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**Letter from M.P. Gunderson, High School Principal to R.R. Best,
Project Director [re: difficulty with Army guards over passes for
teachers], May 31, 1944**

M. P. Gunderson

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
TULE LAKE CENTER
NEWELL, CALIFORNIA

GUY W. COOK
NLSEI COLLECTION
University of The Pacific

May 31, 1944

Mr. R. R. Best
Project Director
Tule Lake Center
Newell, California

Dear Mr. Best:

On the evening of May 30th about 5:35 P.M., a carload of W.R.A. employees consisting of Mr. Harkness, Mrs. Harkness, Mr. Gunderson, Miss Phillips, Miss Collins, and Mrs. Auernheimer were going through Gate #3 up to the Administration Building. We were stopped at Gate #3 by the military guard, who asked us to see our passes as it is his duty. The passes were shown, after which he said to us "You're going to have to have your God Dam passes to get out of this place."

When Miss Robbins and Mr. Breece passed through the gate, he asked them to show their passes which they did and informed them that this was a concentration camp and outside was America and that they would have to have their passes to get out.

He also asked several of the teachers for three passes. The most any of us have, to my knowledge, is two. He may have this confused with the passes of the evacuees where it might be necessary to show their badge, blue pass and I.D. badge.

Yours very truly,

M. P. Gunderson
High School Principal

MPG/mm