My dear Mr. McCloy:

I am enclosing a report of investigations made at the Tule Lake War Relocation Authority project and in the adjoining area pursuant to my direction.

You will note in that portion of the report dealing with the remarks of the Director, War Relocation Authority, Mr. Dillon S. Meyer, made by him in an address before the residents of that center, he made the point that we (the American people) are motivated by fear in dealing with persons of Japanese ancestry.

I cannot emphasize too strongly to you my feeling that this was an indiscretion and is perhaps indicative of a failure to grasp the fundamentals inherent in the problem of administering evacuees. Viewed from any aspect, the psychological reaction to such a statement is bad - not only in the minds of the evacuees, but even more important, in the minds of the Authority's staff.

For the present I am not officially concerned with the administration of War Relocation Authority projects within Western Defense Command. Notwithstanding, the four projects within the evacuated zone (Tule Lake, Manzanar, Parker and Gila) do require my continuing attention. Accordingly, I propose to keep myself constantly informed as to all those aspects of project operation which touch upon the security of the evacuated zone and the relationship between these projects and the general public in that area.

In all frankness, I have been impelled to the conclusion that thus far War Relocation Authority has not met and dealt with its problem realistically and efficiently. On the contrary, experimentation has preceded the development of sound administrative control. As a result, policies have been vacillating, the evacuees themselves have been confused, and the public reaction in adjoining areas has become most unfavorable. It is of cardinal
Mr. McCloy

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importance that favorable public reaction and understanding be developed and maintained. Without it the responsibilities of that Authority will become increasingly complex and the lot of evacuees themselves most unfortunate.

Unless conditions such as those reflected in the accompanying report of investigation at Tule Lake are bettered, I shall feel compelled to initiate official remedial action. I write you personally and with all candor of my views so that you may be informed of my thinking on the subject. I shall appreciate whatever comments you may care to make.

Sincerely yours,

J. L. DeWitt
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army Commanding

Honorable John J. McCloy
Assistant Secretary of War
War Department
Washington, D. C.

Inclosures
Colonel Bendetsen’s memo to CG dated 11-5-42, with 4 incls.