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The Rocky Shimpo

Largest Nisei Vernacular in Continental U. S. A.

Published Tri-Weekly

James M. Omura
English Editor

1941 Larimer Street
Denver 2, Colorado

April 15, 1944

Mr. Frank Emi
9 - 21 - B
Heart Mountain, Wyoming

Dear Mr. Emi:

In view of the various false charges lodged against The Rocky Shimpo in the public press of which I have no doubt you are acquainted and the efforts on the part of certain organizations to campaign deliberately and viciously against me as an individual and a newspaper editor, I would like to ask of you that the Fair Play Committee of Heart Mountain in general assembly preferably and in executive session otherwise pass a resolution absolving this newspaper and my editorship in particular from any guilt attached in the present predicament of the fifty-three reported resisters to pre-induction examination from Heart Mountain.

I also request that such a resolution should include a positive statement as to the veracity and reliability of articles which have appeared to date in The Rocky Shimpo dealing with the Fair Play Committee. This request is predicated on the opinion that reckless and unsupported charges of distortion against this newspaper must and ought to be silenced.

If the committee so desires, the resolution will not be published but will be kept in our record toward the day when it can be best employed in defending ourselves whether in open court or otherwise.

I feel that such a documentary evidence is essential and of absolute necessity in view of the widespread pressure being brought to bear by certain organizations which oppose the policies as enunciated by The Rocky Shimpo under my editorship. Friday afternoon, it was reported to me that Mrs. Esther Briesemeister, formerly head of the Denver YWCA and presently in the New York office, spoke before a Denver University group. Mrs. Briesemeister, I am told, wrote into her speech an attack against my editorials. She is said to have remarked that there are two things the people of Colorado must do: first, defeat the anti-alien land bill; second, stop James Omura from writing those editorials.

Prof. Elmer R. Smith of Utah University has been prevailed upon to condemn my editorial stand on Nisei selective serv-

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ice. Prof. Smith is the head of the Citizens Committee on Constitutional Rights, the organization which courageously rallied to the defense of the Nisei in the Utah business license issue. The newspaper has received a very strong protest from him, prodded by the JACL national office, I am reliably informed.

There has also been a strong protest from an agency in Washington which holds jurisdiction over this newspaper under present circumstances. Here too I am charged with distortion, etc., in an oddly coincidental criticism of the attack carried in the Sentinel of April 8th.

I have also strong indications of federal authorities here in Denver closely watching my policies. My request to interview seven Amache boys at the County Jail held on a charge of resisting the draft has been turned down by Thomas Morrissey, U.S. District Attorney. He has not yet decided as to granting permission to some other representative of this paper making the interview. My request was made due to a communication from one of the boys asking for the English Section of The Rocky Shimo. In his letter from the County Jail, he said that the seven were not draft dodgers, and implied that they were following a procedure similar to the one your committee instituted.

These factors and others which have arisen since The Rocky Shimo stepped forth to champion restoration of constitutional rights as a prelude to military obligations make it obligatory on our part to have in our possession a documentary evidence of absolution of connivance to encourage a wholesale resistance to the draft.

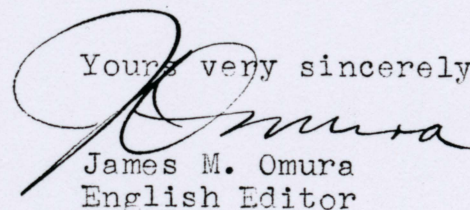
In this particular, I feel that the Fair Play Committee can best testify as to falsehood of charges of distortion of news, actual responsibility of your members who are now facing draft charges, and multitudes of other unsupported accusations now being brought forth in reckless and wanton disregard of truth by the JACL, the WRA and their joint satellites.

For the above reasons, I request that the Fair Play Committee in general meeting assembled or in executive session be prepared to go on record as testifying in my behalf and challenging said false accusations.

I repeat once more that the primary purpose of such a request is to have a documentary evidence here at this office to dispute such wanton charges. I have no intention to make such a resolution public in the press unless authorized to do so.

Hoping that you and your committee will look favorably upon this request, I remain

Yours very sincerely,



James M. Omura
English Editor

P.S.---Due to unexpected abundance of other news, the second of your news reports will not appear until Monday.