8 Below

The following is an explanation of my application for declination of repatriation:

Enveloped by the war's fury are many victims of unfortunate circumstances and sorrows. The strain of war has put me (Tadao Mukaihata) in a peculiar and disturbing situation. The disturbing situation is this: While being interned in Santa Anita Assembly Center, my family applied for repatriation hoping, too, that I would act similarly. It is only natural for human beings to act in accordance to the true manner their mind is affected. It is a human instinct for my parents as well as all issel to have a slight warm spot for their native country, Japan. They have been reared in an entirely different atmosphere from ours. However, that does not mean in the slightest that they are ungrateful and unappreciative to the tastes of the fruits which this nation has bore for them. They being impartial and knowing that my education and ideals differ from theirs, did not in any way influence or compel me to apply for expatraition. Although family conditions almost pressed me to adopt my parent's course at that time I could not commit myself to such an act since my ideas are thoroughly Americanized.

After being relocated to Granada Center, repatriation matters again confronted me, and I found my situation more intensified. I am now 19 years of age and being the oldest of the three children, I am responsible in maintaining family harmony and solidarity. Since my family already requested repatriation it meant my separation from them. The future aspects of my family growing dimmer and doubtful with the progress of time, I became very much concerned over them. My parents are unfit to do heavy work and are in no condittion to sustain the entire family. My sister 13 years of age and my brother, age 7, cannot assume responsibilities and are too young to support the family. Faced with this irritating situation I was seized with the instinctive selfishness of any ordinary man to think and consider the safety and solidarity of family relationship. Being bound by this family responsibility, I was impelled, not compelled, to ultimately apply for expatriation. am obligated to my family and have a profound respect and esteem for my parents. However, though I respect and admire them immensely. I have a mind of my own, and it has always been rather animate instinct of me to act according to what I believe is right, of course, after a careful process of thinking and weighing both sides of the question.

The loyalty registration which tested the loyalty of evacuees, provoked my position more. Being an expatriate I could not answer yes to question number 28 (meaning the pledge of allegiance to the United States and severing all relationship with the Japanese Emperor). I would be contradicting myself if I answered yes since my future home would be in Japan, being an expatriate. I could not also answer no because I harbor no detrimental and subversive thoughts of this nation. I did not expatriate through an act of disloyalty but because of bearing family circumstances. Instead of answering yes or no, I defined my situation and reasons of expatriation. However my response was accepted as a negative one.

This depressed me greatly and after careful deliberation and thinking, I came to the conclusion that I must reverse my decision. I have known no nation other than the United States. I have been born, reared, and educated in American institutions. My mind has absorbed American influences and ideals of freedom. And I would like very much to continue residing in the atmospher of these ideals. Thus I entreat in profound sincerity for the cancellation of expatriation. It is my fervent desire that your impartiality and sense of fairness will motivate you to consider my sincerity and act in accordance with true justice of reinstating me as citizen of this nation.

Signed by a resident of Granada Relocation Center, Amache, Colo.