

CHICAGO CIVIL LIBERTIES COMMITTEE

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106 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
WAR DEPARTMENT
SECRETARY'S OFFICE

TELEPHONE WABASH 0121

February 1, 1944

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The Hon. Henry L. Stimson
Secretary of War
War Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Secretary Stimson:

We wish to urge upon you that you order loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry to be drafted into the army on precisely the same basis as all other citizens. We believe that this will greatly aid the democratic spirit of the army and promote the welfare both of the people of the United States, and of the common people of Japan who have been forced into the present war against the United States by a Fascist-minded feudal caste. The fact is that most of the Japanese-Americans are completely loyal to the United States and to the republican form of government. Because of the rising tide of racial friction in this country, your order would help to stabilize popular sentiment and prevent any public outbreaks of hysterical nature which might well interfere with our war effort.

Yours sincerely,
Ira Latimer
Ira Latimer
Executive Secretary

IL:jrl

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights."

—Declaration of Congress, July 4, 1776.

THESE ARE THE CHIEF CONSTITUTIONAL PRINCIPLES WHICH THE
CHICAGO CIVIL LIBERTIES COMMITTEE SUPPORTS.

Amendment I.

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment IV.

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Amendment V.

No person shall be held to answer for a capital or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service, in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb, nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Amendment VI.

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public

trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which districts shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

Amendment VIII.

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Amendment XIV.

All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Amendment XV.

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.