

White Salmon,  
Washington  
May 1, 1942

Lieutenant General J. L. DeWitt  
United States Army  
Presidio of San Francisco, California

Dear Lieutenant General DeWitt:

I am writing you in regard to the affairs of my nearest neighbors, the Kida and Pyatt families. The Kida family being Japanese and have lived with the Pyatt family for thirty-five years. They are partners in a large ranch, one son being born to the Kida family, named George.

I have known these people for twenty years and they are well liked in this community. We have a petition with over sixty names on it by friends and neighbors asking you to make an exemption in this case, which I should be glad to send to you with other evidence of their loyalty.

The son does not speak the Japanese language and the parents do not talk Japanese either, although the parents can talk Japanese if they so wished. Both families live together about nine miles from the Columbia River, no other Japanese live near nor come there.

They are the only Japanese members of the Grange and Pomona Grange that I know of anywhere. Mrs. Kida also helps in the local Red Cross. They are also members of our local community club, in fact they hold office in our club.

These people are farming seven hundred acres of land raising cattle, also dairying and raising fruit, something no other Japanese I know of are doing. Mr. Pyatt died three years ago, the Kida family is getting old and it is mostly up to George to carry on. I have a ranch close by them and other business interests and have helped them considerably to get on their feet. Now they have been notified to be ready to move on five day's notice. If they have to move now I am afraid it will ruin both families. They have asked me to take over the place but that is not the question. If you cannot see your way clear to exempt these people perhaps you can grant



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them a ninety day extension of time to put up a large hay crop and dispose of upward of one hundred head of cattle.

Help is very scarce here for haying and George and I purchased over five thousand dollars worth of machinery this spring to put up our own hay and hay for our neighbors who are in the same shape as we are regarding the help situation.

I am confident of the loyalty of these people and am willing to go their bond if you so wish. I will be glad to furnish any other information you wish.

Hoping you can give this due consideration,

I am yours very truly,

*J. A. Johnson*

J. A. Johnson  
White Salmon,  
Washington

P.S.

A reply to this letter will be appreciated as this is undoubtedly an outstanding case as they never visited Japan or sent money there.

*or perhaps you  
can exempt the boy these people  
do not follow the Japanese religion*