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**YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION
 OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**

A Community Chest Agency
 Founded 1884

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June 15, 1943

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The Honorable John J. McCloy,
 Assistant Secretary of War,
 War Department,
 Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. McCloy,

Like many others on the Pacific Coast I have appreciated and admired the enlightened attitude towards loyal persons of Japanese ancestry which you, Secretary Stimson, Chief of Staff Marshall and others in your Department have displayed. I do hope that the well organized campaign on the part of the Native Sons, some of the leaders in the American Legion, etc which is calculated to spread the opinion that nearly everyone out here distrusts and hates all people of Japanese descent will not deflect you from the sound and decent course which you have been following.

Manifestly those individuals and organizations which for many years have worked against equality of treatment for orientals have gotten the jump on the far greater number of people who disagree with them. Already there are strong indications that the maneuver to get local posts of the Legion, of the Native Sons, etc. to pass anti-Japanese resolutions, along with boards of supervisors and other groups which are highly sensitive to political pressure, is arousing resentment. I believe you'll find that you will soon be getting impressive support for the civilized and realistic policy which you have announced.

For example I enclose a clipping from a morning newspaper which records the action of an important church group. Also a copy of a resolution which was unanimously passed at the convention of the powerful C.I.O. International Longshoreman's and Warehouseman's Union last week.

The enclosed folder of the Pacific Coast Committee on American Principles and Fair Play is being mailed immediately and will be widely read. It is to be expected that numerous groups which are in sympathy with the objectives of the Committee will pass resolutions in support of the actions and principles proposed.

22 June 1943
 H. J. Stone

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The Fair Play Committee has operated on a shoe-string thus far as it has been dependent for financing on contributions, mostly small, from individuals. There is hope for foundation support later. The significant thing is that it mobilizes many influential people up and down the Coast and that a lot of the work is being done by the lay members of the organization.

For example Alfred J. Lundberg, president of the Key System and the East Bay Transit Company, attends all the executive committee meetings, worked out the constitution and by-laws, has secured a number of the Advisory Board members. Last week he attended a very important conference of commercial leaders in Los Angeles. Members began making emotional attacks on the Japanese evacuees and it appeared that an extreme resolution would be railroaded through. Lundberg got up and presented the case of the Fair Play Committee. The resolution was finally left unacted upon. One of the leading attorneys of Los Angeles wrote him a rather remarkable letter testifying to the way in which his words had opened the eyes of some of those present to the significance of what was happening. He enclosed \$25 for the Committee. I could tell you of similar encouraging acts by some of the other top-notch people who are intensely interested in the work of the Fair Play Committee.

Developments in organized labor are encouraging. Both the C.I.O. and A.F. of L. points of view have representatives on the executive committee. In this state the former is consistently opposed to racial discrimination. I am informed that there are a number of A.F.L. unions taking the same position, and that although stories in the press regarding the anti-oriental activities of the Joint Immigration Committee still state that the California A.F. of L. is still a joint sponsor, the latter organization has not sent a representative to any meeting of the organization for several years. A public statement of the state A.F. of L.'s withdrawal within the near future seems not unlikely.

It must be admitted that the slogan "Once a Jap Always a Jap" influences a good many people. (Incidentally I do not believe, from what I have read, that General Dewitt was correctly quoted on this). However there are a great many people on the Coast who have known some of the Japanese Americans well who categorically deny the truth of the idea that people of Japanese descent cannot become thoroughly assimilated.

It was twenty seven years ago that I became a secretary of the Y.M.C.A. here at the University. Over the years I have known a number of Japanese students extremely well. Some of them are proving as good a claim to possessing true American patriotism as any. For example there is Yori Wada who is a staff sergeant in the Station Hospital at Camp Robinson, Arkansas. He has been in the Army for a couple of years. He was so angered by what happened at Pearl Harbor that it has been his desire ever since to get into the actual fighting. He was recently notified that his request for transfer to the combat unit at Camp Shelby had been granted. He wrote me last week "Certainly, Harry, it is hard for me to give up a promotion which took me two years to reach but it

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is my firm conviction that the goal is worth all that and then some... It is hard to put my thoughts on paper. Looking at it factually I see my family in a relocation camp, no place to call home, a start from scratch at the end of the war. But as against this dismal scene I see an ideal as personalized by Thomas Paine in 'These are the times that try mens' souls', and Stephen Vincent Benet's prayer 'God of the free, we pledge our hearts and lives today to the cause of all free mankind'. Perhaps there will be many Americans who will not understand the Nisei's service for their America. This is of deep regret to me. But I have hope and faith that a more cordial America is in the making. I should even feel ashamed to call this transfer a sacrifice". At the University every committee and every organization that this fellow Yori Wada belonged to possessed higher morale and was more effective because of his presence. As Joseph C. Grew has said "The Americans of Japanese origin are an invaluable element in our population". Student-bodies up and down the Coast know this--some of the strongest backing for the War Department policy will come from students (many of them already in the armed services).

In case you have not seen it you will be interested in the accompanying folder gotten out by Sacramento's "Home-Front Commandoes". Some of the more violent resolutions appearing in the press are apparently sponsored by this organization.

In trying to analyse the agitation to take away citizenship from the Japanese and to bar them from the Army it seems to me that some of the following points are pertinent. The strength of the individuals at the bottom of it seems to be fostered by such facts as these: there are many economic competitors of the evacuees who don't want them back and who seek to exploit the emotions aroused by the war in the Pacific to gain their end; there are many who are genuinely afraid of military attacks or of sabotage on the West Coast and they permit this fear to be associated with the presence of people who look like the enemy; there are some who have either bought out the evacuees cheaply or who have profited in some way by their departure--they can be counted on to labor in the different organizations to which they belong to pass resolutions opposing the return of those they have muktet; there are some who seem to be sick of a malady called race prejudice--they seem ever to be on hand to take advantage of any opportunity to push down the non-white person. There are politically-potent organizations whose controlling bodies are amenable to individual agitators who are strongly motivated by one or more of the motives I have suggested and, consequently, a formidable-appearing campaign develops. The members of these organizations, for the most part, take no part in the discriminatory action which is issued to the press. They do not oppose it, however, partly because they haven't the facts or because they don't relish the unpleasant experience of standing up against the current. As a charter member of a local veteran's organization which is generally regarded as being unqualifiedly opposed to the liberal treatment of the evacuees I know a good number of the individuals in the organization who, personally, take the opposite position from the one that is announced. But the cards are stacked in such a way that it's a rare individual who has the guts to make a stand for an ideal.

With appreciation and best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Harry R. Kingman.

22 Dec 42