

0354D  
1A part 3



Dec 1947

Dear President and Mrs Roosevelt

From ~~years~~ <sup>X years</sup> ago - we were shocked and  
 deeply hurt to know it was Japan who  
 started the war - and left the record of shame  
 for history - . We were one of the 120,000  
 Americans of Japanese ancestry living  
 on the west coast. - Frightened and angry,  
 we were eager to do our part to protect  
 the precious shores of our America -

A few months later. unbelievable things  
 developed & by ~~many~~ we left our beautiful  
 grape vineyard, & our honest friends to live  
 in a camp. Strange, - in all the hectic  
 Confusion - & bewilderment <sup>of evocation,</sup> we have  
 rich memories of good kind friends -  
 who tried to overbalance the harm - & injustice  
 and hatred pushed our way. So in our

Camps - we lived for over a year & a half. I wrote to you, Mr President, the day I left my California home, - confident that America was still a land striving to make brotherhood & justice real in the lives of its people.

The dark <sup>est</sup> days in camp, <sup>was</sup> where thousands of disillusioned people found their war-time occupation - to be just sitting & wasting time away; - who were horrified to see their children loose in a new slum-like communities; - whose morale was falling to its lowest in that winter - the first winter away from home. ~~It~~ <sup>was</sup> where fuel shortages, - food shortages had to be faced as the W.R.A. magnificently struggled to be


understood by congress - by the people  
of America + by the women themselves.  
It was the time when the ugliest part of  
us came to the fore - to shock + shame us  
as we fought our friends our parents in a  
vain effort to understand + conquer the  
test put before us in the form of  
questionnaires. ~~with~~ Your gracious  
letter, Mrs Roosevelt, came to my humble  
room 9-8-6 - that dark + cold - + terrifying  
winter at Jerome. You have no idea what  
it meant to the hundreds of American  
youths who were struggling to win  
a spiritual American victory - It was  
electrifying news - that Mrs. Roosevelt  
had answered a Christmas message! -  
and so ~~the~~ even the aged said - "for this is  
truly America - + democracy makes even the

great, - humble & gracious!" We felt warm  
& strengthened as we began to catch hold of  
faith which was almost dying that winter.  
Thousands today are grateful & glad they  
almost blindly kept faith with Democracy  
& with the good in American hearts.

Over a year ago - just as I left camp  
to live once again as a free American I  
was privileged to send you a note.

Tonight, - though a little after Christmas  
I speak from Kalamazoo - a happy free  
American - who had a year to discover  
that America is all & more than I have  
ever hoped for. I have found new hope  
because Americans have rekindled my faith  
by their kindness & their understanding. Goodwill  
radiates in the souls of simple ordinary folks - &  
so I believe someday NORCROSS NEW YORK U. S. A. it can't help but make  
the world truly a world of brotherhood. God bless you.

Ms. Alfred Kirkham



President Franklin D. Roosevelt and  
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

Friendly greetings of

the season and

best wishes for the

New Year

Sincerely and Gratefully  
Mrs. Mrs. Alfred Sukamoto  
and Marielle

