

My name is Katy Sugahara and I am Yonsei. I am 16 and a junior at Hackley School in Tarrytown. My father, his brothers, parents, and many of his relatives were interned at Amache, Colorado. At the time, he was only 5. His <sup>two</sup> younger brothers could discuss their feelings with each other, as could my grandparents. My father is silent about it to this day.

Quite honestly, I do not feel that their experience has affected me. Those in my family who were incarcerated never, literally, speak of that period in their lives. I had never even heard of the evacuation and relocation until I wrote a term paper on it last year. My grandmother gave me information such as pamphlets, photographs, etc.; other than that, she, as well as my other paternal relatives, brushed it aside. Excepted was my grandfather, who told me things I had not known before. I believe this is because he is an eternal optimist and used his situation to his advantage. He had lost millions, but, by working in the OSS during his family's internment, he established contacts on the east coast and managed to build a business from them. They never returned to California until years later.

Had they not been in the camp, my grandparents, aunts, uncles, and especially my father, might be more open today. He now has a great lack of confidence, which would probably have been avoided had he not spent that time in ~~the~~ Amache. This alone gives me an idea of the amount of pain that must have been involved.

I myself am not angry at the government for their mistake, for I do regard this as a major error and feel that it remains a black mark on the record of American history. That the white Americans believed it to be the goal of the Japanese-Americans to outnumber the others is to me simply ridiculous, while the idea of 'protective custody' is even more so. A student of the University of Washington expressed it nicely:

"The very words 'protective custody' (Schutzhaft) were 'made in Germany', not here. How could it accord with American justice that if a man were dangerous to his neighbors they should be put into custody rather than he?" [Fellowship, July 7, 1942, quoted in Caleb Foote, Outcasts!, p. 6]

Although I am not outraged at this act caused by the racists and the farmers in competition with the Japanese-American Farmers, I

am simply amazed that the American government, the symbol of freedom, morality, and democracy, as they believed they were, could let such a thing happen. I can reasonably see why those actually relocated and interned could be furious; some thought that it was even the duty of Japanese Americans, as loyal citizens of the U.S., to promote the safety and welfare of the United States. This I find yet more incredible.

I feel that some sort of compensation is definitely called for. Although total restitution for property losses would be unreasonable, something should be done.

"... there is no way, obviously, to make amends for the loss of liberty and of dignity and of faith in the American principles. The best that can be hoped for is an understanding ~~that~~ <sup>by</sup> Americans that it ~~is~~ must never happen again.... Loyalty to the United States is loyalty to an ideal; and an indispensable part of that ideal is recognition of individual guilt and individual responsibility." [Washington Post, October 9, 1965]