

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

2055  
University of California  
Enemy alien study  
DATE: November 7, 1949

FROM: JHW

TO:

CIB	NOV 10 1949	<i>(initials)</i>
LFK	<i>LFK</i>	
JHW	NOV 25 1949	<i>JHW</i>
GWG		<i>GWG</i>
JHW		<i>JHW</i>

COMMENTS:

*By all means have GWG  
written up.  
CIB*

*carbon filed -  
100  
Barnard*

DEC 29 1949

SUBJECT:

Possible Item for Trustees' Bulletin

It is not often that we get clear-cut evidence of the part played by RF funds in contributing to the solution of problems of human relations. If you think it appropriate, the following facts might be written up for the Trustees' Bulletin as a supplement to the attached December, 1946, item.

In 1948 three Japanese American women applied to the State Department for passports, which were denied on the ground that the applicants had renounced their citizenship while residents of the Tule Lake Relocation Center. As you know, this Center was designated in 1943 by the War Relocation Authority as the detention place for allegedly disloyal Japanese. The three women took their case to court, claiming that their renunciation of citizenship was forced upon them. The United States District Court upheld their claim and ordered that the plaintiffs be restored to their full rights as citizens. The United States Government appealed the case to the Circuit Court of Appeals. This past August this Court upheld the previous decision. I am attaching a copy of the decision, which I need to have back. //

The connection with RF is that the book, The Spoilage, written by Dorothy Swaine Thomas and Richard S. Nishimoto and made possible by RF appropriations and grants in aid, was admitted in evidence in the Court of Appeals /whether it was also admitted in the lower court, I don't know/, is quoted in the decision, and certainly can be said to have played an important role in the outcome of the case. Attorney General McGrath has announced that the Government will not appeal the case to the Supreme Court. (New York Times, October 27, 1949.)

The net result is that the majority of approximately 4,000 other Japanese Americans who renounced their citizenship under similar circumstances will probably have their citizenship rights restored.

*JHW*

JHW:EL