



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



Mayor Bowron  
Los Angeles  
cal.

Japanese Relocation Papers  
Bancroft Library

Mayr Bowron  
Los Angeles, Cal.  
Dear Sir.

Good for you  
on your talk about  
keeping the Japs  
out of this country  
forever.

Japanese Relocation Papers  
Bancroft Library

Keep up your good work.  
A Jap is a Jap, and the  
only good one is a dead  
one.

Mrs. S. D. Carpenter  
W. Los Angeles  
Cal.



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



Japanese Relocation Papers  
Bancroft Library

Mayor Bowron

City Hall

City

Japanese Relocation Papers  
Bancroft Library

The Japs then the Jews



February 3, 1942

The Honorable Francis Biddle  
Attorney General of the United States  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Attorney General:

On the occasion of our conference in your office on January 15 relative to the various problems incident to the concentration in the Los Angeles metropolitan area of a large Japanese population, I discussed with you the advisability of working out some legal means to insure the evacuation of Japanese from Terminal Island in Los Angeles Harbor.

There have been about 2100 Japanese, including both aliens and American born, residing in houses located on parcels of land owned by the City of Los Angeles and leased for a term of years to several fish canning corporations. Without violating any of the provisions of the leases, the cannery concerns have erected the houses and leased the same to the Japanese on a month to month tenancy basis. The presence of this Japanese colony has long been a matter of grave concern to the naval authorities but the City of Los Angeles has been powerless to bring about their removal. The situation has been partially corrected by the removal yesterday of most if not all of the Japanese aliens. However, the presence of the large number of American born Japanese, many of whom unquestionably are more loyal to Japan than to the United States, still presents a serious problem. I told you that if some legal theory could be worked out the City of Los Angeles would be glad to cooperate with the Federal government. It is with the thought of full cooperation that I now address you.

On January 27 the Assistant Commandant of the Eleventh Naval District met with the Board of Harbor Commissioners of the City of Los Angeles and myself, at which time he advised us of the intention of the Navy Department to acquire all of the land now occupied by the Japanese on Terminal Island. He stated it was



Feb. 3, 1942

the intention to take the property by right of eminent domain for use of the United States government.

So far as may be concerned the leasehold interests of the canning companies this undoubtedly is a well considered and legal move to bring about the evacuation of the Japanese still residing on Terminal Island. We are very hopeful that the Government will consent to take a lease from the City of Los Angeles for the duration of the war, or any reasonable period of time, rather than acquire the land in fee since the City, over a long period of years, has, by the expenditure of many millions of dollars, much litigation and negotiations with the owners of private interests, acquired the land in question for the purpose of creating an efficient, municipally owned, commercial harbor. However, this is a matter that could probably be adjusted after the war, when the requirements of the Navy and the need for the development of a commercial port could be relatively appraised.

→ We do not want to stand in the way of any plans of the Navy for the development of the proper defense of this coastal area or to add to the efficiency of the fighting force. We believe that all of this can be readily accomplished without seriously affecting at least 15,000 American citizens and greatly disturbing the economy of the harbor district.

We are all agreed that the Japanese, both alien and American born, should be removed from Terminal Island, but the announced plan of the Navy is to condemn as well that proportion of the leaseholds on which the canneries are located and all of that portion of the harbor where the fishing boats discharge their loads directly in front of the canneries, known as Fish Harbor. In our discussion with Captain Coffman he indicated that it would not be satisfactory to the Navy to have the canneries moved to another location on the Inner Harbor, which is taken by us to mean that the entire fish canning industry must be transferred from the Los Angeles Harbor area to some new location along the Southern California Coast.

This is a most serious matter, having a far reaching effect upon our civilian population. It is estimated that approximately 15,000 American citizens residing at San Pedro and Wilmington, which sections are within the city limits of the city of Los Angeles, are entirely or partially dependent upon the fishing and canning industry for their livelihood. Many of these people own or have interest in the ownership of the large fleet of fishing boats, about 150 in number. A considerable portion of these people own their own homes. Not only the men but many women are employed in the industry. Practically all of these people are good citizens, loyal and peace-loving. Possibly half of the local business at



Feb. 3, 1942

the Harbor, -banks, drugstores, markets, groceries, restaurants and motion picture theatres-are dependent upon the local residents who are directly or indirectly connected with the canning industry.

If the affecting of so large a number of American citizens is necessary in order to get rid of 2100 Japanese on Terminal Island, or otherwise help win the war, of course we will submit to the decision. We would like, however, if possible, to keep the fish canning industry at Los Angeles Harbor, and to that end we have several suggestions:

(1) That the Navy acquire only the property on which the Japanese reside and not that portion on which the canneries are located. That none of the employees of the canneries be permitted to live on Terminal Island. That no Japanese be employed and that a very careful check be made of employees.

(2) As an alternative, if the Navy insists upon the acquirement of all of Fish Harbor and the cannery sites, then that the canneries be moved to another location at the harbor. We suggest the San Pedro side of the Outer Harbor.

If it be felt necessary to remove the canning industry from the Los Angeles Harbor it will be very difficult to find another location on the Southern California Coast. Some if not all of the proposed locations would necessitate large expenditures for dredging and other improvements and could not be made ready within a year. Moreover, the changing of the location of the canneries from Los Angeles Harbor to Alamitos Bay, a short distance to the south, as has been suggested, could not materially affect the situation with respect to any danger incident to the operation of the fishing fleet and the presence of cannery workers close to the naval operations. If the canneries must be removed from Fish Harbor, we suggest that they be transferred to the mainland and that more careful supervision be given in connection with the operation of the fishing fleet.

In this connection, it is respectfully suggested that two persons selected by the Navy, preferably enlisted men in the United States Navy, be assigned to each boat, one as observer and the other to operate the telephone or other communication system. In this manner the fishing fleet could not only continue its operation in supplying food for the Army and Navy (since practically all of the canned fish is either under contract to the Government or has been commandeered), but could serve as an offshore patrol to observe and report the approach of submarines or any suspicious ships and, at the same time, contact with any enemy ships could be prevented.



Feb. 3, 1942

I have discussed with members of the Board of Harbor Commissioners several alternative sites for a new location of the canning industry at the harbor. Probably the best would be on land now owned by the Southern Pacific Railway Company which is not necessary for the Company's use. Here, at considerable expense, which we feel should be borne by the Government in the circumstances, with an adequate sewage disposal system and treatment plant the objectionable odor could be largely minimized and the pollution of the harbor prevented. At this location the fishing fleet would not be in close proximity to the important naval operations on Terminal Island and the members of the crews would be belanded directly on the mainland and could be kept under close and constant observation.

At the time of the conference with Commander Coffman, representing the Navy, assurance was given on behalf of the City of Los Angeles of the fullest cooperation with the Navy Department in carrying out any necessary defense operations, and it is the intention of the City to continue to so cooperate during the entire period of war, even though it means loss of revenue to the City and seriously affects a considerable number of citizens in the harbor area. We hope, however, that consideration may be given to the representations and suggestions hereinabove set forth to the end that many loyal American citizens be not required to suffer unless entirely necessary.

I apologize for this long letter. I realize, of course, that you, as the head of the Department of Justice, may not be directly concerned with the effect of the legal action contemplated. However, some Federal officer or agency must be concerned with matters of policy and I know of no one else to appeal to. I sincerely hope that no one will feel that we are critical of the Navy in providing better protection and more adequate facilities for naval operations. We realize full well that the defense of the Southern California coastal area must depend largely upon the Navy, but in time of war and working against time the Navy cannot be expected to give a great amount of painstaking consideration to the commercial aspects of Los Angeles Harbor, and cannot be expected to concern itself with the manifold private interests of our local civilian population connected directly or indirectly with the fishing and canning industry. I am therefore appealing to you to see that the matters herein set forth are given adequate consideration.

Very sincerely yours,

M A Y O R



C O P Y

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY HALL  
Los Angeles, California

February 14, 1942

The Honorable John M. Costello, M. C.  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

Dear John:

Thank you for inserting my radio speech and statement concerning the Japanese situation into the Congressional Record. I hope that this may be the means of bringing the matter to the attention of a number of those who would not otherwise know of the seriousness of the situation in California, particularly in and near Los Angeles.

During the past week I have been giving much time and attention and thoughtful consideration to the legal and constitutional questions involved in any practical and satisfactory means of protecting life and property against the activities of native-born Japanese or others who might be expected to give aid and comfort to the enemies of the United States in time of war.

Tuesday afternoon I went to San Francisco with Tom C. Clark of the Department of Justice, designated by Attorney General Biddle as Coordinator of Enemy Alien Activities for the eleven Western states. We spent the entire evening until midnight with Attorney General Earl Warren and Townsend of the Trust Division of the Department of Justice at San Francisco, discussing the legal and constitutional questions.

On Wednesday morning we had a long conference with Lieutenant General DeWitt and other army officers, including the head of G2 for the coastal area and a colonel, whose name now escapes me, who was sent to the coast by the War Department to look into and discuss with General DeWitt the local Japanese situation.

General DeWitt asked me to explain in detail the situation in the Los Angeles metropolitan area and asked for my conclusions and suggestions and recommendations, after which he expressed himself very freely. He is fully aware of the seriousness of the situation and led me to believe that he had gone as far as he feels the War Department will permit him to go. After our conference, he asked Clark to remain to discuss the legal phases of contemplated further moves.

On Thursday, Clark received a long distance telephone call from Attorney General Biddle and was asked to come back to

0.5



February 14, 1942

Washington to discuss the matter in detail. This means that both the Army and the Department of Justice, whether actually aroused as to the seriousness of the situation in California or responding to what they now believe to be popular demand, are going to do something about the California Japanese situation.

I hope that the plan to be worked out will be effective but not too drastic, as it may affect the rest of the civilian population. I would hate to see the three million people in the Los Angeles metropolitan area greatly inconvenienced, business activity slowed up, traffic congested, and the people given unnecessary cause for fear, merely because of the presence here of 40,000 Japanese, only a limited portion of whom might be expected to do something dangerous to the peace and safety of the people of Los Angeles.

I favor any kind of a plan that might be considered constitutional that would effect the removal of Japanese, both alien and American-born, from the coastal area, rather than putting into effect some form of martial law. Undoubtedly, under military authority anyone who might be considered to be dangerous could be excluded from a given area, but unless the order would be enforced it would be worse than no order at all. Not only would it be ineffectual, but this country would suffer in prestige in the eyes of the Japanese and other countries as well if our Army gave an order and then failed to enforce it. Common sense dictates that whatever steps are taken the plan of excluding Japanese must be air-tight and it must be strictly enforced. Obviously, it would be impossible to include all of the populous area of Los Angeles in a military zone and yet right here we have the largest concentration of Japanese in America.

A few days ago I noted press reports of a plan suggested as the result of a conference of the California Congressional delegation meeting with the Senators and Representatives from Oregon and Washington. This plan, as I understand it from the press reports, would require all residents, Americans and Japanese alike, to be registered and secure a permit to remain in the defense zone under a licensing system. You could readily see what this would mean to Los Angeles, not only in the daily life of citizens, but it would give this area a black eye and throughout the entire country the impression would be more definitely created that this is the most dangerous part of the United States. Vacationists and tourists would not come here, nor anyone else, if a trip could be avoided. Certainly the creation of such a popular conception of our danger would lead to general support of the present threat to move our war industries away from Los Angeles and the coast. We would anticipate living in a war zone under increasing authority of military rule during the continuance of the war. I would rather have the Japs here and have everyone of them watched day and night by a corps of volunteers acting as auxiliary police, rather than have Los Angeles made a military zone and subject to some form of martial law.



February 14, 1942

I note in this morning's Times an article by Kyle Palmer indicating that the Congressional representatives now feel that the President's wartime authority is sufficient to cope with the situation and by some kind of a Presidential proclamation anyone who is regarded as actually or potentially dangerous to the security of the nation can be ordered out of an area. Possibly he may have such power, I do not know, but if he has, it undoubtedly is by virtue of his wartime authority as Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy and its enforcement would require some application of the principles of martial law. Here again it would be idle and ridiculous in the eyes of the Japanese and other Axis powers unless the order could be strictly enforced. A mere proclamation will not keep Japanese from slipping back into the Los Angeles metropolitan area and the local authorities could not be expected to stop every automobile on the highway to see if there was a Jap in the back seat. I believe that the whole matter should be handled in three steps:

(1) First, for the immediate protection of vital areas, I feel that military zones should be set up and all persons excluded from such areas except by permit. I see little practical value at all to the military zones that have heretofore been indicated by the Office of the Attorney General at the request of military authorities. The Army is doing a very satisfactory job of guarding our Municipal Airport and the airplane factories. There is little chance of the local Japanese doing anything in the nature of sabotage in and around our principal war industrial establishments in this area. Our harbor area, however, is very vulnerable. Shipping of war munitions and the transporting of troops will undoubtedly go on for a considerable period of time. Warships will come and go, convoys will be formed. Such activities should not be witnessed by anyone who is suspected of being dangerous and that includes everyone of Japanese blood, alien and native-born alike, also any recently naturalized German or Italian, or anyone else who might be suspected of being friendly to the Axis Powers. I would suggest drawing a line around San Pedro Harbor, far enough back so that no one could observe any activity in or near the harbor. This would include probably all of the Palos Verdes hills. I would put everyone who wants to live within this area on a permit basis, and also require a permit of everyone who may enter this area for any purpose. For a time this would be rather difficult, particularly by reason of the thousands of shipworkers who do not live in the immediate harbor area, but I believe that the potential danger is sufficiently great to give that kind of protection for the harbor area. For the time being, and until they could be transported to some other section of the country, I would suggest that the Japanese might remain in Los Angeles, including those from the harbor district, but all of them would, of course, be carefully watched.

(2) The second step would be an Act of Congress. I have not had time to work out even an outline for a bill. Roughly,



February 14, 1942

this is my idea: that the proposed Act assume to classify citizens, both native-born and naturalized, who, under the laws of a country at war with the United States are entitled to citizenship of such alien country. I would then vest the United States Army with authority to induct into service, other than service in combat units of the Army and Navy, all such persons as their service may be needed or as the safety of the country or any portion thereof may require, such induction to be without the necessity for any form of selective service by chance but within the discretion of the duly constituted officers of the United States Army. I would further provide that such induction might be permissible without regard to physical qualifications, age, or sex, but in accordance with such rules or regulations as the Army might from time to time prescribe.

The law should require the immediate registration of such persons coming within the classification as might be considered most dangerous, to wit, all persons of Japanese ancestry and Germans and Italians and citizens of other countries at war with the United States, who have applied for naturalization papers since 1930. I would fix this arbitrary date merely because it antedates the rise of the Nazi movement. Undoubtedly many Germans were sent to this country and have applied for American citizenship merely as a screen and for protection. The registration of such persons might be called for first in the Pacific Coast states. Thereafter, any of them might be called into service by the mere expedient of any Army official running his finger down the list and making out an order including certain names, rather than pulling a number or numbers out of a glass jar. In this way those who are thought to be dangerous would be called up first. Eventually, all male Japanese citizens of, let us say, sixteen could be called up. A method could be provided for releasing from service under a sort of furlough and under such orders and regulations as the Army might prescribe any of the persons called into service. In this manner, if it should be felt that persons are actually loyal to the United States, they might be released from Army service but directed not to enter certain areas, or, possibly with the same kind of restrictions that might be imposed in the case of a paroled inmate of a penal institution.

The first or more dangerous Japanese could be sent to CCC camps in locations removed from the coastal areas until Federal projects could be developed. While in such camps they would undergo training and would learn discipline. All of such persons inducted into service would receive compensation of \$21 a month, equivalent to the original pay of privates in the United States Army. The government should develop projects in such locations and of such character that the danger of sabotage would be at a minimum and at the same time projects that would be of value to the government in the war program. I have heretofore suggested raising beans or other food stuffs for the Army or the Navy or the



February 14, 1942

development of other products of the soil that are needed in the industrial program. No-one could claim that this was enforced labor, any more than they did when in 1917-18 men, many of whom had physical defects which precluded them from combat units, were sent to the spruce forests.

I feel that projects might also be developed for women and in those cases where it was felt that certain Japanese women are or might be dangerous such females could be called into the government service. At the same time I would suggest the development of a large agricultural project away from the coastal area, although not necessarily out of the State of California, provided the location be away from transcontinental railways and where no information of military importance could be secured, to which locations whole Japanese families, alien and American-born alike, might be migrated and housed and given an opportunity to farm or carry on some similar activity on their own with the assurance that their products would be purchased by the government at a fair price.

A number of such projects could be developed and would serve to take care of many Japanese who would prefer not to go into military service. If they would voluntarily go to such locations, under regulations, orders and instructions not to return to the coastal area or go beyond certain points' without a permit, many of the Japanese would probably immediately go there for the war period. This could and probably would materially cut down the number to be inducted into service. With the probability of induction into service hanging over their heads, undoubtedly most of the Japanese would "voluntarily" go to these projects and remain there.

All of the suggested provisions for a Congressional Act refer to native-born Japanese or naturalized citizens of other countries at war with the United States. So far as the danger in California goes, I see no particular distinction between alien and native-born Japanese. I believe that there are some aliens who are much less dangerous than some native-born Japanese. The alien problem, however, is a comparatively simple one to handle. The dangerous ones can be placed in concentration camps and the less dangerous ones, and members of their families, would go to the projects referred to, and I believe most of them would with the threat of internment hanging over their heads if they were not "godd Japs" in the estimate of Army officials or the Department of Justice.

(3) The third step would be a constitutional amendment. This is suggested because of the doubtful constitutionality of the proposed Act of Congress. The Supreme Court might hold as discriminatory the arbitrary classification of citizens, placing in



Congressman John M. Costello

-6-

February 14, 1942

one classification those who, whether native-born or naturalized, are entitled to dual citizenship or citizenship in a country at war with the United States under the laws of that country. The constitutional amendment would be a simple one, merely vesting in Congress the power to deal with the question of dual citizenship in any it saw fit. I believe that if Congress proposed such constitutional amendment, special sessions of Legislatures would be called and the amendment ratified within a period of a comparatively few months. I do not believe, however, that the Act of Congress should wait upon the ratification of the constitutional amendment, since the adoption of such amendment would unquestionably be held to ratify, approve and confirm the Congressional action.

I have in mind asking the Los Angeles Bar Association to appoint a committee to include some of the outstanding members of the Bar who have had experience in Federal constitutional questions to develop these ideas and, if possible, submit a rough draft for a bill. I believe that the preservation of Democracy, the very life of the nation itself, depends in no small degree in eliminating the influences within our own borders of the Axis powers, the Japanese hero worship, Nazism, Fascism, and, while we're about it, we might as well include Communism as well, because that will be the influence that will have to be dealt with after the war, if not before.

With kind personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

FLETCHER BOWRON

FB:M



0.8

February 20, 1942

19.

Mr. Tom C. Clark  
Special Assistant to the Attorney General  
Department of Justice Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Clark:

Supplementing my letter to you of February 14, I enclose herewith a copy of my broadcast over Station KBCA last night. Also enclosed is a copy of a proposal submitted by Wayne H. Fisher, Ed. F. Williams and L. A. Hauser. Mr. Fisher, who is President of the Airport Commission of the City of Los Angeles, is a large property owner in Palos Verdes Valley near the town of Blythe on the California side of the Colorado River. Mr. Hauser is Secretary of the Colorado River Board.

I believe that this is a practical plan. The clearing, leveling and development of the land could be accomplished by Japanese labor and would result in great benefit. The entire area could be irrigated with Colorado River water. I understand that a weir has already been constructed and a number of miles of flume. Certainly the project would be of great value to the Indians, who could receive consideration for any of the land that may be tillable at present and, after the land was on a production basis, the Indians could receive the reasonable rental value of the land and acquire highly developed farm land in place of the land in its present condition.

Since my discussion with you last week before you left for Washington, I have received additional information relative to the Japanese situation. I feel more than ever before that all Japanese should be evacuated. Many of them are now becoming embittered. The agitation to remove them has been the cause of placing many of them in a hostile frame of mind, who might otherwise have remained entirely docile. Many of the Nisei, or native born Japanese, who had previously indicated a pro-American and anti-Axis viewpoint are now commencing to realize that they are a race apart; that they can never be considered American citizens in the full sense of being accepted by other Americans.

*Joys  
mad*



Feb. 20, 1942

Moreover, many of them have lost positions and are unable to get employment. Others who have been in business complain that American citizens do not patronize them and that they are going to the wall. Still others are resigned to the treatment they are receiving and are waiting rather anxiously to be removed to a place where they may feel they will be safe for the duration of the war.

There has been a very decided change in the attitude of the native born Japanese within the last few weeks. In this morning's papers is a story of the launching of an organization by the Nisei to fight coast evacuation. In a meeting held last night, attended, according to the press, by more than 1500 Nisei and their elders, they were given much encouragement by radical representatives of the American Civil Liberties Union.

I have also secured considerable additional information relative to the Japanese colony on Terminal Island. As you may know, representatives of the Navy have served notice on all of the Japanese residents who live in houses leased from the canning companies, advising that the Navy is taking over the leaseholds and that all must vacate within a period of thirty days from February 13.

It appears that the number has been underestimated. I had previously been advised that the Japanese population on the Island was approximately 2100. I am now informed that it was approximately 4900. These Japanese are spreading all over Southern California. Each day, trucks come to the Island and load up with furniture, bedding and personal effects and then head for various sections of Southern California. Incidentally, I have also been advised that the Japanese on Terminal Island in addition to owning and operating 300 or more passenger automobiles have approximately 40 trucks, some as large as three ton capacity. These trucks have ostensibly been used to carry produce and other articles from the Los Angeles market. All of this automotive equipment could, of course, be put to good advantage in connection with the carrying out of any hostile plan of attack.

I have also been getting information as to the extensive automotive equipment owned by Japanese in this and other sections of the state. I am told that many of the farmers along the coast who have for years been doing all work by hand, bending over rows of vegetables and berries, have within the last few years purchased large numbers of tractors. Tractors, of course, could be readily utilized in pulling heavy war equipment from the beaches in the event of a troop landing.



Feb. 20, 1942

I sincerely hope that a constructive plan may be worked out at a very early date in order that the Japanese may be moved back from the coast. As I have repeatedly said, I feel that it would be useless to move the alien Japanese alone and leave the American born Japanese in our midst.

The first step, I feel, should be the creation of a military zone around the Los Angeles Harbor and putting everyone on a permit basis. I do not see a great deal of value to the smaller zones in the vicinity of aircraft factories and other war industries, where soldiers in considerable number are stationed. The second step, as indicated in my radio speech, should be the securing of land, the development of a project and an invitation to all Japanese, alien and American born alike, to voluntarily remove themselves to the location of the project or projects.

The next step would be the compulsory evacuation of the rest of the aliens, all of which would mean taking families, including many, probably most, of the native born Japanese, there being left only those American born Japanese entitled to citizenship who will stand on their citizenship rights. The problem then would call for Congressional action and probably a Constitutional amendment, as indicated in my outlined plan.

I hope that I may have made some constructive suggestions as a contribution towards the solution of this very difficult problem.

With kind personal regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

MAYOR

FB:HD  
2 encls.



*Brown*  
*A15.14*

February 24, 1942

Mr. T. H. Wright  
735 South Wall Street  
Los Angeles, California

Dear Mr. Wright:

Thank you for your comments regarding the problem of our local Japanese population. I am glad to have an expression of the views of the people of this community as I feel that this will be helpful in conferring with Federal authorities regarding the matter.

Sincerely yours,

M A Y O R

FB:M



Greenhouses:  
129th Street and Western Ave.  
MONETA, CALIFORNIA  
Phone: ~~Gardena-2981~~  
Phone: Menlo 4-2014

Office Telephone:  
~~Wanda 783~~  
Tucker 4108

## WRIGHT'S GREENHOUSES

Office: 735 South Wall Street  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Japanese Relocation Papers  
Bancroft Library

FEB 21 1942  
February 20, 1942.

Mayor Fletcher Bowron,  
Los Angeles,  
California.

Dear Sir:

CONGRATULATIONS for having the  
----s to fight for your own convictions.

Only yesterday, I came in contact  
with some big produce men and the Japanese situa-  
tion was discussed; and everyone of them was of  
the opinion that the native born Japs were more  
apt to sabotage us than the older generation - in  
other words, would take a more active part.

So the best of luck to you in your  
campaign against them.

Respectfully yours,

*T. H. Wright*  
T. H. Wright.



February 25, 1942

Mr. T. H. Wright  
735 South Wall Street  
Los Angeles, California

My dear Mr. Wright:

The Mayor has asked me to thank you for your letter on the Japanese situation. He has read it with a great deal of interest and is glad to have the benefit of your information and comment. You know doubt know, through the press, of the stand he has taken and the effort he is making to bring about a solution of the problem. He would be interested in any suggestions you might wish to make.

Yours very truly,

Albine P. Norton  
Secretary to the Mayor

APN:HD



Greenhouses:  
150th Street and Western Ave.  
MONETA, CALIFORNIA  
Phone: Gardens-2881  
Phone: Menlo 4-2014

Office Telephone:  
~~Vandike-7831~~  
TUcker 4108

## WRIGHT'S GREENHOUSES

Office: 735 South Wall Street  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

February 5, 1942.

Mayor Fletcher Bowron,  
Los Angeles,  
California.

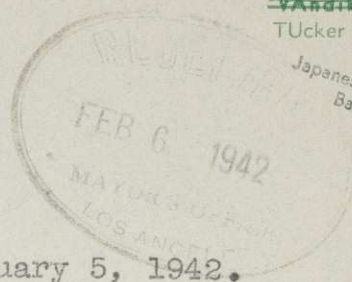
Dear Sir:

Evacuation seems to be a widely discussed subject and sabotage is also much discussed. Technically, the people who were unfortunate enough to start in the cut flower business or the vegetable business like I did some forty years ago, have had a Pearl Harbor dagger in their backs for that many years.

Approximately twenty-five years ago, when the alien land law was passed, I showed the cut flower growers how the Japanese government was technically financing the Japanese to compete with us; and we organized the wholesale flower market on the street, which helped the white men considerably. When the N. R. A. started, we called a meeting and asked the Japs in and had an awful time whipping them; and I didn't use any diplomacy with them because I knew it didn't work. They all vote on the accent of the voice of their leader and the way their director wants them to vote, - always in a body. Well, we reasonably harnessed them up at that time.

But over a period of approximately forty years, I am still of the opinion that bull dogs have bull dogs; and I would like to see one American born Jap that you would dare take a chance on trusting. Some of the dirtiest work done on Wall Street in the flower industry has been done by American born Japs. The Japs never came into the United States, they were planted here by their government, - a plot of over forty years duration - to eventually assist their government in invading California. A translated article out of a Japanese paper of over forty-eight years ago, definitely outlined this plan.

With all these various facts definitely known to the government and to our city, I do see why we should still take a chance of allowing them to sabotage or arise in a body and kill. Their true nature, which I have always known, was definitely demonstrated to the world at Pearl Harbor. How many Americans do you think are permitted to even walk the streets in Japan or any of their conquered districts?



Japanese Relocation Papers  
Bancroft Library



Greenhouses:  
190th Street and Western Ave.  
MONETA, CALIFORNIA  
Phone: Gardens 2981  
Phone: Menlo 4-2014

Office Telephone:  
~~VAndite 7831~~  
Tucker 4108

Japanese Relocation Papers  
Bancroft Library

## WRIGHT'S GREENHOUSES

Office: 735 South Wall Street

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

- 2 -

I believe that ninety-nine per cent of the farming property and horticultural property has all been obtained technically by fraud, by an alien having been appointed guardian of a minor child and thus getting possession of property and I doubt if you could locate an accounting of any of those aliens to the country for the holdings of the minor child. A still more contemptible trick is for a white man to lease property to a Jap. I believe many such cases like that could be established right here on Wall Street.

I have approximately a \$300,000 investment in greenhouses diagonally opposite the storage tanks of the General Petroleum Company where five million barrels of oil are stored and there is a large cracking plant there as well. This is on 190th Street just west of Western Avenue. There are Jap farmers on three sides of these oil tanks and recently houses have been moved in within a couple of hundred yards of the fences. This district has not been mentioned as one to be evacuated. Just the other day some forty of the Japs were in a field within three hundred feet of the plant planting celery. On a quarter mile fence around the oil tank there was one guard with a pistol.

Furthermore, I believe that everyone of these Japs in this country has had military training and that group could destroy that plant and the oil tanks before the army could possibly prevent it. The sabotage the American people are getting who are unfortunate enough to have to compete with the Japs and the years we have stood it and tried to maintain a white standard, I think has gone far enough. I only work white men and pay the prevailing wages and any decent white man can easily out-produce a Jap but it sure is hard to hire white men to compete with a Jap, his wife and four or five kids who work long hours every day.

I believe this is an opportune time for our government and city, who expect us to pay substantially toward defense to give us some relief. Every alien Jap farmer has got plenty of equipment that could be salvaged to pay for the keep of his kids, who I believe are always trained to hate the United States. Give them just as good a break as the whites are getting in Japan. After all they made the first strike; and I believe you will be doing your country a great kindness.

Respectfully yours,

*T. H. Wright*  
T. H. Wright.

THW:JS



February 2, 1942

Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
Hall of Records  
Los Angeles, California

Gentlemen:

At a recent conference held in Washington with Attorney General Biddle, I agreed to create a local citizens' committee to consider many of the problems incident to the Japanese population in this area and to work with and assist the several agencies of the United States Government in dealing with the situation.

Most of the questions that have arisen since the existence of a state of war between this country and Japan affect both the city and county areas. This is true not only by reason of the place of residence of the Japanese population, both alien and American-born, but also because of the nature of the activities of the Japanese Americans. An example is the production of vegetables which, for the most part, are grown in the unincorporated areas and marketed in the city, and the fishing industry which affects the entire metropolitan area. It was therefore deemed advisable that a joint city and county committee be formed.

I have discussed the matter in some detail with members of your body and with Dr. George Gleason of the Committee for Church and Community Cooperation. I suggest the following committee personnel, the names having previously been tentatively approved:

Two members of the Board of Supervisors, to be designated by the Board, representing the County;

Fletcher Bowron, Mayor, and Orville R. Caldwell, First Deputy, Executive Department, representing the City;

One member designated by the Sheriff;

One member designated by the Chief of Police;

Reverend John Mixon, Director of Social Welfare, Los Angeles Church Federation;



February 2, 1942

Japanese Relocation Papers  
Bancroft Library

Miss Elsie Newton, Executive Secretary, International  
Institute;

Carl Holton, County Probation Officer;

James McCandless, General Secretary, Young Men's  
Christian Association;

Vierling Kersey, Superintendent of Schools;

Miss Helen M. Crockett, Director, Division of Family and  
Adult Service, Council of Social Agencies;

Heman G. Stark, Director, Coordinating Council;

Lawrence Schreiber, Executive Director, Department of  
Public Assistance;

Right Reverend Monsignor Thomas J. O'Dwyer, Catholic  
Welfare Bureau;

Reverend Hugh T. Lavery, Maryknoll School;

Dr. Willsie Martin, Chairman, and Dr. George Gleason,  
Executive Secretary, Committee for Church and Community Cooperation;

Frank P. Doherty, attorney;

W. S. Rosecrans, former President of Los Angeles Chamber  
of Commerce;

Louis Greenbaum, American Legion;

Harold Ryan, County Agricultural Commissioner;

W. E. Woodburn, Assistant Chief, Bureau of Market  
Enforcement;

Dr. Robert McKibben, All Nations Foundation;

Aaron Riche, Chairman, National Defense Committee for  
Pacific Coast, B'nai B'rith;

Raymond Booth, Executive Secretary, Pacific Coast Branch,  
American Friends Service Committee;

J. Marion Wright, attorney;

Joseph Simpson, retired wholesale produce dealer;



February 2, 1942

Japanese Relocation Papers  
Bancroft Library

Representative of County Farm Bureau, to be designated  
by the Board of Supervisors;

Harold Kennedy, Executive Director, County Council of  
Defense;

George Hjelte, City Council of Defense.

Inasmuch as it is quite important that this committee  
begin its work at once, I am suggesting a meeting in my office at  
4:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 4.

Yours very truly,

FB:M

M A Y O R



Department  
of  
Justice

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

WASHINGTON, D. C.

February 6, 1942

The Honorable Fletcher Bowron  
Mayor of the City of Los Angeles  
City Hall  
Los Angeles, California

Dear Mayor Bowron:

I wish to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of February 3, 1942, in regard to the problem raised by the presence of Japanese citizens in San Pedro's harbor area, which I discussed with you on January 15 here.

The suggestions will be given immediate and careful consideration, but your letter raises fundamental questions of policy which the Navy Department will have to decide. I have asked Assistant Attorney General Littell in charge of the Lands Division, who has charge of the filing of condemnation cases, to discuss your suggestions immediately with the Navy Department before final action is taken.

I shall advise you at an early date as to decisions reached in the Navy Department, and wish to assure you that the Government wishes, in any practicable way consistent with the military objectives of the Navy Department, to meet the requests of the City of Los Angeles.

Respectfully,

Francis Biddle (signed)

Attorney General





FLETCHER BOWRON  
MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY HALL  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Japanese Relocation Papers  
Bancroft Library

February 9, 1942

The Honorable Frank Knox  
Secretary of the Navy  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Under date of February 3, 1942, I addressed a communication to Attorney General Francis Biddle relative to the suggested plan of the Navy to condemn portions of Terminal Island in Los Angeles Harbor now under lease to certain fish canning concerns,

My purpose was to keep the fish canning industry at Los Angeles Harbor, if possible, at the same time cooperating to the fullest extent with the Navy in what we consider proper and desirable action to afford better protection for this area by extending operations at the Harbor and also eliminating the presence of a large number of Japanese, both alien and American born, from Terminal Island.

I am in receipt of a letter from the Attorney General dated February 6, advising that the suggestions will be given careful consideration but that my letter raises fundamental questions of policy which the Navy Department will have to decide. He further advises that he has asked Assistant Attorney General Littell, in charge of the Lands Division, who has charge of the filing of condemnation cases, to discuss the suggestions with the Navy Department before final action is taken.

I am sending a copy of my letter to the Attorney General for your information. Let me assure you that the City of Los Angeles is desirous of cooperating with the Navy in every way possible.

Respectfully yours,

MAYOR

FB:M  
Enc.



*Copy*

Hon. Mayor Bowron,  
Los Angeles, Calif.

1260 E. Phillips Blvd,  
Pomona, Calif.  
June 6/43.

Dear Sir:

I wonder whether the newspaper reports concerning your attitude to the question of the return of Japanese to the West Coast are correct: The Los Angeles TIMES reported that you definitely oppose their return and that you expressed the hope that some legal way might be discovered to deprive them of their citizenship. This seems too inconsistent to be true of you. Last year about the time of their evacuation your testimony to their good character & citizenship was widely published, and was much appreciated by those who know the Japanese intimately.

I lived in Japan 43 years mingling freely with all classes; they are a law-abiding, steady, thrifty, progressive, efficient people, and as kind as they are able. I speak of the people & the Civil Government in general, not of the present militaristic Dictators. During their war with Russia in 1904-5 I frequently visited their military hospitals and the camp where some of the Russian prisoners were kept is the same as that where some of our soldiers & sailors now are; the district is as familiar to me as Pomona. These prisoners were kindly treated.

I am aware that Japanese in America have gravitated toward separate communities which appear clanish; but I feel sure that they would mingle freely & assimilate American life readily if welcomed to society generally; the self-respecting people hesitate to intrude where not wanted. The present agitation against these law-abiding aliens & good citizens is not only inconsistent with true democracy, but is liable to make a ~~w~~ wrong impression on other nations; and it seems a belated, backward movement in these days of growing close intercourse and emphasis on international friendly co-operation.

I have no sympathy with dictators whether



in Asia or Europe; they must be checked; but this done, I feel sure that a friendly attitude & approach on our part will be met in the same ~~spirit~~ spirit.

Please pardon this imposition on your time. I hope the TIMES misunderstood your attitude, or at least gave an exaggerated view of your intention.

Yours respectfully,

Walter McS. Buchanan.

*W. McS. B.*

P.S. I am sending a copy of this to my old friend Galen Fisher, since he is much better acquainted with the situation here than I am.

Dear Fisher Sam:-

I've been silent a long time; but I'm still here & hope you'll find time to visit us some time. I've gone to your old friend, Red's Church once. He has a pleasing manner, good service; & the sermon was good as far as I heard; but I hear so poorly I don't often attend our own Church with my wife.

I often wonder to what extent Pres. Roosevelt agrees with Churchill on Asiatic policies. Churchill is a great leader; but a great capitalistic Tory, de!

*W. McS. B.*



0.1 extra

CITIZENS OF LOS ANGELES:

The United States and Japan have been at war now for nearly two months and there is still much confusion as to what to do with the Japanese in California. We in Los Angeles have been patiently waiting for the formulation of a federal policy, and have been somewhat impatiently waiting for some kind of action.

In this metropolitan area is located the largest concentration of Japanese population in America, and within the city limits of Los Angeles alone we have well over one-fourth of the California Japanese and approximately one-fifth of all of the Japanese residents of America. We are naturally the most concerned.

If there is intrigue going on, and it is reasonably certain that there is, right here is the hotbed, the nerve center of the spy system, of planning for sabotage. Right here in our own city are those who may spring to action at an appointed time in accordance with a prearranged plan wherein each of our little brown brothers will know his part in the event of any possible attempted invasion or air raid.

We in Los Angeles are most concerned and yet we have not been let in on the secret, if, in fact, anybody knows what the Federal government is going to do about it. Those of us who are directing the affairs of local government and who are connected with the civilian defense program, and who are directly responsible to the people of this area for the protection of life and property, feel our responsibility very keenly. We want to cooperate with the Federal government if we knew what to do, but it appears to us that



no one in authority in the Federal government knows what to do.

While there is no reason for hysteria, I feel that the local situation is much more serious than apparently those at Washington do. Only a few hundred Japanese aliens out of possibly 10,000 have been picked up and detained and, if all of the alien Japanese should be placed in concentration camps or evacuated from the coastal area, we would still have with us the more perplexing problem of the American born Japanese, among whom unquestionably are a number of persons who are loyal to this country and a number who are doubtless loyal to Japan, waiting probably, with full instructions as to what to do to/ play their part when the time comes.

The question that probably never can be settled until it is too late is, how can it be determined which may be regarded as good American citizens and which will be loyal to Japan when put to the test? The answer is locked in the hearts of these Japanese Americans in our midst. Any known ~~test~~<sup>inquiry</sup> in advance of an attempted invasion or bombing cannot reveal the hidden answer. Certainly we cannot expect to receive the answer from their own lips, by a declaration of loyalty to the land of their birth as against their race. By no seeming patriotic utterance or offer to enlist in the United States Army can we expect to receive the truth, if there is a mental reservation, a hidden purpose, on the part of one who intends to be most useful to the cause of the Mikado.

Common sense and reason dictate that if there are enemy agents in our midst who will be most useful in a plan as well worked out with such diabolic cunning and perfidy as characterized the attack on



KECA, Thurs., Feb. 5, 1942

3.

Pearl Harbor, and the destruction of American planes and military objectives in the Philippines at the first attack, then such persons, to be most valuable to Japan, would endeavor to mislead all of us, to avert suspicion by any means at their command. The most natural thing would be for the most dangerous of ~~these among us~~ <sup>them</sup> to condemn the Japanese war clique, the Axis powers, to loudly declare a prejudice against Japan and proclaim a belief in American Democracy with an emotional pledge of allegiance to the Stars and Stripes. Of course they would try to fool us. ~~as~~ They did in Honolulu and in Manila, and we may expect it in California.

Full and adequate protection for the safety of lives and property in this area undoubtedly would work an injustice on many Japanese, both aliens and American born, who are sincere, who really mean it in their hearts when they say it. But we are at war and our country comes first. We must win that war and to do it we must take all precautions.

If we can take our young men, millions of them, and put them before cannon and tanks and advancing hordes with gleaming bayonets and say that we have not done an injustice to them, it is ~~merely~~ <sup>nothing less than</sup> sickly sentimentality to say that we will do injustice to American born Japanese to merely put them in a place of safety so that they can do no harm, even though they would not have done harm if the precaution had not been taken.

I do not look for <sup>isolated</sup> acts of violence on the part of Japanese in our midst, or even individual acts of sabotage. They are too smart for that. In such manner they could do little damage to us



KECA, Thurs., Feb. 5, 1942

4.

and be of only slight aid to the Japanese government. The way they could serve the cause of Japan most effectively would be to lay low, appear docile, entirely harmless, so as to not be disturbed in this or any other important area in order that they might go about freely, make observations as to <sup>war</sup> preparations, the presence and transportation of troops, the coming and going of warships or cargo vessels; in order that they might learn of the departure of armed forces, planes and other munitions of war from our harbors, and assist in getting such valuable military information to the Japanese government, possibly to lurking submarines off our coast. They would ~~then~~ <sup>avoid</sup> ~~report themselves~~ <sup>suspicion in advance</sup> in order that if we should have a bombing they could assist in directing the bombs to military objectives or places where the bombing would most disturb the civilian morale. And, while it is difficult to imagine an attempted invasion, if such suicidal effort to land troops should ever come, then the Japanese in our midst would truly be effective.

3  
Last week I explained something of the problem of dual citizenship. I quoted from the Civil Law of Japan which, in effect, makes everyone of Japanese blood, born of Japanese parents a Japanese citizen, a subject of the Mikado, regardless of his place of birth, regardless of where he continues to reside throughout the world. Of course, under our Constitution one born on American soil has the right to claim American citizenship.

So, we have the situation of many thousands of Japanese in the Los Angeles metropolitan area who may claim American citizenship or Japanese citizenship or both, and many have claimed both. We



know of only their ~~assumed~~ right to be regarded as American citizens by reason of the place of their birth, of the assertion of the exercise of their right of franchise, the right to own real property, and all of the other rights, privileges and immunities of American citizenship. We do not know how many of these also feel that they are citizens of Japan, who are secretly loyal to the Mikado, who intend to serve him when the time comes. We only know that we are at war and that in time of war one may not serve two masters.

Assuming that in 1940 the census enumerators sought out and located all of the Japanese residents in the United States, there were then 126,000 of them, of which 93,000 were in California; most of the rest <sup>are</sup> scattered over the other western states. The census reports revealed that approximately 30 per cent resided in Los Angeles County, and the several Japanese quarters of the city of Los Angeles harbored about one-fourth, or 23,321 Japanese.

The next largest Japanese population is in San Francisco, where 5300 reside. Smaller groups are located in other sections. So it may be readily seen that the Japanese problem is centered in Los Angeles, and we are the ones who will be the human sacrifices if the perfidy <sup>that</sup> characterized the attack on Pearl Harbor and the bombing of the innocent residents of Honolulu is ever duplicated on the American continent.

Here, we have no less than 19 Shinto Temples with inscriptions over the altars in Japanese characters which, in English, mean "Now let us worship the Emperor every morning." Here in our junior high schools and high schools and in growing numbers in our industrial and agricultural districts, <sup>are</sup> a number of bright young Japanese known as Kibei. A Kibei, literally translated, means



"those who return."

Those who are born in Japan and who have taken up their residence in this country, at a time when the immigration laws permitted, are known as Isei, first generation Japanese. Those of second and third generation, born in this country, are the Nisei. Those born here and who have returned to Japan for education and to be steeped at a young age in Japanese philosophy, in the Japanese way of life, <sup>in Japanese hero worship</sup> and who have then returned to take their places here among our citizens, are known as Kibei.

Those children who are sent back to Japan for education are carefully selected. Generally, they include children of greatest promise who, ~~and~~ it is expected, will become leaders. How many of these can ever be counted on to be <sup>loyal</sup> American citizens, through and through, <sup>Probably few of them.</sup> no one can tell. They are spread through the local Japanese population. Most all Japanese aliens and American born have been members of various Japanese organizations, many of which have had close relationship with, and direction from, the Japanese Consul.

Such, in a general way, is the picture as it exists in Los Angeles and the metropolitan area. And what is the Federal government doing about it? The Department of Justice has arrested a few hundred alien Japanese, and there have been prescribed certain zones <sup>that</sup> aliens may not enter -- and the Japanese and the Japanese problem are still with us.

Ever since December 7 I have been studying the local Japanese situation. I have been doing my very best to bring the facts to the



attention of various federal officials and agencies, and have urged greater cooperation in attacking the problem, in exchanging information, in going about the solution intelligently. I hope that my efforts may have some effect.

The appointment of Thomas C. Clarke of the Department of Justice as coordinator of the enemy alien program in the eleven western states is indeed a step in the right direction. From my several contacts with Mr. Clarke I feel that he is going about the great task in a very intelligent way. <sup>B</sup> But I fear that no one is going to go far enough.

I advocate the securing of land by the Federal government in locations removed at least several hundred miles from the coast, the transporting of the Japanese population to such locations where they may be put to work raising food or <sup>other</sup> products of the soil that may be most needed in the present emergency. Let them raise beans for our soldiers and sailors; let them raise soy beans or other products that may be used for plastics. Possibly they could be put to raising a substitute for the rubber that will in a small measure take the place of the rubber supply from the Malay Peninsula that the Japanese hordes have seized.

Certainly some way should be devised for keeping the native born Japanese out of mischief. I feel that this could be handled on the theory that the burden is upon every American born Japanese to demonstrate his loyalty to this country, <sup>to show</sup> that he really intends for all time, in good faith, to claim and enjoy one citizenship rather than dual citizenship and, ~~Since the question of demonstration~~ ~~can~~ can only be determined as to whether there is a mental reserva-



his  
tion in any declaration, it would of course take considerable time to make the necessary investigation, possibly as long as the war would last, and during the period of such inquiry, while the question of loyalty may be in doubt, so long as there may be a possibility of an American born Japanese having hidden in the secret of his mind a intention to serve the Mikado as a loyal subject of Japan, when and if such occasion should arise -- during all of this period the American born Japanese might be well engaged in raising soy beans for the Government.

We take our own boys to fight. Let us take the native born Japanese to serve the Government in another way. If they are loyal to this country they could not object; if they are loyal to Japan it would be the best and safest place for them. <sup>R</sup> So long as the local Japanese population is not disturbed there will be many questions arise. Every person of Japanese blood, wherever he be residing in this country, should be made to understand that one single act of sabotage, the discovery of the work of Japanese spies securing and transmitting information -- anything that might assist the Japanese government in time of war - will brand the entire Japanese population, not only during the existence of a state of war, but at least for a generation; <sup>California Japanese should be warned</sup> and that those who want to live in America, those who want to raise their children here and have the advantage of our educational system and secure the blessings of liberty must take every precaution to guard themselves against <sup>menacing</sup> the activities, of the <sup>s</sup>plannings and <sup>s</sup>plottings of their own race. By their deeds and conduct only can they demonstrate their right to be regarded as American



SCA, Thurs., Feb. 5, 1942

9.

citizens and treated as such.

All of this may sound harsh and drastic, but we are at war. We here in Los Angeles are the ones who will get the bombs if they may ever be directed by Japanese residing in America, and we should take no chances. This is not a time for sentimentality or for our people to be so actuated by brotherly love that we may lose the very thing we are fighting for. a right to demonstrate brotherly love in time of peace.

\*\*\*\*\*



STATEMENT BY MAYOR FLETCHER BOWRON  
Friday, February 6, 1942

0.2

There has been some misunderstanding as to my proposal for dealing with the Japanese residents in California and I therefore deem it advisable to explain my plan in greater detail. I have not advocated the mass internment of all Japanese within the usual meaning of the term.

I suggest that the Japanese be put to work doing something that would be beneficial to this government in the interest of winning the war.

Since approximately 80 per cent of the California Japanese, both aliens and American born, are connected directly or indirectly with agricultural pursuits, I suggest that the Federal government secure land in some location removed sufficiently from the Pacific Coast so that their movements could be restricted and where it would be impossible for them to secure and transmit any information of military importance, that a project be developed for the growing and harvesting of such products of the soil as are most needed, either as food for the United States Army and Navy, or products that are needed in the industries in connection with the manufacture of war materials. Possibly other projects might be thought of.

For the alien Japanese residents, it would, in a sense, be a form of internment, but without the necessity of closely confined incarceration, there should be no need for breaking up families. Whole families could be placed in suitable living quarters and all those who work on the project would receive reasonable compensation.



With respect to American born Japanese, most of whom claim American citizenship, but who, with probably few exceptions, enjoy dual citizenship, that is to say, they are also citizens of Japan, though born in this country -- these could be conscripted just as we conscript our American boys for service in the Army. These American born Japanese would be inducted into government service and set to work doing anything that they should be directed to do that would be most helpful in the war program, something connected with the production effort. They also might be set to raising beans or working at any other project. They, too, would be paid a reasonable amount and provided with suitable living quarters, but none of the Japanese should, certainly, receive more or be treated better than an American soldier of the rank of private.

If the American born Japanese feel that they are loyal American citizens, they would have no cause for complaint; they should willingly do their part in the service of the United States Government in time of war. Those who retain a deep-seated loyalty for the Japanese Government would be in a place where they could do no harm.

In the case of American born Japanese, the same practice could be followed in having families kept together, including children of all ages. Unmarried women could be put to work as well as the men, although different projects might be developed for them.

I see nothing that could be considered inhumane in connection with this plan. I cannot conceive that Japanese residents are entitled to any more consideration than young American men on the threshold



of a career, taken from colleges or places of employment, given twenty-one dollars a month, placed in uniform, trained, and sent to face danger and death.

The plan I have outlined for dealing with Japanese residing in California and in other Pacific Coast states might require an Act of Congress, and thereafter it would take a little time for the government to secure suitable land and develop projects, but in the meantime we have a place to put them.

On March 15, two hundred CCC camps will be vacated. Some of these camps could be vacated at once and all of them could serve as suitable places for the temporary detention of a considerable portion of Japanese residents far removed from airplane factories and other war industries and where no one could observe troop movements or secure other information of military importance.

The slowness and apparent indecision on the part of the Federal Government is due to several causes. First, there is no single office or agency that is able to deal with the problem in its entirety and, second, because those at Washington apparently are unable to distinguish between Japanese and other enemy aliens.

The Japanese, because they are non-assimilable, because the aliens have been denied the right to own real property in California, because of the Alien Exclusion Act, because of the marked difference in appearance between Japanese and Caucasians, because of the generations of training and philosophy that make them Japanese and nothing else, -- all of these contributing factors



February 6, 1942

4.

set the Japanese apart as a race, regardless of how many generations may have been born in America.

Undoubtedly many of them intend to be loyal but only each individual can know his own intentions and when the final test comes who can say but that "blood will tell"? We cannot run the risk of another Pearl Harbor episode in Southern California.

\*\*\*\*\*



RADIO BROADCAST OF MAYOR FLETCHER BOWRON, STATION KECA  
Thursday, February 19, 1942, 6:30 p.m.

0.3

CITIZENS OF LOS ANGELES:

Two weeks ago I addressed you relative to the Japanese menace in California. I pointed out that you, the citizens of Los Angeles, are the most concerned because here, within our city limits, is the hotbed, the nerve center of whatever planning and plotting and scheming may be going on to duplicate the Pearl Harbor incident on the North American continent.

With one-fourth of all of the Japanese in California and approximately one-fifth of all who may presently reside in America right here within our city limits, this very area undoubtedly would be the center of activity, the prize objective, if the Japanese hordes should ever attempt to land on American soil. The real Japanese problem during the continuance of this war is a Los Angeles problem, but one that can be handled only by the Federal Government.

It may interest you to know that my broadcast over this station of February fifth was printed in full in the Congressional Record of February ninth. It was presented by Congressman John M. Costello, who has been leading the fight in the House of Representatives for early, decisive action to effect the removal of Japanese, both alien and American born, from the coastal area as a proper and necessary precaution. In the course of his remarks, Congressman Costello said:

"It is a tremendous task to determine just how to handle not only the alien Japanese but also the American citizens of Japanese origin. Their removal from strategic areas, their relocation at places in the interior of the country, the providing of



housing and means of livelihood and the resultant effects upon the agricultural economy of the West must all be considered."

And in presenting a statement I issued on February sixth, Congressman Costello further said in the Hall of Congress: "The statement follows closely the suggestions which have been considered by our congressional committee in consultation with the Department of Justice, the War Department, the Federal Security Agency, and the Department of Agriculture. Only by the close cooperation of all of these agencies can a workable solution be found, but that solution must not only be found now, but it must also be put into effect at once unless we are to find that we have moved too slowly and that the hour of destruction has already come. Possibly we credit the Japanese Government with too elaborate a program of attack upon this country, from within as well as from without, but it will be better to err on the side of precaution than to have failed to take sufficient steps with appropriate speed."

During the past two weeks there has been a general demand for action. I have received hundreds of letters, messages, phone calls, personal appeals, not merely commending my stand, but urging, appealing that something be done and done now, without delay, without long and confused discussions. These people point out what would happen if the facts were reversed. Would Americans born in Japan, to say nothing of American citizens residing there, would they have free access to the harbor of Yokohama and other ports on the Nipponese Island? Could they observe all of the military and naval preparations, the production, the movement of troops, the making up of convoys? And could they meet together in secret among themselves



without interference and enjoy all of the rights and privileges and immunities of Japanese citizens?

The answer is obvious. If Japan permitted that sort of thing on the part of Americans resident in Japan, the policy would be branded as silly and evidence of the grossest incompetency, almost unthinkable in time of war. Americans in Japan, whether born here or there, would expect to be dealt with in time of war in a manner calculated to safeguard the Japanese people and to protect the Japanese war efforts. But here, we are sitting on the top of a volcano with rumblings underground, talking, talking, talking, and doing nothing, so far, but talking.

Mark you this, if there is a repetition of Pearl Harbor on the Pacific Coast, the responsibility is going to be fixed upon somebody's shoulders, not only by the report of an investigating board headed by an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court but by the verdict of an enraged American people. But just as in Honolulu, the verdict would come too late.

Let us begin to fix responsibility now. Whose task should it be to see that the Japanese menace in California is removed? There has been a lot of talk in California, statements and resolutions that have not been thought out. The time is now past for merely saying that the Japanese should be evacuated. Public opinion has crystallized and has been evidenced in a very positive manner. The motion has been put and almost unanimously carried. The people of California, the American citizens of California, with hardly a dissenting vein, say that the Japanese, both alien and



American born, must go.

Now, let us consider the problem in a more practical way.  
How can it be accomplished?

The question naturally divides itself into two parts:

(1) How can it legally be done without violating the  
United States Constitution?

(2) How can it effectively be done in the matter of the  
physical transporting of those of Japanese parentage away from  
the coastal area?

After considerable thought and study, I have a plan which  
I have submitted to the Department of Justice and to the California  
Congressional delegation, through Congressman Costello. I will  
outline this plan briefly as follows:

First, the United States Government should immediately  
develop a project or projects for the utilization of Japanese labor.  
This involves the securing of large tracts of land in locations  
removed from the coastal area, not close to any transcontinental  
railroad, and where they could observe nothing of military importance,  
where a large number of Japanese families could be located and where  
they could be supported either by reasonable compensation paid for  
their labor, (which would probably be necessary if land is not fully  
developed and ready for farming) or by an arrangement to permit  
Japanese to operate small farms on their own with assurances that  
their products, to be of a kind and character directed by the  
Department of Agriculture, would be purchased, thus making them  
self-supporting. The original projects would naturally be agri-  
cultural projects.



Just as soon as the locations could be secured, dwellings should be put up. This could be done largely by Japanese labor. Small houses for families, barracks for unmarried males. The first step would be an invitation of the Federal Government to Japanese residents of California, Washington and Oregon to voluntarily remove themselves to those designated locations. I believe that this would be followed by a response on the part of a large number of Japanese residents in California, certainly on the part of most of those who are not overly anxious to be of service to the Government of Japan during time of war. In fact, it would be a pretty good test.

We could not expect to get all of them to go and probably the worst would remain, but the problem would be simplified by lessening the numbers, and many, though secretly loyal to Japan, would prefer to go to such projects voluntarily, where they would have assurance of protection and a livelihood, under an arrangement, whereby families would not be broken up, rather than await more drastic action.

Of course, the aliens could be moved without their voluntary acquiescence, and they would be, although I am convinced that many of the aliens, possibly the majority, who came here years ago by preference, to get away from militaristic Japan, are far less dangerous than many of the American born Japanese.

If the aliens should all be moved, they naturally would take with them much of the native born population, their children born on American soil. This would simplify the problem by very materially reducing the numbers.



The next step would be dealing with native born Japanese who, offered an opportunity of livelihood and protection during the continuance of the war, declined such invitation, thereby evidencing an intention of remaining in the coastal area. Now we have a serious legal problem presented. These Japanese are American citizens. The Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution provides in part:

"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."

The mere fact that these Japanese may also be citizens of Japan under the Japanese law makes no difference. The Japanese Civil Code cannot overrule or annul the provisions of the Constitution of this country.

So we have the anomalous situation of dual citizenship and, despite the fact that we firmly believe that certain, or any, or even a majority of the American born Japanese are secretly loyal to Japan and would assist the Japanese Government in any way possible, nevertheless we cannot deny them the rights and privileges and immunities of American citizenship.

We also have the problem of naturalized Italians and Germans, most of them undoubtedly loyal, but a few who may have come to this country to spread Fascism and Nazism and have taken out naturalization papers as a cloak and a shield. As to these, some may be suspected of being still loyal to their native country, but here again, nothing can be done about it until there is some overt act, some evidence of giving aid and comfort to the enemies of the United States in time of war.



So I suggest a Congressional Act classifying all persons, and placing in one class those citizens of the United States who are also citizens of nations at war with the United States. I would make such Act operative against all native born Japanese, by referring to them as descendants of immigrants not entitled to citizenship, and operative against possible Nazi and Fascist agents and sympathizers by including in the list of American citizens to be dealt with in a particular way persons who have been citizens of countries at war with the United States within the past ten years. I fix this period arbitrarily so as to cover the time since the rise of Hitlerism or the Nazi movement.

Now, having classified those that we want to deal with in a manner different than other citizens of the United States, the proposed Act of Congress would provide that the United States Army may call all of such persons into non-combat Federal service. In other words, all such persons, while in effect being called into the Army, would not be trained as soldiers and would never be stationed in military camps, and, under no circumstances, sent to combat areas. They would be dealt with just the same as we did in 1917, when men were inducted into the Army and sent to the spruce forests or required to do other kind of work.

The Act should further fix a wide range of age, although few native born Japanese are over military age, and possibly the Act should include women as well as men.



It is suggested that any persons so classified could be called up by the Army arbitrarily by name rather than by chance. That is to say, instead of the selective system by which men are now called into military service by being given a number and drawing numbers by chance, the War Department would be authorized to exercise discretion and to call into service any or all of the persons within the classification.

Naturally Army officers in authority would start with those suspected of being dangerous and these would be the first to be put to work. Later, as projects would be developed, and as it could be seen that the work of all of those in the classification could be profitably utilized, a greater number could be called into non-combat service and put to work for the Government. All would receive the basic pay of an Army private of \$21.00 a month and be given food and lodging, but they would have to work for it.

I would further suggest that the Army be authorized to release some on furlough, where it was considered that the person so released had given evidence of devotion to this country and where it was believed he would not be dangerous, but such person or persons would be under much the same kind of restraint as one released on parole from a penal institution. Where he could go, what he could do, would be prescribed by the conditions of his release. If he ever went out of bounds, or did anything he was not supposed to do, back he would go into the Army. All of these persons in the work units could be put to any task that might be considered helpful in winning the war for this country - not the Axis powers. They could raise beans for the Army. They could make



roads. They could be put to work mining or manufacturing magnesium, - anything that would be considered an assistance of the war effort so long as they could be ~~placed~~ placed in a location where they could be properly watched and where they could do no harm.

I realize of course that such an Act would be of doubtful constitutionality. The Supreme Court might hold that the classification would be discriminatory as between citizens of the United States. Therefore, I suggest that Congress immediately propose a constitutional amendment which would be very simple in form. It would merely authorize Congress to deal with the question of dual citizenship in any way it was fit during time of war, with respect to citizens of the United States who, under the laws of a country at war with the United States, are at the same time entitled to citizenship in such enemy nation.

The matter being of such great importance to the peace and safety of this country, I believe that special sessions of legislatures could be called so that we could have the necessary ratification of the constitutional amendment proposed by Congress within a matter of a few months. The adoption of the constitutional amendment would ratify and confirm the Act of Congress so I would suggest that the Congressional action not wait for the adoption of the constitutional amendment.

The plan thus outlined would get all of the Japanese and dangerous Nazi and Fascist sympathizers who have recently been naturalized, out of dangerous sections of the country, with particular reference to the Pacific Coast, very promptly, without, I believe, disturbing the economy of this section.



In this connection, I have made inquiries as to a logical and proper place for the development of a large agricultural project for the Japanese of Southern California. I have a proposal or suggestion ---

The Parker Indian Reservation, on the eastern side of the Colorado River in Arizona.

This includes undeveloped but highly fertile land that is said to be some of the best vegetable land in the United States. This could be immediately developed and Japanese could ship vegetables 250 miles into Los Angeles to make up any shortage in the local vegetable market and could also supply the Army camps and the coastal area with fresh foodstuffs;

The Parker Indian Reservation extends from Parker, Arizona to a point five miles east and slightly north of the city of Blythe, California. It has an acreage of some 182,000 acres, of which 122,000 acres are of river bottom land that can be irrigated by gravity or not to exceed an eight to ten foot pump lift. The additional 60,000 acres of <sup>mesa</sup> land would require a higher lift of water. Only approximately 2,000 acres are now under cultivation by the Indians or on lease to white farmers. The land is susceptible to diversified farming, such as that in the Imperial and Palo Verde Valleys in California.

In addition to high type of farm land and reasonable development of costs, there is an abundance of water now available and the land not under cultivation could be readily cleared and placed under cultivation and producing within a year.



At the conclusion of the war the Office of Indian Affairs could make such disposition of the land as might be proper; probably many of the Japanese might remain as lessees. Other portions of the land could be turned over to the Indian farmers and we would have a new, highly developed agricultural area sufficiently close to California to supply this area with all varieties of fresh vegetables and other products of the soil.

Such is my plan for handling the Japanese problem in California. I hope that the suggestions may prove of some practical value.

\*\*\*\*\*



My appointment to see the Mayor fell on the same day as the L.A. Streetcar strike. When I arrived at his office, his secretary said that I would "probably have no more than 15 minutes." Actually, I stayed more than an hour and a half, the Mayor talking all the time.

The Mayor said very little that was not generality and ~~repetition~~ repetition of his public statements, which are in this file. His latest stand, i.e. that American born Japanese are not citizens, "is simply a matter of law." As a former superior court judge, and as an attorney, I simply thing the dissenting opinion in the Wong-Kim Ark is better law than the majority opinion." (This is almost a quotation of what U.S. Webb has said to me)

I tried my best to turn the Mayor's attention to the pre-evacuation period, having in mind John B. Hughes' story (as well as the story of Mrs. Buwalda) but I had indifferent success. The Mayor said he had been content to let "the FBI handle the matter. But when I became convinced the FBI was doing a miserable job--especially in its relationship with local authorities--I began to raise hell. And I finally raised so much hell that I got some action."

I turned the Mayor's attention to the meeting of S. Calif. newspaper publishers he had called in January 1942. In direct contradiction to what Hughes told me, the Mayor said that he called the newspaper publishers together "for the purpose of evolving some sort of method by which it



by which it might be possible to organize some way through which so-called loyal Japanese might make information available to the FBI and aid, in some manner, anti-sabotage work." The Mayor did not explain why newspaper publishers were necessary to the evolution of such a plan. Hughes' story sounds much the better one.

On One important point the Mayor was specific, (with the aid of data from his secretary.) The dates are exact because we checked with travel expense vouchers.) On February 10, Mayor flew to S.F. with Tom Clark to see Gen. DeWitt. ~~Emil~~ ~~Emil~~ ~~Emil~~ Attorney Gen. Warren was also at this meeting, which took place at the Presidio on the morning of Feb 11. At this meeting, Mayor B reports it was clear that Gen. DeWitt was disturbed but it was also clear from the General's line of questioning that he had made no decision re evacuation. "I went as a spectator and not with any idea of making any big speech. Gen. DeWitt took us to a conference room and I seated myself on the side to listen to the proceeding. But the Gen. asked me to give my views, first, and asked me to do it fully. Although I had no prepared statement and although I didn't think I was going to do any talking, I took the center of the stage and set forth my ideas fully, completely, and in no uncertain terms. I told the Gen. that action was necessary immediately and I told him that the responsibility would be clearly placed if the Japs sabotaged the W. Coast. I made it very clear that I considered the matter grave and that I felt the military authorities



were solely responsible for protective activity.

"When the conference was over the Gen. asked Tom Clark to return that afternoon. Later that day, Clark told me that the Gen. had said 'I have decided to move all the Japanese. Arrange the legal machinery necessary, and do it rapidly. I am not going to be another Gen. Short.'"

"Now I am not saying that my speech was at all responsible for Gen. DeWitt's decision. My speech may have been the last straw. Certainly it was an added consideration. But, in any case, it occurred to me that the decision to move the Japanese from the W. Coast was made by Gen. DeWitt on February 11."

All this fits very well into other available data on the chronology of the evacuation. It fits into Clark's subsequent trip with Bendetsen to Seattle and from there to Wash. and the meeting at Attorney Gen. Biddle's home on the evening of Feb. 17.

The Mayor gave me permission to look through his files material.~~xxxxxxx~~ In this folder are found my tabulations of the letters he received as well as copies of pertinent documents.



Colston 6-7730

UP FEB, 10 - B.A. - FEB, 11

Brown said Dell.H.  
made decision to make Japs  
in this

Clark told Mayor B.  
That afternoon that Dell.H.  
had told Clark afternoon

of 11<sup>th</sup> (after listening to  
Brown say "you will be surprised")  
that Dell.H. was talking: "I'm  
not going to be a Gen. Short"

After 11<sup>th</sup> Conference, Dell.H.  
asked Clark to come back  
that afternoon —  
said "Go to work  
in fixing legal stuff  
up" — "We are going  
to move them."

Manager of the Bank of Japan

Mr. Hughes =

W: 6161



<sup>Herald</sup>  
Fred Chase - Express -  
Chuck Bernstein - City News Group  
Cohen - Jester - Daily News  
George Knox - Rockwell



Jan. 1942

Hayes Brown A15.14

Japanese Relocation Papers  
Bancroft Library

	-	+
Jan 1-5		
6-10		
11-15		
16-20		
21-25	<sup>1</sup>	<sup>1</sup> Roy M. Kahan, Prof. of Law, USC. Jan 21
26-30	           	

+ From letter from A. Jack Taylor, 6532 W. Colgate  
under "P.S. Friends + Associates Los Angeles  
Arthur from B. W. Pendleton  
7617 Leighton - Los Ang  
Third from Stanley M. Ehrenberg - 6628 Rams. St



Feb - 1942

Mayer Brown

Japanese Relocation Papers  
Bancroft Library

1-5	III	+	
6-10	II	II	(Mayer Rides on Feb 5)
11-15	II	II	No man says he rents houses to Japs - opposed to evoc.
16-20	II	II	
21-25	II	II	
26-28	II	II	Feb 25 - Agricultural Army ALL TAPS drafted at draft pg - Aliens Problem Conference, called by PACIFIC LEAGUE

1. Pres. of Gen'l Committee of Exec. Comm. of L. A. County Japanese  
Defense Council
2. Paul Shoup of M+M.  
Transit of Tulare

++ - L. A. Jr. Ch. of Commerce - favors resettlement  
as opposed to concentration camps.

Feb 9, 42

39 signatures, Feb 6 - 7  
workers at 20th Century-Fox Studios

Feb 9 - Fred Rusk Co, Citing Hawaiian - Japs invaluable farmers

Los Angeles Industrial Union Council, CIO

3. Niles Trade Manuf. Assoc. of S. Cal.

+++  
2/10/42  
Exec.  
Council of  
War Relocation  
Authority  
Inc



- March - 1942

Brown

Japanese Relocation Papers  
Bancroft Library

	-	+
March 1-5	 	
6-10	<del>    </del> 	1
11-15	<del>    </del> 	
16-20		1
21-25	3	
26-30	1	

\* \* \* Int'l. Federation of Allied Workers of America - CIO -  
 L A. For Central Union Council, CIO March 11 - Free  
 1. Northern, Union City C. of C., Parker, Arizona

March 21, '12 - Brown wrote  
Sen. Stewart - saying he agreed with legal  
thesis that H. Sci. not a tax.

March, 1942 - Cuz. Leard, is Brown's frax  
of Dies Comm. Rd



Dec - ~~1944~~ 1942

Mayor Benron

Japanese Relocation Papers  
Bancroft Library

	-	+	
Dec 1-5			
6-10	1*	1	George Knox Roth - Public Affairs Committee - Dec 10.
11-15			
16-19			
21-25			
26-30			

\* Dec 8, 1942 - Los Angeles County Grand Jury -  
with dissent of 4 approves Imperial  
County Grand Jury  
Res. 10: taking away city