

Appeal for release - Edison's father's letter to Att. Gen. Tom Clark

UNO

(1)

Alien Internment Camp
Crystal City, Texas
May, 1, 1946

35-7

→ Honorable Tom C. Clark
Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington 25, D.C.

In Re: APPEALS FOR RELEASE
of
GEORGE K. UNO alias
KUMEMARO UNO

Honorable Sir:

I, Kumemaro Uno, alias George K. Uno, a Japanese internee presently detained at the Alien Internment Camp, Crystal City, Texas who was given a verbal removal notice on March 26, 1946, hereby respectfully appeal to your honor for reconsideration of my removal case and release from interment. And in support of my appeals, I hereby present facts and my statements as set forth in foregoing paragraphs;

1. That the Alien Enemy Hearing conducted at Ft. Lincoln Detention Station, Bismarck, N.D., and the Rehearing accorded me by the similar board at the Alien Internment Camp at Crystal City, Texas, did not afford me opportunities to present my side of statements and facts. That, F.B.I. Inquiry at Ft. Lincoln, Bismarck, N.D.; and another F.B.I. Inquiry at Lordsburg N.M., Detention Camp, also did not afford me opportunities to present my side of statements and facts.
2. I was born in the year 1886 in Japan to Tomiyoshi Uno (father) and Ryuko Uno (mother), both deceased, and both were ardent Protestant Christians. I attended an American Missionary Kindergarten and elementary school in Kanazawa, Japan, in my childhood, later entering Kumamoto Prefectural Middle School, graduating from Keika Middle School of Tokyo, prior to my entry into the United States in 1905 with a passport issued by the Government of Japan. I married Miss Riki Kita, my present wife, a Japanese subject Christian, in the year 1912, at Oakland, California, and lived within the United States continually for the past 40 years, without ever leaving the country at any time.
3. During my 40 years of unbroken residence in the States, I never was a member or affiliated with Japanese Association of any city or district. Neither was I a member of any other Japanese organizations or movements which may have been deemed subversive, nor I have had contact with Japanese Government or its agents.

4. 10 children were born to my family, 6 sons and 4 daughters inclusive. Every one of my children were baptized in Protestant faith and were brought up among Christian circles.
5. My parents were the pioneer advocates of Christian faith in Japan during the Meiji era, converting thousands of Japanese Buddhists into Protestant faith in the course of over one half of century of their Christian life. My parents adopted American ways of thinking, mode of living and American ideals, and aimed to bring us up as such. Thus, seeking the form of Democratic government, my parents sent their 6 sons and 2 daughters to the United States, I being the fifth son of the family. Every one of my brothers and sisters considered the United States as the country of adoption and were seeking to obtain American citizenship, if possible.
6. During the World War I, when the United States declared war against Germany, I and my younger brother Clarence Uno volunteered to serve in the U.S. Army. My younger brother Clarence was accepted, because he was unmarried, and served his over-sea duty in France and Spain, while my application was not accepted because I was then the father of 3 children. I would have been granted American citizenship as of my brother Clarence, if I was not then married. My brother Clarence, after offering his service again prior to the World War II, as a member of military draft board in Los Angeles County, California, and again at Heart Mountain relocation Center, in 1942, died of heart failure and was honored with a military funeral of the United States.
7. During the World War II, three of my sons, Howard, Stanley and Ernest, consecutively, volunteered into the United States Army. Serving their terms and over-sea duties, with the honors of several awards, they are being accorded with honorable discharges. During March 1946, another one of my sons, Robert at the age of 19, volunteered into the U.S. Navy and is now being trained at San Diego Naval base in California. In other words, none of my 4 sons who served their military duty or serving in the U.S. Navy, did wait for the Military Draft, but went to the call of the Government of their Allegiance VOLUNTARILY. Furthermore, my daughter Hana (unmarried) was a repeated voluntary blood donor to save the lives of gallant American fighters, while she was relocated at Apache Relocation Center in Colorado, in addition to her cooperation in Christian work and Y.W.C.A. service of the Center.
8. During the years of my military age, I failed to file my annual military duty deferment application with Japanese Consulate in the United States, because of my determination to disconnect myself from the sphere of Japan. Furthermore, the births of eight out of my ten children were neither

registered with Japanese Consulate in the United States nor with Japanese Government. Furthermore, my children were not given training of Japanese language in so called Japanese Language Schools, because of my dislike of militaristic tones of their text books, and my fear of influence from certain teachers whose ideals are often too pro-Japan.

9. I have always preached to my children and Nisei friends for many years prior to the outbreak of the World War II, that all Nisei should answer the calls of the Country of their Birth and Citizenship and to pledge their loyalty to the Government of the United States of America. As the result of my voluntary campaign, at least a dozen Nisei volunteered into the U.S. Army along with my sons. (ref. par. 7)
10. The summary of the afore-mentioned paragraphs 1 - 9 inclusive indicates, following facts:
 - (a) I was and am determined to be a law-abiding permanent resident of the United States, not only my generation but through my following generations.
 - (b) I contend that I am and I think myself worthy of being a permanent resident of the United States, even though I am not granted U.S. citizenship.
 - (c) That my religious faith, ideology, ideals and allegiance are for the principles of Democracy and those of the United States of America.
 - (d) That the voluntary services offered to the Uncle Sam by my sons and daughters in the time of emergency must be unmistakable influence and transcendent of my ideals and training of my children.
 - (e) That the loyal attitude of my sons and daughters to the United States was not motivated by their desire to obtain release of their father (myself), but it was the pure and simple sign of their undivided allegiance to their country of birth.
11. To supplement my answers to the questions asked at the Alien Enemy Hearings, concerning the activity of my eldest son, Kazumaro Uno, alias George K. Uno Jr., alias Buddy Uno, I hereby submit following statement:
 - (a) My eldest son, Buddy Uno, was a hard and willing worker trying to finish his education by working his way thru, leaving my home at the age of 13, lodging and working in a small grocery store. When he graduated from Compton High School, he was still working for a small fruit and vegetable stand in suburb of Long Beach, California. After finishing his high school, he styled himself as

"Vagabond" contributing his articles to the English language section of Japanese Newspapers published in Los Angeles and San Francisco, California. His articles at a length of time was titled "Nisei Melodrama", composed of various findings while he was traveling along the west coast states where he found Japanese settlements. His journalistic activity kept him away from my home for many years, rarely visiting home to acquaint himself with my home atmosphere.

At the year of the outbreak of Japan and China in the year 1937, he had discord with Japanese language reporters and editors of Japanese Newspapers in which he was writing, particularly over the tones of his writing. Because of his pro-American attitude, he was ousted from the staff of the Papers he was associated. Buddy's adventurous desire to "Find the truth" from the theater of war, resulted in finding his way across the Pacific to China. Then he was 24 years of age. Buddy was already beyond my control, for ~~HE SPENT~~ his most precious years of development were spent away from home, prior to his departure for China. He returned to the States twice between the years 1938 and 1940. He made very brief (2 days at the most) visits to his home in Los Angeles, as he made his head quarters in San Francisco, California. Thus again keeping himself away from his home. It is true that I mailed to him in China many clippings from local newspapers, magazines and pamphlets that were available in Los Angeles, and I wrote lengthy letters to him concerning news and comments heard over my radio from time to time, with my desire to keep him informed in order to help his journalistic work. The nature of my correspondence was academic in character.

I lost my contact with Buddy from the time of Pear Harbor disaster.

(b)

I clearly remember that Buddy expressed his earnest desire to establish an orphanage or similar institution, in China supported by Nisei Christians in the United States. We have had considerable discussion on the matter at one time because it was the desire of Buddy, and mine, for Buddy to devote his energy and effort for the welfare of the victims of the war in China regardless of race, creed or nationality.

12. In reference to my contact with German American Bund, which question was brought up in an rehearing, I beg to submit following statement;

That during my temporary help in the Los Angeles Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in summer of 1938, I had coincidental contact with member of German-American Bund. Presuming that this organization was in the similar nature, category, and principles as those of Japanese-American Citizens' League, I

was instrumental in persuading the general secretary of Los Angeles Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry to participate in "German Picnic" held at Hindenburg Park, La Brea, near Glendale, California. I was also given volumes of German propoganda pamphlets at that time.

Later I lost contact with German-American Bund, because my temporary job with Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce and Industry lasted only about 2 months, and also because I have discovered that the Bund movements were subversive and dangerous.

Therefore, I contend and claim that my Pre-war conducts and my adherence are for the United States and not against the United States

Now, therefore, I hereby beseech Your Honor for re-investigation and reconsideration on your decision on my case based upon the aforesaid statement and hereby appeal to Your Honor for an early release from interment.

Very respectfully yours,

KUMEMARO UENO