

## Letter from Howard Toole to Governor Sam Ford, April 13, 1942

*Missoula, Montana*  
*April 13, 1942*

Hon. S. C. Ford  
Governor of Montana  
Helena Montana

Dear Governor:

I called you by phone yesterday because I was anxious to stop any possible reaction which might occur in this community from Dr. Melby's suggestion that Japanese students might be accepted at the University of Montana. . . .

Dr. Melby's statement came out in the morning *Missoulian* on the same day when the Missoula County draft numbers were announced and in the draft numbers were a great many young University students . . . who have either been taken out of college or have voluntarily left in anticipation of the draft. One woman whose son has a low draft number and is a Junior at the University thought that her son would be called immediately before he could finish this year and she was quite hysterical about the prospect that

a Japanese might be permitted to come here to more or less take his place. . . .

I am sure that many people in Montana will be reluctant to send their children to college where Japanese students are invited or accepted. It is pretty generally felt that the American educated Japanese have been largely responsible for strategical advantage the Japs have had over us in this war and of course people who are paying taxes will no doubt feel that if there is any money available for education . . . the funds out to be devoted to better education for our own students. . . .

*Sincerely Yours,*  
*Howard Toole*

P.S. In fact there is just plain hell-to-pay in this town after Dr. Melby's statement.

Source: *Montana Governors Records, 1889–1962*. Manuscript Collection 35 [box 107 folder 4]. Montana Historical Society Research Center. Archives. Excerpted in *Not In Precious Metals Alone: A Manuscript History of Montana* (Helena, 1976): 203.