My dear Mr. Secretary:

One of the major obstacles, in connection with the return of persons of Japanese ancestry to the former evacuated area on the Pacific Coast, has been lack of housing. To alleviate this situation the War Relocation Authority has just completed an agreement with the Federal Public Housing Authority whereby the latter will operate housing facilities which are made available by other Government agencies for the temporary use of the returning evacuees.

Following up this agreement, Mr. H. Rex Lee, Chief of the Relocation Division of the War Relocation Authority, has been in conference with General H. C. Pratt, Commanding General of the Western Defense Command, who has advised him that at least one, and possibly two, housing facilities are available among the wartime harbor defense installations in San Francisco. The General suggested that a request be forwarded to your office for the loan of these installations on a temporary permit basis to be operated as hostels by the Federal Public Housing Authority.

The projects discussed were:

I. South Area of Fort Funston Harbor Defenses, San Francisco.
   - One 170 man mess hall
   - One Storehouse and Company Administration Building
   - One Recreation Building
   - Three 74 man barracks
   - Two 40 man barracks
   - One 28 man barracks
   - One 13 man barracks
   - One 21 man barracks
   - Two 32 man barracks
   - One 18 man barracks
   - One 6 man barracks
   - Three 20 man barracks
   - One 35 man barracks
   - One Office Building
   - Two Kitchen and mess halls
   - Two Enlisted men's bath and toilet
   - One Officers' bath and toilet
   - Two Store houses

   - Twelve 26 man barracks
   - One Headquarters Building (one and one-half story)
II. West Portal Area Fort Baker Harbor Defense (cont'd.)

Two - 200 men bath and latrine
One - Tailor shop
One - Four car garage
Two - 200 men mess and kitchen
One - 13 Bay motor shed
One - Recreation Building
One - 40 bachelor officers quarters with kitchen and mess
Six - 63 man barracks
Two - Administration storehouses
One - Day room
One - 170 man mess and kitchen

General Pratt indicated that he would make a favorable report to the War Department in Washington on the Fort Funston area, and perhaps the West Portal area at Fort Baker.

Since the Central Utah Relocation Center from which most of the former residents of San Francisco will be returning is closing on November 1, it is essential that immediate action be taken to obtain temporary living quarters which will permit these people to return to the localities where they lived before the war and to locate their own permanent housing. Scheduled mass movements of people from this center are planned to start early in September, and for this reason, we would appreciate hearing from you as early as possible.

We appreciate very greatly the cooperation which General Pratt and other officers have extended in our program to complete the resettlement of the evacuees by the end of December. Availability of the projects mentioned by the General, and of others now under consideration, will simplify still further the closing phases of the program initiated by the War Department's evacuation of people of Japanese descent from the Pacific Coast in 1942.

Sincerely yours,

Hon. Henry L. Stimson,
Secretary of War.