

March 21, 1944.

Dear Kazuo:

I started a long letter to you some days ago and haven't had time to write, but now, out of necessity, I have to take time to get this off to you. The other one can wait and as soon as I can sit down long enough I will finish it, also. The purpose of this hurried note is this:

I got your letter in regard to the machinery and your answer to your letter from Frei. I had already told Frei about it when I got your first letter in answer to mine so I didn't bother him any more. Well, last night Roger Thomas called me up just after supper and asked me if I could be at the packing house up there this morning at 9:30 so that a committee could look at the washer and grader. He told me someone had made application to some certain Board and that they had to follow it up according to some ruling on idle equipment. I told him I would be there and asked him to bring what papers he had showing his authority. I went up and Thomas and Brankamp, who is with some other branch of the War Production Board or some similar setup. Anyway, they showed me the ruling, which, by the way, covers any idle ~~xxxxxxx~~ machinery, regardless of who it belongs to, excepting if that owner is a member of the armed forces of the U.S. Well, it goes on to say that such machinery may be requisitioned by the Government and properly appraised, and either rented or sold for the purpose of keeping up food production, etc. They both told me that they hated to have to take steps and asked me if I thought I could write you, asking that you make arrangements to rent it out to someone who has made application. As I understand it, there are a number of applications, and it is up to a board set up by one of the agencies to find out who needs it the most. Now then, it is suggested that you agree to rent it or sell it. Of course, in the event that you refuse to do either of these, then if the pressure continues on the Board they will have to take steps to requisition it. The whole thing makes me sick, but I see no way out of it. Mr. Silk and I talked it over and he said he would suggest that you sell it instead of renting it, as you wouldn't want it when ~~xxxx~~ you came back after it had been used to any extent by someone else, and furthermore, the new ones made after the war will be so much better. I too, feel the same way - if it were mine, I would rather sell it than rent it. No matter who rents it, they will not take the care of it that the owner would. I have no idea what rental would be set on the equipment - it might not be enough to take care of the wear and tear that it would get. In selling it outright, they will have to pay the ~~xxxxxxx~~ price set on it ~~xx~~ by the committee picked, and according to the value of it. They took all the dope on it and were going to contact the salesman so as to find out the cost of that particular type and size and then would keep those figures until such a time as it became necessary to use them. Guess I have given you all the dope I was able to gather from the trip up there. This looks so messy, but I am in a terrible hurry and rather upset by the whole affair, so please pardon me. Talk it over and let me know as soon as you can, the sooner, the better. I don't think they will do any more until they hear from me, except that they might write you and Kikuchi in the meantime. I did understand that Kikuchi was willing to rent it out so they may iron that out immediately. All you have to do, as I understand it, is to give me authority to do either one of two things, or refuse to do either one, whichever you see fit. You understand, of course, that refusing will not do a bit of good if that order is carried out so figure it out carefully and do whatever will give you the most ~~xx~~ out of it and I will act according to your instructions. Sorry this looks so rotten - best regards to everyone and I will have that other letter out to you in a few days.