

CLOSING STATEMENT BEFORE JUDGE FEE, NOVEMBER 18, 1942.

By Minoru Yasui

Written in the Multnomah County Jail, November 17, 1942. Mr. Yasui served nine months of a one year sentence, in solitary confinement, before going to the Minidoka Relocation Center. An appeal was made to the U.S. Supreme Court but in effect the case was lost, however at this writing Mr. Yasui is back in the U.S. District Court in Oregon under a "corum Nobis" proceeding and has had that conviction vacated. Mr. Yasui has been a prominent attorney in Denver, Colorado and presently is chairman of the Japanese American Citizens League National Committee for Redress.

YOUR HONOR:

If the court pleases, I should like to say a few words. There is no intent to plead for leniency for myself or to request a mitigation of the punishment that is about to be inflicted upon me.

Despite the circumstances, I am compelled to pay tribute and give my unreserved respect to this honorable court for its clear-cut and courageous reaffirmation of the inviolability of the fundamental civil rights and liberties of an American Citizen.

As an American citizen, it was for a clarification and the preservation of those rights that I undertook this case, confident that the American judiciary would zealously defend those rights, war or no war, in order to preserve the fundamental democratic doctrines of our nation and to perpetuate the eternal truths of America.

My confidence has been justified and I feel the greatest satisfaction and a patriotic uplift in the decision of this honorable court, for it is full of significance for every American, be he humble or mighty.

I say that I am glad, regardless of the personal consequences to me, because I believe in the future and in the ultimate destiny of America. Ever since I was a child, I have been inculcated in the basic concepts and the traditions of those great patriots who founded our nation.

I have lived, believed, worked and aspired as an American. With due respect to this honorable court, in all good conscience, I can say that I have never, and will never, voluntarily relinquish my American citizenship.

The decision of this honorable court to the contrary notwithstanding, I am confident that I can establish in law and in fact that I am an American citizen, who is not only proud of that fact, but who is willing to defend that right.

When I attained majority, I swore allegiance to the United States of America, renouncing any and all other allegiances that I may have unknowingly owed. That solemn obligation to my native land has motivated me during the past 12 months upon 3 separate and distinct occasions to volunteer for active service in the United States Army, wheresoever it may be fighting to preserve the American way of life.

For, I would a thousand times prefer to die on a battle front as an American soldier in defense of freedom and democracy, for the principles which I believe, rather than to live in relative comfort as an interned alien Jap.

The treacherous attack on Pearl Harbor, the bombing of Manila, the aggressor policies of the war lords of Japan are just as reprehensible to me as to any American citizen.

If America were invaded today, I, and 70,000 other loyal American citizens of Japanese ancestry would be willing, or eager, to lay down our lives, down in the streets, down in the gutters, to defend our homes, our country and our liberties!

Be that as it may; I reiterate, regardless of the personal consequences, even tho it entail the sacrifice of my American citizenship which I regard as sacred and more dear than life itself, I pay homage and salute this honorable court and my country, the United States of America for the gallant stand that has been taken for the preservation of the fundamental principles of democracy and freedom!

Minoru Yasui

CLOSING STATEMENT BEFORE JUDGE FEE, NOVEMBER 18, 1942.

By Minoru Yasui

Written in the Multnomah County Jail, November 17, 1942. Mr. Yasui served nine months of a one year sentence, in solitary confinement, before going to the Minidaka Relocation Center. An appeal was made to the U.S. Supreme Court but in effect the case was lost, however at this writing Mr. Yasui is back in the U.S. District Court in Oregon under a "corum Nobis" proceeding and has had that conviction vacated. Mr. Yasui has been a prominent attorney in Denver, Colorado and presently is chairman of the Japanese American Citizens League National Committee for Redress.

YOUR HONOR:

If the court pleases, I should like to say a few words. There is no intent to plead for leniency for myself or to request a mitigation of the punishment that is about to be inflicted upon me.

Despite the circumstances, I am compelled to pay tribute and give my unreserved respect to this honorable court for its clear-cut and courageous reaffirmation of the inviolability of the fundamental civil rights and liberties of an American Citizen.

As an American citizen, it was for a clarification and the preservation of those rights that I undertook this case, confident that the American judiciary would zealously defend those rights, war or no war, in order to preserve the fundamental democratic doctrines of our nation and to perpetuate the eternal truths of America.

My confidence has been justified and I feel the greatest satisfaction and a patriotic uplift in the decision of this honorable court, for it is full of significance for every American, be he humble or mighty.

I say that I am glad, regardless of the personal consequences to me, because I believe in the future and in the ultimate destiny of America. Ever since I was a child, I have been inculcated in the basic concepts and the traditions of those great patriots who founded our nation.

I have lived, believed, worked and aspired as an American. With due respect to this honorable court, in all good conscience, I can say that I have never, and will never, voluntarily relinquish my American citizenship.

The decision of this honorable court to the contrary notwithstanding, I am confident that I can establish in law and in fact that I am an American citizen, who is not only proud of that fact, but who is willing to defend that right.

When I attained majority, I swore allegiance to the United States of America, renouncing any and all other allegiances that I may have unknowingly owed. That solemn obligation to my native land has motivated me during the past 12 months upon 3 separate and distinct occasions to volunteer for active service in the United States Army, wheresoever it may be fighting to preserve the American way of life.

For, I would a thousand times prefer to die on a battle front as an American soldier in defense of freedom and democracy, for the principles which I believe, rather than to live in relative comfort as an interned alien Jap.

The treacherous attack on Pearl Harbor, the bombing of Manila, the aggressor policies of the war lords of Japan are just as reprehensible to me as to any American citizen.

If America were invaded today, I, and 70,000 other loyal American citizens of Japanese ancestry would be willing, or eager, to lay down our lives, down in the streets, down in the gutters, to defend our homes, our country and our liberties!

Be that as it may; I reiterate, regardless of the personal consequences, even tho it entail the sacrifice of my American citizenship which I regard as sacred and more dear than life itself, I pay homage and salute this honorable court and my country, the United States of America for the gallant stand that has been taken for the preservation of the fundamental principles of democracy and freedom!

Minoru Yasui

YOUR HONOR:

If the court pleases, I should like to say a few words. There is no intent to plead for leniency for myself or to request a mitigation of the punishment that is about to be inflicted upon me.

Despite the circumstances, I am compelled to pay tribute and give my unreserved respect to this honorable court for its clear-cut and courageous re-affirmation of the inviolability of the fundamental civil rights and liberties of an American Citizen.

As an American citizen, it was for a clarification and the preservation of those rights that I undertook this case, confident that the American judiciary would zealously defend those rights, war or now war, in order to preserve the fundamental democratic doctrines of our nation and to perpetuate the eternal truths of America.

My confidence has been justified and I feel the greatest satisfaction and a patriotic uplift in the decision of this honorable court, for it is full of significance for every American, be he humble or mighty.

I say that I am glad, regardless of the personal consequences to me, because I believe in the future and in the ultimate destiny of America. Ever since I was a child, I have been inculcated in the basic concepts and the traditions of those great patriots who founded our nation.

I have lived, believed, worked and aspired as an American. With due respect to this honorable court, in all good conscience, I can say that I have never, and will never, voluntarily relinquish my American citizenship.

The decision of this honorable court to the contrary notwithstanding, I am confident that I can establish in law and in fact that I am an American citizen, who is not only proud of that fact, but who is willing to defend that right.

When I attained majority, I swore allegiance to the United States of America, renouncing any and all other allegiances that I may have unknowingly owed. That solemn obligation to my native land has motivated me during the past 12 months upon 3 separate and distinct occasions to volunteer for active service in the United States Army, wheresoever it may be fighting to preserve the American way of life.

For, I would a thousand times prefer to die on a battle front as an American soldier in defense of freedom and democracy, for the principles which I believe, rather than to live in relative comfort as an interned alien Jap.

The treacherous attack on Pearl Harbor, the bombing of Manila, the aggressor policies of the war lords of Japan are just as reprehensible to me as to any American citizen.

If America were invaded today, I, and 70,000 other loyal American citizens of Japanese ancestry would be willing, or eager, to lay down our lives, down in the streets, down in the gutters, to defend our homes, our country and our liberties!

Be that as it may; I reiterate, regardless of the personal consequences, even tho it entail the sacrifice of my American citizenship which I regard as sacred and more dear than life itself, I pay homage and salute this honorable court and my country, the United States of America for the gallant stand that has been taken for the preservation of the fundamental principles of democracy and freedom!

---MIN YASUI

^{cor}
Draft of Closing statement before Judge Fee, November 18, 1942. by Minoru Yasui

Original Written in the Multnomah County Jail, November 17, 1942. Mr. Yasui served nine months of a one year sentence, in solitary confinement, before going to the Minidoka Relocation Center. An appeal was made to the U.S. Supreme Court but in effect the case was lost, however at this writing Mr. Yasui is back in the U.S. District Court in Oregon under a "coram vobis" proceeding and has had that conviction vacated. Mr. Yasui has been a prominent attorney in Denver, Colo., & presently is Chairman of the Japanese American Citizens League National Committee for Redress.

Mary's Mailin

683-2068

When I joined majority, I swore allegiance to the United States of America, renouncing any and all other allegiances that I may have unknowingly owed. That solemn obligation to my native land has motivated me during the past 12 months upon 3 separate and distinct occasions to volunteer for active service in the United States Army, where ever it may be fighting to preserve the American way of life.

For I would a thousand times rather to die on a battle front as an American soldier in defense of freedom and democracy, for the principles which I believe, rather than to live in relative comfort as an interned alien Jew.

The treacherous attack on Pearl Harbor, the bombing of Manila, the aggressor policies of the war lords of Japan are just as reprehensible to me as to any American citizen.

If America were invaded today, I and 70,000 other men would be willing, or even, to lay down our lives down in the streets, down in the gutters, to defend our homes, our country and our liberties!

Be that as it may, I rather to be regardless of the personal consequences, even tho' it entail the sacrifice of my American citizenship which I regard as more precious than my life itself, I say homage and salute this honorable court and my country, the United States of America for the gallant stand that has been taken for the preservation of the fundamental principles of democracy and freedom!

---MIR-YASUI---

Draft of closing statement before Judge Fee, November 18, 1942.

Original will be in the Multnomah County Jail, November 17, 1942.

Mr. Justice, I am writing you to inform you that I have been advised by the U.S. Department of Justice that I am to be released from the U.S. Department of Justice. I am writing you to inform you that I am to be released from the U.S. Department of Justice. I am writing you to inform you that I am to be released from the U.S. Department of Justice.