February 5, 1943

Dear Congressman Schiffler:

I have your letter of February 4, 1943 referring to the manufacture of pottery by the Japanese in the War Relocation centers. I have had this matter investigated and can give you the following information.

The War Relocation Authority is charged, as you know, under the terms of Executive Order 9066 "to provide evacuees with useful work in industry, commerce, and agriculture." So far as the industrial program is concerned, the War Relocation Authority has adopted a policy of restricting manufacturing to items of food necessary to the operation of the various centers. The so-called "pottery project" falls in this category.

War Relocation Authority informs me that it is their intention to establish at Heart Mountain a single kiln to supply dishware for use in all of the relocation centers. It is not their purpose to produce pottery for outside sale nor to embark on a program to train Japanese who reside in these centers in the art of pottery making. The kiln in question, as the report at top, was obtained from government property declared surplus to the needs of the National Youth Administration.

I think I should make it clear that the War Relocation Authority is a separate agency of the government and is in no manner controlled by the War Department. The War Department had only the responsibility of moving the Japanese from the Western Defense Command into the Relocation centers. I do feel free, however, to say that it seems to me that the War Relocation Authority has acted sensibly in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Hon. A. C. Schiffler
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

OAS:OLHANO 46
Prepared for 5/W by OAS 2-8-43