

April 18,

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Mr. W.W. Ferguson,
900 Columbia Street,
Turlock, California

Dear Mr. Ferguson,

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

As you know, the Western Defense Command of the United States has deemed 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 that principles of justice and democracy will win out. We shall go into exile as our duty to our country, although ours is not a spectacular front-page type of duty.

We have been taught the American way-- the democratic way of life throughout our education. Most of us only know the American way from a practical viewpoint, for most of us have never been out of this country of ours. In order that we may live, sleep, breathe in such atmosphere in the future, we shall do our part to help for no sacrifice is too great for the preservation and extension of the democratic principles for which this nation fights today. Many of us farmers, especially in this valley, are still of the belief that we can do our nation more good by producing the goods than being evacuated, but that is not for us to decide.

Expressions of confidence in us received from many of our fellow American friends, and their generous support and encouragement 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 government permits our return to this community, 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 have experienced. We hope that you and the community will accept us and our children then as one of you, as you are doing at present.

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.

During our absence, may we wish you lots of luck, good health and high spirit.

Yours very sincerely,

T. Iwata, president