

October 25, 1981

Ramsey Clark  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Clark,

Greetings. By way of introduction, Tom McNulty provided me your address and encouraged me to write you concerning a matter of great importance to our Japanese-American citizens in particular and all Americans in general.

As you know, the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians has been charged with the duty of reviewing the facts and circumstances surrounding Executive Order 9066, issued February 19, 1942, and the impact of this Order on American citizens and permanent resident aliens. The Commission will also review directives of United States military forces requiring to relocation and detention in internment camps of American citizens, including Aleut civilians, and permanent resident aliens of the Aleutian and Pribilof islands. The Commission will also recommend appropriate remedies. Pursuant to its duties, the Commission has conducted hearings during the months of July, August and September in primarily west-coast cities and the islands of Aleutian and Pribilof. However, the Commission quite recently agreed in response to demands of the East Coast Japanese Americans for Redress (ECJAR), and other Japanese American groups, to extend its Hearings to the cities of New York and Boston. Last Thursday we were informed that the New York City Hearings will be held on Monday November 23, 1981.

It is the intention of ECJAR to broaden the scope of the testimony to include Religious, Moral, Sociological, Psychological, and Legal testimony from prominent citizens and scholars. We believe that such testimony from prominent citizens will raise the consciousness of the American public in understanding that the blatant abridgement of civil liberties to thousands of American citizens based solely on ancestry is neither a parochial matter of a small minority, nor ever justified in the interest of national security. We further believe that the issue of civil liberties vs national security is as poignant now as it was forty years ago. Finally, we believe that the question of reparations is a complex one which may very well rest on legal opinions and precedents.

We are well aware of your own long commitment to civil liberty and justice not only for American citizens but for the citizenry of the world community no matter how "unpopular" such a commitment is, nor how personally difficult such a stand may be. We are equally aware of the involvement of

your father and the difficult role he played during the period of internment. We would be greatly honored and would sincerely appreciate of your willingness to testify before the Commission. We appreciate that while your testimony may well be personally difficult, it would nevertheless be of great psychological and emotional support to the hundreds of Japanese-Americans who have bared their "shame" and personal tragedies in the public hearings. In addition your testimony would bolster the cause of civil rights and justice. Finally, your testimony may well have a substantial impact on the legal issue surrounding reparation and redress.

Should you agree to testify, we will forward your name to the Commission staff who intern will send you the formal invitation. Additionally, we will be happy to help you coordinate your testimony, if you wish, with other testifiers so as to have non-repetitive testimony.

Due to the shortness of time, I hope you will permit me to call you this weekend to ascertain your availability. Or if you prefer you could call me or my wife, Fumi, at [REDACTED].

Sincerely yours,

*Fumi & Peter Raith*

Fumi & Peter Raith  
[REDACTED]