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### Letter, P.A. Lasley to Governor Homer M. Adkins

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**P. A. LASLEY**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
PYRAMID BUILDING  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

April 3, 1943

Honorable Homer M. Adkins  
Governor  
State of Arkansas  
State Capitol Building  
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dear Governor:

I have reviewed the papers sent me March 31, 1943, by Mr. Martin. I am of the opinion that you should accept the notice as indicated on the bottom of the fourth sheet of the original. This notice and acceptance of it by you is intended to make effective complete jurisdiction of the Federal Government over the areas within the boundaries of the Jap Relocation Colonies known as Rohwer and Jerome Areas. I am not advised as to how the government acquired title to these properties. I can find no act of the legislature consenting to the government purchase nor one ceding to the government jurisdiction over these areas. Under the notice the government would have a right, exclusive of any action by the state, to license physicians, surgeons and practitioners of other professions and trades to practice and work for the authority or for organizations sponsored by it and operating within the areas. The jurisdiction of the United States, however, is not exclusive and does not exclude the power of the State of Arkansas to levy and collect sales taxes and other taxes provided for by the laws of Arkansas from persons other than the United States and to apply and enforce all other laws of the State of Arkansas, both civil and criminal, within the area.

The state has no responsibility for the operation within the areas. They are subject more or less to military authority. I am of the opinion that there should be no conflict of jurisdiction. Since the government is operating the areas as it is, it would be best for the state to consent to their having all jurisdiction and have no divided authority and the state have no responsibility with respect to the areas.

I am somewhat doubtful of your authority in the absence of specific legislation to cede away any of the powers of the state. Evidently the government thinks to the contrary. The question in my judgment is not worth a contention and my view is that the state and local authorities, and especially authorities of enforcing criminal laws, should be glad to have the government assume jurisdiction for the enforcement of the criminal laws within the areas. By the acceptance of this notice responsibility within the areas is exclusively governmental.

Yours truly,

*P. A. Lasley*  
P. A. Lasley