

LAW OFFICES

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WASHINGTON 5, D. C.

JAN 20 1959

OLIVER ELLIS STONE
JOSEPH ROTWEIN

ADAMS 4-7095
CABLE ADDRESS: MASSAV

January 19, 1959

Mr. Lawrence Miwa
362 Riverside Drive
Apartment 8B
New York 25, New York

Dear Mr. Miwa:

In reply to your 17 January letter, I certainly share your disappointment at the outcome of this case. As indicated in the third paragraph of my 12 January letter to you, I have taken this cause up with Byron Johnson. He is sympathetic and has written a letter to the Attorney General of the United States on your behalf, requesting a reconsideration or personal review by the Attorney General of this decision. His action on your behalf is all that a Congressman can appropriately do, and, as I stated in my letter, I am not optimistic that even this will accomplish a reversal in your case.

I would be even more pessimistic with respect to a court action, which would necessarily involve the presentation of available evidence by the Government to the effect that your father actually wanted to return to Japan at the time he was repatriated. You may recall that in the course of the administrative proceedings we had succeeded in minimizing unfavorable evidence of that kind, with the result that the cause ultimately was posed on the one issue favorable to you, namely, whether your father's legal status as a deportee meant that his presence in Japan was under duress. In a court action we could not expect the case to develop so favorably. Consequently, I have concluded that our only hope is by way of legislation.

In arriving at this conclusion I should point out that over recent years there has been an increasing realization of the injustices created by the laws involved in your claim, and we have some basis for expecting that Congress will get around to remedying this situation at least in part. I shall keep you posted as the legislative developments may warrant.

In the meantime you should realize that the adverse determinations on your claim were primarily the natural result of a particularly harsh law,

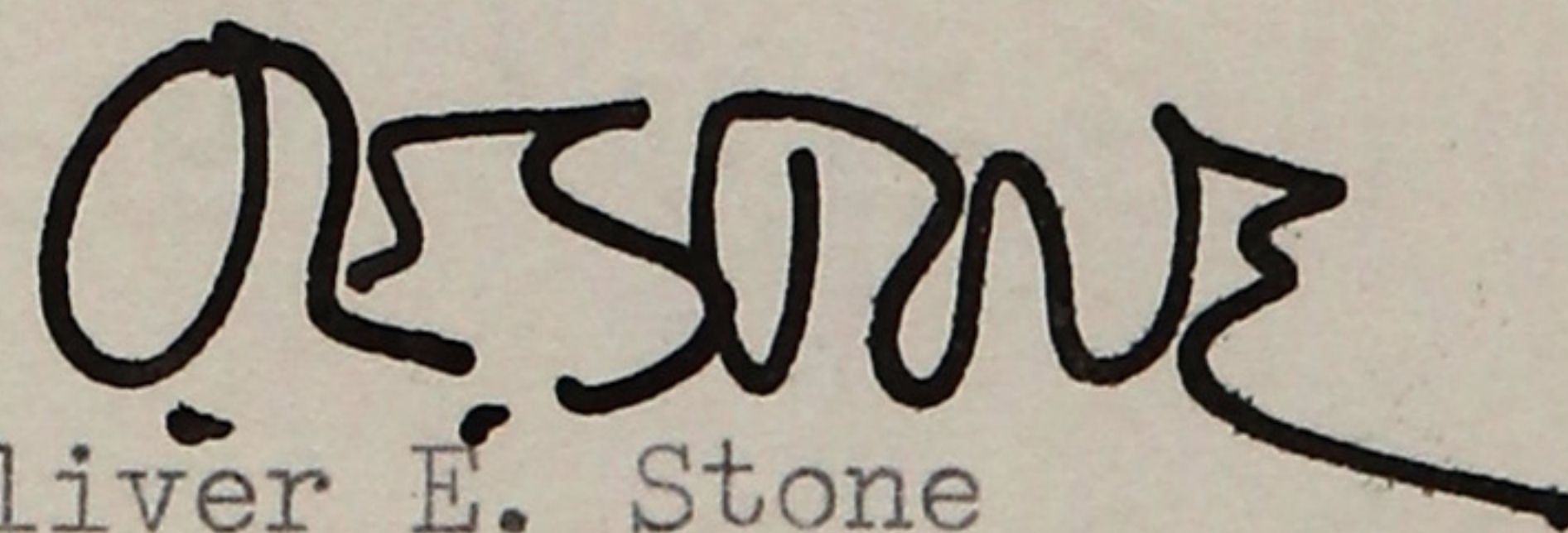
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enacted as a result of war-time passions. So long as I felt there was a possibility of winning for you I gave your cause the best of my time and efforts. I regret the result exceedingly but I doubt that it can be attributed to inhumanity on the part of any one person; the shortcomings are of the law itself, and the law, as we hope, may be changed.

I shall be glad to discuss this in more detail personally with you and with Mrs. Miwa at any time you may wish, and I know that Byron Johnson would be glad to see you if you come down and if the press of his other duties permits. Meanwhile accept my best regards and thanks for the beautiful vase which arrived just the other day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "O. E. Stone". The signature is stylized with a large, bold "O" and a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Oliver E. Stone

OES/rf