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PACIFIC COAST

Committee on American Principles and Fair Play

342.18 J. A. GERHARDT

28 January 1944

Dear Mr. Fisher:

Thank you for your letter of January 24, 1944. I greatly appreciated the cordial and clarifying conversation which we had when you were in Washington.

I also appreciate your suggestion that the Japanese Americans be utilized in non-segregated units. The question of the utilization of Japanese Americans has been given careful consideration. Whatever decision results as to their ultimate employment, you may be sure that the guiding influence has been the desire to utilize this group in its best employment in the war effort. There are many considerations which must enter into decisions of this sort. Should employment be made in segregated units, it would not be from any desire on the part of the War Department to discriminate against this group. Your appreciation for the position of this office is a source of great satisfaction to us.

Sincerely,

(SIGNED)

HARRISON A. GERHARDT
Lt. Colonel, General Staff Corps
Executive to Ass't Secretary of War

Fisher, Galen M.
342.18 J. A. Selective Service
Fisher, Galen M.

x- Gerhardt
x- Fisher

Mr. Galen M. Fisher
Committee on American Principles
and Fair Play
455 California Street, Rm. 203
San Francisco, California

26 Jan 44

OASW:HAG:RAW

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*In route to California
from Washington
Jan 24, 1944.*

*Colonel Harrison Gershart
Executive Officer to the
Asst. Secretary of War
Pentagon Building, 4E886,
Washington, D.C.*

*Dear Col. Gershart - When I called on you some
two weeks ago, you kindly dealt clearly with the
questions I raised, as to a possible injunction suit,
and publicity for nisei men in the Army.
Since then, by phone, you divulged the very
gratifying news that the selective draft would be
resumed for nisei, - news which I told no one.
Even at the risk of seeming to look a gift horse
in the mouth, allow me to say that many of the
nisei themselves, as well as Caucasian friends,
venture to hope that the Army may see fit to
allow draftees to serve in ordinary, unsegregated units.
It might be well to give them the choice of joining either
existing special, segregated units, as replacements for the
100th Battalion or other all-nisei units, or ordinary units.
With deep appreciation for the consistent and plucky
policies followed by Mr. McCloy and yourself, I am
Sincerely yours
Galen M. Fisher*