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OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION
WASHINGTON

Bureau of Motion Pictures
616 Taft Building
Hollywood, California

October 24, 1942

Confidential

Mr. Dillon S. Myer, Director
War Relocation Authority
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Myer:

For your information I am enclosing a copy of a special bulletin circulated by this office among the motion picture writers, producers and directors of Hollywood. This is in accordance with your request.

Cordially yours,

Warren H. Pierce

Warren H. Pierce
Chief, Washington Liaison Section

Referred to *[Signature]*

By *[Signature]*

Declassified to *Free*

By *[Signature]*
Security Officer

Date *11/2/46*



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Office of War Information
Bureau of Motion Pictures

SPECIAL BULLETIN

The War Relocation Authority has requested this office to advise the motion picture industry to exercise extreme discretion in the treatment of Japanese-Americans on the screen.

The War Relocation Authority states, "It is inevitable that in dealing with our enemies in Japan the motion picture producers, writers, and directors will present them in an unfavorable light. With this no one can take issue. However, in enthusiasm for painting the despicable nature of the enemy abroad, it sometimes happens that American citizens whose ancestry traces back to Japan are presented as being disloyal to the United States. There are in the United States some 85,000 American citizens of Japanese ancestry. Most of them have demonstrated in many different ways their loyalty to this nation, to our government, and to the cause for which we are fighting. Those whose disloyalty has been established have been apprehended by the appropriate authorities. The evacuation of persons of Japanese ancestry from the Western states is not an indictment of the entire group as being disloyal, but rather an

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admission that the government found it impossible in a short time to segregate the disloyal from the loyal. Military officials point out that the concentrations near the West Coast of these people who look like our Japanese enemies, enormously complicated the defense of our Coastal areas; hence, in the interest of national safety, they were evacuated. They are quartered in relocation centers in the interior of the country until opportunities can be found for the many persons among them who are loyal to the United States to take their respective places in the national war effort."

The government's policy toward the Japanese is simply this: fair treatment now and after the war.

The report to Congress of the Tolson Committee emphasizes the importance of a clear understanding of the situation. Says the report:

"The curtailment of the rights and privileges of the American-born Japanese citizens of this country will furnish one of the gravest tests of democratic institutions in our history. As with all previous crises in the nation's history, the preservation of liberties will depend upon the degree to which clear vision is applied to momentary difficulties. Realism must go hand in hand with a profound sense of responsibility for the maintenance of our way of life."

Motion pictures, wielding a larger influence today than ever before on the attitudes and emotions of the American people, can help bring about a just solution to the problem of the Japanese-Americans. These are the points to watch in presenting Japanese-Americans on the screen:

- (1) Do not present them as martyrs. For the most part they recognized the necessity of mass evacuation and cooperated cheerfully.
- (2) Do not over-emphasize the disloyalty of the few.
- (3) Show the evacuees as making the best of an unfortunate situation that grew out of military necessity.
- (4) Emphasize the responsibility of the American people to deal fairly with the Japanese-Americans now and after the war, so as to insure the preservation - for all peoples - of the democratic principles for which we are fighting.

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