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of public opinion in southern California is decidedly adverse to any discrimination

against the Japanese as a people in matters of public school privileges, and they believe that this opinion is based upon consideration of equity and justice and is held altogether independently of any attitude which the Japanese government has

assumed or may assume in regard to the question.

W. J. Washburn,

President of the Board of Directors of the

Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, and especially of

secretary.

southern California, upon the question of the exclusion of the Japanese from the

general public school system of the state, has been to some extent misrepresented

and in largely exaggerated, and as representing the commercial and business

interests of the second city of the state and in view of the national importance

which the question has assumed, the Board feels impelled to express with emphasis

its opinion as far as it is in power to do.

In the first place it would seem that the question is one of principle, or of

precedent, or of practical politics, rather than of immediate vital importance,

so far as it affects the welfare of the children in our public schools. The Board

is naturally inclined to believe that the question is one of principle, and that it

should be decided on that basis, and that it should be decided in favor of the

Japanese in the public schools of Los Angeles, and that it should be decided in

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Copied by M.M.W.
Compared with 277 J

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
WASHINGTON, February 11, 1907.
File No. 1797/117-118 T/C
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W. J. Washburn, Esquire,

President of the Board of Directors of the
Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce,
Los Angeles, California.

Sir:

I have to acknowledge the receipt, through reference hither by
the President, of your telegram of the 5th instant, expressing the
views of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce on the question of the
discrimination against Japanese children in the public schools of
San Francisco.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

ALVEY A. ADEE

Second Assistant Secretary.