

# PACIFIC CITIZEN



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Japanese American Citizens League

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Rec'd \_\_\_\_\_

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F. L. Press

C. Greenwood

Tajiri

Dear Miss Anderson:

The long arm of coincidence was really working overtime (and getting time-and-a-half, I trust ) last week. It happened that the latest issue of "Common Ground" had arrived that morning and I was vocally wondering if "CG" would consider another article on Japanese Americans when your letter arrived. This proposed article, still quite a vague and illusive thing, was going to be called "Farewell to Little Tokyo," a glance at the past and a look toward the future.

So, I'll try the article along the lines suggested in your letter, and will promise to have it on your desk by October 15. Have you any other suggestions regarding length, approach and subject matter?

There are two men out here on our desert tableland who have, and are, gambling their professional careers on their belief in the rights of racial minorities. One is Elmer R. Smith, racial anthropologist at the University of Utah, local chairman of FEPC, representative of Pearl Buck's Committee Against Racial Discrimination, etc. Smith has recently organized the CCCR (Civilian Committee for Constitutional Rights) in Salt Lake City and hopes to get McWilliams, Robeson and Pearl Buck here for lectures. He has been writing a series of articles for us on advice to nisei students.

The other is Barron B. Beshoar, whose father was the chief doctor for the mine workers in the Ludlow Massacre in Colorado. Beshoar was a newspaperman in Denver for 15 years (he's still under 38) but resigned in 1942 and became the minority representative of the War Manpower Commission for the Rocky Mountain States. Beshoar comes from a well-known Colorado family which has always been on the side of the underdog in the blood and thunder history of industrial relations in the Rockies.

After leaving the Rocky Mountain News (Scripps-Howard) after 15 years, Beshoar took on his job with the





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Manpower Commission, concerning himself especially with the employment difficulties of Americans of Spanish (100,000 in Colorado) and Japanese extractions. He fought the Army over segregation and unspeakable housing conditions for Mexican American workers at Pando, an army construction project, and forced the army to "break" the commandant who was responsible for the existing conditions and discrimination. He has gotten action on cases of Jim Crow as well as employers' prejudices against Japanese Americans.

Beshoar came in the office two days ago and told me he was preparing an article on his experiences in minority work, particularly on Mexican, Negro and nisei cases, written from the standpoint of one who has been on the front-line of the fight against discrimination in employment and for the enforcing of the President's executive order 8802. I suggested "Common Ground" and gave him a copy of the latest issue. You may be hearing from him. . . . Barron has written a book, recently published, titled "Out of the Depths," which is the story of the Ludlow civil war. He tells me that the AFL, in its coming national convention, will pass a resolution that copies of the book be placed in every library in the United States. . . . Beshoar is now head of the information section of the War Manpower Commission in the Rocky Mountain region with an office in Denver.

Looking back over the letter, I find it mostly devoted to descriptions of Smith and Beshoar. They are the "Carey McWilliams' " of this region, and both are interested in some sort of liaison with McWilliams so that work of this sort may be coordinated out here in the west.

Anyway, I'll try the article and will try to get it in on time.

Hello to Rose, Eddie and the staff.

Very sincerely,