

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

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August 14, 1973

Troop #53
Thunderbird District
Chief Seattle Council
c/o Mr. Ben Nakagawa
4347 13th Avenue South
Seattle, Washington 98108

Dear Members of Troop #53:

On the final day of Jamboree-West in Farragut State Park it came to my attention that remarks by Bob Hope at the opening show of that Jamboree were offensive to the Japanese-American Scouts in your troop and perhaps others, including our visitors from Japan. At that time I did not have a copy of Mr. Hope's remarks but I am certainly very sorry that what he said while at the Jamboree was offensive. It is my understanding that Mr. Hope's attention is being called to the remarks which are of concern to you and I feel sure that he will be responsive.

It also has come to my attention there were some slurring comments made in your presence about Japanese-Americans. There is absolutely no excuse for such conduct and, as Chief Scout Executive, I want to express my sincere regret and apologies to you.

We in Scouting are very proud of the participation of all Americans, and certainly I can say from personal experience that the performance, conduct, spirit and the attitude of the Japanese-American Scouts has been very exemplary in every way. During my term as Scout Executive in Sacramento I had the opportunity to work very closely with several troops of Japanese-American boys and leaders and they turned in an outstanding performance. I was always very proud of them -- as I am of you.

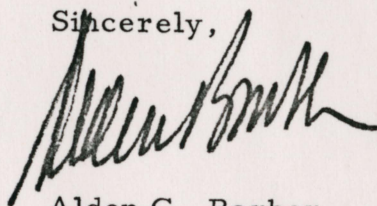
Because of a very busy travel schedule on the final day of the Jamboree, I regret that I did not have the opportunity to meet with Mr. Nakagawa, or representatives of your troop who were seeking to contact me about this situation.

Again, I am sorry for an incident or incidents which in any way detracted from what I hope was a happy and a productive experience at Jamboree-West.

It is my hope that some time in the future I may have the opportunity to see you individually or as a group at another Jamboree or some Scouting activity.

In the meantime, may I wish you all the best. May I extend every good wish for your continued happiness and progress in the Scouting program as well as in your later life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alden G. Barber".

Alden G. Barber
Chief Scout Executive

AGB:kl