Santa Fe Indian School
Santa Fe, New Mexico
May 23, 1942.

Adjutant General Russell G. Charlton
Selective Service
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Dear General Charlton:

I was particularly sorry to miss you when I called the other day for reasons both general and particular. Among the particular reasons was one about which I am writing you now.

The Indian Office as an agency of the War Department and War Relocation Authority is responsible for the disposal of thirty thousand of the Japanese evacuees for the duration of the war and probably some time thereafter. We are resettling these thirty thousand Japanese evacuees (men, women and children) on the 100,000 acre tract of desert land which is owned by the Colorado River tribe. The Japanese will work to develop a huge irrigation system; they will farm under the system producing food for themselves and crops needed by the war; they will be organized for various industrial activities (production of war goods); they will be helped and required to organize their own school system, health system, et cetera, and their own municipal government. Altogether, we shall have five separate communities of them ranging from 5,000 to 10,000 in population.

At present the Japanese are arriving as fast as a thousand a day at Parker.

The most baffling problems of civil, criminal, and municipal law, etc., are confronting us at Parker. The situation is not unlike that which had confronted Indian Service in areas like, for instance, the Navajo Reservation although the job is incomparably more difficult and has to be carried out at high speed. I have discussed the needs of the situation with William A. Brophy, now our United States Attorney for the Pueblos tribe. I should like to detail him to the Parker job as solicitor for the project at the earliest moment and for the duration of the war, or at least for the formative period of the first year. However, there is no use in detailing him if he is going to be drafted

at an early date. I find also that he is on the verge of entering into a very interesting arrangement with the Army which would take him out of this section of the country altogether. He admits, however, that the challenge of the Parker job is very great, because the things we will find out there and forge out there may have an important bearing on the post-war management of the Japanese people which, very likely, our country is going to have to take upon itself.

I should be extremely appreciative of your attention to this matter and having some indication at an early date because if it is not feasible to have Mr. Brophy's services, I must commence a search for some other man, and there are not many with his specific equipment for the peculiar job.

Cordially and sincerely yours,

John Collier
Commissioner of Indian Affairs

jc/dm
cc - Mr. McCaskill
Mr. Brophy
Mr. Margold