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1A part 3



Dec 1945

Dear President and Mrs Roosevelt

From ~~your~~ ^{Xmas} ~~year~~ ago - we were shocked and
deply 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 ~~now~~ we left our beautiful
grapeviney ~~to~~ ^{to} our friends to live
in a camp. Strange; - in all the hectic
Confusion - & ~~the~~ ^{devotion,} ~~buildment~~ ^{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 ^{est} days in camp, ^{was} ~~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~~ ^{was} ~~where~~ fuel shortages, - food shortages had to be faced as the W.R.A. magnificently struggled to be


undercloud 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
debt put before us in the form of
questionnaires. ~~with~~ Your gracious
letter, Mrs Roosevelt, came to my humble
room 9-8-E - that dark + cold - + terrifying
winter at Jerome. You have no idea what
it meant to the hundreds of American
Yankees 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 Siskin 1176



President Franklin D. Roosevelt and
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

Friendly greetings of

the season and

best wishes for the

New Year

Sincerely and Gratefully
Mr. Mrs. Alfred Sukamoto
and Marielle

