

2/6/76

Dear Mary and Bill,

Just checking up to see whether
my editor has complied with my request
that a bound galley be made available
to you folks; I included the Jijimas, too.

Was in Mexico for a while and kept
pending her instructions but a publishing house
is one of the most disorganized institutions
imaginable. Anyway, this one is.

As ever, my very warmest regards.

Fondly,

Michio

P.S. The AA Activist might like
to reprint the Okamura article. Precious - Priceless!
Hayabawa is writing a similarly ridiculous article for
the TV Guide.

LETTER TO EDITOR

Jan. 24, 1976

Letters to Editor

Togo Tanaka Backs
Hayakawa Column

DEAR EDITOR:

I've just read Dr. S. I. Hayakawa's views on the difference between concentration camps and relocation centers. I recognize that those of us who spent time in the W.R.A. centers, in occasional bitter retrospect, mistakenly refer to them as "concentration camps." I have done so myself in writing a foreward to Herbert Nicholson's fine book, "Treasure in Earthen Vessels."

But I don't think it's worth the effort of those Sansei activists making such a ridiculous public issue in trying to defend it against fellow Americans who insist these were not concentration camps. They were not.

From 1943-45 I served with the American Friends Service Committee in the Chicago Midwest office. Each week I interviewed and helped find jobs and housing for refugees from Nazi Germany's concentration camps. They were displaced persons who had escaped Belsen, Dachau and other grisly places. These were "concentration camps."

I also worked two years on relocating evacuees from the War Relocation Centers in the U.S.A. These were not concentration camps within the meaning of the lexicographers' definition. Long after the Sansei diatribes making the fuss now are forgotten, I believe that the Hayakawa view will prevail.

TOGO W. TANAKA
949 Malcolm Ave.
Los Angeles, Ca. 90024

Something for S.I. Hayakawa

DEAR EDITOR:

Japan has treacherously attacked our shores with superior consumer products and there exists a grave danger our beloved corporations will be driven to bankruptcy. In order that the S. I. Hayakawa family not get in the way of the upcoming trade war, we should evacuate them promptly to a relocation center in Barrow, Alaska (a locale with stunning natural beauty, matched only at Newell and Lone Pine, California). Of course, it's really for their own safety, and economic necessity requires only the Hayakawa family to move. During these tense times, some disgruntled American capitalist may get Sessue and Samuel mixed up and punch the wrong man in the nose.

We'll transport S. I., his wife, children, and parents under armed guard to Barrow because we don't want the Northerners to get upset at the sight of strange creatures. And to insure that the Eskimos won't harm them either, we'll surround the Hayakawas' 16 x 20 foot igloo with barbed wire, guard towers, machine guns, and tanks! We shouldn't call the facilities a ghetto because Jews have exclusive rights to that term; nor a prison because we won't charge them with any crime; and certainly not a concentration camp because we don't plan to gas them (at least not as long as we are winning). We're sure S. I. will appreciate the precise use of language to faithfully uphold trademark laws, the constitution, and the Geneva Convention.

Too bad about the loss of S. I.'s hand-crafted home in Mill Valley, and his plans to become a senator, but we're sure he'll understand why the Hayakawa family must make sacrifices for the good of our country. Too bad about his wife's constant diarrhea, but she'll have to learn to digest seal blubber if she expects to become a real American. Too bad, too, about his son being shot by a guard, but it's all alright because the guard will be charged with unauthorized expenditure of government property (the bullet) and will be billed 50 cents for replacement cost.

After a year of generously feeding and protecting the Hayakawas, we'll give them a loyalty oath to sign as an affirmation of how happy and satisfied they are with the arrangements. One of the questions will read: "Do you forswear any form of allegiance or obedience to the Queen of England?" Any protestations about being an American citizen will be brushed aside with, "a Canuck is a Canuck!" These uppity non-alien will have to know their place before we can accept them.

We're certain S. I. will prove his loyalty by grasping The Torah and shouting "yes, yes." Then we'll give all Hayakawa-surnamed persons a free and equal choice: (1) join a suicide combat team to fight in Angola; or, (2) relocate to any place of their choice, as long as it is north of the Arctic Circle. If S. I. pleads for his sick and elderly parents to be allowed to remain at the relocation igloo, we'll have to throw them out because we cannot discriminate due to age. When it's all over, we can congratulate ourselves for being fair and humane.

Two years later, after Kawasaki has been reduced to ashes, and Toyota has unconditionally surrendered to Ford, we'll allow what remains of the Hayakawa family to repatriate to Canada or return to California, as they see fit. Naturally, we'll give S. I. a pep talk about his cultural heritage and tough Chicago upbringing so that he can better adjust to re-entry hazards: Canadians are prone to hate turncoats, and Californians might take pot shots at them, just for old times sake.

We're confident that even 30 years later on his 105th birthday, S.I. will reminisce the good times he had in Barrow and reiterate his gratitude to the United States government for giving him such an unique experience. But he won't want anyone else to remember his story, nor want it included in history books. If anyone asks about his unfulfilled dream to live in the White House, or the appropriation of his Mill Valley estate by the Third World Liberation Front, he'll reply without a trace of bitterness: "Immigrants are used to being evacuated and relocated. We should forget the past and focus on the future."

- RAYMOND OKAMURA
Berkeley, California

Brilliant!

1-22-76