

April 26, 1944

Dear Larry:

I hope no one has released to you any publicity about our efforts in connection with the New Jersey evacuee situation, for I think any account of it now in PC or elsewhere would only strengthen the opposition into swift action.

We called together 20-30 orgs. in our general field last Monday to see what we could do to activate our New Jersey members and to pool our influence in the state. Mr. Lewis and I worked out the letter I enclose, got the statement from the "RA", added the editorials, and thought we had a positive program to advocate for the rest of the orgs. to follow. This material will not go out as is, however, for the New Jersey Goodwill Commission, a State body, doesn't dare stick its neck out to act as a clearing house for us. Instead of the return card we had contemplated, which we had made sound very innocuous simply because it is pretty public property in the mails, we will have to urge our people to write the Commission to urge them to act. If they get enough pressure of this kind, they can go to Governor Edge with it and say-- "Look here, we've got to do something." I wanted terribly to find a central non-sectarian body like the Commission to pool our names through-- feeling very deeply that one of the main troubles with all of us decent people is that we are so unorganized.

Anyhow, since the Goodwill Commission is not going to be the center of strength we had hoped, we are setting up a state action committee, to work until the Commission is empowered to act. Each org. represented here is asking one of its Jersey members to meet at lunch in Newark the 15th of May for this purpose. This, then, will be a purely Jersey body, but with tie-ins to us in the national offices so that we can watch how it works and work with it. They may appoint a committee at once to wait upon Governor Edge, for instance. The legislature does not meet in regular session again until January. (There is to be a special session in May, but this may only take up the special legislation it was called into being for-- something about firemen's pay, etc.) This gives us some time to do ed. work. Incidentally, it would have been a pile easier to sway public sentiment on the Great Meadows business if at least one of the guys had been a citizen; it was the weakness of the case. The Legion was distributing the Lechner "Playing With Dynamite" the week after the Great Meadows thing occurred, so a fight is undoubtedly in the offing, and your guess is as good as mine as to who is behind it.

You will see why I don't want publicity on this. The big boys would instantly go to work and they are better organized than the forces of goodwill.

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I want, for once, to get goodwill organized before bad!

A bibliography of material is to be enclosed, too, pamphlet stuff that is cheaply and easily available. The new Public Affairs pamphlet will be a godsend here.

I'm running a condensation of Carey's "The Nisei Speak" chapter in the summer CG. Good stuff.

Looked and looked for your name on the Guggenheim list. Sad!

Best to you! When do you come East again?

CG has its first baby-- a little Oyama-- Joe and Asami Kawachi's baby, born last Friday night. (Sammy's winning our college contest attracted Joe to her in the first place, you know, so their romance is CG's responsibility-- to say nothing of the youngster! Sammy's doing better than Joe, I'd say!

Yours,