

re: Dillon S. Myer

Japanese American Citizens League
National Headquarters

412-415 BEASON BLDG.

TELEPHONE 5-6501

SALT LAKE CITY 1, UTAH

Eastern Office:

299 Madison Ave.
New York City 17, N. Y.
Phone: Murray Hill 2-2459

May 15, 1946

Dear Friend:

Japanese-Americans invite you to share in a tribute to Mr. Dillon S. Myer, Director of the War Relocation Authority, for a convincing demonstration of democracy at work.

Due to the evacuation of persons of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast, Mr. Myer inherited an extremely difficult situation born of war time hysteria. His became the responsibility not only of seeing that 110,000 people were adequately housed, fed and clothed, but also of working out plans whereby they could once again become a part of America, eventually to find their way back to their homes on the West Coast.

In order to do this Mr. Myer had to fight the lies and distortions spread by vicious race prejudice on the West Coast and overcome indifference and skepticism in the East and Midwest. Girded by his faith in democracy and in Americans, he courageously went about his job, often in the face of personal abuse. He carried the fight to the very doorstep of the race baiters, and his fearless example became the rallying point for people of goodwill to speak out. The evacuation may have shamed democracy, but the work of Mr. Myer and the W.R.A. will stand as a credit to a democratic people.

A testimonial dinner for Mr. Myer is being given on Wednesday, May 22nd, at the Hotel Roosevelt Hendrik Hudson Room, at 7 p.m. Among the speakers will be Mr. John H. McCloy, former Assistant Secretary of War, Mr. Roger N. Baldwin, Director of the American Civil Liberties Union, Mr. Edward J. Ennis, former head of the Enemy Alien Control Board of the Department of Justice, Dr. Joseph P. Chamberlain, Chairman of the Board of the National Refugee Service, Bishop James E. Walsh, Superior General of the Maryknoll Seminary, and Mr. Isaac Asofsky, Executive Director of the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society.

We earnestly hope you will attend this memorable testimonial. Filling out the enclosed form will mean a reaffirmation of your belief in fair play and tolerance, and an expression of your appreciation to Mr. Myer.

Sincerely yours,

John Wayne Hobbes

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

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Re: Dillon S. Myer

~~Ruomala~~
~~Hansen~~
~~Opler~~
~~Ishiyama~~
~~Spicer~~
~~Hansen~~

5/19/46
Spicer
Receipt in Section
5/20
3/6
1/4

CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF THE MEDAL FOR MERIT TO DILLON S. MYER

Dillon S. Myer, for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services to the United States.

As Director of the War Relocation Authority, Mr. Myer organized and directed the program for the readjustment of the 110,000 men, women, and children of Japanese ancestry who were, because of military necessity, evacuated from their homes on the West Coast early in the war. Against the pressure for group detention of the evacuees, with its threat of progressive disaffection, disloyalty and deportation, Mr. Myer launched and completed a program involving individual appraisal leading to progressive relocation, reintegration and rehabilitation of this racial minority.

Bah! ←
Bah!
MKO

Because of Mr. Myer's clear vision, brilliant planning, tireless effort, and superior executive ability, and because of his unwavering faith in the innate fairness of the American people, what was in 1941 the least known, most misunderstood, most locality-bound American minority has become within a period of four years a well-known, widely distributed minority whose Americanism had been recognized by fair-minded people throughout the Nation and by fighting Americans on every battle front of the war.

Bah!
EHS
KL
MKO

see!

Mr. Myer's far-sighted administration of a controversial war agency resulted in a program which, by reason of its involvement with a racial problem, carried a potential of peril to the very soundness of our national integrity, but which, under his leadership, became an affirmation of American faith in the validity of democratic processes. Warring on American soil against racism in the United States, he won for American democracy a great and significant victory.

/s/ Harry S. Truman

May 8, 1946

Correspondence

The Japanese American Citizens League

cordially invites you to a Dinner

honoring

Mr. Dillon S. Myer

Director of War Relocation Authority

to be held on Wednesday, May 22, 1946 at 7 P. M.

*The Roosevelt Hotel
Madison Avenue at 45th Street*

R.S.V.P. by May 20

Dress Optional

\$6.00 Per Person

Dillon Meyer - WRA

THE INSTITUTE OF INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

499 Pennsylvania Ave., N. W.

February 6, 1948

Dear Ned:

About the first of January, I took over my new job as President of The Institute of Inter-American Affairs. Having been on vacation the last two weeks of December, some of my holiday mail was mislaid. Consequently, your Christmas card has just come to me, and I am delighted to hear from you again. I often think of you and wonder how you are getting along. We miss the Spicers very much indeed.

I have seen John Provinse on a number of occasions recently, mainly while I was deciding whether to accept the job as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Naturally I consulted John on a number of occasions during that time. I finally decided to accept my present position rather than the Commissionership because I felt that there was less than a fifty-fifty chance to do a successful job at this particular time.

Thanks again for the card, and with kindest regards to you and the family,

Sincerely,

Dillon

Mr. Ned Spicer
Route 4, Box 526
Tucson, Arizona

Correspondence

WPA - ✓ ~~Dillon Meyer~~ 3025 Daniel Sam N. W.
Edward H. Spicer - Washington D.C. 20015 -
The University of Arizona, March 31st 1968
Tucson, Arizona, 85721.

Dear Ned: It has been well over a year
since your letter of Jan 31, 1967.

After having the manuscript for 3 months
the U. of Chicago press turned it down
with the statement that it was too autobiographic.

It has been in the hands of a N.Y. agent for
several months now and so far they have
not been able to place it. In my last letter
from them they said it was being read by
Holt and if they don't take it they will
try Praeger.

It seems that some of the publishers feel
that it is too similar to Alice Barwicks
book but which I think is nuts but they are
the doctors.

Do you suppose that the Arizona Un-
Press would be interested in seeing
it, unless I believe the agents we would
have to work through them but if you think
they might be interested, could send you a copy
and if after reading it they would be interested
I could ask the agent to contact them -

As always please give me your honest opinion
about this approach -

Regards to Frog -

Sincerely
Dillon

Dillon Myer

516

April 26, 1968

Dillon Myer ^{Daniel}
3025 ~~David~~ Lane, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20015

Dear Dillon:

Since receiving your letter of March 31, I have talked with Marshall Townsend, director of the University of Arizona Press. He suggests that you send your manuscript to me for a reading. If it looks desirable for publication by our press, we could go on from there. If your agent has not found any publisher to be interested by that time, then would it not be possible for you to withdraw the ms. from them? Since they would not have had anything to do with this contact, they should not be concerned. At any rate the first thing would be for you to send it to me.

I shall be very much interested in reading the manuscript and hope that I can look at it objectively. I should think that an account strictly from the point of view of the director of the WRA would be a most important (as well as personally interesting to me) contribution to the understanding of all that happened in the case of the Japanese Americans. Our press is publishing Impounded People in the early fall, the original report unmodified but with extensive bibliography and with excellent pictures from the WRA files. I notice that The Governing of Men by Leighton is being reprinted also by the Princeton Press. There have been several other recent books on the relocation center period in Japanese American life, but none seems to cover the centers broadly and the administrative and policy questions involved there adequately. None really deals with the J-A viewpoint about the centers. Your book should be timely in the midst of this resurgence of interest in the whole matter. I think that the Bosworth book was not very good and shed no new light whatever on what happened.

Roz and I are always delighted to hear from you and hope all is going well with you.

With best wishes from both of us.

Sincerely,

Edward H. Spicer
Professor

EHS:mo

cc: Marshall Townsend

COVERS P...

Dillon S. Myers 3025 Daniel Lane NW.
Washington D.C. 20015
Nov 13, 1969.

Dear Spicers; I am expecting to arrive
in Tucson on Monday Night Nov 17th and
will leave Wednesday Morning Nov 19th
at 11:10 AM on American Airlines for my return
trip.

My visit is for the purpose of meeting with
Elaine Nantbes to iron out any differences
that may exist. I will also see Mr. Townsend
of course -

I asked Elaine Nantbes to call you and to
say that I would like very much to have
the Spicers as my dinner guests on
Tuesday evening Nov 18th

Rep. you were such a good fisher last
spring why dont you do it again. It won't
make me a bit mad if you should fish
the same place again - I will call some
time Tuesday. I will be staying at the
Flamingo motel -

I will be returning your pictures Wed.
I dont think that I will need any of them -

Sincerely
Dillon

Dr & Mrs Eud. T Spicer -
Dept of Anthropology -
University of Arizona
Tucson, Arizona

3025 Danial Lane N.W.
Washington DC 20015

11/25/69

Dear Pop & Ned: what a delightful evening
at your house on Tuesday evening. Pop
& I liked very much your choice of a place to
eat because both the drinks and the food were
superb.

I enjoyed the officers very much -
my trip back was pretty much routine
except that we were late getting off in Chicago
and late in arrival in Washington during a very
heavy rain storm.

we will be looking forward to a visit
from the Spicers next September.

Thanks again for a lovely evening -

Sincerely
Dillon.

*Dear Pop & Ned: I hope you had a
great time on Tuesday. The rest of the family
was in the city.
Have a happy Christmas and may
1970 find you both and all those you
love love.
Dillon*

Xmas 1972

Myer

Dear Roy and Ned -

Hope you have been well and finding it pleasant to be back in the U.S.

We are fine and still going "great guns" How wonderful it is to be well and to really love life!

Our family will all be together this Christmas. Margaret + her Dave + two children come in Thursday for a week or ten days. The rest of the family live in this area.

Have a lovely Christmas and may 1973 bless you both and all those you hold dear.

Our love,
Jenness

In Sept. we celebrated
our 50th wedding anniversary
and Dillon's 83rd birthday!

12/74

Myer

Jan 1973

Dear Roy:

Rex Lee's daughter Dixie, her husband
and four children live in Tucson.
I believe Ted is getting his Doctorate.
Ted Born, 3401 N. Columbus Blvd. Apt 15-
Tucson. Dixie is a perfect love - the 3
little boys are theirs - the little girl was
just recently adopted. (They are a dear family -
Hope you run onto them someday. I do
not know Ted but we've known the Lee girls
since they were tiny and they are great gals!

Love,
Jenness.

P.S.
Whenst comest thou East? Don't wait
until we get so darned old that we can't
enjoy having you as house guests!!!
J.

FROM THE HALLMARK COLLECTION
Published by Obacher Brothers of Munich
from 1870-1890.



PLEASE MAIL
EARLY FOR
CHRISTMAS



ADDRESS

DR. & MRS Edward H. Spicer
5344 E FT. Lowell Road
TUCSON, ARIZONA
85712

Myer

Old-fashioned pleasures...
happy memories...
a world of joy...
wishes for your Christmas.
Have a happy & healthy
New Year
Jenness & Dillon Myer

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