

To Rafu Shimpo

Eji Suyama M. D. P. A.

50 UNION STREET  
ELLSWORTH, MAINE 04605

1 October 92

Dear Sir,

I was appalled to read the deathless and graceless prose of a Mr. Yoshiaga column (A Hush-Hush Issue: Rafu Shimpo, 9-8-92) concerning the 1942 draft resisters. It is difficult to believe that our tribal "cold war" is still being suscitated by such unsupportable and meanspirited innuendoes and speculations. Moreover it is an insult to the many who attended the hundreds of Japanese language schools on the Mainland and Hawaii, and indeed, internationally.

The evacuation camps wounded but also strengthened and activated what was already there inside of us. The camps operating on a priori systems were worlds that embodied the absurd but yet demanded responses to empirical realities. Testing their shelfhood, some elected to resist the draft, and also in other ways, until constitutional rights were restored. It was an imperative only few of the brave took and took the load off the rest of us.

Those who did not have the "privilege" of going to war <sup>WITH</sup> its grotesque and obscene landscape, should realize that <sup>↑</sup> some of us of the 442CT became aware of courage's multifaceted asymmetries that extended beyond the battlefields to the camps.

Mr. Yoshinaga's benighted views and closed mind lack the redeeming values of forgiveness, compassion, and understanding or is that an unfair extrapolation? All of us as veterans of Evacuation and WWII should avoid the hubris to emulate God who will make the final decision.

Respectfully yours,



*[Handwritten signature]*

[My friend Eji, 442nd Vet, who has brains and sensibilities to spare]