

H. U. Nicholson

1639 Locust Street
Pasadena, California 91106

October 30, 1980

Dear Michi:

Thank you for your letter and for getting all those signatures. I wonder if it will do any good. Those South Korean men are up on the island north of Hokkaido which the Russians took from Japan. It was a bit of nasty slave labor on the part of Japan and U.S.S.R. has no treaty with Japan and no connection with South Korea. That's what makes the problem.

Dennis surely does know how to put it on thick. He is a great letter writer and writes me whenever he has a little excuse. I usually keep up with my correspondence and answer letters as soon as they arrive. Just now I am busy sending off things to Japan - 55 dollars for postage this morning on packages to Japan. I'm also beginning to send my Christmas letter over sea and shall enclose one in this. Fortunately the Japanese are most generous and never forget a kindness so plenty of money comes in.

Frank → Say those memorandums are something! How ever did you get them as they are strictly confidential? I wonder if I should send them to Gordon Chapman. They call him Gerald but he is Gordon and still alive in San Jose. I'm in touch with him. Frank Herron Smith died some time ago. I knew them both well in Japan and had many connections with them during the war. I think both were somewhat jealous of me because I got in everywhere as a Quaker individual and they did not have the know how or something to live and eat in the camps, or get into the Department of Justice prisons. Also they both felt that I should see important people but go through them. You see they were Chairman and Secretary of this very important Church Committee. One reason the Service Committee fired me was because I went to men in authority which was the job of Raymond Booth, the Executive Secretary.

One day Chapman went with me to see ^(Social Scientists) Neustadt, who had asked to see me and when we got there Neustadt told Chapman he had business with me and Gordon had to sit in the waiting room. That really hurt him. But when Neustadt took us up to see Col McGill, Chapman did go in with me and I was disgusted when he told them they should not permit the Buddhists to have temples in the camps. What do you know about that for religious freedom. Smith had no time for me because I was a pacifist but when I began to become an important person in the camps he called me "My man Nicholson." You see I was under him as Superintendent of the Methodist churches. over

One time Smith appeared at Manzanar the same time I did and they had arranged a meeting for me in the newly constructed Bowl up in the mountain and had their first mass meeting to hear my report of the Potentially Dangerous. I asked Smith if he wouldn't go along and give them a greeting. He did and gave a Methodist sermon which took over half an hour. But I mustn't run down the poor man as he is in heaven now.

Did you say that Smith and Chapman accused Masaoka and Kido as agents of the Japanese Government? That's absurd but it might well be true. I received printed letters each month as a Methodist pastor from Smith and in one letter he said "If any of you pastors are Japanese spies you had better resign and return to Japan." Wasn't that a terrible thing to say? He told me I was sticking my neck out too far when I stood as witness for a Buddhist priest. Enough of that.

What I said about the Hawaiian volunteers wanting to kill Masaoka was really not that bad. None of them would have done that, but one of the officers did tell me of the threat so they gave him the job of holding down the office at night time to prevent any such event! It was the Hawaiian Nisei who formed the 100th battalion and really started the whole thing but when they arrived at Camp Shelby they found all the cadremen State side Nisei and they didn't like it. At the first all the officers were Caucasians and the sergeants setting up the camp were men taken out of the army here. When I first visited Camp Shelby the skeleton of the camp had been set up with Caucasian officers and sergeants from the Army over here. I was there when the first trainload of Hawaiians arrived. They were a homesick bunch and tired out after a long uncomfortable train ride.

I've just re-read what they said about Smith as a kind father to the Japanese and Chapman as insincere and ~~and~~ extremely suspicious and antagonistic to the military. I don't know where they got that as he was a most sincere person and leaned over backwards not to get in trouble with the military. I hardly think he was antagonistic. Gordon is still a very dear friend of mine but we do disagree on several things. You can disagree and still be friends can't you.

Well enough of this. It was good to hear from you again Takeoka and others at Doyle Heights still remember you and always want me to remember ~~you~~ to them. I only get there every other week now and go to Heiro and Minami Heiro the other week. It is too hard to get some one to stay with Madeline while Virginia takes me

Yesterday Madeline really talked and even sang when Virginia played "What a friend we have in Jesus!" To-day she has said nothing

Love to Walter

as ever Helen

Excuse the many mistakes. I haven't heard from Betty Watson for months.