

192 Fairlawn Drive
Berkeley, Calif. 94708
August 1, 1971

The Hon. Richard M. Nixon
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

During the summer of 1949 I covered the Iva Toguri treason trial for the Pacific Citizen, official publication of the Japanese American Citizens League, then headquartered in Salt Lake City.

In light of the testimony, the verdict was astonishing. Charged with eight counts of treasonable activity, she was found guilty of one, and that lone one attested to by witnesses whose credibility was open to serious doubt.

For me, the sorriest aspect of the trial was that Iva Toguri liable to prosecution only because she adamantly retained her U.S. citizenship throughout the war, and that witnesses on whom the government depended to substantiate its case were former Americans who had found it expedient to become Japanese citizens.

As an American of Japanese ancestry I was also disturbed by the fact of the all-white jury, which seems not in keeping with our current understanding of a jury of one's peers. The prosecution was successful in rejecting all prospective jurors who were non-white.

In retrospect, the case against Iva Toguri appears as weak as it did in 1949. Quite apart from the patent absurdity of many of the charges and much of the testimony, one must wonder to what degree the verdict reflected lingering anti-Japanese sentiment four years after the cessation of hostilities. San Francisco, site of the trial, was an area from which all persons of Japanese descent had been banned, without trial or provocation, from 1942 to 1945. Surely the racism of that evacuation decree still lingered in the ambience of the courtroom.

Iva Toguri has already served her term in prison. Today she feels

granting of executive clemency and waiver of the balance of the fine imposed at the time of sentencing would, to a large degree, clear her name.

Since this is her devout wish, I hope you will give it your most sincere consideration.

Very truly yours,

Marion Tajiri