

*A Message
to our Neighbors
on the Day of
Evacuation*

At this time of your departure from Oakland we wish to express our friendship for you and our belief in you as neighbors and fellow Americans. We are disturbed, as you are, by any implication that evacuation reflects in some way against your loyalty and integrity. We who know you best have complete confidence in your devotion to the democratic ideals for which America stands.

We recognize how serious is this dislocation of your lives. In addition to sharing the hardships of war equally with the rest of us this new burden is forced upon you which we do not have to bear. We apologize for any discourtesy which any of our fellow citizens have shown you, for it is rooted in un-American racism or caused by an emotional hysteria which generally arises in war time. However, we believe the officials who have been entrusted with the supervision of the evacuation are concerned about your welfare and will be as helpful as possible.

We pledge ourselves to do everything we can to reduce the hazards and soften the effects of exile. We promise that we will work to the end that after the war is over you and your children shall share in all the freedom which we expect for ourselves.

Please avail yourselves of the services offered by the women of the churches of Oak-

land on evacuation day. They will consider it a privilege to help you in any way.

Our prayers and goodwill go with you in this new experience. In a happier day we shall welcome you cordially as friends and neighbors if you choose to return to your homes in Oakland.

Those of us whose names are signed to this statement do not speak officially for our organizations, for these organizations have not had opportunity to meet, but we are confident that this simple gesture of friendship is representative of the vast majority of the Christians of this city. We invite you to write to us so that we can keep track of you. We want you to feel free to ask us for any aid which we can render.

May the Lord bless you and keep you—on your going out and on your coming home.

MRS. JOSEPH A. WOODS

Pres. of Oakland Council of Church Women
52 Sharon Avenue, Piedmont

LAWTON HARRIS

Executive Sec. East Bay Church Federation
Y. M. C. A. Building, Oakland

ROBERT INGLIS

Pres. East Bay Ministers' Fellowship
3805 Piedmont Avenue, Oakland