

April 6, 1942

President C. A. Dykstra
The University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear President Dykstra:

This is to acknowledge your letter of April 2.

The letter which you received from me previously in regard to these Japanese-American students, was similar to a letter which I sent to about twenty institutions in the West and Middle West. The replies from almost all of these letters indicated that the institutions were, in general, a little hesitant about receiving these students of the Japanese race. A few institutions--enough, I believe, to handle those students who have the money to go on to school--expressed a willingness to accept well qualified students.

I do believe that the Army has an interest in this because recently an emissary from this university had an interview with the Assistant Provost Marshall in San Francisco. The Army is giving thought to these students, even contemplating offering transportation to competent ones for placement elsewhere.

A few minutes thought on the part of many of us will make us understand that an effort to help these capable students is more than merely a sentimental gesture of good-will. It is certainly that, because unless we take away the citizenship of these individuals, we shall run the risk of having a large group of American citizens who can't have too much enthusiasm and loyalty for their country after this war is over. But the practical side is that there is need of training these individuals for service with their own people, many of whom will find themselves in closed communities in the interior of the country. These communities will need the services of doctors, lawyers, nurses, teachers, and others. Why shouldn't they be served by persons of their own race, thus relieving the members of the Caucasian race for war service elsewhere.

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I believe that President Sproul has probably written letters similar to those that I wrote. Most of the students affected will be found at our two institutions.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

L. P. Sieg
President

LPS/hl

D, letter sent to O'Brien