



B-4-10

Miss Yuriko Domoto

~~P.O. Box 81~~

Merced Assembly Center

Livingston  
California

Merced

5-10-42

Dear Yuri -

I was surely relieved & happy to get your last letter. (And I assure you I could read every word of it — well almost every word. But I can't talk — I'm writing this curled up in a big arm chair.)

I'm certainly glad that the Calif. Social Welfare Dept. was willing to stand up for what was right & grant leaves. I talked to our state director & she said she felt quite sure that you would be offered a social welfare job in connection with the camp, if nothing else. I don't know what information she has about the situation, but she believes they will have to have such workers & that they will try to place those with training. She gave me the address I am enclosing as

a possible reference for placement.

The reception center in Jerome, which you mentioned, is only about 13 miles from my home town in South Central Idaho. They are also talking about establishing a camp at the Mesa Orchards, about 40 or 50 miles north of Payette, in Adams County. I talked to the County Supervisor up there & she said they hoped to get a nurse & a social worker for the camp. She said if it worked out, she would certainly be glad to recommend you for the place.

As far as Idaho people in general are concerned — frankly they've succumbed to a war hysteria on the subject of internment camps. I can't say that they'd do much to make the situation pleasant.

And the governor is the worst of the lot. However, a great many

farmers will welcome the help of Japanese labor - as there is a serious labor shortage in harvesting the crops.

I think that the situation may be much better after the camps are established & the people move in. You see Idaho is largely a state of mid-western farm families - moved in as the irrigation projects opened up. They've never met or mingled with other races to any extent & have the prejudices you would expect, under the circumstances. When they find that the camps are not a threat or menace, but actually an aid to their communities, the situation will undoubtedly improve.

I have just about decided to go to Chicago next fall, instead of New York - largely because of the

medical facilities available there. My arthritis is much better - but it may be that if I can get treatment at the Billings clinic in Chicago, it will clear up entirely. N. Y. has no clinic service in connection with the school, & I couldn't afford private care.

I'm right in the midst of toroid & dental clinic arrangements now. Am taking children to Boise (about 60 miles from here) for eye exams - since we have no eye specialist here. Some of my pet cases have kept me on the jump lately & I've really been busy. Thank goodness I have stenographic service now, or I don't know what I'd do. I plan to go home for a short vacation about the last of May. Am certainly looking forward to it, as it's been 3 months since I've been home. Please keep me informed about your plans so I can get in touch (over)

with you if I see any job prospect.

Love -

Margaret

Mrs. Nello Shelton, Supervisor  
Social Workers Placement Service  
United States Employment Service  
154 Sansome Street  
San Francisco, California