

23 April 1942

Honorable Chase A. Clark
Governor of Idaho
State House
Boise, Idaho

My dear Governor Clark:

My attention has just been called to the report of an interview with you appearing in the Spokane Spokesman-Review of April 21 as follows:

"At Moscow he learned that six Japanese arrived recently to enroll at University of Idaho.

"Three of them have been taken out to two farms and three are with members of the university faculty,' he said. 'They should not be criticized for coming to Idaho, because the army sent them here at the request of parties connected with the university.

"I think this action possibly was hasty and that it would have been better to have taken the entire matter up with the board of regents instead of one man assuming the responsibility.

"I will personally make no decision in regard to the matter until after the board of regents has conferred with President Harrison Dale."

The University has frequently suffered at the hands of inept reporters, and this interview with you is no exception, but it does contain some misstatements of fact and some implications which I am sure you did not intend to convey. My letter of April 21 addressed to Mr. Wilson, of which I sent you a copy, reviews this episode and sets forth certain facts with which you could not have been familiar when you were in Moscow.

Let me call attention to two or three of the items in this story whose misstatement of fact seem particularly unfortunate:

"At Moscow I learned that six Japanese arrived". You certainly did not intend to convey the impression that these were Japanese subjects. I have not seen them and know nothing about them personally, but I am told that they are young Americans of Japanese extraction, several being third generation in this country, average age, nineteen years and nine months.

"To enroll at the University of Idaho". Their sponsors in Seattle, the Army authorities, the individuals themselves, and I thought you yourself knew that they could not enroll in the University of Idaho. Every public announcement we have made on this subject has made this point clear.

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"Three are with members of the University faculty". Two were with one member of the faculty.

"The Army sent them here at the request of parties connected with the University". I am sure you must have been misquoted here. No one connected with the institution invited or requested them; they were sent by the Army, to be sure, at whose urging and request local homes had been found for them. All the initiative came from the military authorities.

"It would have been better to have taken the entire matter up with the board of regents instead of one man assuming responsibility". I do not know whether this refers to Mr. Matt, mentioned in my letter of April 21, or to myself. Let me say again and as emphatically as I can make it that I had no information whatever that any of these Japanese-American students were being sent to Moscow till after they arrived here and then I learned it only from a newspaper reporter. I sent you a copy of a strictly personal letter I wrote some time ago to President Sproul of the University of California frankly stating that I thought the University would admit a limited number of these boys and girls of Japanese extraction under certain conditions. But obviously such a policy was subject to confirmation or rejection by our board; that procedure is too self-evident to require special mention in a personal letter written to another state university president. In fact, the moment the California authorities publicly announced that the University of Idaho would admit such students, I hastened publicly to deny it and so informed you.

These boys and girls have been transferred to another state. Would you care to make this an opportunity for another interview setting the public right on one or two of these points? I think I know you well enough to be sure that with your sense of fair play you had no intention of leaving the impression which I am afraid the reporter conveyed in his story.

With very kind personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

Harrison C. Dale
President

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cc: Board of Regents