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TULE LAKE DEFENSE COMMITTEE

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COMMITTEE

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January 21, 1949

Dear *Masako Obauchi*

At this time we wish to announce to each and everyone of more than 1,500 parties plaintiff, residing in Japan, in consolidated suit No. 25294, filed December 13, 1945, in the U. S. District Court in San Francisco, the accomplishments that were realized through the untiring effort of our attorney, Wayne M. Collins of San Francisco.

As you may already know, U. S. District Judge Louis E. Goodman on September 27, 1948, signed an interlocutory decree in the case cancelling the renunciations and restoring citizenship to all the Nisei plaintiffs on the ground they were caused by duress. However, the defendants were given 120 days within which, in good faith, they may designate any particular plaintiffs against whom they might wish to present additional evidence, if they can, but placed the burden of proof upon the defendants to demonstrate the renunciations of any such designated persons were free and voluntary and in no wise the product of the duress in which they were held and to which they were subjected.

The accomplishment as cited above cannot merely be expressed in words, but it was a tough uphill battle waged single-handedly by Mr. Collins for three years.

The committee wishes to inform you that the original fund collected at Tule Lake has just about been expended. The long battle, which has already consumed more than three years, not only has been a difficult one, but a costly one. Although Mr. Collins has unselfishly devoted his full time to our cause, he has not received a single penny for his own welfare from this fund.

Also, we realize that the government may at its election designate some or many of the persons within the prescribed limit of 120 days for individual hearings. We also are aware that the government may appeal the decision to the higher courts. Under such circumstances we shall be terribly handicapped by the lack of funds.

Realizing the necessity of raising additional funds, the Tule Lake Defense Committee was reactivated for the purpose of protecting the whole group so that the burden of financing the hearings of those designated for individual hearings will not fall on any individual person. We felt that very few persons would be able to pay the sum of \$1,500 which is the approximate figure for each individual trial.

We have tried our utmost to protect all the plaintiffs in Japan, by canvassing all the plaintiffs in this country. However, the results are very disappointing, and we feel that the burden of financing each single hearing should be borne by the whole group. We realize the hardship condition you are now undergoing, but we ask your cooperation in contacting your friends or relatives in the United States to contribute the sum of \$100 per person as a retainer.

As long as we have funds to continue the case we will continue to protect all the persons in the suit, but we have arrived at a financial position where we cannot do the impossible.

We regret that we have to inform you of these facts, but the committee felt that it was its duty to inform you of the danger to our case due to the lack of funds.

We shall appreciate your taking immediate steps to communicate with your friends or relatives in the United States, and we beg that your representatives make direct contact with our office at Room 302, 117 N. San Pedro Street, Los Angeles 12, California, to make a contribution to the common cause.

Very truly yours,

Tetsujiro Nakamura
Tetsujiro Nakamura
Tule Lake Defense Committee

P. S. We expect one of our committee men to be in Japan in March at which time you can consult him.