



1-27-1946

## Letter from Richard Auras to William Langer regarding his internment status decision, 1946

Richard Auras

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Richard Auras : T 25 -  
P.O.Box 300

Bismarck, North Dakota. Ft. Lincoln, Bismarck, No. Dak., January 27, 1946.

The Honorable  
Mr. William Langer  
U.S. Senator, State of North Dakota  
Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. Senator Langer:

Your letter was received and the answer in my case was not satisfactory to me, because the "U.S. Department of Justice - Immigration and Naturalization sent me this letter: dated January 24, 1946 -4290/306-

"We have received information from the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania that you are to be informed that the Attorney General of the United States has decided that you should be removed from the United States pursuant to Presidential Proclamation of July 14, 1945. sign. by W.S. Cook Acting Officer in Charge."

I am giving you the facts and I (so we all of the internees) would appreciate, when a Senat-Committee would investigate the situation of us.

The facts are:

July 31, 1945: Received the "Notice of Determination of Repatriation of Alien Enemy" U.S. Dep. of Justice -146-13-2-56-24-  
- 39/1714-

August 29, 1945: Hearing before the "Repatriation Enemy Hearing Board" consisting of Mr. Edward J. Ennis (Alien Enemy Control Unit) Mr. John L. Burling and Mr. MC. E. Rhettts.

January 24, 1946: after 4 months 26 days from Hearing: received letter (above) from the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Arrested: I was arrested on December 8, 1941 - before Declaration of War between Germany and United States - without any cause or reason whatsoever.

Such treatment of course I cannot but consider legally speaking, anything else but an act of plain kidnapping, no more no less.

(The Chicago Tribune and Bismarck Tribune brought articles about the Latin American internees.)

Accused: I never have been formally accused of anything.

Accusers: I never had a chance to face the accusers in open court and present defense.

Nazi-Party: I never was in Germany or in the United States a member of the National-Socialist-Party.

Books: I have among my professional books some from my old homeland. Any decent person who leaves his fatherland wants to naturally know how things are there during the course of time.

I surely cannot be a crime to keep German books in my private library.

Student: I was a student of the "Sierra States University" San Francisco and arrested six months before final Examination and State Board Examination.

Hearing-

REMOVED  
Important  
DETAINED ALIEN  
ENEMY MAIL  
RETURNED  
BY 23-4  
U.S.I. & N.S.

2nd Hearing  
1943:

The Enemy Alien Hearing Board under the special Assistant Attorney Mr. De Girolamo recommended my release;

"In the Matter of  
RICHARD K. AURAS  
Alien Enemy

D.J. File No.  
146-13-2-56-24.

O R D E R

The above-named alien enemy having been interned by order dated June 20, 1942; and a hearing having been had herein; and the Alien Enemy Hearing Board having recommended that said alien enemy be released; and it appearing from the evidence before me that said alien enemy should be interned; NOW, THEREFORE, upon consideration thereof,

IT IS ORDERED that said order dated June 20, 1942, continue in full force and effect.

/s/ Francis Biddle  
ATTORNEY GENERAL "

Personal facts:

From July 29, 1937 on living in the home of my brother-in-law, Mr. Curt M Benedict and his wife, my sister, Selma Benedict, 55 Borica Street, San Francisco 12, California.  
My brother-in-law paid for the transportation Germany - USA.

I am engaged to Miss Helen Ilse Dietz, 255 Santa Clara Ave, San Francisco, 16, California.

My fiancée helped me in every way to get through school to perfect myself in a profession for which I am peculiarly gifted, and which is entirely non-political, but which is especially one of service to suffering humanity.

During the entire period of my internment, she had been faithful to me in every way and her and my sincerest desire is to marry. My fiancée is a loyal citizen of the United States and a widow of a United States World War I Veteran.

My enclosed letter "career of life" is telling you more about it.

Shortly after hostilities ceased with Germany, some Governments released the internees, for example: Canada, England, Brazil, Chile, Mexico. The "Inter-American" September 1945 Magazine is telling in an article: "Germans freed in Mexico" us more about it. Here some parts:

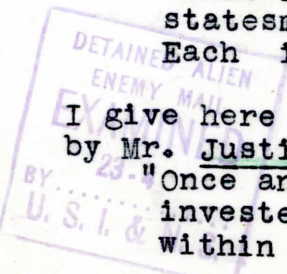
"Because Germany no longer exists as a state, the Mexican Government decided to free the internees. This, incidentally, saves repatriation expenses etc." "The Mexican people feel that Germany is no longer dangerous....most Germans built up a good record in Mexico. And the Mexican welcome them as immigrants. They are hard-working, efficient people, content to settle in the country permanently. etc"

"What President Avila Camacho has done surpasses what any other statesman has done, and it has shown us the way to peace."

Each internee received 1,000 pesos (\$ 200.-) as a stake. "

I give here the "Opinion of the Supreme Court of the United States - No 788- by Mr. Justice Murphy on June 18, 1945: - some parts:

"Once an alien lawfully enters and resides in this country he becomes invested with the rights guaranteed by the Constitution to all people within our borders. Such rights include those protected by the First



and the Fifth Amendments and by the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment."

"As this Court said in a previous exclusive case, "But this court has never held that administrative officers, when executing the provisions of a statute involving the liberty of persons, may disregard the fundamental principles that inhere in "due process of law, as understood, at the time of the adoption of the Constitution. "

"The deportation-statute completely ignores the traditional American doctrine, requiring personal guilt rather than guilt by association or imputation, before a penalty or punishment is inflicted. The doctrine of personal guilt is one of the most fundamental principles of our jurisprudence."

"The impact of deportation upon the life of an alien is often as great (if not greater) that the imposition of a criminal sentence. A deported alien may lose his family, his friends and his livelihood forever. etc."

"Congress has ample power to protect the United States from internal revolution and anarchy, without abandoning the ideals of freedom and tolerance."

"The Bill of Rights belongs to them as well as to all citizens. Neither injunction, fine, imprisonment nor deportation can be utilized, to restrict or prevent the exercise of intellectual freedom. Only by zealously guarding the rights of the most humble, the most unorthodox and the most despised among us, can freedom flourish and endure in our land. "

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My Dear Mr. Langer and Friend:

Why the misery of separation from my fiancee, sister, brother-in-law, and friends?

Why should I be a victim of war measures and war hysteria?

Why should I loose my work for humanity in America?

The war with Germany is o v e r .

There must be men or women in the United States, who will demand, that this situation must cease, that we internees must be returned to their American Homes and families, for the honor the peace and the welfare of the people of the United States.

I pray that you, Sir, moved by your conviction in this matter, will give us efficient help in our great need.

Sincerely yours

*Richard Young*

Enclosures:

Career of life,  
Copy -Letter to  
Honorable Senator  
Young.

*Heartly thanks for your  
best work to help us.  
Always yours for  
Richard Young*

