

MAR 9 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

Dear Mr. Ickes:

Government policy requiring the continued exclusion of persons of Japanese ancestry from the evacuated areas of the Pacific Coast is controlled by the War Department. The policy should be revised. An announcement should be made by the War Department not later than July 1, 1944, that the evacuated areas have been opened to all evacuees who have not been denied leave clearance by the War Relocation Authority. Development of careful plans to meet the problems involved in such a change of policy and to provide for the orderly movement of eligible evacuees who wish to return to the exclusion zone should be initiated immediately. To assure that adequate attention is given to all phases of this problem these plans should be made jointly by the Department of the Interior, the War Department, and the Department of Justice. Areas of responsibility to be assumed by each agency should be clearly outlined.

If this program is carried out the War Relocation Authority should devote its energies during the fiscal year 1945 to the task of liquidating relocation centers. This would mean that the relocation program during the year would be greatly expanded and accelerated throughout the country.

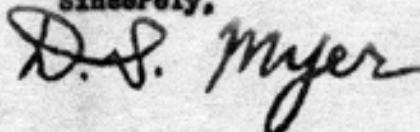
Important reasons why these recommendations should be put into effect are:

1. Since the danger of West Coast invasion has decreased to the vanishing point, continued exclusion can no longer be justified on grounds of military necessity.
2. Segregation of evacuees who are really pro-Japanese is now practically accomplished and will be entirely finished by July 1.
3. Such a program will help to relieve the crucial manpower situation and to increase food production in 1945.



4. It will avoid further institutionalization of relocation centers and consequent future costs to the Government.
5. Opening the evacuated zone will help to encourage relocation not only in the West Coast area but throughout the country generally. The reasons are largely psychological. Once the discrimination involved in exclusion is removed, many evacuees will feel more confident to leave the centers and resume private life in normal communities.
6. Antagonists in other areas will no longer be able to use the argument that "if the evacuees are dangerous in California they would be dangerous anywhere".
7. Millions of dollars worth of evacuee controlled property in the evacuated area will become an increasing problem if evacuees are not allowed to return to care for it themselves.
8. Individuals and organizations that have opposed the administration's relocation program to date will continue to do so with increased vigor until the exclusion area is reopened.
9. Since Japanese-American citizens are now being inducted into the armed forces through Selective Service, there is more reason than ever why we should eliminate insofar as practicable all measures and restrictions that apply only to persons of Japanese ancestry and not to other groups.
10. Lifting of the exclusion order will remove one argument the Japanese have used in their propaganda aimed at other nations in the Americas, and nations of the South Pacific.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D. J. Myer". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "D. J. Myer".

Director