

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 16, 1996

More than fifty years ago, the United States Government unjustly interned, evacuated, relocated, or otherwise deprived you and many other Japanese Americans of your liberty. Today, on behalf of your fellow Americans, I offer my sincere apologies for the actions that unfairly denied Japanese Americans and their families fundamental liberties during World War II.

In passing the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, we acknowledged the wrongs of the past and offered redress to those who endured such grave injustice. In retrospect, we understand that the nation's actions were rooted deeply in racial prejudice and wartime hysteria. We must learn from the past and dedicate ourselves as a nation to renewing the spirit of equality and our love of freedom. Working together, we can make the most of our great diversity.

You and your family have my best wishes for the future.

*Bill Clinton*