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Wed p.m. L.A.

Mr. Chairman, other distinguished members of the Commission, I thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

My name is Ewan Yoshida. I was born in Alaska on April 9, 1930, of a Japanese father and an Aleut mother. So the investigation of this Commission applies to both of my ancestors.

I have two older brothers. Unfortunately when we were young, my mother passed away. Since my father was a commercial fisherman and was away at sea for long periods of time, he was forced to place my brothers and me in a childrens orphanage.

My father owned a fishing boat. He had finished building a new home. Since my mother died when I was very young, my brothers and I became very close to our father. He did everything for us. He talked to us about fishing and about the sea. He told my brothers and me that when we got older, he would take us out of the orphanage. I was so happy and thrilled when he said this, my emotions almost got the best of me. Tears of joy and happiness came to my eyes. I wanted so much to live with father, share our home and especially go fishing with him.

On December 7, 1941, we were the only Japanese American family in Kodiak, Alaska. In a short time, my father and two uncles were

arrested and put in concentration camps in the United States. We were not told where they were sent. They lost all their property... house, boats, equipment, everything.

I have never seen my father since. I have tried to find out what happened to him but have so far been unsuccessful.

I am very bitter about this. I have not seen my father since I was eleven years old. I am now 50 years old. I have missed my father very much and I wonder if he is alive today. The Japanese American Citizens League has been trying to help me find out what happened to my father. From the archives, we learned that he left whatever camp he was in to work in agriculture in Idaho and Utah.

Not knowing what happened to my father has placed a great strain on my life. It has disrupted my life and affected me tremendously. My whole life has changed and made me very bitter inside. I cannot help but be very angry at the United States.

I believe that if it were not for the concentration camps, I would have had my father during my important boyhood days. I longed for my father then, I long for my father now. As far as I am concerned, the American government took my father away from me and made me an orphan. I am very bitter deep down inside and will be for a long time.

But, if by some stroke of luck, or by God's will, I happen to locate him alive, a lot of my bitterness will turn to tears of joy and happiness. As for now, all I can do is hope and pray.

Ewan Yoshida