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October 13, 1971

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

Mr. Barry Diller  
Vice President, ABC Circle Entertainment  
ABC Television Center  
4151 Prospect  
Los Angeles, CA 90027

RE: "My Husband... The Enemy"

Gentlemen:

I have recently learned that your station is contemplating the showing of an exceptionally compassionate film on December 7th about Japanese Americans depicting a theme which parallels that of "Romeo and Juliet."

It is felt that a human and unique perspective featuring the dilemma of an oppressed minority group is certainly a vital contribution toward achieving a true world of the brotherhood of man. By reason of the enormous potential audience reached through television, you no doubt realize the awesome responsibility a major station such as ABC must assume from the view of promoting societal harmony and understanding. If you media fails in this respect, we feel that as citizens we must register a bold and vehement protest against your programs.

To be more specific, our main objection is the title of the film in question. Since the male lead, a counterpart of Romeo, is Japanese American, he would be the "enemy" designation in your selected title. With our experience in United States concentration camps during World War II, we feel highly offended in being labeled as an enemy in the country of our birth.

Whether your title was intended in derogation of the Japanese American or not is truly irrelevant. The hard fact remains that the contemplated use of the title certainly perpetuates the shallow mentality maintained by those who steadfastly promoted and fueled the racial hatred leading to our wartime incarceration.

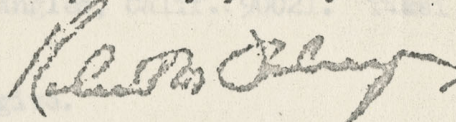


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Page 2  
October 13, 1971

Any response from you that monetary expenditures utilized for promotion have placed your station in an irreversible position is untenable in comparison to the irreparable damage the title can and will cause.

As the National Legal Counsel of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), our position of opposition must be candid and stern. Many worthy organizations have offered their wholehearted support to us. Since we do not necessarily wish to create or cause a major furor which may adversely affect your station, your immediate response to this communication is solicited.

Very truly yours,



Robert M. Takazugi  
National Legal Counsel  
JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

ROTT:mo

cc: National Board  
Presidents of 93 Chapters  
Ethnic Concern Committee  
Ray Okamura  
Dr. Bob Suzuki  
Roy Kanamaru (Los Angeles County Human Relations Board)  
Staff and District Governors  
George Takei

P. S. Please send your protest letters to the above addressees.  
Time is of the essence.

R. M. T.