

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

MISSOULA

April 20, 1942

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

President L. P. Sieg
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington

Dear President Sieg:

I am writing you this letter to explain the situation with reference to the transfer of Japanese students. Some time ago when you wrote me in regard to this problem I could see no serious difficulties if we did admit a limited number of Japanese students to our institution. Someone on the Pacific Coast, however, released information concerning the replies of the various universities about the admission of Japanese students, and an Associated Press report carried the information that Montana State University would admit Japanese students. This press report brought the matter to the attention of our public with the result that a considerable number of people called Governor Ford and insisted on Board action concerning the matter. The State Board of Education discussed the problem at considerable length and decided to postpone action until the July meeting of the Board. It is, of course, late now in the quarter and new students would not be admitted at this time in any case.

After looking at the public attitude in regard to the problem and the many difficulties surrounding it, I have the feeling that some organization or group should become interested in the Japanese students. I have written to Dr. Zook of the American Council on Education suggesting that perhaps the American Council on Education might take initiative in connection with the problem. Certainly the attitude of any of the larger institutions of the country would be of some significance in connection with handling the problem in smaller institutions like ours.

I am, of course, personally very anxious that we exhibit the spirit of our democracy in the solution of our domestic

President L. P. Sieg
April 20, 1942
page 2

problems during this way. For this reason I have expressed my personal opinion on a number of occasions to the effect that the Japanese should not be excluded from our educational institutions. It may be, however, that public sentiment on the problem will become so strong that a mere president's attitude will be of no consequence. If you have any advice to give me with regard to the problem on a national or local basis feel free to write me.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Cordially yours,



Ernest O. Melby

EOM:W