

LAW OFFICES OF
BERTRAM R. B. AITKEN
FEINSTEIN BUILDING
BRIDGETON, NEW JERSEY
TELEPHONE 430

May 6th, 1944

Deerfield Packing Corporation,
Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Attention: Mr. C. F. Seabrook, President.

Dear Mr. Seabrook:

In furtherance of our conversation had yesterday in your office relative to various statements made by Mr. A. Lewis Turner, President of the Bridgeton City Council to several Field Representatives or Officials of the War Labor Board in connection with the securing of American-Japanese citizens for labor and employment with your enterprises, this is to advise you that I immediately, upon my return to Bridgeton, contacted Mr. Turner and discussed thoroughly the matter with him regarding said statements, which said statements apparently left some doubt in the minds of the Government Officials of the War Labor Board as to the desirability and advisability of American-Japanese coming to work in the vicinity of Bridgeton.

Mr. Turner stated to me that while he informed the Investigators that he personally did not welcome the American-Japanese, however, he could not speak officially for the other six members of City Council. However, he stated to me that he advised the Investigators that he would prefer Government investigated American-Japanese citizens to work in connection with Deerfield Packing and the Seabrook enterprises, rather than the undesirable southern Negro labor; his reasons being that the southern Negro farm labor are undesirable because they frequent the local saloons in the colored section in town, become intoxicated, become unruly and are continually causing the local police considerable difficulty by fighting and continually behaving in a disorderly manner; that he realizes the American-Japanese would be law-abiding and would cause the local police authorities no difficulty.

He further stated to me that he would prefer that all the additional imported farm labor at Seabrook Farms this summer were to be American-Japanese rather than the undesirable southern Negro labor that have heretofore been working at Seabrook Farms in the summer, particularly last summer. He did mention the unfortunate incident involving the American-Japanese this past winter in a basket ball game in our local high school gymnasium. In his words he stated that it was most unfortunate

415

LAW OFFICES OF
BERTRAM R. B. AITKEN
FEINSTEIN BUILDING
BRIDGETON, NEW JERSEY
TELEPHONE 430

Deerfield Packing Corporation

- 2 -

5/6/44

that the situation arose and of course I explained to him that the matter would never have happened had certain officials at the Farms, while you were absent in Florida, taken my advice not to let these American-Japanese play in the game and of course the incident would never have happened had you been at home.

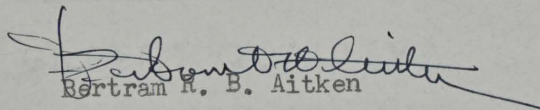
He also stated that he did make reference to the investigators of an incident wherein imported Negro farm labor, last summer in the month of July, caused quite a disturbance in our City at and near a saloon located in the colored section of our town and he felt that the police of Seabrook Farms did not assist in the correction of this situation.

Mr. Turner further stated that he was sorry that the investigators misunderstood his views in connection with this situation, that he was merely only explaining to them his personal feelings in the matter.

As I have said, Mr. Turner is of the opinion that if Deerfield Packing Corporation requires additional labor in order to grow and produce the necessary foods required by our Armed Forces, that he would much prefer government investigated American-Japanese labor than he would the undesirable southern Negroes who come into Bridgeton during their leisure time and cause many disturbances.

If I can be of any further assistance to you along these lines, please advise.

Very truly yours,


Bertram R. B. Aitken

A:C