of this nature, and I am sure you have noticed them.

6. They made too many dogmatic statements. Too numerous. One example: "Florin and Livingston were successful Japanese farming communities." I asked them what is the criterion of success they have in their mind here. They said, "Money." So, I replied this was then a dogmatic statement unsupported by evidence. If Florin or Livingston were so successful, then what they could call the Japanese farming in Coachella Valley; or even on smaller scale, what about the Japanese farmers on Palos Verdes Hill, I said. In fact, they know now that Florin ~~is~~^{was} not a representative Japanese community as they thought. In this respect, I can't blame them. How could they know how to evaluate, say, between the work done by Strong's research worker on Florin and the M.A. thesis by Omura on Terminal Island?

Another example: "The living standards of the Japanese farmers were equal to those of the ^{comparable} Caucasian farmers."

7. They didn't know much about some of ~~the~~^{major} events they are talking about. The example of the segregated school incident has been mentioned above. More importantly, they were all cock-eyed about the anti-alien ~~legislations~~^{laws}. They thought that the anti-alien land acts were quite effective. For example, at several instances, they talk about rural Japanese driven into urban areas as a result. It was quite evident they had a hell of time trying

to prove this. And, in fact, here they can't blame ^{it} on the lack of data in the secondary source. They only used Fuller and Jean Pajus, and using their figures it is contended that the alien land acts were quite effective in what they aimed to do. I have proven exactly opposite ^{to} that the acts were not effective and evasions were general. Not only that, I have pointed out that the census data could not be interpreted only in terms of such alien land acts. There are other factors: For example, the 1920 census figures must also be accounted ^{for} by overexpansion in anticipation of the prohibitive legislation, by overexpansion due to unexpected prosperity (rice farming, in particular), etc. I don't know what was the matter with them. Here, they had a tailor-made manuscript ^{by me}. I was really disgusted around here. I have a sneaking suspicion that ^{they thought} what we in the Thomas group ^{did} didn't amount to much. The Spoilage, your "demographic article", my economic research are all available to them. In fact, they are much superior to anything done on the subject previously. I agree with you here; they didn't know how good our work is. Now, I think they have more respect. By the way, remember even McGoveney didn't believe that evasions of the alien land acts were general? He said, "No law could be that ineffective."

My irritation on this score was ^{much more} ~~very~~ noticeable when we were discussing the chapter on the Japanese in urban trade. This chapter ends with what are ^{available} in Millis'. That means, nothing is said about the Japanese in urban trades after 1912 (circa). No mention of these Japanese in the twenties or in the thirties! I was burning. What I said could be summarized in one sentence: "What's good enough for Dorothy Thomas should be good enough for you." You have mentioned all these things -- the school segregat

ion, the anti-alien land acts, the urban trade conditions, etc. etc. --- are ^{not} necessary for the Chick's ^{book} group. I disagree. They have their place in their work, although not in the present form. I will explain that later.

8/ Their writing is too journalistic. Matson is the worst, in this sense. I found out later that he was a newspaperman. Examples: "Yellow peril psychosis." "The contraction 'Jap' was made familiar during the World War II." "The anti-Japanese feeling was climaxed by the Japanese suppression of Korean rebellion." And "Jap's a Jap" statement was "edited" in the House report. etc etc. etc.

More particularly:

1. Part I must be reoriented to tie in with Part III ^{much} more closely, eliminating all extraneous discussions, ^{and} all the objectionable quotations. Some of the wordy discussions must be taken out. For example, the discussion on the Hollywood movies is much too long. It is ~~not~~ ^{not} any more than an anecdote. New discussions must be brought in. For example, the vital role of the West coast newspapers is conspicuous by its absence. The irresponsible reporting can not be overemphasized. The newspapers had much to do with the pertuation of racial stereotypes and continuation of racial antagonism. There is no secondary source for this, and a new research is necessary. A new discussion of the Japanese in urban areas, for another example, must be brought in in the perspective of the effect of the racial antagonism upon the minority group. In short, such orientation must be in the framework of what the dominant group did, and its consequences upon the minority group. The focus must be sharp in this framework, for one reason, to lead to better understanding of what is presented in Parts II and III. For another reason, to avoid much repetition and overlapping with data

already available in the secondary sources. (I have given ample examples on this matter during the conferences.) There are too much gaps in the secondary sources. For instance, they are awfully weak on the effect of these legislations or these anti-Japanese agitation upon the Japanese. If these new facets are brought in, it would be a great contribution. I believe this Part is essential, because it would then have a direct and important bearing upon their conclusion. For one thing, it would tie in directly with your concluding paragraph in The Spoilage. For another thing, it was the people ~~with~~ ^{who} stereotype minded and predisposed to racial antagonism who ~~are~~ ^{were} responsible for the discriminatory acts. It is about time we should correct the existing secondary sources which have so far presented the pressure groups, political and economic, as the prime mover. It is about time that we should know that these politicians and economic exploiters are part of the people. In other words, let's put ^{the} ~~A~~ horse ahead of ^{the} ~~A~~ cart. As far as I can remember, McWilliams was ^{the} ~~only~~ person who had this bright idea, but he muffed it miserably.

2. Part II also must stay in. As the part is composed of two chapters, I will take them separately. The first chapter deals with the history of Evacuation. This chapter will be valuable in that it will bring in newly available evidence. In fact, some of these new data were completely new to me. No one used these yet, and not in Grodzins' either. Barney is still collecting more data, and he is very efficient in digging up these. This chapter also brings the episode to the very end, i. e. ~~the~~ ^{the} return of the Japanese to the West Coast, including such data as the violence against the returnees, and what happened to the renunciants. This time it will be a complete history.

I had many criticisms here too. The major criticisms were ,the following two:

1. The orientation is not proper. Barney ~~goes~~ strays from the major thesis of the people, the streotype, and the racial discrimination. One glaring defect is that the chapter lacks in the discussion of the rôle played by the West Coast newspapers. Here I don't mean the quantitative analysis such as done by Grodzin. What I meant is illustrated by the occurance of the Hawaii sabotage myth on the coast. The early suspicion and unconfirmed reports of Japanese sabobage in Hawaii were given unquestionable credibility after the interview reports of the evacuees from Hawaii on the first boat reaching here. Etc. Etc. Another ecample is the spiraling effect of suspicion and concern in the public mind ^{as} each successive steps ^{were} taken --- beginning with the round-up of Japanese liens, surrender of contraband, the announcements of the restricted zones and prohibited zones, etc. etc. Each of these prohibitive acts was followed by the keener awareness of "danger" and the firmer rationale for demanding more prohibitive measures. Public clamor seems to have been more vocal earlier in the immediate vicinity of vital installations (therefore, where D.J. measures were proclaimed earlier) and in the localities of earlier and greater animosity. An excellent example for the latter is the Salinas area. I think you know that soldiers from this area were ^{trapped} ~~caught~~ in the Philippine Islands. ~~The~~ ^Public animosity preceded any activity by pressure groups. (This is important for us, because much of Grodzin's pressure group theory evidence are

concentrated in this Salinas area. I mean, those prior to the critical baseline of February 14.) Barney dug up an interesting evidence that the Executive Secretary of the Western Growers Association(?) started yapping about killing ever^y God-damn Japs soon after he was notified that his son^{was} killed on Luzon. (I don't think he will use this datum, however.) This spiraling effect of public antagonism must be hit hard.. Again, the focus must be sharp in this chapter, too; that the people are the prime mover.

Another example is his treatment on segregation. He swallowed the WRA explanation^a of "administrative necessity" uncritically. This should be treated in the context of their major thesis. It was a military movement; in a sense, a second Evacuation. ^{here} He completely ignored the effect of public agitation against the WRA. I told them to reexamine what "the people" did. For example, the charge of pampering of the "disloyal," ^{the evidence being} or Myer put on the carpet by the House Appropriation Committee, or the investigations by the Senate and the House subcommittees. When one discusses the American-American side of the segregation episode, the people's rôle cannot be omitted.

2/ The second major quarrel with Barney was his failure to examine primary data properly and ^{his} use of questionable data uncritically. There were numerous instances. For instance, I remember one good example. A Nisei testified before the Tolan Committee to the effect that the Hiei Maru was "the last evacuation boat sent from Japan." It had prepared to accommodate some 10,000 Japanese. But only some 3,000 took this opportunity, because most Japanese had "elected" to remain in America. This statement is used to substantiate his claim that the Japanese

had decided to remain here. To me, it was a good statement for any one who wanted to claim that the Japanese here had ~~a~~ prior knowledge of Pearl Harbor. I explained to him that this statement could not be properly understood without any background knowledge on the consequences of the Freezing Act of 1940.

Another instance deals with the Final Report statement with respect to the evacuation from ~~the~~ Zone II. He successfully convinces the reader that the WDC ^{were} ~~are~~ a bunch of liars. Then in another passage, when the circumstance is convenient to Barney, he turns around and takes what D-Witt and Bendetsen ^{said the} ~~as~~ a gospel truth without any evaluation of the data at all.

Oh, there were many other similar instances. So many that it wasn't amusing at all. For one thing, why is it that all these "nice people" like Barney and Chick gullibly ^{swallow} ~~are~~ WFA statements and explanations?

Then came the biggest storm. The criticisms of Barney's chapter on the pressure group theory. You are right when you said that they are leading with their chin. It lacks objectivity. It lacks proper academic restraint. ~~He~~ ^{He} is too argumentative with his own words, where the evidence presented by him speaks for itself. Taylor is correct when he said the passing of resolutions is not ^{the} only medium by which political and economic groups ^{can} ~~to~~ exert their pressure. It gave me a feeling of watching a high school debating team perform. I thought he was muckraking Grodzin, and in the end I ^{was unwittingly} ~~sympathized~~ with the poor guy Grodzin. I know Barney ^{never} intended all this, but his end product is just this. I realized that all these shortcomings were the result of the choice of words, the organization, the confusion in the presenta-

tion of his arguments. There is much confusion as to whether he is arguing about the pressure group theory as advanced by Grodzins or the pressure group theory ~~per se~~. All the misunderstanding about these various resolutions are not necessary, re Taylor's criticism, if it ~~was~~ ^{were} made clear that it is Grodzin, not Barney, who is advancing the pressure group theory based much on the evidence of these resolutions. If he did this, he could turn around and use Taylor against Grodzins. Our position on this matter should be (and Barney agreed with me and told me that this was exactly his position) that the pressure groups may be the prime mover for evacuation, i. e. the pressure group ^{theory} ~~may~~ be true. But we don't know. At least, we can't believe in the theory as advanced by Grodzins. His evidence is much too scant. It is insufficient and inconclusive. Until a better hypothesis is advanced, with sufficient and conclusive ^{evidence,} our "people" theory stands much better under severe examinations. (Oh, yes, I said all these things to Barney face to face. It was somewhat like calling him bad names.)

My recommendations were:

1. An entirely new organizational framework. The rationale for the presence of this chapter in this book ^{is the presence of} ~~being~~ some other theories advanced by other scholars. The only major theory, however, is the pressure group theory, beside of course the official "military necessity" thesis. And only Grodzin presents ample data to support his contention. Others either dogmatically state this theory or support it with ^{too} ~~so~~ scant data. Only Grodzin's work can be scrutinized carefully. Then, ^{Barney could go on to} ~~he should~~ describe what ~~points~~ ^{Grodzins' arguments in detail; here without any arguments from himself.}

he advances. Then, he should present what are Grodzin's data ^{support-}
^{ing his arguments.} These could be done dispassionately with much restraint. These
do not call for any arguments from Barney. Then, he should go
into the examination of Grodzin's data -- the sufficiency, the
reliability and the validity. This, too, doesn't ^{call for} need any of
Barney's arguments. (In addition, I pointed out that he has not
exhausted ~~in~~ the examination of Grodzin's data. For example, he has
not explored the skewness in the geographical distribution of
the resolutions and letters ~~as~~ used by Grodzin. I have a hunch
that it would show a heavy concentration in the Salinas area, for
one thing. If my hunch is correct, it becomes silly, because
Grodzin's hypothesis should not be the pressure groups of the
West Coast, but the pressure groups of the Salinas area. (Or, any
number of areas, and not the entire West Coast as Grodzin led
the reader to believe.) Grodzin uses resolutions indiscrimina-
tely whether it's from Farm Bureau or from Lady's Knitting Club or
Sunday Bible Class. Barney should bring out the fact that the
latter two could not be pressure groups of political or economic
motives. Another point of discussion as ^{to} the validity of Grodzin's
data is this: Suppose ^{the} Fresno Chamber of Commerce demanded the
evacuation of the Japanese from a certain area including Fresno
(remember, all the resolutions included their own areas from
which the Japanese should be excluded.) And later an order was
issued ordering the Japanese ^{to evacuate from} another area which did not include
Fresno. In such a case, ^{can} the Fresno resolution be considered as a
valid evidence of pressure for the Japanese evacuation from the
area not including Fresno?

There were other tests of data I proposed.

After all this is done, Barney ^{would be} ~~is~~ in position to argue about

The arguments advanced by Grodzins. Then, he must conclude in a summary fashion with his own hypothesis, to remind the reader ^{that} the prime mover was the people. Chick called my suggested framework "orthodox framewhork" I don't know what "orthodox framework" is, but I know for sure that Chick agreed with me 100 per cent here. I believe, and Chick concurs, that this is the most important chapter in the whole book. If Barney fails here, the whole book must necessarily fall with it.

Now we come to the part written by Chick. I made some comments on the legal chapter, but I don't need to go into that here. Most of my criticisms were on the equal protection chapter. Again the chief troubles were (1) the absence of proper evaluation of bias in the secondary sources, and (2) the uncritical use of primary data. Ample examples have been given above, and it will be pointless to discuss them again.

There was one instance where I was amused. It concerned ^{with} the WDC datum on the number of Kibei returning in 1940. The WDC originally used these figures to substantiate their claim of the Japanese having close ties with Japan. I had to explain in detail how the number of Kibei returning here from Japan increased after 1937. Chick's major preoccupation here was the correctness of these figures (too large to satisfy him, evidently) and wanted to get hold of the ship manifesto, ^{where} from the WDC states these data were taken from. It was amusing to me, because it is entirely unnecessary to prove, if possible, that the WDC figures are too large, larger than the actual number of Kibei returning. We could admit here that the Kibei were coming back in a larger number. Then we could use the same document against the Army argument. We could say: "The fact that so large number of Kibei were

returning to America in war crisis is, rather, an evidence of their affinity, if not loyalty, to America." The Kibei, as we know, ^{had} never expected to receive such particular attention and differential treatment as they received.

There is another point, before I conclude this matter. I understand you have objected to the use of two documents: (1) the JACL statement regarding the harmlessness of the Butoku Kai, and (2) the Munson statement to the ~~effect~~ ^{effect} that many Kibei came back hating Japan, and that it is a good idea to send them to Japan for making them see the real Japan and come back hating Japan. I didn't believe your objection was valid, and I overruled it.

Now, you realize they are doing an important and valuable work. It's only the revision I am worried about. The big question now is: "Can they do it?" I wonder! I close this critique ^{on} with a slight pessimistic note. It is important that I look at the revised manuscript, but I don't know if I can be available for that. This will now leads to Part II of my letter, concerning myself.

Beyin / For sometime I have been wanting to see and reexamine postwar Japan and, if possible, other parts of the Orient. My curiosity ^{very} intensified particularly with the conclusion of the peace conference in San Francisco late last Summer. My interest has been all these years, and still is, in the Japanese ^{race} problems and the Far East history. In the fields of Sociology and History concerned with the Japanese, I am happiest. I wanted to keep up with what I am good at. I ~~knew~~ ^{have known}, however, that my formal trainings are not sufficiently proper nor intensive to qualify for an academic position, even if I succeeded in overcoming the

other major obstacle, i. e. my alien status. So I couldn't see any hope in the academic field. And there was nothing open in other fields where dealings with either Japan or the Japanese were of primary concern, when I ^{left} ~~jumped~~ Los Angeles. Besides, I didn't have any money with me at the time. I just took any job which came in my way and have lain "low" for more than two years hoping for an opportune moment. ~~We will have more time to talk about what I did and what I didn't do in those years.~~ ^{omit} Last Summer, I couldn't stand the job I had then, and quit the place. I had saved some money, and thought I would last at least six or seven months in looking for a ^{better} job. Immediately I began looking around. I wanted to find out ^{first} what lines of business dealt with Japan or the Japanese -- I eliminated the academic field from the beginning because of the reason stated above. First, I looked into the field of foreign trade with Japan -- that's just where any one would look first. I learned that the volume of trade with Japan has been and still is very small. Import consists of those goods marked "made in occupied Japan" which you find in stores and those others, mostly food, for the consumption of the resident Japanese. Export was still difficult due chiefly to the exchange rate. It would take a few years yet, and the ratification of the peace treaty must come first, before any large scale expansion in foreign trade takes place, which then would create many opportunities. Besides, stabilization of conditions in China is a prerequisite, too. There was one opening in a small Japanese-owned firm dealing in Japanese food at that time, but I didn't want to work for a Japanese. Maybe that was a mistake.

Other than the foreign trade, ^{field} there was only one field available. That was transportation. I learned that the travel of Japanese speaking passengers increased suddenly, creating many special and troublesome problems for the transportation companies. It was obvious to me that they would soon need some persons capable of solving these special problems. I began writing to all - six in all - transportation companies that ^{Altaight,} handled Japanese speaking passengers. Each had either its main office or its division headquarters in San Francisco. My selling points were my bilingual and bicultural ability and my ability to handle a large number of people. I mailed my detailed personal history with an elaborate cover letter to the personnel/director of each of the ~~five~~ companies. Within a short time I received a favorable reply from every one of them. Each was very much interested in what I could offer, but two of them handled freight exclusively and didn't foresee a great expansion in the immediate future. The third, the British Overseas, did not have a sufficient volume yet. The fourth, the Philippine Airlines, reported that their line was via Manila, and trying hard to get the franchise direct to Japan from here. They told me to keep in touch with them, but it is too far in the future. The replies from the last two were more concrete and urgent. The Pan American Airways asked me to come in for an interview right away. I went there to see the personnel manager, who in turn sent me immediately to see the Operations Manager of the Alaska-Pacific Division. With the Manager, I discussed all the problems involved in handling Japanese passengers and their solution. Among other things, I emphasized the importance of bicultural ability

for the position they want to create. (The position had to be newly created.) The Manager, however, couldn't understand the essence of bicultural advantage. There was entirely beyond his comprehension (This guy was a former pilot.) He understood the importance of bilingual ability, all right; but here, too, he couldn't be convinced that there were much discrepancies among the Japanese ^{as for} ~~in~~ their command of the language. His idea was that any person with Japanese face could speak just as well as a next person with ^{another} Japanese face, insofar as they are both college graduates. Obviously he was comparing himself with some of his friends in the ability to command the English language. He was thinking aloud the necessity of sending this employee (he called it a Traffic Representative) to Honolulu and Tokyo, ^{for} ~~at~~ ^{least} one year in each office. Well, that was just the thing I wanted. Then he talked about my alien status. I gathered then that there are some obstacles for non-citizen in getting a security clearance (air transportation is just as bad as defense factories,) a clearance with the Occupation Army, and immigration limitations. Then he scrutinized my recent background in the academic field more closely and began to question me why I didn't follow it. This is again something few persons could understand. At least, the Manager could not understand my line of explanation that my qualification was not good enough. My observation ~~here~~ during the conversation on this matter was that I was "overqualified" for a commercial field and my employment record with UC was a "drawback" instead of an asset. (Maybe I was too honest with him.) Besides, employees at this level in commercial fields

--- personnel managers, traffic managers, and such) seemed to have suspicion^{and} and contempt(?) toward a person who held an academic position. The upshot of the discussion on this matter was that he had a doubt I would stick with them after the company had trained me for some months. (He claimed it would take six months to one year to train a person.) He was afraid I might be looking elsewhere when I ^{became} useful to the company. This is in a way understandable. The position paid only \$240 per month, with annual raise of \$15, ^{and} the expenses of uniforms, transportation to ^{and from} the airport, etc. ran high.

Another thing I learned during the interview is that I don't ~~give too good an impression. In other words, I don't act like~~ a Japanese, i.e., the interviewer's idea of a Japanese. The Manager was surprised (although this isn't exactly the word he used) that I exchanged beliefs and opinions freely on equal give-and-take basis. No doubt, he thought that a Japanese is ^{supposed to be} "polite" with much bowing, toothy grinning, etc. ~~The usual "accommodating" stereotype. His reaction to my "manner" was not complimentary, to say the least.~~ I can't help it, really, if I didn't act "subservient" or "accommodating," because I think I am as good as a next person. This point is very interesting, because I ^{caused} ~~received~~ exactly ^{the} same reaction during the next interview with the American President Lines. The interview ended with the Manager's assurance that he was very much interested in me (maybe true at that particular moment) and asked me to get in touch with him ^{after} ~~after~~ three weeks. By then, he thought, the position would be approved and processed.

In retrospect, I believe my interview helped them out in

their thinking as to the specific qualities the position called for and sharpened the scope of their search. ~~for a person.~~

When I called back after three weeks, the Manager told me that they wanted a person with the following qualification:

A U.S. citizen, G. I., single, ^{30 years or under,} free to travel, ability to speak, read, and write Japanese, college graduate, typing speed - 50 words minimum (they knew my speed was 35 -40)

The Manager said he still wanted me in case he couldn't find a person who fit these specifications. In ten days, I learned that a Nisei G. I. was hired by them. The Manager told me, when I called back, "He didn't have some of your qualification, but he has the qualification that is more important to us." This Nisei had been working for a Japanese travel agency.

The sixth "catching-the-bull-by-the-horn" attempt was with the American President Lines. My first interview took place five days after the Pan Am interview. I was processed through the Personnel Director's office quickly, and was sent to the head of their Passenger Dept. Again the interview took about one hour or more. It is rather amazing that these busy -extremely busy- people spent so much time with me. The substance of the conversation with ^{the} APL man and what followed after that were almost exactly alike, in fact, ~~so much alike that I can't regard the two results - one at the Pan Am and the other at the APL - as coincidental or independent; rather, I believe I was a common denominator.~~ Only differences with the APL were as follows: They were also creating the positions -- aides to the Purser in charge of Japanese passengers -- one on the President Wilson and the other on the President Cleveland. ^{However,} Up to then, they had a temporary arrangement with the Japan Tourist Bureau (a ^{Japanese} govern-

ment agency), whereby a trainee was accompanying each voyage. ~~The A~~
drawback of the set up was that each ^{sailing} brought on a new trainee who
had to be taught in all the procedures anew (although, I understood
the set up was inexpensive ^{as far as the APL were concerned}). In addition, these Japanese nationals
were ~~not~~ ^{de} proficient in their command of English, although their
relations with the Japanese passengers were excellent.

Another difference in the APL interview was the manager's con-
cern over the fact that I didn't ^{know} anybody with the JACL. He ^{picked up} had
an idea somewhere that anybody important in the Japanese com-
munity ^{belonged to} is with the JACL.

Another difference was their employment policy of getting
young men. ~~My~~ My impression there was that if they get young men
just out of college or the service and train them, they ^{men} would
stick longer with the company.

~~Here, too, I wasn't "polite" enough. I understand that many
Nisei have inherited Issei's "accommodatory" manners in the pre-
sence of Caucasians.~~

At any rate, I was asked to wait four weeks and to get in
touch with him then. At about the end of the four weeks an
ad~~d~~ appeared in the vernacular newspapers here wanting two persons
with certain specific qualities (same as those listed above) and
only giving the P.O. Box address. I knew it was APL ad~~d~~, so I
called them up and asked them to give my application their at-
tention, although ^{I realized} I didn't meet some of their requirements. They
said they would.

A few days ago, I went to see the Passenger Dept man again.
He told me then that they had hired two young Nisei G. I. He
added, "They don't have the command of Japanese like you. They
can't write Japanese. I had a conference with our Personnel

Office men and went over all the applicants. We couldn't find any one who met all our requirements. We were in a hurry, so we decided to try out these two Nisei. I don't think they will pan out all right. I doubt very much if they would turn out satisfactory. The trouble was I wasn't the only one passing on the applications." He asked me to wait and see if I wanted the job. I said I would. But there is no question ^{in my mind} now that I can't wait any longer.

omit
It is interesting to note that the APL went to the exact opposite this time. Previously, the trainees from the Japan Tourist Bureau; now, the Nisei who are not too good in Japanese. The contrast here is significant.

Now, this is where we came in. I am right back at the position where I was last Fall. I must ^{get} have a job, I can't wait any longer, and I should take any thing available now. But what jobs are available? A gardener's helper, a worker in nursery, a ^{laundry} worker. These are just about only things outside of the domestic service field. Yes, I am willing to take any of these. But before I do that, I thought I inquire of you whether there might be something for me in ^{the} Philadelphia or New York ^{area}. Will you do me a favor? Will you tell me what jobs might be available back East for a person like me? Just any field, but I would like to avoid a domestic job if possible. I hope there might be something better there than what are available here.

hnd
Sincerely,

Shuk

*Special file
Nishimoto*

March 4, 1952.

Professor Robert B. Hall
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Dear Bob:

At Webbink's suggestion I am writing to you for advice concerning possible jobs for Richard Nishimoto, co-author of The Spoilage.

Nishimoto is 44 or 45 years old. He was born in Tokyo, came to the United States at the age of 17, and graduated from Stanford University in about 1928 or 1929. His major field was engineering but he had strong minors in history and sociology, and he worked with Reginald Bell on the Stanford Studies for Japanese-Americans.

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During those years there was no opening for Japanese in engineering on the west coast and Nishimoto was unable to practice his profession. After working for several years as court interpreter and insurance agent he opened a retail fruit and vegetable store in Los Angeles, and continued there as owner-manager until the evacuation. He worked for me in Boston, in Tule Lake and in Berkeley from 1943 to 1948. He was unquestionably the best field worker and the most accurate observer I had in the WRA Camps. In fact, we are now using the daily observational journal he kept in Boston as a model for the anthropologists, sociologists and historians who are working on our Ford-sponsored study of Norristown, Pennsylvania. *Boston*

Nishimoto wrote approximately half of the first draft of The Spoilage, and he prepared a number of analyzes bearing on the economic and social history of Japanese Americans on the west coast. I am using these extensively

in my volume The Salvage (now in press). He writes fluently and forcefully, his analyzes are penetrating and his observations are extremely well organized. As a research worker he is both critical and productive. His IQ must be "way up there". He is a delightful person, with good manners and outgoing personality, and a direct and honest approach. His only defect is an excess of ego but he is so intelligent that one can put up with it. At least I did, and never regretted it. Both Joe Willits and W.I. Thomas were deeply impressed with him.

Nishmoto is having a really tough time in re-establishing himself. When he finished his work for me he went back to Los Angeles and had domestic difficulties which were finally resolved through legal separation or divorce. He is now in San Francisco at 1862 Geary Street. The enclosed excerpt of a letter I just received from him is so revealing of his difficulties that I am sending it in strictest confidence to you. Since it was not intended for other eyes than mine will you please destroy it. I shall be deeply grateful if you can advise me regarding both contacts or openings for Nishmoto where his very real talents can be put to good use. It would, I think, be a tragedy if he were forced into gardening, domestic service or other types of jobs that he mentions.

With cordial regards,

Sincerely yours,

Dorothy S. Thomas

DST:jb

Nishimoto

March 5, 1952

Dear Dorothy:

Thank you very much for your immediate response to my last-resort appeal. It is, indeed, a difficult situation, and its solution cannot be optimistically anticipated. I am really glad that I have you as the last person on whose shoulder I ^{can} cry. Your reactions and assurances gave me a tremendous psychological uplift, even though your kind effort might not lead to anything concrete for me. I appreciate it very much. If and when I am forced to take some menial job in the end, I am satisfied, ~~for~~ knowing that I have explored all the possibilities and my friends ^{have} helped ~~me~~ as much as they ^{can} could.

There are a couple of things I inadvertently forgot to mention in my last letter. One is ~~regarding~~ my desire to see Japan of today. I have been told a number of times that in Japan ^N strong anti-America feeling is growing, and the Nisei in Japan are quite instrumental in this growing sentiment. I wanted to see and find out for myself what the Nisei are doing or not doing to create such antagonism ^{with} among the Japanese populace. Is it some evidence of cultural conflict? Is it a conflict between the haves and the have-nots? Are the Nisei ^{with the occupation army} overbearing in their newly ^{elevated} ~~made~~ important and responsible positions ^{as in the past} ~~like~~ Jews and Negroes in responsible offices behave toward their own minority groups? I was curious as hell. I thought it might be ^a ~~the~~ repetition of what we saw in the relocation centers in the early days. Only on a much larger scale.

Another thing was about my mention ^{ing} of New York as a possibility. Many persons have informed me that New York is the place to go if I wanted to get into the foreign trade field. Every Tom, Dick and Harry ^{is} ~~are~~ opening ^{his} their offices in New York in order to get all advantages of getting under the wire quickest, now that the ratification of the peace treaty and the resumption of the commercial treaty with Japan are a matter of a few months, if not weeks. They are trying to reap all profits if there are such, in the old adage of "first come, first served." Activities are especially vigorous there, I understand. There is a certain amount of credibility in this; I can understand that any Japanese firm establishing trade relations with a ^{early} American firm will have vast advantages; once such relations are established, late comers ^{will} ~~would~~ have insurmountable difficulties in dislodging such ^{already-existing} connections before they themselves ^{can} ~~could~~ get anywhere with these American firms. I suspect, however, some of these stories are exaggerated; the way they tell it it reminded me of my ~~memory during my~~ fruit-tramp days in ^{the} California valleys. It is something like the way migratory workers rushed to the door of a whore house on Saturday night to get serviced first. Maybe I never told you about this, but sometimes I observed ten or twelve persons in line. And quite cosmopolitan, or interracial, too. Japanese, Chinese, Filipino, etc. And such a place is invariably found in a Chinatown, next to a gambling joint run by Chinese. At any rate, San Francisco, I am told, is lagging behind ^{New York} by at least one year, although it still is the center of the trade on this coast. This was the reason I made a special reference to New York in my letter.

Since I wrote you, I made one other attempt at job-getting. I answered an ad in the vernacular newspapers. The prospective employer turned out to be one Mr. Hattori. As soon as I ^{entered} ~~got into~~ his one-room office, I ^{was} ~~got~~ unfavorable impressions. The office was untidy. I knew it was opened not more than two ^{or} three weeks before (later I learned that it was opened in the middle of February,) the furniture ^{was} ~~were~~ old and scratched, ~~up~~. There was only one typewriter in the whole place. Old newspapers were scattered around; a couple of copies of the Wall Street Journals were lying unopened in a corner. Mr. Hattori was the only person in the office at the time; he was genial and cordial, ^{you could tell he was} but nobody's fool. He was first "shocked" by my command of Japanese. (Yes, "shock" is the proper word here, because he was more than "surprised." He didn't expect any person to speak Japanese "that well." This was quite ⁱⁿ a contrast to my experience at the Pan Am or at APL.) Then, he scrutinized my personal history, written both in Japanese and in English. (I am learning many of the tricks for job interviews. For one thing, I have found out that such a written document is the best basis of conversation.) Then, he talked and talked; I couldn't ~~put~~ ^{get} a word edgewise. He wanted an ambitious, energetic man. Foreign trade with Japan was in a state of flux. All pre-war relationships had been disrupted; every firm must start from ~~the~~ scratch. He didn't know yet what lines of merchandises he wanted to handle: so far he had started with celluloid goods and textiles ~~goods~~. He wanted young Nisei to open up new contacts for new lines of merchandises. He didn't want to carry any amount of merchandises in warehouse here; that means that any order gotten here

must be transmitted to Japan, first, ~~it must be~~ purchased from the manufacturer, and shipped over here. It is ~~an~~ evidence of the fact that this man didn't have much capital to operate with. Besides, his ~~connection~~ with Japanese sources was one jobbing outfit in Tokio, which has only loose ties with manufacturers. Mr. Hattori, in turn, is one of the ~~agents~~ in this country, ~~he~~ being the exclusive agent for the Pacific Coast. I told him then that it was very difficult to establish ~~the~~ initial contacts with American firms, for we must go into the field cold. I thought that the best way for him would be to hire Caucasian salesmen who had had some years of experience in selling imported goods in this city. It would mean that the salesmen would have already established connections with firms here. No, he said, he didn't want to do that, because, according to him, he wanted to give opportunities to the Nisei. (My reaction here was that he couldn't afford to hire such Caucasian salesmen, because they would ask high compensation.)

He talked ^{for} about one hour and ten minutes. My observation from this discourse was as follows:

1. His outfit is a shoe-string proposition. His contact with the Japanese concern is not too solid. This Japanese concern is merely a jobbing outfit. I was quite sure that he didn't have enough money as operating capital to meet the initial difficulties.

2. He is trying to exploit ~~some~~ Nisei who might come ~~in~~ his way. He would use these Nisei to break down the initial resistance. (My guess was that it would take at least one year before this firm could establish a reasonable amount of

-4-

trade relations with American firms.

3. In other words, I gathered ~~an impression~~ that Mr. Hattori was looking for some suckers.

I came out of the interview without getting much information for myself. For instance, I didn't even find out what kind of compensation he was willing to give me. Nor, did I ask what line of commodities he wanted me to handle. In short, I didn't want to be a sucker.

Later on, I inquired about Mr. Hattori among my acquaintances. What I learned seemed to ^everify my reactions ^{during} to the interview. I was told that Mr. Hattori operated before Pearl Harbor a school for chick sexers in Fresno. The school was charging exorbitant tuition, and the students had to pay him ^asome percentage ~~out~~ of their earnings later. Of course, I haven't verified these charges, but they didn't sound too unreasonable ^{now cost} ~~to believe~~. In addition, Mr. Hattori ~~could~~ afford to hire a ^{full-time} steno, and the one he has ~~now~~ works only in the evenings after ^{she} gets through with her regular job in a downtown Caucasian company. Also, Mrs. Hattori is working as a mender in a small Japanese-operated laundry. All in all, the job didn't sound right.

✓ You have raised a few points in your letter that call for ~~my~~ reply. One of them is your statement that my name appears ^{only} in the preface and not elsewhere in The Salvage. The question has never occurred to me until you raised the point. When I read the preface, I thought that it was proper that you mentioned ~~in the preface that~~ I was responsible for some of the basic economic analyses. In fact, if you hadn't mentioned it,

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I wouldn't have given ^{it} a thought ~~about it~~. You are correct in stating that I am not a co-author, nor a contributor as Kikuchi or Sakoda is. It might be profitable here to recapitulate my stand on this sort of thing. As we know, there were three schools of thought as to the "ownership" of material collected for the Study. At one ~~extreme~~, we had Hankey and Grodzins, who thought whatever they collected were "my material." And subsequently they screamed to high heaven, "Dorothy stole my material." In the middle, we ~~have~~ ^{had} those, e. g. Miyamoto, Shibutani, Sakoda, who wanted to use whatever they collected for their theses, but ^{were} perfectly willing to have these data used in the larger context by the Study. I belong to the other extreme; I ~~feel~~ ^{felt} that all the data I collected belonged to the Study and could be used by anybody who wanted to use them. I didn't care, for instance, about the fact that Bloom didn't give proper credit to the data he used in his book.

This belief of mine is strictly in conformity with my original motive for working for you and continuing to work for you. Remember those days in 1942? Many scientists were groping around in the dark. I thought I could help them to their advantage. I knew even then that I ~~am~~ ^{was} one of the few experts in the field of ~~the~~ resident Japanese problems, as good as any of the recognized authors of the secondary sources then existed. ^{ing} (Hell with "modesty") I thought I could straighten out a lot of misconceptions about the Japanese, and these Nisei "scientists," ^{too,} were not getting anywhere. That is the primary reason that I hooked up with Leighton. But I didn't trust Leighton, nor did I have faith in what he could do. Then I

switched

switched to Tsuchiyama. I nursed her along, probably more ways than one now that her grievances are a matter of record. I never expected that I would be working directly for you after that period, nor did I anticipate that I would later be coming to Berkeley and would participate in ^{the} publication of our findings. You never told me, and I never asked you, how long I would be working in Berkeley. I just kept on with the idea that I would be helping as long as I was needed and my assistance was of any value. It had never occurred to me that I would be the last person to leave the Study. For my own good, incidentally, I should have left the Study at the time The Spoilage went to the press. If I had gone back to Los Angeles then, I would have fared much better in the wild ~~scramble~~ ^{scramble} for business and "the employees' market" for job opportunities. Well, this is, however, ~~a~~ hind sight, and it's neither here nor there.

My purpose was therefore very altruistic. I knew I was good at the things we were doing, ^{and} was fully aware that we were producing something extremely valuable for the science. This "honorable" trait in me was also responsible for my unselfish and tireless work I did recently for ~~the~~ Chick's group. Yes, it is true that those two factors you mentioned; viz., (1) a "moral" obligation, and (2) a "socialized" desire, were the primary ones that motivated me to help them. But more than these, I saw an unpolished gem in their work. I was greatly impressed by Chick's data and his orientation. I sensed their valuable ^{possibility,} ~~opportunity,~~ and therefore ^{potentially} a great contribution to the science, ~~to~~ to straighten out the secondary sources and

to throw

to come to a new and more valid conclusion. With their opus dealing with the American-American side of Evacuation, the story would become ^{more} complete. Our Soilage and Salvage would then be more meaningful and more penetrating. Seeing that Chick and others ^{will} ~~are~~ botching up this wonderful chance, I just couldn't sit still.

At this point, you may wonder how I felt about my name appearing as the co-author of The Spoilage. You remember that was W.I.'s and your idea, and not mine. I didn't really care if my name ~~didn't~~ ^{didn't} appear ~~anywhere~~ ^{anywhere} in the book. But when it was decided that I was to be the co-author, I felt pleasantly rewarded. But this satisfaction was rathered perverted; I was pleased that my conceptualization triumphed over the others'. It concerns ~~with~~ the trichotomy -- the spoilage, the salvage, and ~~teh~~ ^{the} residue. Mind you, I am not trying to take any credit away from you here. You ~~are~~ ^{are} the one who ^{refined and} crystalized the concept and gave the most apt names to them. However, if you go back to the first Salt Lake City conference, ^{you'll remember} I was toying with the idea. I know I was more psychologically oriented at that time. I realized that bitterness, frustration and anger were ^{the} major factors for the spoilage segment ^{of} ~~for~~ Registration and Segregation. But actually bitterness, etc. were waning, and expressions reflecting such feelings were verbalized rationalization, justifying in themselves or to others, whatever their actions they were taking or their appraisals for the future, their own interests being the center of the vortex of thinking. I noticed that anxiety for the future and the means to resolve this anxiety were of prime

- 8 -

in evacuated minds.
concern. And their actions and decisions as ^{to} their future seemed to be culturally determined; polarized either to their future in America or to that in Japan. ^{For example} Repatriation and expatriation moves were ~~a~~ clear cut decisions polarized to Japan. In other cases, many took steps to stabilize their "ten^aency" in the war duration centers; these might not have thought of going back to Japan, but the end product of their actions was just the same polarized to Japan. And so on and so forth.

When I came to Berkeley, this concept was getting clearer. And I believed that The Spoilage ^{was} ~~is~~ the segment we should first tackle, because the subject matter was more definitive and easier to handle then. Well, we didn't have any support for this idea. The staff members didn't go for it. Even at the Salt Lake City conference my idea wasn't received well. (Maybe at that time I was unable to present my point of view clearly, because it was ^{it} ~~was~~ too clear in my mind either.) During the staff conferences we had at Berkeley, too, it was ~~a~~ ^{for} matter of bitter quarrels. I was sniped at aplenty (I don't think you know this) ^{behind} ~~in~~ my back. Probably Hankey was the only person who went along with this concept, and I am ~~sure~~ ^{sure} it was due to the fact that "her" book was going to come out first. It was only after your decision that Miyamoto and Sakoda (they ^{were} ~~are~~ the only other members at Berkeley then) came around to agree, ~~even~~ though reluctantly. Let's not kid ourselves; I didn't get along with any of the staff members, except Hime, nor they with me. There were plenty of snitching and sniping. And from ^{the} ~~the~~ outside ~~sources~~, too, there were criticisms and

objections ^{about} ~~as to~~ our first book ^{being} ~~was to be~~ about the disloyal
(no quotation marks here.) Ruth Kingman and the JACL are
examples of this exponent.

So, my pleasure ⁱⁿ ~~of~~ seeing my name on the cover ~~page~~ of
The Spoilage was perverted. I felt that my original con-
cept was supported by you and that it was the best reply to
the critics who said, "What the hell does he know about
Sociology? He ^{has} ~~had~~ had no training in the field."

About "basic economic analyses." When I was working on
the economic history, I didn't realize it was going to be
an important and valuable work. My aim then was to prepare
a basis for The Salvage for you. Now I am convinced it
should have been much ^{more complete} ~~broad~~. There are many students who
are interested in the Japanese field, and I am sure there
^{will} ~~would~~ be many others in the future. Chick, for one, wants
to continue with the Japanese subject, and is very much in-
terested in The Residue. For any future student, the base-
line of 1940 is vital and essential. And for this baseline,
there are only two sources ^r ~~souces~~ available; viz., our economic paper
and Bloom's book. The latter, however, is limited in its
scope and coverage. It only treats the Los Angeles area, if
I remember correctly; and it didn't use the work done by
Riemer at Berkeley extensively. (That is, their work with
WRA 26's. Maybe they couldn't do it.) Our paper, in this
sense, should have been more complete. For example, I didn't
discuss the fishing industry (e.g., Terminal Island, or Mon-
terey), ~~the~~ floriculture (e.g., nurseries in the San Leandro-
Mt. Eden area) and others. Nor ^{is} ~~my~~ treatment of the Japanese
in agriculture complete. Even though it is incomplete (We didn't

Nishimoto
have time to do a more complete work) it is one of the only two, if not the only broad work, ~~that are~~ available to the future students. Yet this manuscript is not easily accessible to the outsider. (I don't have a copy of this manuscript, for instance.) ^{although} Besides, it is based on a 25 percent sampling, its sources are unique, the almost complete census data of a minority group. In this respect, I sincerely hope that you have used the data ⁱⁿ this research most extensively in The Salvage so that the student ^{can} ~~could~~ rely on the book without going ~~into~~ the manuscript.

Speaking of the Residue, and generally speaking, the segment picked up where they left off at the time of evacuation. It gives ^{the} ~~an~~ impression, after ~~a~~ superficial observation, "This is where we came in." If one ~~did~~ not know anything about ^{the} ~~evacuation~~, he will say, "The Japanese communities haven't changed much in ten years." Of course, more careful observations ^{the} would reveal ~~a~~ tremendous inroad ^{chiefs} into ~~the~~ Caucasian business and professional heirarchy. For this, one must thank ~~for~~ the contribution by (or, should we say, the sacrifice by) the segment of The Salvage, which ~~you~~ ignored. This lead to the following discussion, which is my criticism of your "demographic" article.

By our own definition, the Salvage is not comprised exclusively of "more than one in three of the total deliberately chose the difficult path of resettlement in the Middle West or East while the war was still in progress." The group you speak of here is the modal group of ~~the~~ Salvage. There are two polar extremes which you have ignored completely. Before we go into

(This yellow paper must serve our purpose of correspondence now; I have run out of white paper.) the extremes, i. e., the polarity of the Salvage, let us examine the range of the Spoilage. At one polar extreme of the Spoilage, we had the renunciants who expatriated to defeated Japan and the Issei who repatriated. And at the other end, we had the "fellow travellers." In writing The Spoilage, we never lost sight of either of these extremes; that is to say, the book ^{was} had ^{its} a complete coverage of the segment it dealt with.

What then was the polarity of the Salvage? At one polar extreme, we had those who volunteered for the service during Registration. Registration, indeed, was the first evidence of sharp cut differentiation leading to the trichotomy. In the subsequent days, many of these volunteers were taken into the army directly from the camps. Those who went to Camp Savage were ^{also} among this group. To ^{these} ~~these~~, ^{the} earlier groups of inductees should also be included. Most of them ^{shared the WRA} believed just the way that moved the WRA to work for the reinstitution of the selective service for the Nisei. Many of them were very articulate; they ^{expressed} that their ^{own} status in America (many went further to say "the status of the Japanese in America") could be improved only by ^{their} serving in the actual combat. They were right in their conviction as the later events proved. We cannot overemphasize the beneficial effect ^{produced} contributed directly by the Nisei soldiers and their exploits. Their achievements gave WRA and other pro-Japanese protagonists the most effective weapon ^{with which} to fight for the minority. This brings ^{to} ~~me~~ mind a little incident that happened in San Francisco some years ago. There was an impending strike at the Municipal Railway

the history of
car barn where ^{to} a Kibei worker was objected. Fred Ross rushed to the barn and showed the movies of the 442nd regiment. At any rate, without the Nisei's participation in the war we would not have ^{had} the present improved status of the Japanese in America. It is true you say, "Many of them served with great distinction in the armed forces." But ^{spell "many"} ~~this group~~, from the context, means ^{"many"} of the Middle West and East groups *only*.

At the other polar extreme ^{of} the Salvage, we had those who went out on seasonal labor leave. Whatever their immediate motivations might have been, we cannot deny the fact their actions were polarized to America. ^{and} ~~Similar to those~~ ^{Compare here} dependents who ^{accompanied} followed bona fide segregants to Tule Lake; they might never ^{have} intended to go to Japan, but their actions were polarized to Japan just the same.

I am not saying that you should discuss these extremes in the article. It is a matter of choice. But you cannot say that those who migrated to the Middle West and East were the Salvage.

There are other points about which I can quarrel with ~~you~~. For instance, on page 470 you say re Alien Land Acts; ~~their~~ "many loopholes" led to evasions. This is only half true. There ^{were} ~~are~~ other points of weakness ^{inherent} intrinsic in law enforcement. For example, the defendant could refuse to testify as to his citizenship on the constitutional ground. Or, the evidence of ^{criminal} conspiracy must be produced and proven ³, which in any criminal case is difficult. *to say the least*

Another example where ~~my~~ objection may be valid: You say on page 471:

Convinced that they would be "next on the list," many Issei packed their bags, waited to be picked up, and ~~made~~ made hasty efforts to transfer their remaining liquid assets to citizen-children or friends.

Each component part of this statement is true. However, when put together as above, it gives a wrong inference. (I have to ask someone else to read this sentence, so that I will know the inference I got is correct.) It gives the impression that "the impending arrests" and the "asset transfers" were directly ^{related} together. That is ~~true~~ only in some of the transfers, but in most of the other instances there was more valid reasoning. Remember here that you yourself state ^{elsewhere} that only a small number of Issei were arrested by the FBI. Instead, these transfers are an evidence of Issei's recurring ^{pattern} method of actual evasion or of anticipatory preparation for any (e/g/ Alien Land Act evasions.) ^{the climate then was this:} prohibitive law or regulation. In December, 1941, the whole-sale produce houses could not reopen even though the Federal regulations were clarified and relaxed. The State government stepped in and refused to give permission to ^{at} operate for the Issei-owned houses. ^{to reopen} It was then definitely clear that ^{the} Issei's licenses were not to be renewed at the beginning of 1942. ^{also} It was widely believed that ^{the} Issei's sales tax licenses would be revoked. Also, there was a serious doubt whether cities and counties would renew Issei's business licenses. ^{Because of} All these things and other beliefs ^{help} put together, the Issei believed that the best way to retain their foothold was to transfer their business ^{to} in citizens' names. (Those who had been subject to the Freezing Act of 1940 could ^{it} never transfer their titles anyway.) Such transfers had been taking

place even Before Pearl Harbor. Your explanation cannot account for these pre-war transactions, *either.*

Another example: the next column on the same page;

. . . anticipated need for vigorous defense . . .

resulted in national sanction of a plan for total evacuation . . .

There is no evidence at all on the national level that such "need" was "anticipated." On the contrary, recent publications -- e.g., Sherwood's Roosevelt and Hopkins --- set forth ~~with~~ ample evidence that the West Coast was not exposed to any serious danger from the enemy, according to the top level appraisals at Washington as early as December, 1941 and January, 1942.

Now, you ~~have~~ asked for these criticisms: I ^{*have given*} am giving them to you reluctantly, because I believe we can't do anything about the article at this stage.

Sincerely,
Wick

For sometime I have been wanting to see and reexamine postwar Japan and, if possible, other parts of the Orient. My curiosity was intensified particularly with the conclusion of the peace conference in San Francisco late last Summer. My interest has all these years been, and still is, in the Japanese race problems and the Far East history. In the fields of Sociology and History concerned with the Japanese, I am happiest. I wanted to keep up with what I am good at. I have known, however, that my formal trainings are not sufficiently proper nor intensive to qualify for an academic position, even if I succeeded in overcoming the other major obstacle, i.e. my alien status. So I couldn't see any hope in the academic field. And there was nothing open in other fields where dealings with either Japan or the Japanese were of primary concern, when I left Los Angeles. Besides, I didn't have any money with me at the time. I just took any job which came in my way and have lain "low" for more than two years hoping for an opportune moment. Last Summer, I couldn't stand the job I had then, and quit the place. I had saved some money, and thought I would last at least six or seven months in looking for a better job. Immediately I began looking around. I wanted to find out first what lines of business dealt with Japan or the Japanese -- I eliminated the academic field from the beginning because of the reason stated above. First, I looked into the field of foreign trade with Japan -- that's just where any one would look first. I learned that the volume of trade with Japan has been and still is very small. Import consists of those goods marked "made in occupied Japan" which you find in stores and those others, mostly food, for the consumption of the resident Japanese. Export is still difficult due chiefly to the exchange rate. It would take a few years yet, and the ratification of the peace treaty must come first, before any large scale expansion in foreign trade takes place, which then would create many opportunities. Besides, stabilization of conditions in China is a prerequisite, too. There was one opening in a small Japanese-owned firm dealing in Japanese food at that time, but I didn't want to work for a Japanese. Maybe that was a mistake.

Other than the foreign trade field, there was only one field available. That was transportation. I learned that the travel of Japanese speaking passengers increased suddenly, creating many special and troublesome problems for the transportation companies. It was obvious to me that they would soon need some persons capable of solving these special problems. I began writing to all - six in all - transportation companies that, I thought, handled Japanese speaking passengers. Each had either its main office or its division headquarters in San Francisco. My selling points were my bilingual and bicultural ability and my ability to handle a large number of people. I mailed my detailed personal history with an elaborate cover letter to the personnel director of each of the companies. Within a short time I received a favorable reply from every one of them. Each was very much interested in what I could offer, but two of them handled freight exclusively and didn't foresee a great expansion in the immediate future. The third, the British Overseas, did not have a sufficient volume yet. The fourth, the Philippine Airlines, reported that their line was via Manila, and trying hard to get the franchise direct to Japan from here. They told me to keep in touch with them, but it is too far in the future. The replies from the last two were more concrete and urgent. The Pan American Airways asked me to come in for an interview right away. I went there to see the personnel manager, who in turn sent me immediately to see the Operations Manager of the Alaska-Pacific Division. With the Manager, I discussed the problems involved in handling Japanese passengers and their solution. Among other things, I emphasized the importance of bicultural ability for the position

they wanted to create. (The position had to be newly created.) The Manager, however, couldn't understand the essence of bicultural advantages. This was entirely beyond his comprehension (This guy was a former pilot.) He understood the importance of bilingual ability, all right; but here, too, he couldn't be convinced that there were much discrepancies among the Japanese as to their command of the language. His idea was that any person with Japanese face could speak just as well as a next person with another Japanese face, insofar as they are both college graduates. Obviously he was comparing himself with some of his friends in the ability to command the English language. He was thinking aloud the necessity of sending this employee (he called it a Traffic Representative) to Honolulu and Tokyo, for at least one year in each office. Well, that was just the thing I wanted. Then he talked about my alien status. I gathered then that there are some obstacles for non-citizens in getting a security clearance (air transportation is just as bad as defense factories,) a clearance with the Occupation Army, and immigration limitations. Then he scrutinized my recent background in the academic field more closely and began to question me why I didn't follow it. This is again something few persons could understand. At least, the Manager could not understand my line of explanation that my qualification was not good enough. My observation during the conversation on this matter was that I was "overqualified" for a commercial field and my employment record with UC was a "draw-back" instead of an asset. (Maybe I was too honest with him.) Besides, employees at this level in commercial fields --- personnel managers, traffic managers, and such seemed to have suspicion of and contempt (?) toward a person who held an academic position. The upshot of the discussion on this matter was that he had a doubt I would stick with them after the company had trained me for some months. (He claimed it would take six months to one year to train a person.) He was afraid I might be looking elsewhere when I had become useful to the company. This is in a way understandable. The position paid only \$240 per month, with an annual raise of \$15, while the expenses of uniforms, transportation to and from the airport, etc. ran high.

Another thing I learned during the interview is that I don't act like a Japanese, i.e., the interviewer's idea of a Japanese. The Manager was surprised (although this isn't exactly the word he used) that I exchanged beliefs and opinions freely on equal give-and-take basis. No doubt, he thought that a Japanese is supposed to be "polite" with much bowing, toothy grinning, etc. I can't help it, really, if I didn't act "subservient" or "accommodating", because I think I am as good as a next person. This point is very interesting, because I caused exactly the same reaction during the next interview with the American President Lines. The interview ended with the Manager's assurance that he was very much interested in me (maybe true at that particular moment) and asked me to get in touch with him in three weeks. By then, he thought, the position would be approved and processed.

In retrospect, I believe my interview helped them out in their thinking as to the specific qualities the position called for and sharpened the scope of their search. When I called back after three weeks, the Manager told me they wanted a person with the following qualification:

A U. S. citizen, G. I., single, 30 years or under, free to travel, ability to speak, read, and write Japanese, college graduate, typing speed

50 words minimum (they knew my speed was 35-40)

The Manager said he still wanted me in case he couldn't find a person who fit these specifications. In ten days, I learned that a Nisei G. I. was hired by them. The manager told me, when I called back, "He didn't have some of your qualifications, but he has the qualification that is more important to us." This Nisei had been working for a Japanese travel agency.

The sixth "catching-the-bull-by-the-horn" attempt was with the American President Lines. My first interview took place five days after the Pan Am interview. I was processed through the Personnel Director's office quickly, and was sent to the head of their Passenger Dept. Again the interview took about one hour or more. It is rather amazing that these busy - extremely busy - people spent so much time with me. The substance of the conversation with the American President Line's man and what followed after that were almost exactly alike. Only differences with the American President Lines were as follows: They were also creating the positions -- aides to the Purser in charge of Japanese passengers -- one on the President Wilson and the other on the President Cleveland. However, up to then, they had a temporary arrangement with the Japan Tourist Bureau (a Japanese Government Agency), whereby a trainee was accompanying each voyage. A drawback of the set up was that each sailing brought on a new trainee who had to be taught in all the procedures anew (although, I understood the set up was inexpensive as far as the APL were concerned). In addition, these Japanese nationals were deficient in the command of English, although their relations with the Japanese passengers were excellent.

Another difference in the APL interview was the manager's concern over the fact that I didn't know anybody with the JACL. He had picked up an idea somewhere that anybody important in the Japanese community belonged to the JACL.

Another difference was their employment policy of getting young men. My impression there was that if they get young men just out of college or the service and train them, these men would stick longer with the company.

At any rate, I was asked to wait four weeks and to get in touch with him then. At about the end of the four weeks an ad appeared in the vernacular newspapers here wanting two persons with certain specific qualities (same as those listed above) and only giving the P. O. Box address. I knew it was APL ad, so I called them up and asked them to give my application their attention, although I realized I didn't meet some of their requirements. They said they would.

A few days ago, I went to see the Passenger Dept. man again. He told me then that they had hired two young Nisei G. I. He added, "They don't have the command of Japanese like you. They can't write Japanese. I had a conference with our Personnel Office men and went over all the applicants. We couldn't find any one who met all our requirements. We were in a hurry, so we decided to try out these two Nisei. I don't think they will pan out all right. I doubt very much if they would turn out satisfactory. The trouble was I wasn't the only one passing on the applications." He asked me to wait and see if I wanted the job. I said I would. But there was no question in my mind that I can't wait any longer.

Now this is where we came in. I am right back at the position where I was last Fall. I must get a job, I can't wait any longer, and I should take anything available now. But what jobs are available? A gardener's helper, a worker in a nursery, a laundry worker. These are just about only things outside of the domestic service field. Yes, I am willing to take any of these. But before I do that, I thought I inquire of you whether there might be something for me in the Philadelphia or New York area. Will you do me a favor? Will you tell me what jobs might be available back East for a person like me? Just any field, but I would like to avoid a domestic job if possible. I hope there might be something better there than what are available here.

Yours sincerely,

Dick

Nishimoto

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

CENTER FOR JAPANESE STUDIES

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

March 11, 1952

Miss Dorothy S. Thomas
The Wharton School of Finance and Commerce
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia 4, Pennsylvania

Dear Dorothy,

Thank you very much for your letter regarding Richard Nishimoto. I confess that at the moment I haven't any very good ideas of what can be done for him. We have an accretion of middle-aged and older Japanese - several very well educated - here on campus. Their wives are working in the various University kitchens. They were all displaced at an awkward age and are having a very hard time fitting in.

Do you think that Nishimoto has adequate background to teach sociology? The reason why I ask this is that Bob Angell has for several years indicated his willingness to bring a Japanese into his department in part to back up the work of the Center. It would do no harm for you to write to him and if you give the go sign I will back Nishimoto strongly when Bob refers the recommendation to me.

I am looking forward to seeing you again at the next Council meeting.

Sincerely yours,

Bob

Robert B. Hall
Director

RBH/rs

Dorothy:

I will write soon.
Meanwhile, the enclosed
copy will be self-explanatory.

Del.

Nishimoto

May 11, 1953

Mr. August Fruge, Secretary
Editorial Committee
University of California Press
Berkeley 4, California

Dear Mr. Fruge:

I have just been informed that the Editorial Committee rejected the tenBroek-Barnhart-Matson manuscript on the Japanese American evacuation. It is, indeed, a disappointing news to me, for I have been looking forward to its publication as an invaluable asset to the study. I am thoroughly familiar with this manuscript, not only having read it carefully several times but also having suggested a number of specific revisions.

I believe I am well qualified to judge the merit of this manuscript and the scope of its scientific contribution. For more than thirty years I have been an investigator of the historical and sociological aspects of the Japanese minority in America. To the best of my knowledge I have critically examined every book ever written in the field. I was personally acquainted with most of these authors, whose biases and idiosyncracies I learned to my advantage. In 1947 and 1948 I visited the libraries of all major universities on the coast and scrutinized all the doctorate dissertations and MA theses pertaining to the subject. In addition, I was associated with every research project of the Japanese question undertaken since the twenties. Particularly, for more than six years I was a research assistant for the Japanese American Evacuation and Resettlement Study of the University of California, investigating the very subject dealt ^{with} in this manuscript.

May I therefore present you the following appraisal:

1. This manuscript is the first competent work on the political and legal aspects of the evacuation. Its data are well balanced; its documentation is painstaking. For the first time the coverage is complete. It is a worthy treatise, filling the long-felt gap. It would be a valuable companion to the other scientific publications by sociologists and anthropologists. And this probably would be the last to appear on the subject.

2. The thesis developed and the conclusion of the manuscript are entirely new. These are more reasonable and more consistent with the historical background of the Japanese in America than those currently available. Generally speaking,

there are two other theories on the causative and operative factors for the evacuation. The first, the official Army explanation, however, has been discredited. The second, commonly called the pressure group theory, was first advanced by the protagonists and the social action groups for the interest of the incarcerated Japanese. It is currently accepted as the explanation, probably either for the want of any other theories, or for the reason that it is easily understood.

Contrary to the popular belief, the Japanese problems were neither intensively nor consistently studied until recently. From time to time in the past, scientific investigators undertook researches in the field, but they invariably drifted away permanently after one year or two. After Pearl Harbor, the dynamic nature of circumstances for the minority attracted a large crop of social scientists, who, however, lacked thorough understanding of the historical and sociological backgrounds. Understandably, these new "experts" were often imbued with the sense of indignation and reform, sharing a common interest with those engaged in political and social activities for the Japanese. It is not difficult to see many of these scientists too were converted to the theory that made certain political and economic groups the scapegoat.

Despite its wide acceptance, the pressure group theory is developed systematically in only one book, published a few years ago. And let me emphasize here that this is the only other documented work on the political aspects. In this book, however, the evidence presented is highly selective and the conclusion is speculative. The merit of the tenBroek-Barnhart-Matson thesis on the other hand, lies in that it does not entirely negate the theory, but embodies it as a part of a much greater force. It would not be a popular thesis. In fact, many "experts" would vehemently speak against it. I would not be surprised if the negative appraisals that became the basis for the Committee decision came from these sources. It is, indeed, a scientific loss if this new and more competent thesis is to suffer from a few adverse opinions. I believe that the present thesis, though unpopular it may be, should be made available to social scientists of the future.

3. Much of the data presented in the manuscript are entirely new. It is true that the other data have been presented elsewhere. In the present manuscript, however, these data are critically appraised and their biases are properly weighed.

4. The subject matter dealt with in the manuscript is a case history of a small minority in America. Nevertheless, the inherent nature of the episode is, I believe, of a far-reaching importance. Some scholars have expressed fear that

- 3 -

the experience could well be repeated in the future, only personae dramatis being different. The over-all examination of the episode and its constitutional ramifications are therefore of prime importance, not just as an historical matter, but for their future bearings.

For the reasons given above, I have been strongly impelled to write you to express my conviction that it would be a serious loss to the world of scholarship if this book were not to be published.

Very truly yours,

Richard S. Nishimoto

Nishimoto
July 3, 1952

Dear Dorothy:

Belatedly I am replying to your letter of May 6. Let me assure you, first, that this delay was not a result of my neglect or indifference, but was necessitated because I could not make up my own mind about taking the trip.

There were many factors that made me take the attitude of "wait and see." Above all, I hated to borrow money from you to go job hunting in the East. It is a lot of money, and I couldn't foresee when I could return it. I thought there might arise a more distressing occasion in the future when I would have to ask such a favor of you. I just didn't want to tap out a source of aid which would be available in a crisis.

Secondly, I am certain that I am not qualified for the job at Michigan. Whichever way I looked at it, an AB in engineering would not be adequate nor appropriate. Applying for the opening, I thought, would be of great value if and only when I should decide to work for a higher degree in the social science field. It had to be a means for some academic advancement. But such a decision was not easy, because it involved a complete re-orientation of my present mode of living.

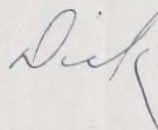
Thirdly, I wanted to know more definitely about other job opportunities in the East. I have looked around here for leads on the Atlantic seaboard to augment the possibilities you had in your mind. My efforts, however, failed to bring out anything concrete. It therefore seemed highly risky. Prospects were nebulous and resources limited. I have learned the hard way

that job hunting, job interviews, etc. involve weeks and months. A prospective employer takes his own blessed time about passing on one's application. In other words, I knew that I must be prepared to remain in the East for sometime if I were to embark on that trip.

While hesitating, I have been closely following the fate of the immigration bills pending in Congress. I learned there was a very good chance that one of them, the McCarran bill, would be voted out of committee and debated. Those in the know predicted that it would be enacted by July. You will understand readily the great advantage I saw in the elimination of my chronic drawback, the alien status. I believed it would be easier to get the sort of job I wanted if I were a citizen.

Now that the McCarran bill has become law, I shall take immediate steps to get my citizenship. I believe it is of primary importance to whatever I might want to do in the future. I am sure that you will agree. Meanwhile, I will be getting in touch with you. And thank you for everything.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dick", is written below the typed word "Sincerely,".

Nishimoto

Sept. 13, 1952

Dear Dorothy:

This is a brief note to inform you of my new mailing address.

40 Ashby Laundry.

2076 Ashby Ave.,

Berkeley 3, Calif.

In a few weeks I will make a detailed report on what happened and is happening. I have made a trip to Los Angeles and a divorce action is coming up shortly. I am also liquidating one way or the other my relations with Nikki.

In a month or two I shall be in a position to start my life all over. I must get into some field which will lead to a position in sociological researches. That's where my interest lies. Incidentally, I talked to Chick Tenbrook about my going back to school, and he was very

much in favor of the idea. He
promised me that he would
sponsor my application for
naturalization under the McCar-
ran Act. The only thing that
scared me is my advanced (?)
age.

Sincerely,
Dink