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Dear Yuri:

I was getting frantic trying to get to this letter.

I feel so badly about causing you anxiety needlessly. I should have written you myself that I wasn't able to make the trip, but I relied entirely on the messages I sent with Greg Morozumi and then Phil Gotanda and Lydia Tanji who left here before I would have arrived. They all assured me that they would contact you. I think I'm not understanding the sansei timetable but then I shouldn't have soley relied on others anyway.

You may have heard by now that I had to forego New York over the Labor Day weekend because I became a Commission groupie. I went to the Seattle hearings, returned then left for the Anchorage hearing. I had the time off and travel for me is so easy. It's been a bit hectic since then mostly because of my disorganization. I must have brought back fifty pounds of testimony which I haven't had a chance to read thoroughly yet.

Each hearing site takes on a unique style. Seattle impressed me tremendously. They are so organized and have been preparing for years. I think San Francisco was the least ready. The <sup>nisei</sup> leadership in Seattle is outstanding, in fact, sansei were conspicuous in their scarcity. I think the fine organization was <sup>too</sup> due/the high caliber leadership. The testimonys were much more intense. They dealt with the worst kind of tragedies I've not heard of before,...many suicides, severe mental illnesses - one nisei woman hammered her young children to death in camp, infant deaths caused by deliberate neglect by white medical professionals, etc. I don't think we in California suffered any less. It's just that these stories can only be drawn out by peers, that is fellow nisei. Sansei did most of the leg work here and in Los Angeles. Not to discredit the sansei dedication and diligence, it's so difficult to divulge these painful experiences to young people who are peers of your children. In retrospect, the Seattle experience makes me wonder why most of us did not return as basket cases. One thing lacking at Seattle was demonstration from the audience. I missed it, Frank Chin be damned. You've read his "circus



of Freaks" piece? ~~Enclosed~~. I think it's an inane piece. I'm more bothered by his put-down attitude. Ray Okamura's letter wraps up the tenor of our hearings well.

Also enclosed, Seattle's comprehensive study for compensation based on surveys in the northwest communities, income tax and census data.

Alaska was yet another story and a devastating one, banishment at best and genocide at worst. A sad part of this is that Alaskans themselves still aren't aware today that all this happened within their own state. It is a perpetuation of the shameful treatment of all Native Americans but they used a war totally unrelated to these natives to try to wipe them off the face of the earth. When the Japanese bombed Dutch Harbor in the Aleutian chain Aleuts on that island were forcibly evacuated within 24 hours...people who have lived on the chain of islands for so many thousands of years their origin is uncertain. They were jammed into troop ships, any military vessel handy, in one case 700 Aleuts were loaded into a ship which normally holds 150. The move was so reckless that there is a document from the captain's log that neither the crew nor the captain knew what their destination was to be. After some bureaucratic chaos they were dumped at old cannery sites abandoned for over ten years in the panhandle. One of the Aleuts explained that even the sight of the forest terrified them since they have only known vast space. They need space in order to live. They foraged for food from the sea in summer and in winter nearly starved. Epidemics from the polluted water took a heavy toll. It's a wonder they didn't all perish. There was a nisei man who testified in Los Angeles who moved the Commission with his story about having his widower father taken by the FBI which left him and his brother both children virtually orphaned. To this day he does not know whether his father is living or dead. That was only one case. Among the Aleuts there must be countless families who were scattered with their whereabouts unknown to this day. There was an especially sad account by an Aleutian woman in Anchorage who is still searching for her father and made an appeal to Arthur



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Goldberg for some assistance in locating him. His cold response was no response at all. He simply said "Yes, war brings on some terrible things doesn't it". It made me furious. Is it because these people are simple, docile, uneducated creatures-because of the system - that now the system can treat them as less than human. It is the "niggerizing" of another ethnic group. I am getting some facts through Lilly on this woman so that I can write Bill Marutani. I met Those who were sent from the islands to testify were the meek type but himself. those who have left and become educated are anything but that. I met such a woman, a dedicated activist. She tells me that education on the islands is most inadequate and that there is still not one hospital on the entire 1100 mile chain. /I think she would love to hear from nikkei in as many areas as possible to know there is support for her people as well. She is Lilly McGarvey, 4230 Tahoe Dr.. Anchorage, Alaska 99502. She is a private consultant and is now preparing curriculum of the Aleuts to be in the state text for the public schools. There has never been accurate or adequate information about the Aleuts in the public schools much like our story. She is an activist and a proud Aleut. Whereas an Aleut named Phil Tutiakoff is titular leader, he is a politician, he has to be, and therefore not in touch with his people as much as they would like him to be. Lilly travels around the state constantly and keeps in close touch. She has been instrumental in setting up some innovative programs, one being a self help alcohol rehab. system. She is very knowledgeable and as I mentioned, would like hearing from your area. She recommends a book A Century of Servitude by Dorothy Jones. Your library might have it. I think it's paperback. I haven't found it in bookstores yet. Another recommendation I have is the Autumn 1979 issue of Rikka if you can get one. Your activist group might have a copy. This is a quarterly published in Canada. Having joined the redress movement I wasn't aware of all the background. Maybe you're already informed.

I've not heard about Chicago yet, and I'm still not sure whether New York is having a hearing or not. How is it going?

Thank you for receiving Akiyo-san so warmly. She was like a child in



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in her excitement at having to visit Harlem, a light year away from the Japanese tourist circuit. She reports that you and your family are highly respected there. Yes, I am most anxious to get together with you to hear your story. Our nisei women's project is taking the back burner for a while but we it isn't lying fallow. There are so many rich resources since the hearings. The nisei women have been magnificent in their courage to reveal such personal, painful, guilt ridden experiences. R/R/ is top priority now.

This is getting long winded but I do want to tell you one thing about my testimony which you mentioned. That is the word "gambaru". I'd been carrying that word around since JACL had their mock hearing a few months before the Commission arrived. A mock commissioner asked a mock witness, John Tateishi what the Japanese have contributed to America to deserve reparations. Tateishi hemmed a bit and replied, "well, we have more people in the professions, doctors, lawyers, engineers, than any other group". He inadvertently unfurled the JACL banner. The next witness said the agricultural industry, the next, some obscure names of nikkei inventors who are not mentioned in our history books. Next, Nikki Bridges said the issei who drudged and sweated, that came closest to what I wanted to say. I refrained since the session dragged way over schedule. How could JACL forget the issei men and women who shed so much blood, sweat, and tears, and through their spirit of "gambaru" endured. I had no intention of testifying at that time but I'm glad I had my chance to tell JACL that all issei, men and women, contributed. How we do get caught up in the white middle class standard of success.

You still haven't sent me your testimony. Please do.

Nikki Bridges is on her way to N.Y. by train, to receive a writer's award for her piece which was published in Ms. last year. <sup>As arrive Oct 5</sup> Have you read it? Her butt's having to take a beating because of her husband, Harry. Flying means crossing the picket line. I took the liberty of giving her your name. She has appointments with many people including Michi Weglyn. I hope she will have time to call you. She is one of the women in the oral history group.

Basta. Affectionately, Kiku

Mama would have chided me that such a messy letter is disrespectful. I'm just a rotten typist + my writing is worse.



Seattle is far ahead in R/R as the material will show. I hope other cities will hook up with them. The priority even before the hearings has been to pressure Congressmen for support, especially the J.A. turkeys who haven't taken a stand at all. The Commission is, after all, powerless. NCRR here will encourage a letter writing campaign to Matsuda and Mineta to take a stand.