

1976 North Decatur Road, N. E. Atlanta, Ga.  
October 12, 1943

COPY OF A LETTER URGING REPEAL OF THE CHINESE EXCLUSION ACT, ADDRESSED TO EACH  
GEORGIA MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

We, the undersigned, are convinced that one of the important lessons to be learned from our experience in this global war is that serious attention must be given to the whole system of international relations. Too long we have lived in a world where each nation was exclusively occupied in the promotion of its own interest, and too often indifferent to the ideals and aspirations of other equally great nations.

We believe this is the time for our government to adopt a more generous attitude towards the aspirations of other peoples, especially those associated with us in the struggle for freedom. Humanity is more than a community of nations - it is a community of individuals, and the comradeship of this present struggle is bringing home to all of us a new realization of the unreality of the barriers of separation that have divided the nations which are now united in the preservation of freedom.

China is a great nation and our worthy Ally. Under conditions of extraordinary difficulty the gallant leaders of China have built a modern nation in which four hundred and fifty millions of people held together by common traditions and ideals are making their contribution to the principles of Democracy as expressed in the Four Freedoms.

For 160 years, the traditional friendship between the people of China and America has never been marred by misunderstanding. In countless ways China has demonstrated its eagerness to cooperate with the United States in the building of a democratic world society. With us they struggle for a better world and count not their lives dear. Surely no one can ever again question China's rightful place among the free and independent nations of the world. We have been inspired by her courage and strengthened by her sacrifice for the preservation of democratic ideals. It is our considered opinion that the recognition of the worth and dignity of the Chinese people is a vital element in the successful prosecution of the war, and in giving security to whatever plan may be evolved for world peace.

The repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act will be our recognition of the right of the Chinese people to take their proper place in a progressive world society. The failure to repeal this Exclusion Act would give offense to a fine and sensitive people and weaken the structure of world security.

We, therefore, appeal to you as our chosen representative in the National Congress to give careful attention to the Bill now pending to repeal the Chinese Exclusion Act and by your vote to grant the honorable people of this great nation the rights which are accorded other sovereign nations.

Sincerely yours,

Ryland Knight, Pastor, Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church

David Marx, Rabbi, The Temple

Arthur J. Moore, Bishop of the Methodist Church

Mrs. Audley Morton, President, Georgia Council of Church Women

Stuart R. Oglesby, Pastor, Central Presbyterian Church

Gerald P. O'Hara, Bishop, Savannah-Atlanta

Mrs. M. E. Tilly, Jurisdictional Secretary of Christian Social Relations, Methodist Church

John Moore Walker, Bishop, Diocese of Atlanta

Note: The repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act would place China on the same basis as other nations in regard to our immigration laws. The quota system of the Immigration Act would accord right of entry to about 100 Chinese each year.