

October 12, 1971

Mr. Allen Epstein,  
Director ABC Movie of the Week  
ABC Television Center  
4151 Prospect Avenue  
Los Angeles, California 90027

Dear Mr. Epstein:

Thank you for your frank and forthright telephone discussions with me on the matter of the Movie of the Week titled, "The Glass Hammer" that has been recently retitled, "My Husband...the Enemy." We are deeply troubled that you feel the title cannot again be rechanged at this point.

Allow me to make a few points explicitly clear. Our disagreement is not with the substance of the film. Our research indicates that it is a sympathetic and knowledgeable examination of the relocation of Japanese Americans at the outbreak of World War II. Nor is it with its scheduling on December 7, the day of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Indeed, it would be important for the large television viewing audience to be made aware of the ramifications of that day on the Japanese here in the United States. Our difference with you is specifically on the title that has been selected for the film. What makes it especially lamentable is that it is so unrepresentative of the substance and spirit of the film... that the benefits that could be gained from the airing of it will be totally obliterated by the publicity given to the title. But more importantly, it can only be viewed as a sensational title exacerbating the growing climate of anti-Japanese racism. It can be seen as a title cynically calculated to exploit old prejudices solely for the purpose of grabbing a few extra rating points. And at what cost? Obviously, it is enormously damaging to the Japanese Americans. But the social effect of such a title and the intensive publicity given to it cannot help but contribute to the general racial malaise of this nation. And what of our international Japanese-American relations? As you well

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know, it has never been as tense and fraught with peril today as it has been since the end of the Second World War.

We need not reiterate to you the enormous influence that television wields and with it the great social responsibility that it bears. We will, however, respectfully but strongly urge another complete reappraisal of that title and the selection of an appropriate and responsible one.

Sincerely,

George Takei  
Cultural Chairman

GT/aa

CC: Barry Diller  
Harry Honda  
Ray Okamura  
Raymond Uno