

Rohwer Relocation Center  
McGehee, Arkansas  
February 12, 1945

Mr. Dillon S. Myer  
Director  
War Relocation Authority  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Myer:

I am submitting my application for employment with the War Relocation Authority, enclosing my application on the Civil Service Commission Form Number 57, in triplicate.

Since my period of residence in the Missoula, Montana, Detention Camp, and throughout my period of residence in Rohwer Relocation Center, I have devoted my time to a study of current events in relation to historical background. I had the first opportunity to satisfy my interest along this line in my lifetime. I found my associates in the Detention Camp and later in Rohwer Center so confused and embittered over the experiences encountered during evacuation I felt an added urge to impart to my fellow sufferers some facts, and points of view which might help them as they had helped me to accept what had happened, as a result of a complex combination of causes, rather than a simple injustice based wholly upon race prejudice. I found people very responsive to the first efforts which were impromptu lectures, and I was encouraged to develop a planned program of lectures on subjects which seemed most timely and helpful.

Through these lectures I believe it has been possible to help the evacuees personally and as a group to meet their experience with more tolerance and breadth of vision. At times when small groups of people became confused and threatening in their motives and plans, it has been possible quietly and in a friendly manner to help them to think more deeply and fairly about their grievances. In this way it has been possible to prevent many organized attempts to thwart the efforts of the War Relocation Authority and other organizations whose position and real objectives were not understood and appreciated in proper proportion. I do not wish to appear boastful

as I offer these remarks. I think upon my experience as a natural result of my interests and the needs of a situation in which I found myself. I have been more successful than I had ever thought I could be, since I have no college education, and no previous discipline to prepare myself for the role I have played. However, I have found myself deeply interested not only in what I have done, but in continuing my efforts as long as there is any need to give such service to individuals and to the country. I believe that there is much room for further work along this line, but the job has moved to the outside now since the Centers are to close and residents will be resettling in all parts of the country.

In a modest way, I believe I can be of assistance to the Japanese Americans, to the organizations which are seeking to help the evacuees, and to the country, in helping evacuees and the general population in America to meet this new experience in a truly democratic and Christian fashion. Consequently, I seek an opportunity to help with the job to be done by continuing on a smaller scale, in more widely scattered areas, the job I have been doing in Rohwer Center. I would like to serve as a liason worker between the evacuees in and out of the Centers, and the field offices of the War Relocation Authority and other organizations which are together working with the problems of making adjustments between opposing factions.

Copies of two references given to me are enclosed for your information, but it is my sincere hope that you will consult with the references I have named in the application form and with any other people who have been in position to observe my work and who know me personally. I would deem it a privilege to be of service to the country until such time as the major problems of assimilation may have been met. Any consideration you may be in position to give my application will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Chimata Sumida