

:-: PUBLIC FORUM :-:

FROM GOVERNOR CLARK

March 14, 1942

Dear Editor:

I want to give you my views on the Japanese situation.

In the position of responsibility which I occupy as Governor of Idaho, it is my paramount duty to carry out the wishes of the people that I serve.

For this reason, in all discussions of the question of Idaho's position with reference to evacuated Japanese aliens and native-born Japanese from the West Coast States, I have adhered to what I believe is the feeling of a vast majority of our citizens.

I have advised the Federal Government of our willingness to conform to any final, authoritative orders from the Government, and at the same time I have urged that Japanese who may be sent here be placed under guard

throat. Recognizing their constitutional rights and being good to them is flowery language, but I am looking to the future of Idaho, and I am appealing to the people of Idaho not to sell their land to Japanese. Thirty years ago the Federal Government asked the State of California to soft-pedal the Japanese controversy, because they were a sensitive people and worthy of our complete confidence, good will and cooperation. The Government even sent Mr. Todd as a missionary to the Orient to extend the hand of friendship. The Government was perfectly sincere, but what is the condition today, thirty years later. The State of California is crawling with Japanese. They contribute nothing to the standard of life—but undermine it. In a hundred years

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I have advised the Federal Government of our willingness to conform to any final, authoritative orders from the Government, and at the same time I have urged that Japanese who may be sent here be placed under guard and confined in concentration camps for the safety of our people, our state and the Japanese themselves.

Attempts are now being made by Japanese to purchase land in our State, and notwithstanding newspaper editorial criticism and opposition and the critical statements of a Federal official in the State of Idaho, directed against me, I am unalterably opposed to the movement.

I am not ready to sell the State of Idaho to the Japanese for a few dollars, while our American boys are dying to prevent Japan from taking the State of Idaho and our entire Nation by force of arms. I appeal to

good will and cooperation. The Government even sent Mr. Todd as a missionary to the Orient to extend the hand of friendship. The Government was perfectly sincere, but what is the condition today, thirty years later. The State of California is crawling with Japanese. They contribute nothing to the standard of life—but undermine it. In a hundred years they will overrun us to the Rocky Mountains, unless checked. If they come into Idaho, I want them put in concentration camps and kept under guard so that they can be taken back under guard. If they purchase land in Idaho, and settle here, they will sperad out, throughout our State.

I realize that there are honest, patriotic Japanese, but I also want to suggest to you that the possibilities are that the ones who were born here are more dangerous than those born in Japan because the latter, to some extent, may appreciate their escape from despotism, but those born here

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I am not ready to sell the State of Idaho to the Japanese for a few dollars, while our American boys are dying to prevent Japan from taking the State of Idaho and our entire Nation by force of arms. I appeal to every citizen of the State of Idaho not to sell land to the Japanese. If we let them come now, and by the purchase of land, settle themselves here, we will soon be sick of them.

This official says that anyone who stirs up trouble is striking his Country, and that we can treat the Japanese in such a way as to make them loyal Americans, or we can alienate them. It seems to me that we had our arms around their neck when they

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I have my orders from the Federal Government to keep my hands off the Japanese. I am only asking the Federal Government to help me in not allowing any permanent, widespread settlement in Idaho. I do not want to work any hardship on any Japanese who are loyal American citizens. All I want to do is keep the State of Idaho a good State to live in, and I

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This official says that anyone who stirs up trouble is striking his Country, and that we can treat the Japanese in such a way as to make them loyal Americans, or we can alienate them. It seems to me that we had our arms around their neck when they stabbed us in the back at Pearl Harbor. If my recollection serves me, it seems we were trying to appease them for a good many years, while they were getting ready to cut our

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Another thing, I am not an appeaser

Yours very truly,
CHASE A. CLARK,
Governor.