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Roald Hall

Mar. 28, 1943

Dear Norio,

Your ideas on the proposed conference were worthwhile - those plus a number of other doubts caused the conference plan to be dismissed for the time being. But a number of other important things have happened to change the whole picture. Thanks a lot, Ole boy, for your prompt reply for which I am hoping & trying to reciprocate - spring vacation has very happily descended upon us to make that a possibility. Today, at the bell desk of this dorm, I'm doing some writing while I work for my room during vacation week - although most of the kids have gone home, about 150 are left, & since most of them eat in one dining hall, I'm making good contacts. But don't worry - I haven't had a date since I got here.

So the Romeo gall wanted up to Chicago!! I had half a notion to head for Chicago this week (esp. since I heard Woody was there for a Y. conference), but a paper in Poli Sci ties me down. I don't mind staying here at all - sleep, eat, study a little, play a lot - living at this leisurely pace certainly has its advantages! To get back to your trip to Chicago & Miss Fani, I'm very much interested in your comments about ~~her~~ <sup>her</sup> ability to talk seriously, & deeply, for they apply quite well to both Harry's & Bill's girl. They're lots of fun, but get into some serious discussions, & they shut up like clams. As a cure I would suggest, if you go to Chicago again, Miss Haru Furusaka. Perhaps not as much spontaneous personality, but she thinks!!

To get back to the yabos here, there is still nothing worthwhile among the products, so it'll have to be the wahinie. Perhaps tonight - I've vowed to get thru or four dates this week to break the social ice with a bang - a real grand debut - I've been looking around, and the field is by no means limited - and the girls are anxious to step out too. - Before I go any further, I'd like to take up the questions you raise about the conference although the

affair itself has been cancelled. First, the conference was not to have been of desci, but of students & people interested in getting the facts on the desci situation to which desci would be invited as contact sources with the Caucasians & others present. The main purpose, or one of them, was to try to get people from schools which were not taking desci - those who have been in doubt about the acceptability of students from the relocation centers to reconsider their views. Of course desci students can study techniques too. As to the advisability of student relocation sending out suggestions, it would be very difficult to get concrete action when there is no action now without a strong push in the right direction.

The reasons for discontinuing plans for the confab were along slightly different lines. First, the point was made that desci have been accepted here by both the townspeople & the colleges, and there was no necessity to call attention to the "problem" aspect while a solution, at least here, was taking place so smoothly. The advisability of centering only on the desci was brought up (opinion was expressed that conference on general racial questions would be better), but there isn't sufficient time to hold such a conference by the end of the semester. There were a number of other points raised, but the plans are now centered on a conference, probably in the fall, on the whole interracial problem. Plans necessarily proceed slowly.

German still has me going. We cover grammar from the beginning to subjunctions, etc. - all that we get - in eight weeks, & so if that is comparable to the grammar at the U. of W., we go twice as fast - at least. The last 6 weeks of the semester we read books - what a grind!! My Poli Sci paper which will take my interest this week is going to be on the WKA - there is very little information to be gathered other than in the organs with which we are familiar, The Pacific Citizen, The FOR, the WKA Daily, etc.

My two hours at the desk is almost up, but I'll try to finish this letter & drop it in the box on my way to dinner. How's the weather down in St. Louis, to come back to a time worn question.

Spring has finally come to Oberlin - yesterday Bill, Dave Okada, from Sacramento, & I were stopping hard balls hitting them to each other - for the exercise. A few puddles were frozen this morning, but otherwise it's a pretty nice day. Tomorrow & the next day the weather should hold up, & I'll have a little fun around here. Next Sunday I'm spending the day in Cleveland & will speak that evening to a church group. The Theology school certainly offers fine speaking contacts - all - expenses paid, etc. Makins today is out with his girl who has come <sup>back</sup> from Cleveland where she works (after graduation) & Harry is on his way to New York now while his girl stays behind working. That's the life.

I haven't gotten around to purchasing a tax, but I'm afraid that I'll be reading one soon. It seems that there is a scarcity of men here (for some unknown reason), & so I was nominated for Student Council president. I am now Student Council President of Oberlin College! Excellent with the proper amount of dignity - with the dignity that the proxy of the Associated Students of Oberlin College will receive. I understand the A & U of were down here to get more news, & so I may have become an "international figure" as the Dean of Men jokingly told me. The news was also broadcast over a newscast & mentioned in the Cleveland Plain Dealer. What a life! Only a month & a half here, a <sup>part</sup> scholarship out of the clear blue sky, & now the Student Council!

Summer session - to attend or not - had been one of my main worries the last few weeks, but that has been resolved. I guess that I'll stay on thru the summer to hold my office thru <sup>my</sup>

semester & hope to hell I can accomplish something during that time. Oberlin's a good school, but far from perfect. There'll be plenty of work to be done around here. I hope that I don't fall down on the task —

10 p.m.

I just couldn't make it, & so I'll finish this letter while a fast & furious bull session goes on in here among Bill M., Srichi Fukui from Ht. Intn. (knows stars), Sammy oi, & a fellow from the floor above. After dinner, we got into a bridge session, & so I didn't know break away until half an hour ago.

Darning is now the topic of conversation — waxes, sec, & fun — what else can we talk about? I'm getting sleepier than hell — can't write about anything. Be good — I'll be plenty busy from here on in

Just,  
Kenji

Regards to all of you there —