

Joe



First Congregational Church

S. W. PARK AVENUE AT MADISON STREET
PORTLAND 5, OREGON
REV. RAYMOND B. WALKER, D. D., MINISTER
TELEPHONE BEACON 0440

March 5, 1945

TO MEMBERS OF THE OREGON STATE LEGISLATURE

We have noted with concern a number of bills and "memorials" introduced in the State Legislature, having for their purpose the placing of restrictions in one form or other against Japanese Americans. One such bill advocates their deportation.

We desire to label such "class" legislation as Anti-Christian and undemocratic. We are opposed to any bill or memorial aimed at placing restrictions on any one group of Americans any more than such restrictions apply equally to all segments of our population. Otherwise such legislation is reduced to a form of discrimination which in this case applies to the color and racial origin of certain Americans.

Passage of such legislation would serve as a precedent and an invitation to further legislation which well might penalize Americans because they are Christians or because they are not Christians; because they are property owners or simply because they live on the wrong side of the tracks.

Surely you will agree with us that such legislation is not in the interest of National Security. Indeed, it represents the anti-thesis of the democratic principles for which we fight today and upon which a Christian society can hope to survive.

We sincerely hope you will not be recorded as voting favorably on any discriminatory legislative measures such as have been introduced with reference to Japanese Americans.

Very truly yours,

Irving Enna
SOCIAL ACTION DEPARTMENT
Irving Enna, Chairman