

Jan 23, 1942

ELliott 7387-3169

# EMERGENCY DEFENSE COUNCIL

OF THE

SEATTLE CHAPTER

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS' LEAGUE

517 MAIN STREET

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

WILLIAM HOSOKAWA

OFFICE OF  
THE SECRETARY

RECEIVED  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

1942 JAN 26 AM 9 55

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

SPECIAL  
DIVISION

JAN 26 1942

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C.

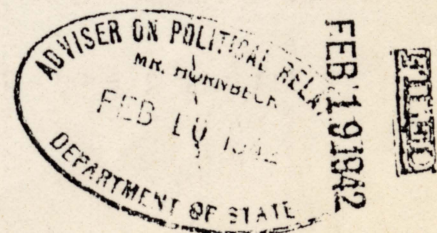
Sir:

Enclosed please find a copy of a statement issued today by James Y. Sakamoto, general chairman of the Emergency Defense Council of the Seattle chapter, Japanese American Citizens' League, regarding reported plans to evacuate everyone of Japanese descent from the Pacific Coast.

This statement has been published in local newspapers, and is the expression of our group which has taken the lead within the Community to support the national defense effort.

Respectfully yours,

*William Hosokawa*  
William Hosokawa



5386-5387



According to an Associated Press news report from Washington, D. C., on January 21, Representative Roland W. Ford, Republican, California states that he is taking up with government officials "the seriousness of the Japanese situation on the West Coast" and advocating moving all Japanese, American-born and alien, to concentration camps.

We realize that Congressman Ford bears the welfare of the  
of their foreign-born mothers and fathers.

This is our country. We were born and raised here; we have made our homes here and now in this greatest of emergencies, we are ready to give our lives if necessary to defend the United States. Already some of our number have paid the supreme sacrifice in defense of our homes during that first treacherous attack on Pearl Harbor.

Many thousands of our boys are now serving in the United States armed forces. Others, in various facets of American civil life, are making their contribution to the defense of this country. No sacrifice is too great to make for our homeland, the United States.

But we do not believe the best interests of the nation are to be served by such drastic measures as suggested by Congressman Ford. We have a task to do in civil life--that of preventing disruption in the normal course of activity--and we intend to do our part in carrying it out. Shops, hotels, stores, and farms must be attended. We desire to continue to do so.

We have faith in America. Drastic measures now would destroy all that we have built up for more than a half century. The processes of Americanization, so carefully and successfully nurtured would be blighted almost irreparably.

We realize naturally much suspicion falls on the foreign-born. We are actively co-operating now with the authorities to uncover all subversive activity in our midst, and if need be we are ready to stand as protective custodians over our parent generation to guard against danger to the United States arising from their midst.

As all good Americans we stand ready to do the bidding of the President of the United States to defend this, our country and our home, and the American principles we cherish.

James Y. Salomoto