

This was written several months ago by a young Nisei
Tommy (gemel file)

4/15/42 to file

On Wednesday mornings, down at the tip of Manhattan at South Ferry, you can see a group of tiny, almond-eyed Japanese, most of them women, some with children at their sides, and all of them carrying bundles under their arms, waiting early at the ferry gate for the quarter-to-ten boat that shuttles to and from Ellis Island. These are wives, children, and friends of the two hundred-odd Japanese enemy aliens who have been detained at Ellis Island for investigation. Some of these women are smartly dressed wives of bankers and business executives; others are relatives of less affluent internees. In their neat bundles they have packed clean shirts, underwear, slippers, pajamas, shaving cream, tobacco, candy, newspapers, a book - some little item to make the detention more comfortable. Patiently they wait their turn for the precious thirty minutes they are allowed with their loved ones. They do not understand too clearly why their men have been taken, nor have they fully overcome the impact of the war, but they do know that this is war, and they are grateful they can have this mid-week visit.

II.

The round-up of Japanese enemy aliens in the New York area was done in a sweep, quickly and systematically. On that fateful Sunday night, some were taken. By the week's end all of them were checked in at Ellis Island. Throughout the entire community, the mayor's early order that all enemy aliens remain in their homes was strictly observed. A few, over-anxious, innocent Japanese nationals, confounded by the suddenness and shock of the rapid events, packed suitcases and waited for federal agents who never arrived to pick them up. In every home where a Japanese national resided, the sound of a doorbell, or telephone, brought anxious moments to every member of the household. But where the men were taken or where they were merely questioned, everyone in the community was impressed and heartened by the sanity and consideration shown by the federal authorities.

The men taken into custody at Ellis Island included first, the important directors of information and commercial agencies which were directly sponsored by the Japanese governments, and also certain newspaper correspondents of Japanese newspapers. Next were the executives of different Japanese banking houses, and a large group of business men - importers, brokers, treaty merchants. Then, there were the heads of the local Japanese Association, and other responsible officers of certain community organizations which had close tie-ups with the Japanese Consulate here in the city. The rest were an assorted group of students, pro-

III.

professional men, menial workers, drifters, whose individual status required clarification. There were several instances where American-born citizens were detained because they were unable to produce their birth certificates. But in the majority of cases, the federal authorities have particular reasons for the internment of each individual taken in.

To this small and dispersed New York Japanese community, which has diminished from some three thousand to about a thousand five hundred persons within the last two or three years, the repercussions of Pearl Harbor have been devastating. Apart from the emotional distress caused by the unexpected "sneak" attack by the Japanese raiders on December 7th, the break of hostilities, translated in terms of jobs and economic dislocation, has meant the immediate loss of jobs for over a hundred nisei (Americans of Japanese race) who had been employed by Japanese firms in the city, leaving them with the dim prospect of finding jobs elsewhere. It has meant that some forty to fifty families have been broken up, where the head of the house has been taken to the island and the wife and children have been left almost completely helpless, to their own limited resources. It has meant also the closing down of a good number of restaurants, sandwich shops, and other small businesses operated by Japanese, creating an imminent problem of unemployment involving some five hundred or so restaurant workers scattered throughout the city and its environs. It has meant the discharge

IV.

of many domestic servants working in American homes, and threatens to cut the means of livelihood for some two hundred family-cooks, butlers, houseboys, and general houseworkers.

Already, from this segment of restaurant workers and domestic servants, there are over a hundred who are in desperate need, who are hungry, confused, and broken in spirit. At the local Japanese employment agencies, you can find huddled groups of little brown men — chefs, counter-men, waiters, butlers, chauffeurs, discussing in their familiar provincial dialect, ways and means of how to meet the future. One of them says, seriously enough, "Let's break some store windows, and get ourselves put into jail. At least we can be sure of food and a place to go to sleep if we're locked up!" Or another says, "We should all go down to the FBI headquarters, and demand that they take us to Ellis Island." The confused and harassed little minds jump from one fantastic scheme to another. How to meet the future? What to do? Yet no windows are broken. A few try the FBI but are told they are not suspicious characters, and therefore not wanted. There is still another ^{who} bides his time, eating meagerly, and sleeping at a friend's in an extra room where four others like himself share two make-shift beds. The stories they hear and tell, of violence suffered by the Japanese, of recent suicides, and of hardships among their friends, disturb no end, but distract them. And they derive curious pleasure when they hear that the 'big' business men over at Ellis

Island have been reduced to washing their own laundry, and making their own beds. And so they coop themselves up in their rooms, going out only under cover of night.

Of the hundred and fifty nisei of working age in the metropolitan area, more than half are originally from the west coast - from Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and there are others from the mid-west and Hawaii. Most of these recent New Yorkers live in mid-town furnished rooms, or residence clubs, paying from five to eight dollars weekly, and eating most of their meals out. Native easterners, for the most part, live with their families, and in some instances are the sole support of the family. The girls are typists, stenographers, filing clerks, etc. Several girls have prepared for dressmaking and fashion designing. One or two are in nursing, but for the most part, nisei women are engaged in office work. The Men, the majority of whom are college graduates, are also in the commercial field - traffic men, salesmen, shipping clerks, accountants, and minor executives. These men and women have been working in banks, steamship companies, silk houses, wholesale merchandise houses, import-export bureaus, dental laboratories, and other businesses operated by Japanese.

In the past, the demand for nisei labor by the various Japanese firms in the city has always exceeded the supply. As a result, many west coast nisei came flocking East to find jobs here. But with the definite rise of the militarists

VI.

in Japan, and the widening of the rift in United States-Japan relations, there was a drastic decline in the business activity of Japanese commercial houses in America. Ever since the abrogation of the 1911 trade treaty in 1939, and the various restrictions on Pacific trade in the following months, climaxing with the freezing order in the summer of 1941, the employment situation of the nisei in the metropolitan area, became more and more precarious. Although to a few nisei it became increasingly clear that they could no longer depend on Japanese firms for employment, most of them continued to feel secure in their jobs in Japanese companies, hoping somewhat wishfully that Pacific relations would take a turn for the better.

The war, therefore, found these more or less complacent, lower middle-class, white-collar workers utterly unprepared, - psychologically and economically. The million and one commonplace things that one goes through daily - riding subways, shopping, eating in restaurants, were no longer little things for these slant-eyed, parchment-skinned Americans. The inquisitive stares, verbal innuendoes and sly insinuations of the man-on-the-street have become part and parcel of the nisei's existence ever since the 7th of December. The larger, more basic task of getting jobs in American industry and business, has been for most nisei, a new experience - complicated now by war nerves, emotional prejudice, and unenlightened patriotism. They must be prepared to hear outright refusals, polite excuses, and every form of job

VII.

brush-offs, and through all of this, continue to maintain in their own attitude and thinking, a perspective that is neither embittered nor warped. Not even in government projects or civil service will they find positions too rapidly. The Government has taken a highly cautious policy, and are accepting nisei in responsible positions only after rigorous examination, if at all. The recent action taken in the State of California, inviting all county and city employees to take leaves of absence for the duration of the war, indicates clearly how far the policy for precaution has gone.

One of the lesser noticed dislocations caused by World War II, has been the virtual discontinuance of foreign missions activities of the different Protestant church boards, and has meant the sudden recall of many field workers from the troubled areas of the world. It has been something of a problem to utilize adequately these hard-working missionaries who have been so long away from their native America, and who were so rudely cut from their chosen tasks in foreign fields. In the case of missionaries returning from Japan, some have been absorbed by the Japanese work here in America, among the Japanese residents and nisei. When the war came, these missionaries were among the first to volunteer their time and energy to render aid to the many uprooted lives in the Japanese communities throughout the country. Here, in New York, individual volunteers from different denominational groups, at once set out on visitations to the

VIII.

scattered and perplexed families in the metropolitan areas, and through their genuine understanding and sympathy brought immeasurable assurance to many homes. Through these personal, first-hand contacts with distressed stay-ins, and through explanatory talks with leaders of local Japanese churches and other community organizations (who were themselves at a loss as to how they could meet the daily upcrop of problems facing the New York Japanese community, were roughly diagnosed.

A more formal "New York Church Committee for Japanese Work" was organized from this nucleus of individual, volunteer workers, with representatives of the Methodist, Dutch Reformed, , on the executive board; the ministers of the Protestant Japanese churches, the Buddhist priest,, are part of the Committee in the capacity of consultants. Through its contacts with the Federation of Protestant Welfare, the Church Committee was able to ~~set aside lodging and food accommodations with the Department of Welfare to~~ make arrangements with the Department of Welfare to set aside lodging and food accommodations for destitute, single, unattached men; and through the Community Service Society and other local social agencies, it has helped a number of families whose savings have been exhausted. Supplementing its welfare work, the Committee has also been cooperating with the federal authorities in supplying interpreters and contact ~~peopl~~ persons, in connection with the hearings of

IX.

the Ellis Island internees.

At present, an intensive study of vocational training and re-employment possibilities, for both alien nationals and American citizens, is underway. The Committee is keenly aware of the unprecedented difficulties involved in this problem of permanent jobs. It entertains no rosy notions about the future. But the men and women on this 'crisis' committee, are determined to do all they can for these non-combattant victims of war, that they may keep body and soul from want.

Japs - Am.
Ind. cases

Att.	File No. _____
	Copies _____
FEB 28 1942 Reg. ^{5/10}	
Ans.	<i>see</i>
Date	<i>3-4-42</i>

J. J. Outland
255 East Third Street,
Media, Pennsylvania.
February 26, 1942.

Clarence E. Pickett, Secretary,
American Friends Service Committee,
20 South 12th Street,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Dear Friend,

Yesterday a telegram came from my husband saying that he had been informed by the Parole Division Office ~~th~~ Ellis Island that he is to be released within a few days, so at least we know that the word has finally come through from Washington. Things move slowly but we can be thankful that they are moving in the right direction!

The question of a sponsor is being considered now and as thee offered the services of the Service Committee in that regard earlier thee may hear from the Parole Division soon. I was speaking with Herman Cope and Passmore Elkinton tonight. Their names are also being considered and they had received very complicated forms to fill out and return to the Parole Division. It seems that the sponsorship is going to be a much greater responsibility than was apparent and if thee feels - if and when thee receives the forms - that it is too much for any member of the Staff of the Service Committee to undertake please don't hesitate to say so.

When I spoke to thee a week ago - was it? - I neglected to tell thee of the information given to me by Reverend Shimizu, Japanese pastor of the Japan Christian Institute, 350 East 57th Street, New York City, concerning the situation of Japanese relief in New York. I saw him at Ellis Island and he told me that a shelter had been established finally for Japanese destitute on 23rd Street between First and Second Avenues, N.Y.C. which is supervised by the Calvary Episcopal Church assisted by the city. It was able to accommodate about sixty people but they had about half that number. It provides two meals and lodging. Lunch I believe was to be obtained at the Calvary Church.

Mr. Shimizu seemed to feel that the situation was becoming more favorable as many were being taken back at their regular occupations. Mr. Shirato whom I spoke to thee of earlier had practically the same information but I did not hear from again.

One more matter: thee spoke of wanting a Japanese to serve in the capacity of butler or general helper at thy home and I have asked several including Mr. Shimizu with no results so far. The latter told me that the three or four possibilities in his church are afraid to leave New York now while things are so uncertain even though they have no work. I don't quite get their reasoning as I should think work would be of prime importance. I am writing Mr. Shimizu to inquire again if there are any other possibilities and will let thee know the answer as soon as I hear.

Sincerely thine,

Mary Outland Katsuki

Mary Outland Katsuki.

Lillian Traugott

Japanese
3/18/42
gone

SPECIAL NOTICE

There will be a special meeting, Tuesday evening, March 24, at 8:00 P.M. in the Friends Meeting House, 15th and Race Streets, under the auspices of the American Friends Service Committee, the Philadelphia Fellowship Commission, the Committee on Race Relations, and the Mission Board of the Religious Society of Friends in Philadelphia and Vicinity.

The topic under discussion will be

JAPANESE SITUATION ON THE WEST COAST

The speakers will be:

Richard Neustadt, West Coast Regional Director for the Federal Security Administration
Bernard G. Waring and C. Reed Cary, members of the A.F.S.C. Board of Directors, who have just returned from that area where they have been studying problems of the Japanese.

Rabbi Wm. H. Fineshriber will be the presiding officer, and Theodore O. Spaulding will speak briefly for the Philadelphia Fellowship Commission.

The American Friends Service Committee has been asked to cooperate with the Government in handling the question of the Japanese problem on the West Coast, and is already active in its service to this group.

Jap Am

REFUGEE SECTION of the
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20 SOUTH TWELFTH STREET · PHILADELPHIA, PENNA.

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Executive Secretary, CLARENCE E. PICKETT

Telephone . . . Rittenhouse 8552

April 28, 1942

Mr. C. Reed Cary
American Friends Service Committee
20 South 12th Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Friend:

On Friday evening, April 24th, Miss Curtice, Secretary of the New York Church Committee for Japanese Work, and I, met with representatives of various Japanese and Nisei organizations to discuss the necessity of making a survey and census of the Japanese in the metropolitan area.

It was agreed that exact data was needed if we were to obtain any clear picture of the condition of the community; the number unemployed; those whose employment would terminate shortly, particularly those engaged in liquidating Japanese business, and who would be out of jobs in the near future, and the number receiving relief, etc. This data is to be presented to the Government and any private agencies interested in the Japanese situation.

On Saturday, April 25th, the three Japanese Christian and one Buddhist clergymen met with us as did representatives of some other groups, and plans were outlined as to how the survey should be conducted. Actual work has begun and several young men are now devoting their entire time to the matter. The clergy told their congregations about the matter on Sunday, news letters are being sent out to tell the people the reasons for the survey, and the job has become a project of the whole Japanese community.

This is really their project. I have been told that this is the first time all the various groups have gotten together to work for the whole community and I am sure they will find it a valuable experience.

It seems that many of these people know of the Quakers and they are very grateful that the Friends are interested in their situation.

Miss Curtice of the New York Church Committee for Japanese Work, tells me that the families of some of the men who have been detained have not had any word as to when^e they have been interned after they leave this area. They are naturally anxious for news. Mr. Correa, U.S. Attorney in New York, said that when a Japanese is held for internment, and after he has left Ellis Island or Camp Upton, he is then under the jurisdiction of the War Department, and that Assistant Secretary of War McCloy would be the one to contact on this matter. I wonder if the Service Committee couldn't take this matter up with Mr. McCloy and obtain the names and addresses of the interned Japanese as they are sent out of the New York district, so that we could communicate with their families.

I understand that most of these men are sent to Camp Meade in Maryland. They need books and possibly clothing. Are there some Friends in the vicinity who might investigate their needs and how we can help them?

Mr. Correa is most friendly. I saw him April 23rd; also, a Mr. Pennland, the F.B.I. agent who has been interested in the local Japanese situation. Incidentally, the F.B.I. man was glad to know that the Quakers were busy in New York, for he already had met some in Ohio and found them "intelligent, dependable, and truthful." Mr. Correa said that Earl Harrison of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service in Philadelphia might be able to supply information regarding enemy aliens registered with that office, when I asked if that data could be obtained to help in the census we were going to undertake. It would help a lot if such data could be obtained.

I will try and see each Japanese clergyman this week; I had lunch with one today, and will also look into several individual cases of Japanese that have been referred to the New York office. If you have any reports about the Japanese in other parts of the country that will interest these people, I should like to have them.

Sincerely,



George E. Rundquist

GER:hm

P.S. I have seen Mr. Takagi of the Japanese American Committee for Democracy several times. He is wholeheartedly working for the census, and was present at both meetings mentioned above.

G.E.R.

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April 29, 1942

C. Reed Cary
American Friends Service Committee
20 South 12th Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Friend:

I saw Mr. Roku Kondo of 126 Valley Brook Avenue, Lyndhurst, New Jersey, yesterday morning concerning work for his son. A report on the son has been made to Giles Zimmerman and I'll enclose a copy. However, this is concerned with the senior Kondo.

He was an importer of Japanese goods. His business is being liquidated by the Government. He told me that creditors are taking advantage of his Japanese nationality and are welshing on their debts. His attorney advises him not to go to court because of the hostility of American juries. Nice, isn't it? Also, on top of that, his landlord is holding him to a lease which expires in 1944 or 1945, even though the Government made Mr. Kondo desist from carrying on his business.

I imagine the Friends on the West Coast have run across similar situations. Do you know what can be done in this situation? Who can we apply to for relief?

A Methodist minister, the one who referred the Kondo case to the Service Committee, told me he had heard of a Nisei girl in New Jersey, employed as a secretary in an American firm, who was fired December 8th. She had been with this firm four or five years and had been accepted as an equal by her co-workers. Mr. Alexander said he had heard that she cursed her Japanese parentage - she wasn't responsible for the nationality of her parents. I have asked Mr. Alexander to get her name and address for me and I will get in touch with the young lady if possible.

John Judkyn has just phoned that a shipment of clothing can be sent to Europe and wishes me to help on it.

I shall keep you informed of anything of interest.

Sincerely,

George E. Rundquist - JR

George E. Rundquist

GER/hm

off. my

Tap Am

May 5, 1942

George E. Rundquist
American Friends Service Committee
Refugee Section
139 Centre Street
New York City.

Dear Friend:

I do not know what to say about Mr. Roku Kondo whose abuse is described in your letter of April 29. I would suggest, however, that it would be highly desirable if the services of one or more Quaker lawyers might be coopted for such cases. I am not sufficiently familiar with the personnel of New York Quakerdom to give you names, but I would suggest that you get in touch with Hollingsworth Wood (whose law offices are at 103 Park Avenue) and see if he does not have some suggestions. I feel sure that there must be some young Friends with legal background who are not over-burdened with law cases who might volunteer to step into the breach, if such cases as that of Mr. Kondo were brought to their attention. The Government should take the responsibility of preventing such extortion as is being practised on Kondo. Practically, however, it does not work out that way. If it is going to be prevented it will have to be done by such people as ourselves.

It was a great source of satisfaction to learn that the clothing for Europe got on shipboard safely. We certainly appreciate the work which you in New York have done.

Very truly yours,

C. Reed Cary

CRC:LBT

April 29, 1942

American Friends Service Committee
139 Centre Street
N.Y.C.

To: Giles L. Zimmerman

Report on HIROSHI KONDO ^X
126 Valley Brook Avenue
Lyndhurst, New Jersey

This case was referred to the A.F.S.C. by Rev. Gross W. Alexander, pastor of the Lyndhurst Methodist Church, Lyndhurst, New Jersey.

Phoned Mr. Alexander Monday evening, April 27th, and made appointment for Tuesday A.M.

Mr. Alexander gave me the background of the family as he knew it and we made the call together.

Roku Kondo, father of Hiroshi, was in the import business in New York City. His business is in process of liquidation by the U.S. Government. He was very cordial and friendly; said he had seen me Monday afternoon at the New York Church Committee for Japanese Work. He had heard of the Quakers' work on the West Coast and was very happy that the Quakers were working in the East as well. He had some problems of his own which we discussed and which I will cover in a letter to Reed Cary. He is a Buddhist. His wife is a member of the Lyndhurst Methodist Church. The family is intelligent, the home atmosphere seemed unusually pleasant, friendly and sympathetic. Besides the parents, the family consists of three sons, one at Cornell studying medicine, Hiroshi and a younger boy who expects to enter Cornell in the fall.

Hiroshi Kondo was born at Cliffside Park, New Jersey, November 20, 1919. His family moved to Lyndhurst in 1922; they own their home which is attractive, surrounded by a small but well kept garden.

Hiroshi attended public schools at Lyndhurst, graduated B.A., 1940 at Lafayette University, Easton, Pa.; he majored in Mechanical Engineering. For the first two years his marks were above 90, then he became a member of Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity and his marks suffered, but he had no difficulty getting by.

He had a breakdown almost immediately after graduation, and spent six months in a sanitarium - mentally ill. I believe the breakdown was occasioned by a growing realization of the hostility to Japan and an awareness that he was different from his fellows; his skin was yellow.

After recovering his health in the early part of 1941, he worked for his father about four months. The business fell off and he was dropped from the payroll. With the exception of one job which lasted about ten days, he has not had any other work.

Report on Hiroshi Kondo - cont'd.

April 29, 1942

#2

He is a well set up young man, but light - weighs 130 pounds. He seems to be all right physically. He is shy and reserved, and more so than ever since December 7th. I believe he could be really useful on a farm after he gets his bearings and a more cheerful frame of mind. He hesitates to go out in public, feels that everyone is against him. He needs a change of atmosphere and scenery. He would need close supervision and friendly handling and sympathy.

Pay is not particularly a consideration at this time. He needs a new outlook and friends.

I believe you can handle this case better than I can, as jobs are scarce in New York and the hostility to Japanese is strong. I of course shall be glad to follow this up and do whatever you suggest, but this time I think this will have to be your burden.

Good luck.

George E. Rundquist

GER/hm

Copy to C. Reed Cary ✓

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Tap Am

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Telephone Rittenhouse 8552

May 8, 1942

C. Reed Cary
20 South Twelfth Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Friend:

Enclosed is a questionnaire and letter that is being sent out by the sponsoring organizations for the survey of the Japanese community. Actual work has begun; a number of the questionnaires are being mailed out with the request that they are returned by May 23rd. On those that are slow in coming in, a follow-up will be made by personal calls for the information. This questionnaire is being sent to each person seventeen years of age or over.

From this I think we will have a pretty fair picture of the needs of the community and the commercial skills they have to offer. I attended a meeting last night with the group that is in charge of this project, and it was good to see them working together intelligently and enthusiastically, and again I was impressed that this is the first time the Japanese community is working together as a group.

Yesterday I called upon Yoichi Hiraoka out at Flushing. He was on the National Broadcasting System radio for ten years as a solo xylophonist....he was let go December 8th. He has appeared as guest soloist several times with the Philharmonic Orchestra (New York), with the N.B.C. Symphony, and the Rochester, N.Y. Symphony Orchestra. He has many friends in musical circles who have tried to influence the Broadcasting Company to reinstate him, but apparently being an enemy alien they won't consider it. Incidentally, Mayor La Guardia in March had Mr. Hiraoka play his xylophone over the radio before he made his address, and again afterwards, to show his friendship for him. The neighbors in the apartments around where this man lives also got up a petition which was sent to the N.B.C., so you see the people have been interested in him but it hasn't resulted in any jobs...With this exception: His milkman, who delivers milk to his door every day, felt concerned about him and he has arranged for Hiraoka to give a concert at the First Methodist Church in Richmond Hill, Long Island, on

May 8, 1942

Tuesday evening, May 12th. After the church expenses for opening the auditorium have been paid, Hiraoka will receive up to \$50, and any surplus will then go to the church for its general use. So you see that if people know the Japanese, they soon lose their suspicions and are willing to pitch in and help. I think I could kiss the milkman!

There is a lot of show talent in New York amongst the Japanese -- singers, dancers, musicians and acrobats. I have been wondering if it might not be possible to organize a troupe amongst these people that might be sponsored by the Government, ^{will be} to entertain and keep up the morale of the Japanese who are and ~~have been~~ evacuated, the same as was done by the Government with the C.C.C. camps when troupes of entertainers went from camp to camp giving performances to relieve the boredom and give the men something to laugh at. Do you know anyone who might be interested in helping on such a project? Do you think I am crazy in hoping that such a project might be feasible?

I have seen several men who want to work on farms, and I am going to get in touch with Lee Rushmore, a Quaker, who has a farm at Roslyn, Long Island, and see if he can possibly employ them. I am also going to present these names to the U.S. Employment Office with the hope that we can get some results.

This afternoon the New York Church Committee for Japanese Work is to meet, at which a report of the work done so far by the Committee will be given. I wonder if you wouldn't arrange to come to New York some time later and meet with some of these people. It seems to me that we ought to get together and organize a program with the various church groups interested in the Japanese, such as the Congregational Board, the Methodist Board, and other church Boards who may be members of this Committee but apparently aren't using the Church Committee as a clearing house for information. In this way we can all pull together and exert whatever influence we have with the Government to relieve the condition of these people as we become more familiar with it.

Cordially,

George E. Rundquist

George E. Rundquist

ger/hm

Copy to Mary M. Rogers
Giles L. Zimmerman

Office copy

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Telephone . . . Rittenhouse 8552

May 12, 1942

C. Reed Cary
20 South Twelfth Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Friend:

Enclosed is some correspondence received from Floyd Schmue of the Seattle office and Andrew T. Hasegawa, Japanese student on the West Coast, which is self-explanatory. I understand that you are handling these matters.

I have been wondering whether or not it might not be worthwhile for me to try and see General Drum, commanding officer on this coast, to inquire whether or not he knows of any plans to evacuate the Japanese alien or Nisei. It is so hard to plan or start anything with the thought in mind that these people will be evacuated shortly. If I could receive some assurance from General Drum that no evacuation is planned, I would feel a little freer. Do you have any objection to my calling upon General Drum?

In the event of evacuation, I will try - and have started already - to get together a group of people who will visit and work with the Japanese, such as the Inter-Racial Committee and the Peace and Service Committees of the New York City Meetings, and any others that might be concerned. It seems to me wise to acquaint the Japanese with our people so that they will feel free to call upon them in case of need.

Now I think I have covered what I have on my mind at the moment.

Sincerely,
George E. Rundquist
George E. Rundquist

ger/hm

Copy to Mary M. Rogers

Office memo

May 14, 1942

George E. Rundquist
American Friends Service Committee
139 Centre Street
New York City

Dear Friend:

I quote from the Special Information Bulletin sent by you, and published by the National Refugee Service: ~~X~~

"The entire Eastern seaboard will shortly be designated as a military area with the Army taking control of shore lighting and regulation of enemy aliens for defense purposes, it was announced on Sunday, April 26 by Lieutenant General Hugh A. Drum, commanding general of the Eastern Defense Command and First Army. General Drum is authorized to prescribe such areas by the Secretary of War, under an executive order issued by the President on February 19."

This should be given much weight even though, as your footnote indicates, Attorney General Biddle made a contradictory statement that there would be no evacuation. Before the West Coast evacuation a similar statement was made by the Attorney General's office. We have for several weeks understood that this action was probable but, inasmuch as the information was confidential, have kept it to ourselves. However, as the Bulletin is circulated to a large mailing list it is evidently common property now.

I am returning the letters dealing with Andrew Hasegawa as you may need them. It would appear, however, that it would be most unwise to transport Japanese across the continent only to have them interned after they get here.

In reference to your letter of May 8, although it is probable that all Japanese in the New York area will be removed to camps at no very distant date I think it is well to go forward with the survey of the Japanese community and similar pieces of work as was done by the Mary Knoll Fathers in southern California. The good Fathers were highly praised by the Government officials working on the evacuation, it being said that theirs was the best piece of work that any individual unit had done.

Your story concerning Yoichi Hiraoka is certainly a good one. I am passing this on to our Publicity Department and I think that they may make out of it some material for one of our Publications.

Very sincerely,

C. Reed Cary

Office, n.y.

American Friends Service Committee

20 South Twelfth Street

Philadelphia  Pennsylvania

New York Office
JEAN REYNOLDS
139 Centre Street
New York City
Telephone . . . CAnal 6-5000

Telephone
RITTENHOUSE 9372
Executive Secretary, CLARENCE E. PICKETT

Chairman, RUFUS M. JONES
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Vice Chairmen
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FOREIGN SERVICE SECTION

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Secretary, JAMES G. VAIL

REFUGEE COMMITTEE
Chairman, D. ROBERT YARNALL
Secretary, MARY M. ROGERS
Consultant, HERTHA KRAUS

June 9, 1942

C. Reed Cary
20 South Twelfth Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Friends:

Enclosed you will find a check for \$25.00 and the note and clipping that accompanies it. I am going to write Dorothy Bess and thank her, and I wish you would, too. Her stationery and address look as though she might be able to help a little bit more later on. It might not be a bad idea to send her reports on the Japanese work as we go along, as that will keep her interest alive.

There is a rumor going around that the colleges in Pennsylvania have been ordered by the Army not to take graduate students - that possibly may also include students of Japanese ancestry. The source of this rumor is Kenichi Nakamura who is a graduate student at the University of Pennsylvania and who is known to Giles Zimmerman. Can you help us to clear this up?

You will be interested in the story of a young Japanese-American girl who was a student at the Juilliard School of Music in New York. At the end of the term she wished to return to her parents who were in an evacuation center in the State of Washington. She called upon us for advice as to what arrangements were necessary to make for rejoining her family. We wired the Seattle office for information and got a reply saying that she would not be allowed to enter that area and to try and induce her to remain in the East at least until mid-summer, when there was a possible chance that her family might be relocated in Idaho. We hustled around, got a job for the young lady at Wallingford, Connecticut. She left New York Tuesday night, June 2nd, and the next day we had a phone call from the people she was going to work for, telling us that this girl (Hideko Tsuboi) was insistent and determined to rejoin her family at all costs. She left Wallingford on Thursday morning, presumably to come to New York, and we hoped that we would have some word from her. As we haven't heard from her so far, I gather that she left immediately for Seattle. This young girl had not seen her mother for several years; the last time she was home her mother was on a visit to Japan. The difficulties that her family were experiencing and her homesickness were too much for her to bear. When I

C. Reed Cary

#2

June 9, 1942

tell people this story, I am frequently met with the remark "it's too bad, but this is war." I think that a few more experiences of this kind with American citizens will make a confirmed Pacifist of me. War or no war, we have no right to treat Americans the way this young girl has been treated - prohibited from seeing her family, and no one being concerned about how this girl should live decently.

Regarding my phone call last Friday about permission to visit Ellis Island and move freely amongst the Japanese, we have been unable to get such permission. We can see an individual but that wouldn't be enough to allow us to render the Friendly services that we had hoped we could to these people before they left our shores forever.

Our census and survey is now about complete; results are being tabulated and I will hope to send you a copy of the results in a week or ten days. It is taking rather long because there have been so many interruptions and disturbances in the minds of these young people who have been doing the actual work.

Sincerely,

George E. Rundquist
George E. Rundquist

ger/hm
enc.

copy to Mary M. Rogers

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June 10, 1942

C. Reed Cary
20 South 12th Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

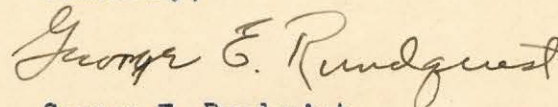
Dear Reed Cary:

It seems that we are always upset, and the things I have on my mind to tell you are being put off until I have settled down - but here goes:

You will recall I wrote you about Y. Hiraoka, the xylophone player whose milkman sponsored a church concert. Hiraoka, because of inability to obtain employment, is returning to Japan. Again, the Kondos of Lyndhurst, New Jersey -- the father who was having business difficulties, the son mentally sick and needing work in the country, particularly with Friends - this family also is returning to Japan because of lack of opportunity not only for the boy we were concerned with but two other sons who will have the same situation to face as long as the war continues. None of these people wish to return to Japan, but all doors were closed and apparently they thought it wisest to be repatriated.

There are many other families, of course, who have had the same decisions to make as these people, but because you knew of them I thought you would find these comments of interest.

Sincerely,



George E. Rundquist

ger/hm

P.S. Would you please let me have by return mail the telephone number of Dorothy Bess, 575 Park Avenue, N.Y., whose contribution we forwarded to you yesterday. The number is noted on her stationery but does not appear in the New York directory.

*Office, ny
(G. Rundquist)*

*8/13/42 - Phoned
Des. P. - thru Clara Fisher, tho
we need much more info
if we are to appeal*

July 29, 1942

C. Reed Cary
20 South 12th Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Reeds:

I am concerned about a Mr. Giichi Tanaka who is interned at Camp Livingston, Louisiana. Mr. Tanaka has been in the United States since February 28, 1917. He has been employed as a butler and valet most of the time. He married in 1923 Ruby Frances Oliver, who was born in Newport, Rhode Island on May 18, 1897, the daughter of Edgar A. Oliver, a native of Maine. By her Tanaka had two children: a daughter, now 17, and a son, 15.

I understand Tanaka provided very well for his family, was a good husband and father, steady in his habits, and apparently has the affection and love of his family. He was working for George Gordon of 1009 East Avenue, Rochester, New York, and had gone with Mr. Gordon to Miami for the winter. He was there at the outbreak of the war, was picked up, and I imagine he must have been given some kind of a hearing - with the result that he is now in Louisiana after having been shifted from place to place. He can be addressed as follows: 1 SN-6-9-J-20-C 1, 2nd Internment Camp 1920, Camp Livingston, Louisiana. U.S. Attorney Herbert Phillips at Tampa, Florida handled the Tanaka matter.

- butler and valet

Mrs. Tanaka has tried to obtain from Attorney-General Biddle information as to why her husband was interned, but she has had no luck. Edward J. Emis has replied to her letters but he has been just as non-committal. I wonder if there is anything you could do to help us know the facts in this case, and whether or not we can do anything to help this man gain his freedom so that he may rejoin his family.

Mrs. Tanaka for a while had to accept relief but she has now gotten a job which pays \$14 per week. We have secured a job for the daughter during the summer which pays \$10 per week. The daughter will have to return to school in the fall. In order to help further, the New York Church Committee is now going to use the thirteen-year old boy to run errands and clean up the offices, for which he will receive \$5 per week.

I should greatly appreciate hearing from you in this matter. Thank you for all your help.

Sincerely,

ger/hm(copy to Mary M. Rogers) ✓ George E. Rundquist

X

American Friends Service Committee

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Secretary, MARY M. ROGERS
Consultant, HERTHA KRAUS

August 25, 1942

C. Reed Cary
20 South 12th Street
Philadelphia, Penna.

Dear Reed:

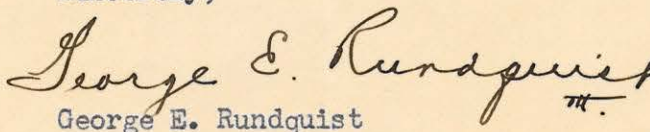
I have a rather peculiar matter which has come up and which I need help on.

One of our very able Nisei, Akira Hayashi, has asked me if I could help his brother Mitsuru Hayashi, who lives at 2832 Fairmount Avenue, Atlantic City, who wishes to get in the United States Army but is seemingly having some difficulty. You may know someone in Atlantic City who could follow this up and see what might be done. Mitsuru is in Class 1-A, Order #2019. He is registered at the Local Draft Board #6 at 2314 Pacific Avenue, in Atlantic City. The Board members are:

Dean B. Crawford, President
Julian Hillman, Vice-President
John R. Wilson, Secretary

The Nisei around New York are quite disturbed because there hasn't been one of them accepted for military service in the past five or six months. A number of them have expressed not only their willingness but a desire to participate in the war effort on the same basis as any other citizen. This case, however, is the first where a request has been made for assistance; that is the reason I am passing the buck to you.

Sincerely,


George E. Rundquist

ger/hm