

Major Bendetson,
General Gullion and
General Clark
Feb. 4, 1942.

General Clark: I've got to go to represent General Marshall up at a Congressional meeting this morning on -- from Western Congressman.

General Gullion: We've had a man up there, darn it, they are nothing but just a lot of bull.

Gen. Clark: Well, anyway I've been directed by General Marshall to get up there, and I presume, I anticipate some questions on this enemy alien thing. I wondered if you could bring me up to date just generally on that situation.

Gen. Gullion: Sunday afternoon, just a minute, I was in a conference with Mr. McCloy and Bendetson of my office, Mr. Biddle, Edgar Hoover, Mr. Rowe (you know who Rowe is), Rowe is the third man in the Department of Justice now; he was one of the President's anonymous six, the President put him over there and he ranks right after Fahy, the Solicitor, so if the Attorney General and Fahy were to go away, Rowe would be the Acting Attorney General, and Mr. Ennis, who is the head of their Emergency unit, and Solicitor also for the Immigration Bureau. Now here is the way the thing started. Mr. Rowe said well, - well that is immaterial what he said about Bendetson, but then they said there is too much hysteria about this thing; said these Western Congressmen are just nuts about it and the people are getting hysterical and there is no evidence whatsoever of any reason for disturbing citizens, and the Department of Justice, Rowe started it and Biddle finished it - The Department of Justice will have nothing whatsoever to do with any interference with citizens, whether they are Japanese or not. They made me a little sore and I said, well listen Mr. Biddle, do you mean to tell me that if the Army, the men on the ground, determine it is a military necessity to move citizens, Jap citizens, that you won't help us. He didn't give a direct answer, he said the Department of Justice would be through if we interfered with citizens and write of habeas corpus, etc. Well, anyhow, then they presented to us a press release which they wanted us to sign up and put out on Sunday night. We agreed to everything at once in the press release except this sentence "The Department of War and the Department of Justice by an agreement that the present military situation does not at this time require the removal of American citizens of the Japanese race. Well, DeWitt had been telling us that he did not want to get all Japs out you know, of certain areas, and DeWitt had gone further than, he has withdrawn from that now partly, but in his talks with us he indicated pretty strongly that he thought there would have to be a mass evacuation of 117,000 Japs, citizens and aliens, out of California. Of course that would be a tremendous problem but it might have to be done. So, we would not agree with them on that; it wasn't any too pleasant a meeting and we agreed to call DeWitt up, read this press release to him and see what he was going to do. I sent you yesterday a ten page conversation with DeWitt. I don't know whether it has reached you or not.

Gen. Clark: No Sir, I have not seen it.

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General Gullion: Ask Miss so and so - Miss Noble what she did, she said she was sending it to Gen. Clark, GHQ. We called DeWitt up Sunday night and read this press release to him, he said he was going to have a meeting at 11 o'clock Monday morning at Sacramento with the Governor and with Mr. Clark, representative of the Department of Justice on the West Coast, and that he would give us his views on the press release and his recommendations after he came back from that meeting. Well, he wasn't able to do it because the meeting lasted long and the thing I read him over the phone was garbled in the recording and he couldn't tell much about it so he had us read another copy to him, and so at noon yesterday, 1:30 yesterday Secretary Stimson, McCloy, Bendetson and I talked for an hour and a half on the situation and I can tell you that the two Secretaries are against any mass movement. They are pretty much against it. And they are also pretty much against interfering with citizens unless it can be done legally. Well, I think McCloy did say this to Biddle - you are putting a wall street lawyer in a helluva box, but if it a question of safety of the country, the Constitution of the United States, why the Constitution is just a scrap of paper to me. That is what MCCloy said. But they are just a little afraid DeWitt hasn't enough grounds to justify any movements of that kind.

General Clark: Well, what do you think should be done? What is the position of the War Department?

General Gullion: Well, the War Department's position is of course what Stimson's and McCloy's position is, that is all.

General Clark: In other words, not to move them but take out some aliens.

General Gullion: Well, we have agreed this far, everybody has agreed this far. DeWitt has sent these maps of California and yesterday Washington and Oregon arrived so we have them all now, part of Arizona too. Now, he has agreed and the Department of Justice has agreed and the Secretary of War has agreed that they will move out of certain restricted areas all aliens. Now that doesn't touch citizens at all and personally I don't think that is going to cure the situation much.

General Clark: All enemy aliens.

General Gullion: If anything, I think it is a provocative move.

General Clark: How many does that involve in California?

Gen. Gullion: It is estimated between 7 and 11,000.
How many in the other States, do you know?

General Clark: I don't know because that thing didn't get here until yesterday. Let me get Bendetson on that, I haven't seen the papers.

General Clark: That has already been published.

General Gullion: The California thing is.

General Clark: The Proclamation by the Department of Justice has gone out requiring that enemy aliens move out of certain areas. That was waterfront —

Gen. Gullion: Yes, the Embaradero and all that stuff.

General Clark: Now they are not going to try to take care of those citizens in the Government, they are just going to move them to other locations.

General Gullion: No there is nothing said about it — denying reentry to those places. Category A — is an absolute prohibition on reentry. Category B, that is other areas not so sensitive, they can reenter upon permission and that is what has been proposed — been suggested in our conference with the Department of Justice. Instead of moving out 117,000 Japanese, that a system of licensing, permission — everybody must move out except those you are permitted to stay, and that would get around the constitutional part of it; that is, we could deny white citizens the right to stay unless we gave them a permit to stay. Now, I didn't quite tell you what DeWitt read us yesterday. It was a 10 page thing he read us over the telephone to McCloy, and I had it recorded and had it typed and that is the thing I sent you a copy of. Have you had a chance to study that thing Bendetson, (Yes Sir I have) well I wish you would tell him. I read it over hastily and sent it on down to McCloy and I haven't read it but once. I wish you would tell General Clark what he proposed.

Major Bendetson: He states, in substance, General Clark, that the California State authorities believe that they can take action which would be designed to provide for the complete evacuation of alien enemies and voluntarily of Japanese citizens of the United States, to other areas in California not close to what are termed critical areas. Of course, there has been no conference with the Governors of Oregon or Washington. It is only California, and that in turn is based on the fact that apparently California expects that the Federal Government will actually step in and finance it. That is, a resettlement project, is what it would be. However, that proceeds on the theory that you can get rid of all undesirables from certain critical areas by merely moving the alien enemies and then saying to the others, we ask that you move voluntarily. I don't think it will work and I don't think it should be done by the States in the first place. I think it should be a uniform plan under Federal control.

General Clark: Well, I've got that picture; in other words, the War Department as represented by the two Secretaries (General Gullion just told me) feels that there should not be any mass movement and rather feel that we should leave it the way it is, having denied them access to certain areas.

Maj. Bendetson: Well, I am not so sure Sir, that they feel that we should leave it as it is. For example, I think that they might entertain this. We have what are now called by the Justice Department, prohibited

areas. Now I think the plan perhaps to which the Secretaries might agree to would be this. To have a third type of Area. Area type No. 1 might be called a military area, from which you would exclude all persons except those who had permits. Area 2 would be a prohibited area from which all alien enemies would be excluded. Area 3, would be a restricted area from which alien enemies would be excluded except on pass or permit. Those are the three types now in view. Now I think they might go for this: A combination of 1 and 3, that is to say, create Islands around your vital installations, declare those areas as type one.

General Clark: Nobody except by permit.

Major Bendetson: Then create a strip of type 3 along the coastal frontier say, just along the coastal frontier from which you would evacuate all aliens, except those who had permits. Now a combination of 1 and 3 I think might be acceptable from what they indicated yesterday. Don't you think so General Gullion?

Gen. Gullion: Yes.

Maj. Bendetson: I have prepared a memorandum last night which is now being typed of that kind of plan.

General Clark: Well, I just wanted to get the picture General Gullion, because going down there, this whole thing is the defense of the West Coast and I knew that this thing would come up and I just wanted to know generally what the latest set up was. You rather expect the Department of Justice to follow with Washington and Oregon and the other States with the same thing that they have already put out in California.

Gen. Gullion: Oh that will come out.

Maj. Bendetson: They have the Oregon and Washington restricted areas in their hands now General Clark. They got them at 5 o'clock and I talked last night to the second assistant Attorney General and he said we could expect that they would take the same action on those.

General Clark: And that just excludes all the alien enemies only.

Maj. Bendetson: Yes Sir. It doesn't reach the Japanese citizens.

General Clark: Now, does that include Boeing Plant, do you recall?

Maj. Bendetson: Yes Sir, it includes all the area in Washington State from Sumas straight down to Vancouver lying to the West. In other words, it includes all of Puget Sound, all of the east shore of Puget Sound, the Olympic Peninsula, Gray's Harbor, Willapa the mouth of the Columbia and Portland.

General Clark: You mean everybody has to get all enemy affairs out of that area.

Maj. Bendetson: Yes Sir, that is Category A. That includes of course all the Japanese around the Boeing Plant down there in the Kenton-Auburn District out of Seattle and all of them along the waterfronts in Takoma, Seattle, but it leaves the Niesi in all around in there, all around Willapa Harbor and the mouth of the Columbia and Mikado and all that.

Gen. Clark: That will probably involve quite a resettlement.

Maj. Bendetson: Well there are about 14,000 Japs, including Niesi in that area, of which about 3000 only are aliens.

General Gullion: Now on that matter of statistics, I want to verify what I told General Clark. You know originally we were told that there were 7000 Japanese in the California area that would be affected.

Maj. Bendetson: 7000 alien enemies in the California category A.

General Gullion: Well, now how does that figure go up. It was raised to more than 7000. Who else was included in that.

Maj. Bendetson: Well, if you would include all the Niesi, plus all alien enemies for all the category A areas on the 3 coast states you would have closer to 30,000 people because in those areas are the bulk of the Japanese. There are 93,500 Japanese in California including Niesi.

General Clark: Now what is this Niesi?

Maj. Bendetson: Yes Sir, the second generation and the third generation. They are the people who are citizens, and you have 15,500 in Washington State, around as I have said, 93,500 in California, including Niesi, and if you would remove all of those, that is the second generation Japanese who are citizens, plus all enemy aliens from all of the restricted areas designated by General DeWitt in his recommendations, you would get up around 30,000 people.

General Clark: Well thank you, General, I've gotten the big picture and I appreciate the time you have given me Sir.

General Gullion: All right. Glad to have talked to you.

CC: Col. Carrington
Maj. Bendetson
Miss Wisch
Miss Brocklemann

(Transcribed by Helen Noble Feb. 4, 1942)