Civil Control Station Perkins, California May 25, 1942 Dr. Dorothy S. Thomas Giannini Foundation Rm. 349 Giannini Hall University of California Berkeley, California Dear Dr. Thomas: Perhaps this delay in sending to you a written account of my background has made you feel that I was not enthusiastic about the project you about to undertake. However, I do want you to know that I am sincerely interested and anxious to be one of the workers to be included in the research study. It is that one finds it rather uninteresting and rather hard to sketch one's background not knowing just what needs to be included. Starting with a factual outline based on the preliminary registration form of the U.S. Employment Service, I offer the following: MARI OKAZAKI, S.S. number 549-24-6748, 1860 Washington St. U.S. born Japanese, age, 26. San Francisco, Calif. Birth date: January 20, 1916. TU 5212 University of California: Major: Education (Vocational) A.B. May 1939. Minor: Decorative Arts Extra-curricular activities: International and Race Relations groups of the U. of C. Young Women's Christian Association. Counseling as Junior and Senior. U.C. Japanese Women's Students Club. During July, 1939, following graduation, in order to follow up theoretical work in economics and education courses, participated in a "Summer Service Laboratory in the San Francisco Bay Area" conducted by the Pacific

Dr. D.S. Thomas -2-May 25, 1942 Southwest Intercollegiate Christian Council under the local direction of the Univ. of California Y.W. and Y.M.C.A. Lived cooperatively and worked as a volunteer in the Alexander Community House, Oakland, which serves as a community center for West Oakland Mexican and Italian people. Helped with recreation, craft and folk-dancing, as well as taking cooperative charge of excursions of youngsters to the Fair. A grand opportunity to observe how other nationality or economic minorities "take it". Mrs. Eile en Watkins, Supervisor of this center for many years and who had herself grwon up in the neighborhood, had watched different nationality groups entering into the community and after reaching a certain economic status move out to other areas. September and October, 1939. Employed at Japh Pavilion as one of the guides. Characterized by not knowing who in the world was issuing policies and instructions. Cured me of working for "Japanese bosses". November 1939 to October 1940. In order eventually to earn means of going through social service curriculum as well as to help younger sisters to continue studies after high school. after consulting with the campus YWCA secretary, I decided to go through a secretarial training course and entered the California Secretarial School in San Francisco. Became slightly acquainted with Nob Hill apartment life while cooking my way through rather uninteresting commercial courses, although I enjoyed bookkeeping. Made some very good friends with a second generation French, an Italian and German descent college graduates as well as others of old American stock. The school was like other private commercial "all out for the students' money" schools, but the contacts with the students attending there, all middle class Americans, was very stimulating and lasting. (Every week a small group of us has a "farewell" supper at one or another's home fearing that I may have to evacuate any day.) November 1940. Volunteered services to International Institute, an organization offering information and services to foreign born and new Americans and placed on part-time work, but was also referred by Miss Robson of the San Francisco YWCA to the Alto Psychologic Center, where I worked part-time while continuing brush-up shorthand courses at the "Y". Until April, 1941, concurrently with part-time work at the International Institute, stenographer and secretary to Miss Annie Clo Watson, Executive Secretary, and for the technical case worker, worked at the Alto Psychologic Center as combination office secretary, receptionist, librarian in charge of circulating library on psychologic and related publications, assisting with administration and scoring of various educational and psychologic testing. Fine chance to catch up on serious reading and taking of some of the tests for my own interests also for obtaining insight into vocation and psychologic guidance work.

May 25, 1942

In April 1941, the International Institute was awarded a Rosenberg Foundation Grant to carry on a Citizenship Project, and I started to work as office secretary for both the creative writing in connection with the educational project and the following adult groups: Council for Unity Among the American People (no direct connection with Louis Adamic's) including many programs in cooperation with other community and civic groups; the Committee on Americans of Oriental Ancestry, which were sub-headed, The American Filipino Committee and the Committee on American Citizens of Japanese Ancestry, both inter-racial.

The educational project involving a coordinated use of government, industrial and cultural community, and teacher-student resources, all fresh direct material uncontaminated by previous publication, was a lesson in the creative use of every-day experiences. Working with adults in the various community groups substantiated a vague theory of mine, that, in spite of differing nationality backgrounds, many of the peoples who have come to know San Francisco as their home have parallel interests and that each of them have slightly divergent but rather patterned way of reacting to certain situations, fortunate or unfortunate as the instances may have been.

Since December 7, 1941, having some acquaintance with various community groups, family members belonging to both Buddhist and Christian Church groups, with myself strictly belonging to neither although active the the Japanese Business Girls YWCA group, I have been functioning as a Japanese community worker. Although on excellent terms with the National President, Mr. Kido and National Secretary, Mike Masaoka, of the Japanese American Citizens League, I have been the constant thorn in the side of the San Francisco chapter of the JACL, in which I have been the rather ineffectual minority opinion among the Board members who think agreeably on almost all issues. However, I am on good personal terms with all of them and enjoyed observing what they thought necessary procedures. At the same time, one can sympathize very heartily sometimes with anti-JACL people, while considering them very inadvised and childish at times in their methods of objection. These other groups really have something to offer, if both sides could only learn to give in a bit. As a whole the youthfulness of the leaders in the Japanese communities may have a great deal to do with the clashes of opinion of so-called "conservatives" versus "radicals". Given entree into either side, I can see that they have a great deal in common and much of the mud-slinging on either side is really unwarranted. Sometimes, I wonder whether or not I am too much on the fence about being neutral, but as an observer, sometimes it has been most revealing though possibly not the most comfortable while trying to be diplomatic. Trying to reconcile the JACL to opposers while being its most articulate minority is mather is rather trying on one's spirit at times, however; and when case work became too heavy with constant phone calls even in the evening at home, I began to skip JACL Board meetings with the result that the local JACL people think I have utter disregard for them. However, the national JACL people understand my position and see where there is a great deal of work to be done in public relations outside of the inner mechanics of running their organization.

Dr. D. S. Thomas - 4 - may 25, 1942

Since being employed by the Wartime Civil Control Administration in the Social Assistance Division, there has been very little time between Civil Control Stations to do much extracurricular activities, but in going about from one town or city to another, it is interesting to notice how much the small-town JACL groups have been able to coordinate with authorities and to interpret the mechanics of evacuation to bewildred community people. Being authorized to issue disbursing orders, one does have the chance to ascertain the relative economic status of rural and urban communities as compared to each other at this time.

One of the main reasons why I did not want to go directly into social work was that it seemed almost predicated that I work only in the nationality group into which I had been born. Somehow resentful of segregating myself even in a professional line, I was very glad to be permitted an opportunity to work w th an inter-racial organization such as the International Institute and not to be always with the Japanese. It was particularly valuable to observe the methods by which Miss Watson, the I.I. Executive Secretary was able to use existing community resources for the accomplishment of certain objectives the organization was working toward in inter-nationality and interracial community attitudes. I treasure especially the experience of being the secretary of the American-Filipino Committee, with whom I worked through several projects in public relations, and felt just as strongly about their relative position and observed the public reaction to them before and since the outbreak of activities in the Philippine Islands -- and rather disappointed that the Filipinos in the United States still have so far to go in gaining a measure of equity in their rights. Perhaps, one does get rather impatient for them.

Another means of keeping a wider perspective has been my membership in the YWCA Business and Professional group, the San Francisco B. and P. group keeping close touch with the Japanese Center group. An interesting experience I am now having is working with the larger Western Area Businessand Professional YWCA Council as finance chairman, although travel restrictions have hampered carrying but my functions. Would that more of our Japanese women would take more interest in the position of the "working Gal".

Have also been part of an informal discussion group of college graduates but am afraid they have been rather sterile as far as social consciousness and even intelligence is concerned. However, they seemed to enjoy being "cultural" and I suppose that one did enjoy some of their social activities, at least I enjoyed the latter. They petered out when war was declared, however.

Looking over the above account, I have come to the conclusion that instead of sticking to objective facts, I have strayed into quite a subjective attitude, and perhaps this may dismay you. However, it makes writing about oneself slightly less boring to do so and may prove a little more enlightening to you. I have written to Sam Hohri about possiblities of being part of your project and have suggested his writing directly to you if he is interested. Being away from the city, I cannot know what he might have written to me regarding this matter.

The main attraction in participating in this project to me is the opportunity of directing one's effort into the professional field in which I hope ultimately to function; namely, vocational guidance or rehabiliation, which is so dependent on knowing the psychological bacground of those concerned. Later opportunities to continue graduate work my be directed and assisted a great deal on the need which will be evident from the type of observation that will be done in these centers.

Dr. D.S. Thomas 5 -May 25, 1942 With all wishes that no matter whom you select to assist you on the research, that you will have a most successful study, I am sure that any of the workers whom you choose should put a great deal of interest and energy into such a significant project. Very sincerely yours, Mari Okazaki Mari Okazaki When I return to San Francisco from this assignment, I shall hope P.S. to know what Sam thinks about it; and in any case, I shall communicate with you immediately by telephone. M.O.mo This must have been very difficult to read indeed, I tried to sandwich this typing in between doing my jot at the Civil Control Station with the M. P's in the backgroumd Tsk-tsk-ing everytime it was everlent l'd made a mistake)

June 16, 1942 cong Itan Dr. Thomas,
you were probably rather startled
by the wire I sent you yesterday regarding my being part of your research staff to work at manganar. Having heard that the authorities were probably ceaung to send ento manzanar any more occupanto from northern assembly centers I became I bit apprehenine about our getting There. Line I was told on such notice of the Reedley resegnment, it seemed impossible to Communicate in person with the W. R. a., as suggested by Mr Vernier befre I left, to make sure of being sent there. Last Sunday, Time Mukaye, the other Japanese worker sent down to handle The reish of interviewing " recording, and I hed a surprising chance to go into Usalia where we splurged at Sin Togasaki 's medual Trading to x sent all sorts of Japanese tedbits into Jungs & Monga. There we met several friends from the Bay Region Kelly Yamide, The optical lens worker, Jumerly in Wehara's in Oakland, Dr. Jeru Tozasaki (both. K.M. I. radical "shot" dodgers flinched as she offered to give the medle to us-neatly avoided her offers)

the Takero family the Tukuchima Jamily, etc.etc. Then going across the street as we tried to catch at 2:00 o'clock hus to Julare camp we met mes Mrs. Kenji Kasai, joj de International Sewing School in S. F. (the nearest thing to a Bride's School here in the U.S.) who used to teach us "s-sahi" or eliquette to us Comp Fire Gials. She was to glad to see us that we missed the bus. which was fortunate as she begged us to take her '36 tackard for The ride down to Tulare where Kimi had Juendo from Anard, Santa Maria and Guadalupe. I went you the ride but decided to try to see some callege Friend but couldn't remember their married Inomes and had to ask you one of the brothers, a total stranger to me, except you what I knew of his Jack connections, Ken Uternomiga, whom I later discovered had been appointed welfare commissioner while waiting In what friends could be found, he told me of conditions there. It was interesting to hear that here the fall still reltained most of its prestige and that their "big-shots" had regronsible

acline work to do. He did express keen dis 2 apprentment that a Paradena leader Nobu Navai had heen heaten by votes in Jam of an Issei after several recounts of the vote and that 4 out of 20 elected as block ? - s were losei. I commented that since Jacei did compose a good portion of the population, it was a healthy sign they were taking interest in democratic voling procedures. aetho, from The little I remember of my years visit in Mhon, it is quite withens that the ballot meant a great deal to the dipposes over 12 years ago. Terhans, now their influence so voting citizens may be as ineffective as ours is here in the United States. Soon, his sister Trys, who had been one of the livelies coeds - both mentally & intellectually as well as escrally until she legs after her. I C. from the university came to meet is with her husband, a member of the police staff, evidente from his star. She shook her head & her bright eye snapped once or twice but paid that on the whole outside of the heat & borehow, it wasn't so bad - that she warn't working . She seemed glad not to be. Then told me of ala Kamoto, who wasn't married so I'd suspected. Ada had been one of The

popular Nesei coeds, majored in but had alway hankered from Loo Augeles on a boch 3 tack "art school" back gound, had been given of a nurse's aide job but got tired of taking orders from an 18- year old squirt and Left the job. She is happier now helping a friend doing recreation work, and is busy making colorful, attractive signs for The recreational & dike programs. Before I could ask anymore, me of the dos dugeles yet girl whom I'd been greatly impressed For her up to date ness regarding legislation and attelledes concerning huseness women a girls hailed me. Dae of the unusual, very attractive, but willing to use her brains Nice's girl, Dorothy Wada. Incidentally in asking Jor her address, I found she had become mrs. Ken Utsunomiya. I think she had been doing some of Los Angeles JaCL secretary work - probably did The work for The exec. sec. there. The was enjoying a honeymoon at government expense às she fokingly put it and seemed content to give up y work for a while. I'm affaid she's one of the who 've been rather overworked during The last year or so, trying to avere what the others were too willing to let trap all of us. That dream't sound is she, but I'm writing often a first hot day of stell lacking stenoy, help with our 5.5.5. injuritielly answered).

Kight now we commute 23 miles each way every day into Keedley, when they estimate 3000 have come from vactor rigins to add to the approx original 1000 Japanese in Trueno County. There are not actual has merely approx. Jusses) Our main job it brying to get cases written for summaries the considered by army authorities at lostel Whiteombb es that people may leave aliforina (you should me the questions They have to answer!) or to join Jamilies in Established camps. It's a disheartening job, Repenally the latter because the army is really not concerned with Joining Kernle from semilar communities or members of what The beganne consider to be jamely groupes. Brothers & witer who have married in laws . Coursehope which have been very closely associated alike living at different addresses) They are so disappointed and resentful since they had lone the foot a from by voluntarily evacuating at their own expense. The order came out so suddenly that those who had plannet lastern moves were really just sluck. Usually a day or two have been given but This time the 12 noon June 2 yorder was justed after the states time. I try to work on cases at night, heat having to leave at 1:15 q.m ~ getting

back to the hotel between 6:30 a 7:30 every evening leaves little time, especially so the vally hear is se enervating. Many of our friends would like to have us viset them, but we get so weary from discussing "Evacuation" finally ending in a very resentful mood that Kimi + I have to just refuse - that's The reason why we commute. Somehow, not seven definite assurance yes that the Okazaki family will be admitted on the edge of my sear - abvery gold mood as I try to tell people not to depend on having heir case considered. It's funny but I deliberately have to break down their paith in the U.S. good - or the army - so Jew brealize that we are controlled just as much as my every country - by our military authorities - The jack that exclusion orders of have not been announced is a source of great discomfort & uneasiness. Valley people & understand hush are petitioning to have the Squarese stay until the x Sps when the grapes are harvested. If this Will lacks until then. I kn ow one Public assistance Worker who will just melt away both mentally & physically. It's 6:36, good-morning says the phone. I hope this doesn't read too Confusedly-but that is the state of offairs now Most sincere by yours. Mari

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED DOMESTIC FOREIGN TELEGRAM FULL RATE CABLE DAY LETTER DEFERRED NIGHT MESSAGE CABLE NIGHT CABLE NIGHT LETTER LETTER RADIOGRAM RADIOGRAM

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Radio

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CHECK

TIME FILED

STANDARD TIME

Form 2 Dbl

Reedley, California June 19, 1942 9:30

Dorothy Thomas University of California

YOUR OFFER ACCEPTED WITH THANKS. GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR CONTACTING TODAY PHONE CALL FROM NEWTON SAME OFFICE INDICATED REFUSAL BANNISTER. NOT IN ORDER FOR OKAZAKI FAMILY TRANSFER TO MANZANAR IF CONFIRMATION OF MARI OKAZAKI APPOINTMENT WITH REQUEST HAVE FAMILY ALSO SENT MANZANAR SENT BOTH ADMINISTRATIVE AND HOUSING AVAILABLE IN MANZANAR ADVISE BOTH HOHRI AND OKAZAKI TO ARRANGE THROUGH RESPECTIVE MANAGERS

> Mari Okazaki Public Assistance Worker

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TRANSMITS AND DELIVERS THE WITHIN MESSAGE SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

To guard against mistakes or delays, the sender of a message should order it REPEATED; that is, telegraphed back to the originating office for comparison. For this, one-half the unrepeated message rate is charged in addition. Unless otherwise indicated on its face, THIS IS AN UNREPEATED MESSAGE AND PAID FOR AS SUCH, in consideration whereof it is agreed between the sender of the message

and this Company as follows:

1. The Company shall not be liable for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, of any message received for transmission at the UN-REPEATED MESSAGE rate, whether caused by the negligence of its servants or otherwise, beyond the sum of FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS; nor for mistakes or otherwise, beyond the sum of FIVE HONDRED DOLLARS; nor for instances or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery of any message received for transmission at the REPEATED-MESSAGE rate, beyond the sum of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS; nor for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, of any message received for transmission at the SPECIALLY VALUED MESSAGE rate, beyond the sum at which such message shall be valued. in writing, by the sender thereof when tendered for transmission and for which payment is made or agreed to be made of the amount of the repeated-message rate and an additional charge equal to one-tenth of one per cent of the amount by which such written valuation shall exceed five thousand dollars; nor in any case for delays arising from unavoidable interruption in the working of its lines, or for errors in cipher or

2. The Company is hereby made the agent of the sender, without liability, to forward this message over the lines of any other company or by any other means

of communication when necessary to reach its destination.

3. Domestic messages and incoming cable messages will be delivered free within one-half mile of the Company's office in towns of 5,000 population or less, and within one mile of such office in other cities or towns. Beyond these limits the Company does not undertake to make delivery, but will, without liability, at the sender's request, as his agent and at his expense, endeavor to contract for him for such delivery at a reasonable price.

4. No responsibility attaches to this Company concerning messages until the same are accepted at one if its transmitting offices; and if a message is sent to such office by one of the Company's messengers, he acts for that purpose as the agent of the sender.

5. The Company shall not be liable for damages or statutory penalties in any case where the claim is not presented in writing within sixty days after the message is filed with the Company for transmission.

6. It is agreed that prompt and correct transmission and delivery of this message shall be presumed in any action for recovery of tolls thereto; subject, however, to rebuttal

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in addition to all foregoing terms.

8. NO EMPLOYEE OF THIS COMPANY IS AUTHORIZED TO VARY THE FOREGOING.

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SPECIAL TERMS APPLYING TO DAY LETTERS. In further consideration of the reduced rate for this special "Day Letter" service, the following special terms in addition to those enumerated above are hereby agreed to:

(a) Day Letters may be forwarded by the Telegraph Company as a deferred service and the transmission and delivery of such Day Letter is, in all respects, subordinate to the priority of transmission and delivery of full rate telegrams.

(b) This Day Letter is received subject to the express understanding and agreement that the Company does not undertake that a Day Letter shall be delivered on the day of its date absolutely and at all events; but that the Company's obligation in this respect is subject to the condition that there shall remain sufficient time for the transmission and delivery of such Day Letter on the day of its date during regular office hours, subject to the priority of the transmission of full rate telegrams under the conditions named above.

NIGHT MESSAGES. Accepted up to 2.00 a, m. at reduced rates to be sent during the night and delivered not earlier than the morning of the ensuing business day. Night messages may at the option of the Telegraph Company be mailed at destination to the addressees, and the Company shall be deemed to have discharged its obligation in such cases with respect to delivery by mailing such Night Messages at destination, postage prepaid.

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CLASSES OF SERVICE

SPECIAL TERMS APPLYING TO NIGHT LETTERS. In further consideration of the reduced rate for this special "Night Letter" service, the following special terms in addition to those enumerated above are hereby agreed to:

(a) Night Letters may at the option of the Telegraph Company be mailed at destination to the addressees, and the Company shall be deemed to have discharged its obligation in such cases with respect to delivery by mailing such Night Letters at destination, postage prepaid.

CABLE MESSAGES

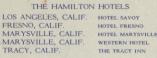
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NIGHT CABLE LETTERS at reduced rates. Must be in plain language of country of origin, or of destination, or in French where transmitted by telegraph to destination. Subordinated to the priority of transmission of full and deferred rate messages. May be posted, when sender so directs, to countries where this service is not available, at tariffs to countries from which such messages are posted. Under latter circumstances, messages must contain complete mailing address including chargeable posting instructions (i. e., 'Post London,' etc.). Minimum word basis of twenty to twenty-five words applied. Code addresses may be used except for messages delivered by post. Figures explained by text admitted. Indicator 'NLT' required and charged for as one word. For further particulars apply at any Postal Telegraph office.

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Monday 6/27/42. 6:30 a.m

Dear Dr Thomas.

at last our stint is over. On Thursday, he 30 th we are To report to San Francisco and be assisted" in our plans to join our families or go to whichever center we request. Thanks to your efforts the Obies" received notice that They were to deave Souforan on Monday, the 27th, and at this minute may be on their way to Manzanar. busily and usefully accupied at manginar. Both of my sisters who were assisting with the kindlergarden & ohe 3rd. 4th graders liked their work very much. I hope the youngest one can find some callege presumen Just as interested in The vital problems of The day as she is. She likes to have for but likes a nice descussion once in a while * may miss her young "eynic" friends.

I do not know to how much, time The army will give us to prepare for our own evacuation: most of us now realize that we have some chance of settening out - Schools , jobs further Each - but we've all decided to try out "cary" life. We feel as if we're missing something by skipping the centers. I supposed & we should be able to work something out if we find comp life too intolerable. Us long as the present trend to add restrict, one does not become too much for our spirits and we can do prealive constructive work, the experience should not be without its fruitful aspects. I wonder how my family will compare assembly center life with S.F. Bay region people with the confloreration they will find in Mangonar. and if They will not give us enough time these telephone you. Please give my best wisher to Virginia. Gordon & Spencer. Am af aid moyhe I have last names o frish names mered however.) Sincerely yours. Dari Okazaki

June 18, 1942 Miss Mari Okazaki Public Assistance Worker WCCA Reedley, California Dear Mari: I am enclosing copies of letters to Mr. Nash and Miss Bannister. I hope we can arrange things to your satisfaction. I was delighted to get your long and informative letter today. With cordial regards, Sincerely yours, Dorothy S. Thomas Professor of Rural Sociology DST:rj Enc--2

June 18, 1942 Miss Phoebe Bannister Social Security Board 785 Market Street San Francisco, California Dear Miss Bannister: Confirming our telephone conversation of yesterday, I hereby request that you arrange the transfer of Mari Okazaki to Manzanar upon completion of her WCCA assignment. Very sincerely yours, Dorothy S. Thomas Professor of Rural Sociology DST:rj cc: Miss Mari Okazaki