

May - 1945

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May 4, 1945

Mr. J. N. Peiper
Federal Bureau of Investigation
111 Sutter Street
San Francisco, Calif.

My dear Mr. Peiper:

Last night I had a letter from our Japanese pastor at Livingston, a little rural place between Modesto and Merced.

There have been no less than eight shooting incidents there with night-riders shooting into the homes of our church members. These are good American Japanese who own their own ranches and almost all of them have at least one boy in the Army.

These country sheriffs are inept and inefficient. Even where they make arrests as at Auburn they do not have their evidence in such form that a conviction can be secured. There have been shooting and arson incidents at Orégi, Selma, Concord, Santa Clara, Cressy and Livingston but only one arrest.

The trial at Auburn was a farce. I enclose a copy of an editorial in last Sunday's Chronicle.

It is a disgrace to our country to have such incidents occurring, especially at the time of the Uncio conference. I can assure you, Mr. Peiper, that our church people will not remain silent much longer. We did not favor having the Japanese returned till after the end of the war but the U. S. Army has decided on an earlier date and we shall claim protection for those whom we know to be loyal to these United States.

Yours respectfully,

FHS:s

Frank Herron Smith