

Reactions to Dispossession Interview

“... this gentlemen got a letter, and he started crying!”

Yeiji (b. 1925) recounts seeing a man burst out crying in public when he received the cheque for his six fishing boats.

Excerpt from Landscapes of Injustice oral history interview with Yeiji Inouye.

KYLA FITZGERALD

How did people in your community, like the Hakujuin, respond to the relocation or the uprooting and after the war? You said you weren't allowed to go to school anymore, were there other changes that you noticed?

YEIJI INOUE

Yeah well that's when they started confiscating all the properties and whatnot. I knew that. Property that I knew, people that I met during the evacuation went to New Denver. And see in the office – so, they didn't bother too much with the young guys because they want us to be more free, but anyway. I was there, I was in the office talking to some of the guys and this old gentleman got a letter, and he started crying! Well, what the hell! I couldn't figure out what the hell he was crying about. So one of the guys asked, “What's the matter?” He said, “For six fishing boats I had, I only got eight hundred dollars!” What?! Now we're thinking, “What, is that all you got?!” And he's was crying, I felt so sorry for him. Six boats, fish boats and he got eight hundred bucks. That was sad. So we got talking and I said, “Yeah that's what they're doing, these guys. They're taking their way.”