

(1) It is depriving the ordnance depots of labor at a time when the need is critical and growing more so as the war swings to the Pacific. It is not only the men found unacceptable by the Provost Marshal General's Office who are lost to the service of the depots, but because so many have been rejected for little or no reason other would-be applicants have been discouraged and are turning elsewhere for employment.

The situation is so serious that one Project Director has advised the military that it is useless for any recruiters to seek more ordnance depot workers from his center until a clarification and relaxation of policy by the Provost Marshal General's Office based on reasonable security measures is adopted. Other centers have reported recruitment for this vital work virtually at a standstill. Meanwhile the ordnance department has repeatedly requested the War Relocation Authority for increased recruitment efforts.

(2) It is clear discrimination against persons of a group who, despite their ancestry, have demonstrated by their loyalty, a faith in, and desire to be good citizens of the United States. You are, of course, familiar with the accomplishments of the Japanese Americans in the armed forces. The record of their parents and brothers and sisters and others in voluntarily leaving the centers to participate in the civilian war program through work in industrial plants, on the railroads, staffing the service trades in many war-crowded areas, and in agricultural employment, is outstanding despite the disheartening individual rebuffs which they inevitably receive from time to time because they "look like our enemy."

This is particularly important, also, since one branch of the military, the Western Defense Command, has in effect accepted them as good citizens of the country by restoring complete freedom of movement through lifting of the Pacific Coast Exclusion Orders, only to have another branch, the Provost Marshal General's Office, lean over backward in interpreting security measures, in effect telling them that they are not to be trusted to contribute to the war program.

Sincerely yours,

Harold L. Ickes

Secretary of the Interior.

Hon. Henry L. Stimson,
Secretary of War.

Transcribed by M. J. [unclear]