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Coalition to Push Two-Part Redress Proposal of Direct Compensation, \$3 Bil. Community Fund

The National Coalition for Redress/Reparations, one of the sponsoring organizations of "Day of Remembrance" activities to be held Feb. 20 in Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, Sacramento and New York, this week urged members of the Nikkei community to show their support of redress/reparations by observing the 40th observance of the signing of Executive Order 9066, which set into motion the mass incarceration of some 120,000 Japanese in America during World War II.

"The Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians hearings in 1981 showed clearly that the U.S. government was responsible for the unconstitutional incarceration of Japanese into concentration camps," said NCRRC spokeswoman Evelyn Yoshimura. "We in NCRRC feel that the community should now unite behind two goals: To pressure the CWRIC to make its final recommendation a strong one in favor of substantial reparations and to support a direct appropriations bill to be introduced into the U.S. Congress within the next year."

NCRRC also has issued two recommendations for components of such a direct appropriation bill. The coalition, after reviewing the testimony at the commission hearings and following dialogues with "hundreds of individuals and many community groups," now advocates "direct, individual mone-

Way Cleared for "Day of Remembrance" March Through Streets of Little Tokyo Saturday

The Los Angeles Day of Remembrance Committee today announced the planned route for a march through Little Tokyo Saturday, Feb. 20, marking President Franklin D. Roosevelt's signing of Executive Order 9066, which led to the imprisonment of Japanese America during World War II.

Committee member Robert Toji said the march will begin in front of the Japanese American Cultural Community Center, 244 S. San Pedro St. at 1 p.m., travel north on San Pedro St. to East 1st St., and east on 1st St. to Central Ave., where a rally will be held in front of the old Nishi Temple.

"Remembrance" will be peaceful "The events of the 'Day of but spirited," said Toji, a Sansei.

"We are not anticipating any problems and we surely will not be out to create any . . ."

Toji said the march and rally are being held not only to commemorate the evacuation and internment of Japanese America but also to call attention to the fact that the United States government has never resolved the "wrongs" they committed.

"The government has never redressed the darkest episode of American history and has never made any meaningful type of reparation to the Japanese American community," pointed out Toji.

Further information on what is expected to be one of the largest events of the year in Little Tokyo, call the committee at 877-2711 or 680-3720.

tary compensation of a minimum of \$25,000 per WWII internee, payable in one lump sum, free of administrative costs and exempt from taxes."

The grass-roots redress group also recommends that such a bill include provisions for the establishment of a \$3 billion community fund, which would be administered by a Community Trust Fund Board elected by the Nikkei community on a regional basis. NCRRC suggested that the cost of administering this fund also come from the government.

In explaining the NCRRC recommendations, NCRRC member Steven Tatsukawa, a programming executive at KCET-TV, said: "We feel that the tremendous social, economic and psychological trauma of the violation of constitutional rights requires meaningful restitution on the part of the U.S. government and that while there is no fair amount of restitution possible given the magnitude of the damages suffered, the figure of \$25,000 represents a symbolic amount and as such is the minimally acceptable figure."

On the community fund propo-

sal, another NCRRC member, Miya Iwataki, commented: "The evacuation and imprisonment of Japanese Americans destroyed the cohesion, unity, cultural, social, political and economic life of the community. The community fund would enable the Japanese community to rebuild and meet the needs of the Japanese American people."

The NCRRC spokespersons admitted that winning redress/reparations would be difficult in the face of severe cutbacks in health, education and welfare and reversals in civil rights policies.

"The Issei and old Nisei, more of whom are passing away each day, cannot wait until we are out of the Reagan era," the NCRRC members said. "There are thousands of Americans—other nationalities, elderly, disabled, women and the poor—who can unite with our cause while we in turn support their efforts. We believe that the American people can be educated about the massive miscarriage of justice to the Japanese American people and can understand that we are entitled to compensation and damages."