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Tulle Lake Segregation Camp
Newell, Calif.

July 2nd, 1944

To Fair Play Committee

I am in receipt of several letters from Denver. They effect you and you may be interested. I thereby transcribe notations.

- (1) The first letter contains.....Jimmy asked Mennin to try to get statements from each of the 63 Boys since M. was leaving the next day to see them. Instead of making some kind of a deal with Jimmie, M horsed around and said he would take up Jimmies case for him. (This was not what Jimmie wanted. He wanted statements of exoneration from any implication with the FPC. as already communicated to you previously.) Mennin made no bones about letting it be known all he was interested in was money. Jimmy doesnt think too highly of M.
- (2) Recently, I have been talking to Mr.....one of the lawyers who works with the Japanese lawyer. He says he regards M as an opportunist...bull headed as hell and often a good fighter but lacking in the fine points. "He will put up a good fight for the "63" as long as the money holds out. M has told several (Jimmy included) he didnt think the Boys had a chance but..."he had no objections to defending them" As for myself, I think M will put up a good fight for the boys. Perhaps bull-dog tactics are the best when fighting the likes of "R".
- (3) Today, I went over to the "News". I took a copy of the Sentinel with me. I asked their editor if it were possible for him to give the "63" a favorable write-up. He did not seem to be impressed. Next time I will try Casey.
- (4) Well, Oki, Im on my feet again as it were. The situation with us rests until Fall when we have a court case on top. Im really at your services now and ready to go to work. I say, we must defend the Constitution and see It's rights established.
- (5) By the way, Im giving you the name of the Japanese lawyer. You can depend on him. Recently, the JACL tried to get him under their wing. He laughed in their faces and said he was a lawyer and not a politician. His name and address
Taul Watanabi (of Seattle)
830-18th Street
Florence Building, Denver, Colorado.
He has another Japanese working with him. He is to take the bar examination next month. (I understand there are three haku-jin in partnership with Watanabe. OK.) He believes as the "63" that Democracy is worth testing and fighting for

I wish you would contact them. Taul and Clesson both say the 63 have a good chance if the case is properly handled. M. is a hard man for another lawyer to work with. They say they do not care for his court room tactics. I am not trying to run M down but I am telling these things so you can form your opinion for the sake of the Boys. These other two Lawyers...Griffin etc. say if they had the case they would first ask for a "DECLARATORY VERDICT".i.e., they would ask the Court if the issue involved in their case did not FIRST CONSTITUTE A CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUE and, not just the issue of the selective Service. (I think this is an important question. We want to throw the responsibility upon the prosecution, e., Government. As it is now constituted, the onus is placed on us or , we are made the defendants. The Government should be made the defendant in our case inasmuch as we have demanded a clarification of our rights and status. OK.) This, they contend, would place the case in it's proper place or spotlight. They claim there are certain legal issues in this particular case where this procedure would be permitted. They advise a declarative verdict in order to get the case out of the jurisdiction of the State. Of course, I do not understand the issue set forth but I think it best for you to know what these other fellows said.

- (6) By the way, the Rocky Shingo is now controlled by the JACL.
- (7) You have no idea how the JACL is despised by the common People of this town. No matter how Jimmie acts now, I will always respect the fact he was the only who openly opposed them. (Jimmie, as I am given to understand, is very down hearted.... disappointed and disillusioned. Perhaps it is because I have failed in giving him proper support. OK.)
- (8) There are many too many long ears to suit me there. So it is best you write meS.Toshi
628 I/2....18th Street
Apartment 6
Denver, Colorado.

2nd letter.

- (1) I attended part of the trial for the 18 from Amache. which was held here in Denver. As you may know, M was the lawyer defending them. Really, M made a very, very poor showing There were so many instances when he might have brought to light favorable evidence but he just seemed to be sleeping or not to care. I spoke to him about his method. He told me it was just like knocking your head against a stone wall. I didnt relish his attitude. I am not saying he did not try for he surely did in his way but it wasnt good enough.
- (2) I believe your next step should be to secure your personal freedom....for what you can do in prison (Tulle) seperated from your group. I will do what I can to help you. Please advise and trust me.

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