

THE MOTHERS OF CENTRAL UTAH RELOCATION CENTER
TOPAZ, UTAH

Ray

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

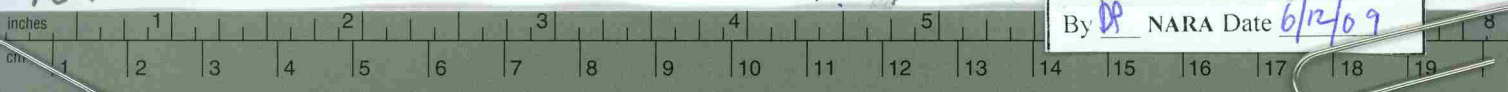
Kimio Sasaki
(Mrs.) Kimio Sasaki

Yoshiko Shimada
(Dr.) Yoshiko Shimada

Mitsu Suyemoto
(Mrs.) Mitsu Suyemoto

RG Entry Stack Row Comp Shelf Box-Folder
107 183 390 9 34 6 49 1

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 740662
By DP NARA Date 6/2/09



Kodak Color Control Patches

© Kodak, 2007 TM: Kodak

Blue Cyan Green Yellow Red Magenta White 3/Color Black



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.

RG Entry Stack Row Comp Shelf Box-Folder

107 183 390 9 34 6 49 1

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 740662

By DR NARA Date 6/12/09

Kodak Color Control Patches

© Kodak, 2007 TM: Kodak

Blue Cyan Green Yellow Red Magenta White 3/Color Black