

10/19/42

Doj. 146-13-7-2-0. Section 21, 9/16/42 - 12/2/42.

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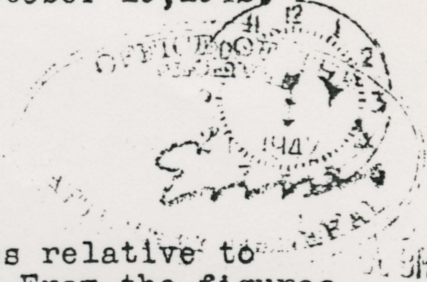
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INCORPORATED  
FORREST LEAR, SECY TREAS.  
BONDED ABTRACTER  
DAVID CITY, NEBRASKA

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October 19, 1942.

Honorable Francis Biddle,  
Attorney General of United States,  
Washington, D.C.



Dear Attorney General:

I listened to your address relative to leniency extended to alien italians. From the figures you gave no doubt it was a very sensible move, especially just at this particular time.

I was in San Francisco as a government agent last spring when Col. DeWitt began his moves against the aliens there. When the curfew went into effect the Mayor and others began a fight to have such curfew not apply to italians or germans and the newspapers contained much as to the expected move from Congress to make it easy for those two classes of aliens to escape the orders of the Colonel. The Japanese who were in the stores where I was were unable to understand why those of them who were citizens should be under a ban which was not even required of aliens of other groups.

No doubt you people have a record as to the number of Japanese who have been interned because of some reason other than the fact they are Japanese. I just wonder why ~~these~~ Japanese should not be acquainted with the facts, if such they be, that a large per centage of them have been interned because of some evidence of dislyalty. In that way those thousands of young bright Japanese now in camps might understand to some extent, at least, why they are deprived of their liberty.

When the move was started at San Francisco I wired Senator Norris my views. Some two or three weeks latter after the Japs had been thrown out of their state positions and ~~they~~ compelled to close out their businesses I received a letter from his Secty. saying the Senator was in a Naval hospital for a check-up. I did not feel the right thing was being done. I have not been acquainted with any facts to date to change my mind and there are many others not of Japanese blood who feel the same way. I haven't been squaking my feelings about this generally but do feel I should call it to your attention.

Yours very respectfully,

*Forrest Lear*  
Forrest Lear

146-13-7-2-0  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
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DIVISION OF RECORDS  
ALIEN ENEMY UNIT

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November 9, 1942

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BY ALVA JOE  
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Mr. Forrest Lear, Sec'y Treas.  
Bonded Abstractor  
David City, Nebraska

Dear Sir:

Your letter of October 19 has been referred to me by the Attorney General. I wish to thank you for your observations regarding the inclusion of American citizens of Japanese descent in the group affected by the West Coast evacuation.

It is my understanding that the Army regulations on the West Coast were adopted primarily for the deterrent effect they would have upon the plans of our enemies and were not of themselves a reflection upon the loyalty of the group which was affected. The government has appreciated the almost complete cooperation which the Japanese citizen group has given not only to the evacuation but also the subsequent relocation program. As the course of the war evolves and our defense needs become more clearly defined, there are no doubt phases of the situation which will be reconsidered.

Kindly be assured that your views will receive consideration in connection with our future program.

Very truly yours,

Edward J. Rinnis  
Director

*J. Rinnis*

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