

# IN THEIR OWN WORDS



## STATEMENTS OF RESISTANCE

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# Mothers of Topaz

THE MOTHERS OF CENTRAL UTAH RELOCATION CENTER  
TOPAZ, UTAH

March 11, 1944

The Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt  
President of the United States of America  
White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

We, the mothers, realizing that you are extremely occupied with the excessive work involved in the present National Emergency, wish to humbly call upon your high office for your sympathetic consideration and assistance on the matter which deeply concerns us as the Mothers of American Citizens.

Relative to the reinstatement of Selective Service Procedures for the citizens of Japanese descent, the additional problems have affected us in regards to the future welfare of our children.

We are presenting the enclosed statement of our heartfelt plea which expresses our feeling as Mothers with high hopes of your understanding.

We will appreciate your sincere consideration of our humble voice.

Very respectfully yours,

Members of Committee:

Wakako Adachi  
(Mrs.) Wakako Adachi

Shige Aoyagi  
(Mrs.) Shige Aoyagi

Toku Asai  
(Mrs.) Toku Asai

Kimiko Sasaki  
(Mrs.) Kimiko Sasaki

Yoshiko Shimada  
(Dr.) Yoshiko Shimada

Mitsu Suyemoto  
(Mrs.) Mitsu Suyemoto

STATEMENT FROM MOTHERS OF TOPAZ, W.R.A. CENTER

We mothers of American citizens of Japanese descent have fully cooperated for years with the American educational system so that our children would be worthy American citizens. We have taught our children to affirm their loyalty especially in time of a National emergency. This ideal is in keeping with the traditional spirit of Japanese mothers. As you may know, before the evacuation we did not in one instance oppose the drafting of our sons, but willingly sent them with our encouragement.

When the amicable relationship that existed between America and Japan for the last eighty years was broken by the declaration of war, most of us being aliens, we understood why our rights and privileges were curtailed. But we cannot understand why our children who are American citizens were placed in the similar category as we ourselves. We mothers deeply regret this action on the part of the Government, which by its unexpectedness caused immeasurable psychological suffering in our children.

The Government has already impressed upon the public the fact that many have volunteered before evacuation, have gone overseas and established brilliant records; a number of our boys has volunteered even from the War Relocation Centers. The motivating impulse behind our sons' willingness to serve with loyalty, courage and self-sacrifice is not only love for their country, but also the hope that their families will be accorded greater consideration and the restoration of their civil rights.

As we think of our brave sons dead, and surmise the thought of Sergeant Ben Kuroki who met with discrimination despite his distinguished service, we mothers feel anguish in our hearts.

During the registration of citizens of Japanese ancestry in February, 1943, our children, who had been educated in the American public schools and higher institutions, were again required to swear unqualified allegiance to the United States. Yet, today these American citizens must necessarily remain in the Centers in the similar classification, as we ourselves.

With the reinstatement of the Selective Service for Japanese Americans on the same basis as other citizens, we mothers deplore the discriminatory measures directed against them. We desire for our sons the privilege of entering the branch of the armed services which they select and of receiving full benefits accorded American citizens.

For the reason presented, and moreover because we firmly believe that sincerity on the part of the Government can best be proved by proper action, we humbly request that Civil Rights be restored to our children now. Then can we courageously send forth our sons to fulfill their responsibility to their country without any fear whatsoever of their own and for their families' future security.

Therefore, we trust that the Government will keep faith with the democratic principles upon which America was founded.

We, the undersigned mothers respectfully submit the foregoing statement for your sincere consideration.

March 11, 1944 Mothers of Topaz Petition - SIGNED BY 1,141 ISSEI MOTHERS



# Mothers Society of Minidoka

# MOTHERS SOCIETY OF MINIDOKA

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## Full Text of the Letter from the Mothers Society of Minidoka sent to President Roosevelt, Eleanor Roosevelt, War Department:

Hunt, Idaho  
February 20, 1944

President Franklin D. Roosevelt  
Executive Mansion  
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Roosevelt,

Please allow us to present another earnest petition in regards to the reclassification of American citizens of Japanese ancestry. We, the parents of citizens of Japanese ancestry, longed for America, land of the free and equal, left behind our familiar birthplace, and came a great distance to this country. And in this land of strange language and customs, struggling against innumerable obstacles, we attempted to gain a secure means of living. In time with grace of God our children were born in this country, and we brought them up as splendid American citizens, who could not be pointed to with pride.

They in turn did not disappoint us in hope and grew up to be American citizens no less loyal than any other American. This, we believe, is demonstrated by the lack of law-breakers among them and the fact that a considerable number of them volunteered for the Armed Forces at the time conscription was ordered. When [war] broke out, unfortunately, between America and Japan, each time a Nisei draftee or volunteer [sic] left for the Army all of his relatives and friends encouraged and spurred him on and sent him off.

This fact, we believe, shows the stand of Nisei citizens and their parents toward the war. However, on the Pacific Coast with the so-called 'military necessity' as reason the foundation of our life, the fruit of several decades of toil and suffering, was completely overturned; and first generation aliens and even Nisei—who are American citizens—were forced to lead a life within barbed-wire fences.

This treatment that they received was far worse than that accorded to German and Italian enemy aliens. About the time of evacuation from the coast, their draft classification was changed to 4-C. They were considered enemy aliens. The blow to their spirit, they suffered at this time, was something that we could hardly bear to witness.

Again, Lt. General DeWitt, Commanding Officer of the Western Defense Command, proclaimed in reference to them that "a Jap's a Jap": and, using a baseless and vague argument, accused Niseis of being spies and saboteurs, thus adding fuel to the anti-Nisei feeling among the people on the Coast. However, to this day, two and half years since the outbreak of the war, not a single case of sabotage by a Nisei has occurred on the Pacific Coast or even in Hawaii. But unfortunately the American public does not listen to the truth, and it seems that the discrimination against them is becoming even more intense. Even today, although they are American citizens, Niseis— soldiers—are not allowed free travel through the Coast.

Even Japanese war veterans who risked their lives for the United States and participated in World War I are interned in relocation centers. Since they have begun to feel deep down inside of them that these restrictions of freedom directed at American citizens of Japanese ancestry could not be understood as merely for the purpose of protection; we, their mothers, advised them that, this being war time, they should submit to military orders, and endure whatever place they are given.

Among them were some who, desiring to improve the present discriminatory condition of citizens of Japanese ancestry requested the modification of the Selective Service regulations, or took it upon themselves to volunteer for the Armed Forces and to attempt to show their real spirits. However, they took received discriminatory treatment, even within the military camps; and, contemplating the course to be followed by their juniors, they are in a state of constant anguish.

We understand that the purpose for which the United States is allowing tremendous sacrifices in fighting the war today is to establish 'freedom and equality' throughout the world. When they, the Nisei, consider the purpose of this war and then think about the treatment they are receiving at present, they discover the existence of a great paradox. They are dejected and now have lost their firm, unshakeable faith and spirit. To think of sending them in this condition to the front, we as mothers considering the past and the future feel an extreme and unbearable anguish.

Our loving and judicious Mrs. Roosevelt,

Please, from the standpoint of love for humanity, understand the feeling for the small number of suffering mothers, and advice us on the course that we should take. In this connection, we would like to have you to please consider the suspension of the drafting of citizens of Japanese ancestry until they regain the confidence that they can demonstrate their loyalty to the United States from the bottom of their hearts as formerly and we earnestly petition to be granted gracious words of advice and humbly await a reply from you.

Very respectfully yours,  
Mothers Society

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Sources: *Relocating Authority: Japanese Americans Writing to Redress Mass Incarceration*, by Mira Shimabukuro - University Press of Colorado (2015) Appendix C: Revision of letter from the Mother's Society of Minidoka sent to authorities. "Reply to Mrs. Tanagi and the Mothers Society of Minidoka, March 4, 1944." Collection of Sharon Tanagi Aburano. <http://www.discovernikkei.org/en/journal/2016/6/9/resistance-capital/>

# Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee

# **HEART MOUNTAIN FAIR PLAY COMMITTEE STATEMENT**

March 1, 1944 - *"one for all – all for one"*

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*"No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law, nor private property be taken for public use without just compensation." —Article V of the U.S. Bill of Rights.*

*"Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction." —Article XIII of the U.S. Bill of Rights.*

We members of the FPC are not afraid to go to war – we are not afraid to risk our lives for our country. We would gladly sacrifice our lives to protect and uphold the principles and ideals of our country as set forth in the Constitution and Bill of Rights, for on its inviolability depends the freedom, liberty, justice and protection of all people including Japanese –Americans and all other minority groups. But have we been given such freedom, such liberty, such justice, such protection? NO!!!!

Without any hearings, without due process of law as guaranteed by the Constitution and Bill of Rights, without any charges filed against us, without any evidence of wrongdoing on our part, one hundred and ten thousand innocent people were kicked out of their homes, literally uprooted from where they have lived for the greater part of their life, and herded like dangerous criminals into concentration camps with barb wire fence and military police guarding it...

The FPC believes that unless such actions are opposed NOW, and steps taken to remedy such injustices and discriminations IMMEDIATELY, the future of all minorities and the future of this democratic nation is in danger.

We are not being disloyal. We are not evading the draft. We are all loyal Americans fighting for JUSTICE AND DEMOCRACY RIGHT HERE AT HOME.

Therefore, WE MEMBERS OF THE FAIR PLAY COMMITTEE HEREBY REFUSE TO GO TO THE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION OR TO THE INDUCTION IF OR WHEN WE ARE CALLED IN ORDER TO CONTEST THE ISSUE.

Among the one thousand odd members of the Fair Play Committee, there are Nisei men over the draft age and Nisei girls who are not directly affected by the present Selective Service program, but who believe in the ideals and principles of our country, therefore are helping the FPC in our fight against injustice and discriminations...

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FAIR PLAY COMMITTEE  
"one for all - all for one"

"no person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law, nor private property be taken for public use without just compensation." Article V Bill of Rights.

"Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction." Article XIII Bill of R.

We, the Nisei have been complacent and too inarticulate to the unconstitutional acts that we were subjected to. If ever there was a time or cause for decisive action, IT IS NOW!

We, the Nisei have members of the FPC are not afraid to go to war—we are not afraid to risk our lives for our country. We would gladly sacrifice our lives to protect and uphold the principles and ideals of our country as set forth in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, for on its inviolability depends the freedom, liberty, justice, and protection of all people including Japanese-Americans and all other minority groups. But have we been given such freedom, such liberty, such justice, such protection? NO!! Without any hearings, without due process of law as guaranteed by the Constitution and Bill of Rights, without any charges filed against us, without any evidence of wrongdoing on our part, one hundred and ten thousand innocent people were kicked out of their homes, literally uprooted from where they have lived for the greater part of their life, and herded like dangerous criminals into concentration camps with barb wire fence and military police guarding it, AND THEN, WITHOUT RECTIFICATION OF THE INJUSTICES COMMITTED AGAINST US NOR WITHOUT RESTORATION OF OUR RIGHTS AS GUARANTEED BY THE CONSTITUTION, WE WERE ORDERED TO JOIN THE ARMY THRU DISCRIMINATORY PROCEDURES INTO A SEGREGATED COMBAT UNIT! Is that the American way? NO! The FPC believes that unless such actions are stopped NOW, and steps taken to remedy such injustices and discriminations IMMEDIATELY, the future of all minorities and the future of this democratic nation is in danger.

Thus, the members of the FPC unanimously decided at their last open meeting that until we are restored all our rights, all discriminatory features of the Selective Service abolished, and measures are taken to remedy the past injustices thru Judicial pronouncement or Congressional act, we feel that the present program of drafting us from this concentration camp is unjust, unconstitutional, and against all principles of civilized usage, therefore, THE MEMBERS OF THE FAIR PLAY COMMITTEE HEREBY REFUSE TO GO TO THE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION OR TO THE INDUCTION IF OR WHEN WE ARE CALLED IN ORDER TO CONTEST THE ISSUE.

We are not being disloyal. We are not evading the draft. We are all loyal Americans fighting for JUSTICE AND DEMOCRACY RIGHT HERE AT HOME. So, restore our rights as such, rectify the injustices of evacuation, of the concentration, of the detaining, and of the militarization as such. In short, treat us in accordance with the principles of the Constitution.

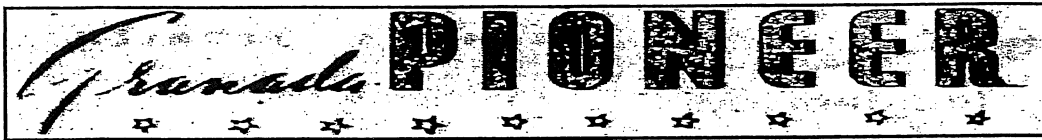
If what we are voicing is wrong, if that we speak is disloyal, if what we think is un-American, then Abraham Lincoln, one of our greatest American Presidents was also guilty of such, for he said, "If by the mere force of numbers a majority should deprive a minority of any Constitutional right, it might in a moral point of view justify a revolution."

Among the one thousand odd members of the Fair Play Committee, there are Nisei men over the draft age and Nisei girls who are not directly affected by the present Selective Service program, but who believe in the ideals and principles of our country, therefore are helping the FPC in our fight against injustice and discrimination.

We hope that all persons whose ideals and interests are with us will do all they can to help us. We may have to engage in court actions, but as such actions require large sums of money, we do need financial support and when the time comes, we hope that you will back us up to the limit.

ATTENTION MEMBERS! FAIR PLAY COMMITTEE MEETING SUNDAY, MARCH 5<sup>th</sup> 2:00 P.M.  
BLOCK 6-30 MESS. PRINTS, BROTHERS, SISTERS, AND FRIENDS INVITED.

# Amache Community Council



# 11-Point Petition by the Amache Community Council

## February 22, 1944

First local official press release forwarded to WRA National Director Dillon S. Meyer

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The draft age evacuee Americans of Japanese ancestry have been and are responding to the call of the government to accept military service and civilian responsibilities in the war effort.

As is known to all of us the evacuees suffered severe economic losses and hardships and they are faced with numerous problems both present and future, as a direct consequence of evacuation. There is, as a result, a deep and general concern among the residents of the center as to the future security and welfare of the dependents and relatives of the Americans of Japanese ancestry being called into service.

We believe however, that the rights and privileges of citizenship should, in all justice, be combined with the duties and obligations of citizenship. Therefore and pursuant to widespread appeal made by citizen residents of the community, we, the Amache Community Council hereby submit the following requests which they have asked us to forward:

1. That equal opportunity for service and advancement in all branches of the Armed Forces and Services be offered and opened to Japanese American draftees solely on the basis of individual merit and qualification.
2. That Japanese American servicemen who are called to the colors hereafter be co-mingled with citizens of other racial extractions and not be assigned to segregated units.
3. That evacuees right to travel and live wherever he chooses and within the 48 states and territories of the United States, on the very same basis as any other American citizen or resident, be restored without delay.
4. That all evacuees be accorded all the rights and privileges which the constitution of the United States gives them.
5. That any resettlement policy of evacuees still remaining in the centers be coupled with adequate government protection and the economic means to start life anew.

(over)



6. That clarification be made regarding the voting and residenceship status of Japanese Americans who become of age in the centers.
7. That the right to become naturalized citizens of the United States be extended to the alien Japanese.
8. That pending complete resettlement, relocation centers be preserved and evacuees remaining therein be accorded treatment befitting loyal Americans and law-abiding residents, and that adequate wages be paid them scaled according to U.S. Army standards.
9. That immediate and more vigorous effort be made by the United States Government towards enlightening the misinformed American public with truth regarding the Japanese in America, and that the factual difference between the people of Japanese extraction who are loyal citizens and law-abiding residents of this country and the Japanese people in Japan be clearly presented.
10. That students of Japanese ancestry be freely admitted to all the schools on the same basis with students of any other racial extraction.
11. That the United States Government establish adequate precautionary measures so that the sad experiences of evacuation will never again be repeated with the Japanese or with any other group because of race, color or creed.

These requests are made to you insofar as they fall within your jurisdiction. Since we feel keenly that democracy is the ideal way of life, we are making these requests on behalf of every American in the hope that our democracy may be made more perfect for the benefit of everyone.

Respectfully yours,

Community Council Grenada Relocation Center  
Amache, Colorado

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Sources: *Grenada Pioneer* camp newspaper Vol. II, No. 37, March 11, 1944

[https://www.loc.gov/resource/sn83025522/1944-03-11/ed-](https://www.loc.gov/resource/sn83025522/1944-03-11/ed-1/?sp=1&r=0.128,0.518,1.329,0.817,0)

[1/?sp=1&r=0.128,0.518,1.329,0.817,0](https://www.loc.gov/resource/sn83025522/1944-03-11/ed-1/?sp=1&r=0.128,0.518,1.329,0.817,0)

<http://ddr.densho.org/ddr-densho-147-147/>

George Fujii / Voices of Nisei, Poston

**STATEMENT WRITTEN BY GEORGE FUJII REGARDING THE DRAFT  
FEBRUARY 6, 1944 – POSTON, AZ**

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**TO THE GENTLEMEN OF 17 YEARS TO 38 YEARS OF AGE**

**As you know fellow Americans, at last they did recognize and realize that we are Americans. We are going to be drafted soon, just like an American outside enjoying the freedom and liberty. But, don't you think they should reconsider the steps that they had taken? As we believe that Mr. Roosevelt's speech at the Congress was not merely an excuse to draft us to soldier's and die in vain, we are demanding the following as an American Citizen:**

- (1) Personal apology from Gen. DeWitt regarding his statement "Jap is Jap" and be expelled from his office. We also want apology from Mayor Bowron and Gov. Warren, and American Legion of Cal.**
- (2) Freedom, Rights and Privileges should not be denied in California, militarily, economically, and politically.**
- (3) Open the barb-wire and withdraw the Guard-duty of M.P.**
- (4) Such signs as "No Jap," "You Rat," "No Orientals or Colored admitted" and etc. which were familiar in California, must be taken down throughout the U.S.A.**
- (5) No discrimination upon the Japanese securing occupations.**
- (6) Every opportunity must be given to the Japanese soldier for advancement in the Air Corps, in the Army, and in the Marine Corps.**
- (7) Japanese soldier must be mixed with other Caucasian soldier to fight side by side.**

**~~VOICE OF NISEI**

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## **MORE INFORMATION ABOUT GEORGE FUJII:**

“Fujii was a soft-spoken, well-liked man who strongly opposed the eviction and incarceration of the Nikkei but who had nonetheless held a number of elective leadership positions while at Poston and who generally worked constructively with both his fellow internees and the administration. The draft, however, seems to have pushed Fujii beyond his limits, and he decided to speak out about it. He wrote the . . . statement, which was mimeographed and posted throughout camp on February 6, 1944.”

Fujii was arrested by the FBI and charged with sedition for these statements. Overwhelming support was also soon forthcoming for George Fujii, who was in jail in Phoenix. A committee was formed about a week after Fujii’s arrest to raise money for his defense. Eventually, 954 out of about 1,900 draft-age men signed a petition in support of Fujii. He even had the support of the Poston camp administration. Fujii was later acquitted by the court.

Source: *“A PENNY FOR THEIR THOUGHTS: DRAFT RESISTANCE AT THE POSTON RELOCATION CENTER”* - article by ERIC L.MULLER available online at: <https://scholarship.law.duke.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1354&context=lcp>

## All Center Conference

(signed by delegates from Gila River, Grenada, Minidoka,  
Heart Mountain, Poston, Rohwer and Topaz)

COPY

*Block 6*

February 24, 1945

Mr. Dillon S. Myer, National Director  
War Relocation Authority  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Myer:

We of Japanese ancestry residing within these United States feel that the people of this country, generally, have accepted us on the strength of our record as law-abiding residents during the past fifty and more years. We have engaged in farming, commerce, fishing, industry, etc., as operators and laborers, and so had established solid foundations in this country.

The outbreak of hostilities between the United States and Japan in 1941, was followed, in 1942, by the War Department's order that all of us who resided within the West Coast area, inclusive of American citizens as well as Japanese nationals, be forcibly evacuated. We suffered extreme shock and mental anguish, as well as substantial material losses. The foundations we had created by years of toil were almost completely wiped away. We have existed these past almost three years within the confines of barbed wire fences, within camps located in desert wilderness.

On December 17, 1944, the Western Defense Command announced the rescinding of the exclusion order. At the same time the War Relocation Authority announced that all our camps would be closed by not later than January 2, 1946.

Surveys of general opinion among center residents as a result of the foregoing dual announcements disclosed the fact that due to their present economic status, their fear of violence and discrimination on the outside, etc., the majority were not in a position to make plans either for relocation or for return to their former homes on the west coast, under present conditions and under currently available facilities and assistance provided by the WRA and other agencies.

As a natural consequence, this, the All Center Conference, was decided upon. Delegates representing seven relocation centers met from February 16 to February 24, 1945, at Salt Lake City. After serious deliberation, mindful of our grave responsibility to do our utmost for the best welfare of 75,000 people, we now make the fervent appeal that the WRA centers be kept open for the duration of war and for some time thereafter as may be needed, and, further, be operated with a view

*Found 3/24/77 by Minoru Oyeki  
wife of Hideo Oyeki*

to providing residents with necessities, facilities and services on at least on equal level as in the past.

We, hereinunder submit a statement of facts and recommendations with the request that you will accord them your full and sympathetic consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Masaru Narahara, Chairman  
ALL CENTER CONFERENCE

Approved:

/s/ H. Nishimura  
Delegate for Gila Project

/s/ S. Kawashiri  
Delegate for Granada Project

/s/ G. Mihara  
Delegate for Minidoka Project

/s/ M. Hayashida  
Delegate for Heart Mountain Project

/s/ G. Katow  
Delegate for Poston Project

/s/ C. Fujino  
Delegate for Rohwer Project

/s/ I. Sugiyama  
Delegate for Topaz Project

Copy: Harold Ickes, Secretary of Interior

## STATEMENT OF FACTS

1. Mental suffering has been caused by the forced mass evacuation.
2. There has been an almost complete destruction of financial foundations built during over half a century.
3. Especially for the duration, the war has created fears of prejudices, persecution, etc., also fears of physical violence and fears of damage to property.
4. Many Issei (average age is between 60 and 65) were depending upon their sons for assistance and support, but these sons are serving in the United States Armed Forces. Now these Issei are reluctant to consider relocation.
5. Residents feel insecure and apprehensive towards the many changes and modifications of W.R.A. policies.
6. The residents have prepared to remain for the duration because of many statements made by the W.R.A. that relocation centers will be maintained for the duration of the war.
7. Many residents were forced to dispose of their personal and real properties, business and agricultural equipment, etc., at a mere trifle of their cost; also drew leases for the "duration", hence have nothing to return to.
8. Practically every Buddhist priest is now excluded from the West Coast. Buddhism has a substantial following, and the members obviously prefer to remain where the religion centers.
9. There is an acute shortage of housing, which is obviously a basic need in resettlement. The residents fear that adequate housing is not available.
10. Many persons of Japanese ancestry have difficulty in obtaining insurance coverage on life, against fire, on automobiles, on property, etc.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

We recommend:

1. That special governmental agencies or units be established solely for providing assistance to evacuees who might require funds in reestablishing themselves.

- a. Resettlement aid (grants).
- b. Loans.

2. That the present relocation grant be increased. It should be given to every relocatee. The penalty clause on the present form should be deleted.

We further recommend that federal aid be granted according to every individual's particular needs until such time as he is reestablished.

3. That long term loans at a low rate of interest be made available, without security, to aid the residents in reestablishing themselves as near as possible to their former status in private enterprises, such as business, agriculture, fisheries, etc.
4. That the W.R.A. use their good offices so that consideration may be given on priority by O.P.A. Because of evacuation, residents were forced to dispose of their equipment, trucks, cars and etc., many of which at present require the approval of an O.P.A. Board. These equipment are essential to many residents in order to reestablish themselves in former enterprises.
5. That the W.R.A. make every effort to obtain a return of properties, for evacuees who, due to evacuation and consequent inability to maintain installment payments, have lost the same; further, in order to prevent loss of property, to obtain some definite arrangement for the granting of governmental aid, as may be necessary, to evacuees unable, as a result of evacuation, to maintain installment payments.
6. That the W.R.A. give financial aid to residents with definite plans, for the purposes of defraying the expenses of investigating specific relocation possibilities.

7. That the W.R.A. establish adequately staffed offices in important areas and employ persons of Japanese ancestry since they understand Japanese psychology; and also establish in these field offices, legal advisory and employment departments.
8. That the W.R.A. continue the operation of evacuee property offices for the duration, to fulfill the needs of relocatees.
9. That the W.R.A. accept for reinduction into centers those who relocate and who find themselves unable to make satisfactory adjustments.
10. That the W.R.A. arrange for the establishing of hostels and other facilities in various areas; and furthermore, build new housing through the F.H.A., with W.R.A. assistance.
11. That the W.R.A. provide transportation of evacuee property door to door.
12. That the W.R.A. negotiate for the establishing of old people's homes exclusively for persons of Japanese ancestry.
13. That the W.R.A. make negotiations to arrange (1) so that evacuees formerly civil service employees will be reinstated and (2) so that persons of Japanese ancestry will be able to secure business licenses as formerly.
14. That short term leave regulations be changed to permit an absence of two months with one month extension privileges. Also, that the evacuee investigating relocation possibilities be permitted to become employed, without change of status.
15. That when an evacuee relocates or returns to his former business or home, W.R.A. should make every effort to release frozen assets (blocked accounts), both in cases of individuals or organizations.
16. That the W.R.A. negotiate for the concluding of arrangements whereunder alien parents may be able to operate or manage properties with powers of attorney issued by their children, particularly by sons in the United States Armed Forces.

17. That the W.R.A. arrange to secure outright releases for parolees who relocate.
18. That the W.R.A. obtain the establishment of some avenue of governmental indemnities for relocatees who may become victims of anti-Japanese violence in terms of personal injuries or property damage.
19. That the W.R.A. arrange for adequate government compensation against losses to evacuee property by fire, theft, etc. while in government or private storage or while in transit.
20. That the W.R.A. arrange to provide students of Japanese ancestry with adequate protection in case of need, and opportunities equal to those enjoyed by Caucasian students.
21. That the W.R.A. make every effort to secure work opportunities for returnees and relocatees on equal basis with Caucasian citizens, particularly in reference to admittance into labor unions.

## SUGGESTION

The foregoing is a partial list of appeals emanating from center residents, and each item is founded on factual cases. We make the suggestion that the W.R.A. should verify the existence of these problems, possibly by adopting some such procedure as follows:

The W.R.A. should conduct a more accurate and intensive relocation survey than at present, with intent to determine what are the actual needs of the residents, in terms of making their relocation possible. This survey might be conducted in every project, by interviewing a number of evacuees selected from among those unable to make relocation plans, and further selected with a view to obtaining an accurate cross-section (occupations, location of former homes, etc.) The assistance of interpreters recommended by the Community Councils might be enlisted.

Note: The suggested survey should, perhaps, be conducted so that all center residents will be interviewed, however, as a first step, we recommend the interview of lesser numbers, in the interests of expediency, because we desire the earliest possible acknowledgement of the conditions, and establishment of adequate policies for the furthering of relocation.

## "That Damned Fence"



## That Damned Fence

*(Anonymous Poem from an internee about life at Poston)*

They've sunk the posts deep into the ground  
They've strung out wires all the way around.  
With machine gun nests just over there  
And sentries and soldiers everywhere.

We're trapped like rats in a wired cage,  
To fret and fume with impotent rage;  
Yonder whispers the lure of the night,  
But that DAMNED FENCE assails our sight.

We seek the softness of the midnight air,  
But that DAMNED FENCE in the floodlight glare  
Awakens unrest in our nocturnal quest,  
And mockingly laughs with vicious jest.

With nowhere to go and nothing to do,  
We feel terrible, lonesome, and blue:

That DAMNED FENCE is driving us crazy,  
Destroying our youth and making us lazy.

Imprisoned in here for a long, long time,  
We know we're punished—though we've committed no crime,  
Our thoughts are gloomy and enthusiasm damp,  
To be locked up in a concentration camp.

Loyalty we know, and patriotism we feel,  
To sacrifice our utmost was our ideal,  
To fight for our country, and die, perhaps;  
But we're here because we happen to be Japs.

We all love life, and our country best,  
Our misfortune to be here in the west,  
To keep us penned behind that DAMNED FENCE,  
Is someone's notion of NATIONAL DEFENSE!!!!!!!