

May 1945

May 4, 1945

To President Harry S. Truman
The White House
Washington, D. C.

My dear President Truman:

This is to request you to ask Edgar J. Hoover and his organization to take a hand in the control of the arsonists and night-riders who are terrorizing the few Japanese Americans who have returned to the West Coast.

No, I am not a hare-brained crank. Bishop Flint and Bishop Lee, both now in Washington, know me personally. Dr. Frederick Brown Harris knows my secretary, Earl R. Brown, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York. I am the responsible head of the Oriental Department in our denomination dealing with Japanese.

Approximately 60,000 of the 110,000 Japanese who were evacuated now wish to return to their former homes and under the pressure of the War Relocation Authority are trying to leave the Camps. In the larger centers of population no one pays any attention to them. It is in the isolated rural sections that we are having constant trouble. Night before last another house was burned at Concord.

Arrests have been made only at Auburn. The trial there last week was a farce. Please see the enclosed clipping from last Sunday's San Francisco Chronicle. Robert Kenny is too busy making broadcasts on "Bahai Peace Programs" to attend to such matters. He seems to feel no shame that such an incident should happen at the very time the Uncio Conference was opening.

Last night I had a letter from our pastor at Livingston telling me that eight different nights shots have been fired into the homes of our church people. This week the marauders fired five times into the home of S. Kishi, a fine Christian man with two sons away in the Army. Sumio Doi, whose place was attacked at Auburn, has been drafted and is now in the Army. He already has two brothers in the Army.

Even where these country sheriffs wish to do their duty they are inept and inefficient. A few FBI men at Livingston, Auburn and Orosi could soon put a stop to these disgraceful performances.

Regretting that I must call such matters to your attention, but assuring you of our prayers and loyal support, I am

Yours respectfully,

Frank Herron Smith