

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

3055
University of California
Enemy Alien Study

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

March 11, 1942

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Dr. Joseph H. Willits
The Rockefeller Foundation
49 West 49th Street
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Willits:

As you know, the Pacific Coast has been declared a military area, and orders for the evacuation of certain classes of people are expected shortly. The first classes to be evacuated will be Japanese, both aliens and American citizens. After that, German and Italian aliens may be required to move. All of the major universities and colleges in this area (California-both Berkeley and Los Angeles-Washington, Oregon, Stanford, Southern California, Claremont, Scripps, Pomona, various State teachers'-and agricultural-colleges, etc.) are in the evacuation area. This means a displacement of scholars and potential leaders unparalleled in American history.

We are deeply concerned about this situation, and feel that it calls for immediate constructive efforts and support in order to avoid what would otherwise inevitably result in social waste of great magnitude. Since the Rockefeller Foundation has carried through a notable program for the salvage of displaced European scholars, we wonder whether both the precedent and the administrative mechanism are not already established for caring for this new displaced group. We realize that it is no small job. We believe that someone from the Foundation should be put in charge of a program for placing selected students and faculty members in universities and professional colleges of various sorts, east of the Mississippi, on a scholarship and maintenance basis. There is little we can do at this end except to place ourselves completely at the service of the Foundation, if the Foundation will take over the leadership.

We believe that American citizens of Japanese descent form the first group for which provision should be made, but we hope that the program would be inclusive enough to cover the alien classes (German, Italian, Japanese) if and when the necessity arises. From the standpoint of Americanization, the dispersal of these young people of Japanese descent is a necessity. They are American citizens, for the most part, but we are involved in a war with the country from which their parents came, and we expect to win it. Their break with Japan will be and should be complete. We ought not risk the development of a class of social misfits, which isolation from the Caucasian intellectuals at this time might foster. And from the standpoint of furthering their potential leadership for postwar reconstruction, continuance of their academic training is obviously called for. Because of the peculiar age composition of

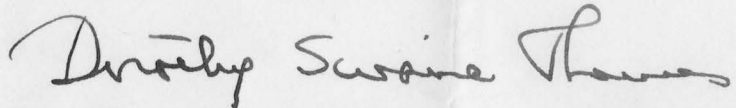
Dr. Joseph H. Willits - 3/11/42

the Japanese-Americans (high concentration at ages 18-24, and very meagre numbers over 30 years of age) this group is at a crucial stage: they have not yet had enough experience or training to be equipped as leaders, and many of them are caught half way in their preparation for life careers.

We know of your interest in problems of this sort. If you can do anything to help us in this difficult situation, we shall be more than grateful.

With cordial regards,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Dorothy Swaine Thomas". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Dorothy Swaine Thomas
Professor of Rural Sociology

Copies to: President Robert Gordon Sproul
Provost Monroe E. Deutsch
Mr. Richard M. Neustadt