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Memorandum, Harold L. Ickes to War Relocation Authority staff

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THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

DEC 19 1944

MEMORANDUM for the Staff of the War Relocation Authority.

With the issuance of the order permitting most of the Americans of Japanese ancestry to reenter the West Coast, the work of the War Relocation Authority enters a new phase. Before you is the task of carrying out the desire of the President to continue and intensify the effort to relocate as many of these people as possible in places other than the West Coast area, as well as the tasks of continuing orderly administration of the centers and of regulating the return of those persons who choose to go back to the West Coast. These are undertakings which will require the greatest loyalty, devotion and skill on your part. I know that you will do them faithfully and well.

Behind you is a record of accomplishment of which you may all be proud. You have efficiently and devotedly carried out one of the most difficult and trying jobs that has been entrusted to an agency of Government. You, and particularly Mr. Dillon Myer, the Director of the War Relocation Authority, have been subjected to a good deal of abuse from persons who could not or would not understand the problem with which you were dealing. But in spite of this, you have carried through a carefully devised program with regard not only for the conditions imposed by military authority, but also for the human values concerned.

I am taking this unusual step of addressing this memorandum to all of you because I think that you should know that I and the thoughtful people of this country appreciate the job that you have done and the sacrifice that some of you have made. I know that you will continue to carry on until the program is completed.

Harold L. Ickes
Secretary of the Interior.

