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JANUARY 17/15

Hood River, Oregon
December 26, 1941

Copy of Telegram sent to:

Honorable Charles L. McNary
U. S. Senate
Washington, D. C.

In view of the fact that Hood River county has a population of alien born and native born Japanese larger in proportion to its entire population than any other county in the state of Oregon, we are faced with a situation that is becoming increasingly difficult to handle. We realize fully that it is the policy of our government to be reasonable and fair in their treatment of our common enemy at this time. Our Civil Defense Council has attempted to work out with the leaders of our Japanese all matters pertaining to maintaining order among us. We have suggested that for the present Japanese, both alien and citizen, remain at home as much as is practical in the conduct of their business and refrain from congregating at any meetings. This suggestion was followed fairly closely during the first week after war, but we are seeing increasing evidence that they are becoming decidedly lax in following our suggestions. As a consequence there is increasing resentment becoming manifest, and for our own protection and theirs as well, we feel that it is absolutely necessary that constituted authorities be given the power, legally, to take necessary steps to see that suggestions as outlined are followed.

We have Civilian Defense registration blanks of many Japanese stating that they are the owners of rifles, shotguns, pistols and cameras, and it is our opinion that some legal steps should be taken to collect all arms and explosives.

It is not our thought to agitate any undue feeling regarding this delicate situation but we do feel that definite steps should be taken immediately to prevent what might develop into some unfortunate situation.

At a Defense meeting held tonight, representing half of the adult population of this county, it was deemed imperative that immediate action is necessary. We feel that you will know what authority to approach on this urgent situation

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confronting us. We are asking you to secure legal authority for our local law enforcement officials to handle this situation immediately.

HOOD RIVER COUNTY CIVIL DEFENSE COUNCIL,

R. E. Steele, County Coordinator;

A. W. Peters, State Executive;

C. M. Sheppard, County Chairman.