

TELEGRAM.

cc teleg
TO Hiram Warren Johnson
The White House,

Washington.

April 22, 1913

file
Hon. Hiram W. Johnson, +
Governor; *397*
The President of the Senate, and
The Speaker of the House,
Sacramento, California.

2429

I speak upon the assumption, which I am sure is well founded, that the people of California do not desire their representatives - and that their representatives do not wish or intend - in any circumstances to embarrass the Government of the United States in its dealings with a nation with whom it has most earnestly and cordially sought to maintain relations of genuine friendship and good will, and that least of all do they desire to do anything that might impair treaty obligations or cast a doubt upon the honor and good faith of the Nation and its government.

I, therefore, appeal with the utmost confidence to the people, the Governor, and the Legislature of California to act in the matter now under consideration in a manner that can not from any point of view be fairly challenged or called in question. If they deem it necessary to exclude all aliens who have not declared their intention to become citizens from the privileges of land ownership, they can do so along lines already followed in the laws of many of the other states and of many foreign countries, including Japan herself. Invidious discrimination will inevitably draw in question the treaty obligations of the Government of the United States. I register my very earnest and respectful protest against discrimination

TELEGRAM.

The White House,

Washington.

Gov. Johnson et al.
Page 2

in this case, not only because I deem it my duty to do so as the Chief Executive of the Nation, but also, and the more readily, because I believe that the people and the legislative authorities of California will generously respond the moment the matter is frankly presented to them as a question of national policy and of national honor. If they have ignored this point of view, it is, I am sure, because they did not realize what and how much was involved.

(Official)