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May 20, 1945

President Truman,
Washington, D.C.

Dear sir,

Please pardon my boldness in writing to you at this time, when your life is so very heavily burdened with national affairs. We become astounded at our boldness sometimes, when important matters face us that should be met in all fairness at the present time & for the future. And who has not met such situations in the last 15 yrs?

Had more of us had courage to express our opinions years ago on the Japanese question, the war might not have been so terrible as it is now. Here on the coast we saw scrap iron going to Japan that was being used on the Chinese people & we never protested, although we knew in our hearts it was wrong. We thought we didn't know enough to speak up.

Now our sons are in the Pacific taking the wrath of the Japs. Raymond Clapper well expressed the American mind & its ability when he said: "Never overestimate the knowledge of the common people, but never underestimate their intelligence." All the civilian people need is more courage in expressing their selves.

My aim in writing you is to express my ideas about the Japanese returning to the Pacific Coast. Very definitely the majority of the western people do not want them back on the Coast, for several good reasons. We fear them to such a degree we do not feel at ease with them. We know many have been as good citizens as they know how to be. But the older ones are not allowed to become citizens & we can't give them the protection they should have. They child be harassed & tempted by axis agents on the coast without the public knowing the trouble.

We have had some very good Japanese friends in the past & they were treated well by people in general. They were hard workers & made every effort to be good citizens & good friends. Should they return, they would be hurt & embarrassed by the change in many of their former acquaintances & perhaps even in

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in danger as the veterans return home & we hear of the treacheries of the Japs, the Jap civilians would more likely to cause riots & bloodshed. That should not be; the fighting men are going through enough over seas without aggravation of the Japs on the west coast again.

And the loyal Japs need not be subject to undue pressure. That is all the present situation is on the West Coast.

Now as to the future. We should consider that in order to avoid trouble that could easily arise. We talk freely of unconditional surrender of the Japanese & German peoples. Such talk is not the truth - for such forces in the world are only halted & stopped for awhile, but not conquered for all time. That is not the law of Matter Nature. The U. S. will do well if they help to halt & change the course of such vigorous nations. We can get their minds into a more wholesome Christian channel & keep it there, we will do well. Even that effort will almost wreck the health, mental & physical, of our American youth of this generation.

The Japs are a hardy race; they eat plainly, work hard & are temperate in their leisure time. For hundred of years, maybe thousands the race has suffered severe earth quakes, typhoons, tidal waves & such things that land so situated must suffer. Their minds have become accustomed to terrible catastrophes & they make a very quick mental & physical recovery. The shock of such things to the nervous system of our white population is hard to overcome, while to the Japanese at first it is terrible too; but in a short time life goes on as usual.

I had a chance to make such comparison here in Everett. A Japanese boy played in my yard with my son for several years. In high school both were in a terrible auto accident. In the car containing 7 boys - seniors in H.S. - Two were killed instantly & the others were very seriously injured. All the injured were taken to the same hospital & the shock of the impact left us in doubt several days as to the outcome of the injuries. The white boys nerves were in such bad shape, no food or water could be taken by mouth for 5 days. On the 3rd day the Jap was drinking fruit juices & was up before any of the others.

His family life was returned to normal life, & could regain our breath again. They are hardy & they are resourceful. There are many of them - they are scattered all through the islands, where they can withstand the perils of the heat & jungle life. We cannot hope to watch them again in the future soon, as the next generation grows up.

The Japanese race always reminds me of a giant ant hill in Calif. or some desert. Their numbers are endless. An attempt is made to kill them with all possible means known, & a person feels confident the job is done well. In a few weeks new ones will appear & before long the hill is alive again with workers & fighters. One steps on their hard strong bodies & hears the tissues crack, but in a few hours they have regained their strength & off to work - work - work & work.

German people are much the same. Luxuries tempt them & money that will bring luxuries. Such races that are industrious & do not educate the youth to think for themselves are always good material for dictators.

In a few years among the islands Japs will be organized again - perhaps by Hitler or his gang. If Japs are on the west coast to help direct rockets & buzz bombs from boats, there will be much suffering for the American people. The Japanese should be kept back from the West Coast both for the protection of the whites & the Japs, both now & in the future.

Pres. Truman, we feel for you in your hard hour of war & peace to come. Please have confidence in your self. For many years I have thought the world & the U. S. especially would be better managed, if we had a midwesterner for Pres. East meets west & north meets south in Mo. & a mighty balance is struck. Now it can become the hub of the world. I have confidence in Missourians, I was born in the Ozarks at West Plains & know the characteristics of such people.

I am glad to know you seek consultations, especially of Hull, & others that are well informed. In the Ozarks there was a saying: "Two heads are better than one, even though they be sheep's heads." Time & experience has taught me such is true facts.

A radio announcer said you put on your office wall on your first day there, a picture of Bolivar. I congratulate you on your diploma there. Good relationship with South America is a necessity if the two Americas are to remain Americas in the future. Axis Powers are still lurking in hidden places.

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Please try to have faith in yourself. Your birth date indicates you are different type from our late Pres. Roosevelt. Since all types of people are necessary to make a world, perhaps a divine hand placed you at our capital to complete a long task that was too long & too hard for one man. Your birth date indicates patience, ability for hard work, & strength. Facts indicate at the present time such a man is needed by the U.S. & the world.

Your humility & sincerity has impressed the people well. Such traits give hope & courage to the common people. Our late Pres. believed in the ability of the common free man, & so do we all. So we push forward with faith that our Pres. will be sincere in his aims to plan for the good of us all, with the knowledge he has gained through long hard years in Washington, D.C. And the years have been long & hard for all.

I trust you can find time to study the Japanese question thoroughly for the good of all concerned.

Very sincerely,

Mrs. E. Habel.

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