

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

2055
Univ of California
Enemy alien study

FROM: JHW

DATE: March 18, 1942

TO:

DHS	MAR 19 '42	DHS
RBF	MAR 20 '42	RBF
JHW		JHW
RFE	J-4-42	RFE

COMMENTS:

SUBJECT:

I append three letters from able and well-known persons on the Pacific Coast, - Professors Dorothy Thomas and Paul Taylor of the University of California and Mr. Richard Neustadt, Social Security and Defense Welfare Coordinator for the Pacific Coast. These letters ask that the Rockefeller Foundation assume some responsibility with regard to the academic folk who are being uprooted as a result of the declaration of the Pacific Coast as a military zone. All Japanese must move out of the Pacific Coast zone and perhaps some of the mountain states, including many Japanese who have become citizens of the United States. This order will presumably later be applied to Germans and Italians. The Army, as you undoubtedly know, is building reception centers for these people where they are to be established pending final location of them. General DeWitt is reported to be handling the whole matter very intelligently and understandingly.

The request from my three Pacific Coast correspondents is that someone from the Foundation "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." They place themselves at the service of the Foundation, if the Foundation will take over the leadership "for immediate constructive efforts and support in order to avoid what would otherwise result in social waste of great magnitude." Their plea is particularly, I take it, that a scholarly group whose loyalty can be established should not be isolated from Caucasian intellectuals. Professor Taylor reminds me of the Boxer Rebellion and the way, through scholarships, capital was made out of a bad business.

It seems to me that the answer to these requests must be "no." The Foundation is already overextended with regard to refugees. Any support that would be given would have to be continued for the duration of the war. The reception of these students and faculty on any large scale in other universities and colleges would involve a very dubious matter. So the answer on the financial issue would seem to me to be "no." Before J.B. left, I mentioned this matter to him in a preliminary way and he agreed with this conclusion.

There still remains the question whether there is anything that the Foundation could, by ingenuity, do that would make for a more humane handling, that would conserve personal and international values. I feel that three things might be indicated, as follows:

- 1) The Foundation could be better informed as to the facts

March 18, 1942

2

than it is now. I suggest ³ ~~two~~ steps:

- a) That President Sproul be asked to come to the April meeting prepared to give us the essential facts (There is a committee of the Pacific Coast Colleges of which Vice President Deutsch of the University of California is Chairman, which will cooperate with the Army on this problem).
 - b) That someone be sent to the Pacific Coast if it appears, after Sproul's report, that such is needed. JHW nominates DHS for the task.
 - c) That someone confer with the War Department and Francis Biddle on this problem. JHW will be glad to do so unless RBF chooses to do it informally while in Washington. *I appended a clipping in today's paper announcing establishment of a "War Relocation Authority". Obviously the trail begins here.*
- 2) More complete information may (or may not) suggest that the Rockefeller Foundation finance the holding of a conference, probably under the auspices of Ned Carter of the Institute of Pacific Relations. The object of the conference would be to "box the compass" of the problem by bringing together the various interested and competent individuals who know most about the problem to indicate the various steps that should be taken, or might be taken, to conserve the best use of the situation. I think it quite likely that such a conference would conclude that these Japanese should go to the reception centers and there organize classes for their own nations. I suppose that some of them whose loyalty is clear might well be used by our own government for intelligence purposes. Some might be transferred to inland colleges for Japanese language teaching. But the point is that a conference might help all the agencies that are now chasing around in circles to settle on some kind of concerted program. It would be obviously important to make clear in advance that if Rockefeller Foundation financed such a conference, that was the end; the conference would not be a build-up for enlarged Foundation support in the carrying out of any program decided upon.
- 3) I suppose certain institutions on the Pacific Coast may be applying on their own initiative to the Foundation for help in dealing with individual cases which appeal to them as being especially important and meritorious. I imagine that they would be handled as a part of regular program, without any announcement of policy.

I talked with TBA before he left, after the first letter had come in. He agreed that the problem was outside of Foundation territory. I later conferred with DHS, with Ned Carter, Crane, Clarence Pickett, and Neustadt. This memorandum represents tentative conclusions from such information as I have obtained from those talks.

JAW