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JUDGE LLOYD BUCHANAN

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September 17, 1987

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

In 1945, I was the Project Attorney at one of seven War Relocation Centers. There were in Washington a chief counsel to the Administrator, two assistant chiefs, and, as I recall, two other attorneys on the staff.

All of us attorneys were polled on the legality or correctness of the President's order for the removal of persons of Japanese descent from the western states (West Coast). Of the twelve lawyers, I was the only one who, for good and sufficient reasons, defended the order.

I should tell you that, more than most of the staff, I socialized with the Japanese residents, sympathized with their plight and problems, and helped them as I could even to obtaining a cash settlement of a claim which my predecessor, one of those later in Washington, had summarily dismissed.

I know of no one else in the War Relocation Authority, from the Administrator down, who agreed with the Supreme Court's decision as it later emanated.

Intimately acquainted with the hardships suffered and aware of the heroism of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, I have believed through the years and still do that, as a legal proposition, compensation should not be made to those who were thus affected or to their descendants, whatever politics and so-called practicality and expedience may indicate.

Sincerely,  
Lloyd Buchanan