

Feb. 12, 1943

STATEMENT ISSUED BY SECRETARY OF WAR HENRY L. STIMSON, AND THE PRESIDENT'S  
LETTER TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR REGARDING THIS STATEMENT.

The following statement was issued by the Honorable Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of War:

"It is the inherent right of every faithful citizen, regardless of ancestry, to bear arms in the nation's battle. When obstacles to the free expression of that right are imposed by emergency considerations, those barriers should be removed as soon as humanly possible. Loyalty to country is a voice that must be heard, and I am glad that I am now able to give active proof that this basic American belief is not a casualty of war."

Following is the text of a letter received by the Secretary of War from the President:

"My dear Mr. Secretary: The proposal of the War Department to organize a combat team consisting of loyal American citizens of Japanese descent has my full approval. The new combat team will add to the nearly five thousand loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry who are already serving in the armed forces of our country.

This is a natural and logical step toward the reinstatement of the selective service procedures which were temporarily disrupted by the evacuation from the West coast. No loyal citizen of the United States should be denied the democratic right to exercise the responsibilities of his citizenship, regardless of his ancestry. The principle on which this country was founded and by which it has always been governed is that Americanism is a matter of the mind and heart; Americanism is not, and never was, a matter of race or ancestry. A good American is one who is loyal to this country and to our creed of liberty and democracy. Every loyal American citizen should be given the opportunity to serve this country wherever his skills will make the greatest contribution--whether it be in the ranks of our armed forces, war production, agriculture, government service, or other work essential to the war effort.

I am glad to observe that the War Department, the Navy Department, the War Manpower Commission, the Department of Justice, and the War Relocation Authority are collaborating in a program which will assure the opportunity for all loyal Americans, including Americans of Japanese ancestry, to serve their country at a time when the fullest and wisest use of our manpower is all important to the war effort.

Very sincerely yours,

/S/ Franklin D. Roosevelt"

Farm and Automotive Equipment Survey

Because of the critical shortage existing in the supply of available farm machinery, particularly tractors and implements, the WRA is assisting evacuees in the sale of their equipment to other farmers.

Residents owning farm equipment are asked to fill out the blank provided below and take them to the office of Douglas M. Todd, assistant project director.

E. M. Rowalt, acting WRA director, in a memorandum to project director Guy Robertson said:

"Limited investigations in the field and letters being received from various interested organizations indicate that a very considerable quantity of farm equipment has been placed in storage by evacuees pending the time that they would be able to use it again. The same conditions apply to automobiles and trucks. It is our belief that many evacuees would be willing to sell their equipment if they realized that the market for used machinery is very favorable, that farm and automotive equipment in storage is subject to steady depreciation, and also that the need for it is so urgent that there is a growing demand on the part of the public for the government to requisition all idle tractors, trucks and automobiles in the nation.

"We have located some material in storage places, but it is not always possible to learn who owns it. Consequently, it appears that the most practical procedure is to make an inventory at each project as rapidly as possible. Forms are being sent to you on which to record the owner's name, equipment owned, place of storage, owner's asking price and name of lienholder, if any. This information is to be sent to the Evacuee Property Office in San Francisco, where it will be used to assist evacuees in the disposition of their equipment. It will be our policy to refer price offers to the owners when the prices asked by them cannot be obtained. We also expect that arrangements will be made to pay the evacuees in cash for their equities when sales are made.

Farm and Automotive Equipment

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Kind of Equipment \_\_\_\_\_  
Where Located \_\_\_\_\_  
Value \_\_\_\_\_ Are you willing to sell? \_\_\_\_\_

Start Payment of Unemployment Compensation

January unemployment compensation will be paid beginning Monday, Feb. 15, at the cashier's desk in the administration building, according to Victor J. Ryan, fiscal accountant. Many December clothing checks are still unclaimed, Ryan said. These must be called for by Saturday morning, Feb. 13.