

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

TCC:EB:BC

149-1453

May 31, 1945.

Mr. Frank Herron Smith
Superintendent
Board of Missions and Church
Extension of the Methodist Church
2816 Hillegass Avenue
Berkeley, California.

Dear Mr. Smith:

The President has referred to me your letter of May 4, asking that the Federal Government take action in connection with various incidents of violence against Japanese-Americans on the West Coast. The matters you report, which involve the activities of private individuals, are entirely within the jurisdiction of the State and do not involve the violation of any Federal statute. Unless there is a probability that a Federal crime has been committed, the Department has no power to request an F. B. I. investigation. There is, therefore, no action which the Department can take with relation to the unfortunate incidents which you report.

Respectfully,

For the Attorney General

TOM C. CLARK
Assistant Attorney General

