

April 14,

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Mr. Harry L. Villinger,
210 Park Drive
Turlock, California

Dear Mr. Villinger,

In behalf of the Turlock Social Club, I take this method of expressing our sincere appreciation for the kindnesses you bestowed upon us and our parents for the past decade.

The Western Defense Command of the United States has considered it a military necessity that we evacuate very soon. To its decree, we shall cheerfully cooperate in the conviction that in so doing we are making a practical demonstration of our loyalty and patriotism as well as our sincere belief in the principles of justice and democracy. We believe that no sacrifice is too great for the preservation and extension of the democratic principles for which this nation fights today on a world wide battlefield. We shall go into exile as our duty to our country, although ours is not a spectacular front-page type of duty, but rather a kind of 'behind the lines' service.

Throughout our education, we have been taught the American way-- the democratic way of life. Most of us only know the American way from a practical viewpoint, for most of us have never been out of California. In order that we may live, sleep and breathe in such atmosphere in the future, we shall do our part to help. Many of us farmers, especially in this valley, are still of the belief that we can do the nation more good by producing the goods than being evacuated, but that is not for us to decide.

We have received from many of our fellow American friends expressions of confidence in us, and the generous support and encouragement from these friends have given us strength, courage and hope to retain our self-respect and to continue to have faith in the noble ideals upon which this country has been founded. When the United States Government permits us to return to our homes in this community where we were raised, we earnestly hope that we can come back with a stronger conviction that this democratic way of life is the best, as we have been taught and experienced. We hope that you and the community will accept us and our children then as one of you, as you have done up to this time.

Because we do not know when actual evacuation will be asked of us, this simple expression of our feelings now conveys our appreciation for your past kindnesses.

May we wish you good health and spirit. Goodbye just for the present.

Yours very sincerely,

T. Iwata, president