

Dear Frank and friends;

We are supposed to leave for Cheyenne on Monday or Tuesday according to what the Marshall has told us. The Grand Jury is scheduled to convene on May 8th.

The fact that at last will come our chance for the trial for which we have so fervently hoped and prayed for all these past months is making us feel restless and impatient. But we are eagerly and determinedly awaiting the day knowing deep within our hearts and minds that no matter how the trial ends that we are right. Our conscience and our hearts shall be clear knowing that we have had the courage to fight for a fundamental principle. We may lose the verdict, but the verdict shall be man made and with the passing of time, eternal truth and right will come to light; that is my firm belief.

Yes truly, it is the first time since our arrival here that time seems like time and that time does not fly. It seems only a mere three or four days that we have been in confinement when in reality it is about a month and half now.

Word has reached us through a hint the F.B.I. dropped when he visited us here that the prosecution will try to base their case solely on the matter of evading the draft. We are not considering whether to report for the draft or not, to live or to die, as the true issues nor the principle we are fighting for. We are hoping that the government for once and for all time will really try to solve the issue confronting it and not try to evade the issues; clarification of our Constitutional rights and review of the records of it past unjustified and discriminatory acts, and the remedy

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and rectification of the injustices committed and being committed on us during evacuation, its attendant pauperization of our people and the detention without cause of loyal citizens. We are hoping that they will do their utmost toward restoring the rightful and untouchable dignity of citizenship that is the birthright of any citizen of this nation.

We are firm in our belief that reinstatement of the draft without the discriminatory features as it applies to us at present should come only after proper clarification and reinstatement of full citizenship rights. The government should make us the free citizen that all loyal citizens of this nation should be before ordering us to serve in the armed forces. In our present status of virtual war prisoners with all our civil rights suspended and limited, it is almost impossible for us to face the future without the fear that what has happened to us can always happen again. It is against the recurrence of such history blackening precedents that we are fighting for. We are fighting to make those words "regardless of race, color, or creed" become a reality and not mere vague and hazy ideals; we are fighting to get an interpretation of those immortal words that shall be so universally accepted that future administration will fear to tamper with it.

Mr. Baldwin has stated "morally our case is strong but legally we are weak" or something to that effect. Just what will be the moral reactions of the citizens of the liberated and vanquished countries when they hear of a United States that keeps its citizens in status comparable to war prisoners behind barbed wires and military police?

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He acknowledges that we are morally right. Does he mean that the administration is not morally right in their handling of the Japanese~~x~~problem on the mainland?

A person who disregards or violates good morale is not well respected by his fellow friends. In likewise, a nation must practice and observe good morals to win the respect of fellow nations, especially in the case of the United States, the nation which will be the spearhead of the post-war reconstruction era and whose responsibility it is to spread the gospel of Democracy and its blessings among the liberated and vanquished nations.

The saying states 'practice what you preach.' It is essential that the United States shall practice what it preaches; that this nation shall practice true democracy---the democracy which gives its blessings and its protection to all its citizens regardless of race, color or creed, now. Otherwise, we may win the war but lost to the militant propaganda of the Japanese government, the philosophy of Asia for Asiatics. Otherwise critics can point out and say America is not a democracy for it discriminates against race and color, has different castes or classes of citizens (free, suspended and virtual prisoners), segregates and isolates one group of citizens from the others, it pits the majority against a helpless minority, it bans the right of a citizen to reside and travel as other citizens, it disregards the fact that a man's home is his castle, it dispossesses, pauperizes and ejects at will any group of citizens, it practices protective custody by which the innocent are placed in confinement, it practices detention of citizens without charge.

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~~The United States must awake and should rectify the errors and injustices committed on us, otherwise this shall remain forever a blot upon the history and conscience of our nation.~~

What prompts an individual who fully realizing the priceless value of life and knowing well that we can live but one life, to willingly offer his life in defense of his country? What is he fighting for when he joins the fighting forces?

You say, Democracy, that's what we are fighting for; Democracy, its blessings of freedom and liberty, the pursuit of happiness and livelihood, intolerance, justice and against unjustified persecution.

We wonder, are we blessed with the blessings of Democracy at home? Do we have homes, liberty, freedom and justice? Are we not supposed to be enjoying those sacred blessings and privileges as free citizens before we are to enter the armed forces?

The malignant growth that is cancer, unseen and unfelt at first, can if it remains unchecked long enough ruin and destroy the lives of men, and in larger sense nations too. The violent propaganda of race hatred and race baiting now being so glibly expounded by these self-styled super patriots can warp and poison the minds of the uninformed and unthinking.

This nation was founded and prospered on the conception that this nation was the haven of those peoples unjustly persecuted and that they would all enjoy the blessing of liberty and freedom, was it not? I wonder what the average American citizens know about our peculiar and unprecedented predicament?

Give us a fair hearing before you judge those of us who suffered themselves to be placed behind bars. Bars which we

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feared would make us social outcasts in our communities on the West coast are now serving us as the means by which are fighting to obtain our Constitutional Rights.

Again I say, getting rejected or evading the draft, those are not issues at hand. There is among us who has stomach ulcers, he has had them for five years and been on a doctors diet and prescription and is consequently suffering from the jail menus. We are fighting to restore the rights and dignity of citizenship that is properly due a citizen regardless of his race or color.

Sorry I've rambled at will. Frank, I was wondering if you have forgotten Patrick Henry's 'Give me liberty or give me death' speech. Good thing you didn't think of it while you were in the guardhouse cause you might have taken it literally and walked ~~out~~ out and shot by the Military police on duty. I guess the moral of the barbed wire fences and guardhouse, the M.P. and your stroll is that you are not a free man. In short, you'll be a free man-- but dead.

Please tell all our friends that we are all well and in high spirits. Give them all our best regards.

Stick with your good work and do it to the best of your ability. \$16 a month pay should not be what you are working for. Satisfaction comes from the knowledge that you have given your best to your work.

Sincerely,

George Ishikawa