My dear Mr. Secretary:

Since the lifting of the mass exclusion order for citizens of Japanese ancestry on the West Coast by the Commander of the Western Defense Command, we have been reviewing the problems which we still face in assisting in the relocation of several thousand people who have been cleared by the War Department to return to the Coast or to move freely in any other part of the United States.

We feel that there are still discriminatory and restrictive procedures which were established several months ago by different agencies that interfere with the proper use of manpower and consequently with the relocation job that the War Relocation Authority still has ahead of it.

Within the War Department, the Provost Marshal's office established procedures some time ago for making individual investigations of people of Japanese ancestry before they could be employed in war plants. While the procedure has been revised from time to time, the procedure now in effect is still much more restrictive for American citizens of Japanese ancestry than it is for other citizens. Our experience with this requirement for special investigation has been that a number of institutions have been reluctant to hire evacuees because of the delay in processing or because of the suspicion such a special procedure throws upon them. In some cases, jobs are no longer available when the security questionnaire has been completed and we have found that American citizens of Japanese ancestry are reluctant to take temporary jobs while being considered for high priority jobs in war plants in view of all of the uncertainties involved. Also it is difficult to refer these people to jobs through the regular referral agency, United States Employment Service, because that agency does not know which plants require special clearance. The setting up of a special referral system through the United States Employment Service or through the War Relocation Authority wastes manpower of the above two agencies as well as the Army and sets the group out as a special problem.

It would seem to me that those American citizens of Japanese ancestry whose cases have been carefully checked and reviewed by the War Department and who are now free to go to any part of the country, including the coastal area, should be considered eligible for employment on exactly the same basis as any other American citizen. This procedure would be logical in view of the fact that the War Department has already conducted thorough investigations and reviews, in addition to the fact that all of the other intelligence agencies have contributed all of the information available from their files. As you indicated in your press release of December 17, "Persons of Japanese ancestry who were evacuated from the coastal area have been thoroughly investigated, probably more thoroughly than any other segment of our population."
In view of the recent request of the President for national service legislation, which would try to force people into high priority jobs, it would seem that every restriction which will interfere with the proper use of manpower should now be removed so as to expedite the war effort. This would seem especially true in view of the fact that there has been no proven case of espionage or sabotage in connection with persons of Japanese ancestry since Pearl Harbor.

I sincerely hope you will call this matter to the attention of the Provost Marshal General's office and ask that the recommendation be considered favorably. As matters now stand even a citizen of Japanese ancestry who has been on our battle front and who has been honorably discharged from the Army cannot secure a job in war plants without preliminary examination, which is not required for other people.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Secretary of the Interior.

Hon. Henry L. Stimson,

Secretary of War.