

April 6, 1944

Mr. James Omura
Rocky^{Star}Shimpo
Denver, Colo.

Dear Mr. Omura,

I am enclosing two news items from Heart Mountain Center. If you can use them, please do so. I will verify all statements in it at any time.

The Fair Play Committee is going right ahead with their program as started by Mr. Okamoto in spite of the fact that he was shanghaied to Tule Lake by the Project Director on leave clearance grounds. We don't know who is next on his list to be taken away from here, but we will keep fighting until a decision is rendered by the Supreme Court if necessary.

We have contacted the American Civil Liberties Union regarding Mr. Okamoto and Mr. Isamu Horino, but as yet we have not heard from them. As you may know, the two of them were taken to Tule Lake on the same grounds. Horino was a hard working member of the FPC and did not have much use for the project director.

We will try to keep in touch with you from time to time if they do not hold up our letters at the postoffice here. The WRA has been holding up all incoming letters for Okamoto and Horino since March 29.

Please let me know if this letter reaches you.

Yours very truly,

Frank Emi
9 - 21 - B
Heart Mountain, Wyo.

sent to...

NEWS ITEM

TWO FPC MEMBERS OF HEART MT. SENT TO TULE---DENIED LEAVE CLEARANCE

Two members of the FPC who were denied leave clearance by the Leave Clearance Review Board and by Mr. Robertson, project director, were sent to Tule Lake on Wednesday, March 29. The two were Kiyoshi Okamoto, chairman of the FPC and Isamu Horino, conscientious and hardworking member of the organization.

It is presumed that they were sent away on the above reason because the Project Director disapproved of their militant and active stand on the restoration of civil rights and rectification of past unconstitutional acts. At present many FPC members are being ordered to appear before the Project Director for leave clearance hearings in spite of the fact that many of them had their Eastern Defense Clearance for many months prior.

Nevertheless, the FPC is still going ahead in their struggle for justice, Constitutionalism, and fair play with a clear conscience and faith in the principles of Democracy in the face of all this opposition from the WRA officials, they stated at their open meeting held on Wednesday, April 5. They also declared that any suggestions or accusations of subversive activities by the WRA officials or any other individuals are a barefaced falsehood as evidenced by the fact that to date no such charge has been made by the proper authorities. Their stand may not be in complete accord with the WRA regulations but they believe that the Constitution, as the Supreme Law of the Land, is the instrument that all loyal Americans should uphold, so they affirmed.

Copies sent to - Rocky Shimp

Sent for April 7

NEWS ITEM

MORE YOUNG MEN AT THE HEART MT. RELOC. CENTER ARRESTED FOR REFUSING TO APPEAR FOR PRE-INDUCTION PHYSICAL

Heart Mt., Wyo.----Close to forty young men at the Heart Mountain Relocation Center were taken into custody of United States deputy marshals up to April 6 for refusing to appear for pre-induction physical. More arrests are expected. They all pleaded not guilty to the charges. and are awaiting trial to be held sometime in May. The first group that were taken are being held in Casper in custody of the U.S. marshal. The rest are being held at different localities. It is presumed that they all refused to go to the physical examination because----- It would recognize Army jurisdiction over suspended citizens in concentration camps. (For these are concentration camps in fact if not in theory, as the rules and regulations of the WRA are superior to the Constitutional laws in regards to civil rights.)

They desire a clarification of their citizenship status and rights before going into the Army.

They contend the Selective Service law does not apply to them because of the uncertainty of their status.

They believe the Constitution and the Bill of Rights have been infringed upon because of the absence of the due process of law in their evacuation, concentration, detention etc.

They contend that the Army discriminated against them in classifying them as (aliens) solely because of race or ancestry.

They contend that for an American citizen to be detained behind a barbed wire fence, guarded by soldiers with guns, for two long demoralizing years, then to draft them into the Army without any rectification of these un-Constitutional acts is against all principles of Democracy, Justice, human decency and against all concepts of civilized usage.

all statements in the above news item is true and I will be glad to verify them at any time.
Frank Emi
9-21-B
Heart Mountain
Wyo.

Copies sent to
Rocky Mountain
News Post
Chicago Daily Tribune
United Press (Chicago)
Bellingham Gazette