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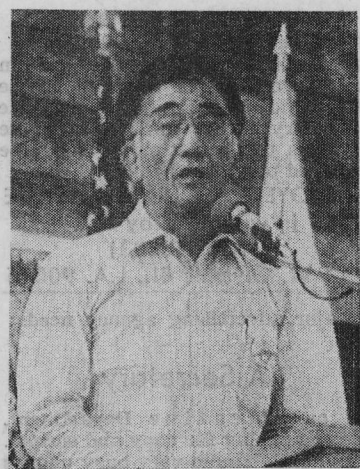
Nikkei Recall Roosevelt Signing of Camp Order

About 250 Take Part in NCRR-Organized "Day of Remembrance" Observance

A two and a half block-long procession of Japanese Americans and their supporters marked the 40th observance of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's signing of Executive Order 9066, the document which ultimately led to the imprisonment of some 120,000 Japanese Americans in government-run concentration camps during World War II.

Although the turnout of about 250 persons was smaller than some had expected, the peaceful marchers made up for what they lacked in numbers with spirited calls of "Justice Now! Reparations Now!" and a seeming unity of spirit. Most of the marchers were Sansei and Yonsei, many of whom never saw the insides of an internment center but who have taken up the cause on behalf of their internee grandparents and parents. Marching along side the student-aged Nikkei were a smattering of Nisei and Issei.

Anglo and Japanese tourists looked up from their window shopping and restaurant-hopping as the procession began traveling north on San Pedro St. and east on 1st St. to Central Ave. shortly after 1 p.m. But the march went



Mas Tanibata
Memories of Manzanar

Temple, which 40 years ago served as gathering point for Japanese Americans being relocated to special Assembly Centers before assignment to an internment camp.

The only Japanese American public official to make an appearance at the event was Gardena City Councilman Mas Fukai, a 56-year old Nisei and former internee.

"What you are doing here is important to all the people in the United States," Fukai told those gathered at the rally. "What happened to us 40 years ago was the darkest day not only for all Japanese Americans but for all Americans."

Commenting on the somewhat disappointing turnout, Fukai encouraged the marchers by saying, "Although we are small in number here today, believe me, there are so many people who have fought for the last 40 years that would love to be here. There are so many people sitting in their homes right now just hoping... hoping that the young people will pick up this fight so that they may be able to get reparations."

Next, Masaharu Tanibata, the 60-year old president of the Terminal Islanders organization and a former Manzanar internee, gave those gathered his impressions on what it was like being in camp.

"I can honestly say, more than anything else, that the one greatest tragedy of the evacuation was

compensate those Japanese Americans and Alaskans Aleuts interned under E.O. 9066. The NCRR formula calls for the payment of individual monetary compensation of at least \$25,000 per internee and the appropriation of a \$3 billion community fund to be administered by community-elected regional boards.

Afterward, members of the coalition which organized the 1982 "Day of Remembrance" were calling it an overall success. They had emphasized a call for "One Community, one (redress) bill"—a coming together of the community for the upcoming legislative campaign for Japanese

American redress. But the day, clearly, had been marred by the small attendance at the rally and the reality that other groups were still jockeying to be the leadership group in the community.

Conspicuous by its total absence at the Los Angeles "Day of Remembrance" observance was the Japanese American Citizens League.

"We called JAACL, we wrote them letters during the early planning stages of the event," said one NCRR leader. "We never got any replies... I guess they're reorganizing, or something."
—DWIGHT CHUMAN



Mas Fukai
Encourages Marchers

almost unnoticed by a group of about 150 Nikkei gathered only yards away in the Weller Court shopping center for an entertainment program.

Commenting on the absence of more Nisei at the "Day of Remembrance" march, Ralph Lazo, who as a 16-year old youth protested the injustice of the camps by volunteering to evacuate along with his Japanese American friends becoming one of the few non-Japanese at the War Relocation Center at Manzanar, Calif., offered, "The Nisei are settled, ready to retire. Some feel they can attempt to forget now. Plus, they're conservative types anyway. What are they going to be doing walking the streets. You know, it's just not in their culture."

Lazo, now 57 and a counselor at Los Angeles Valley College.



"DAY OF REMEMBRANCE 1982"—These Yonsei children were among the 250 persons who took part in "Day of Remembrance" observances Saturday in Little Tokyo. Although relatively small in size the event attracted heavy media coverage.

—Photos by TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

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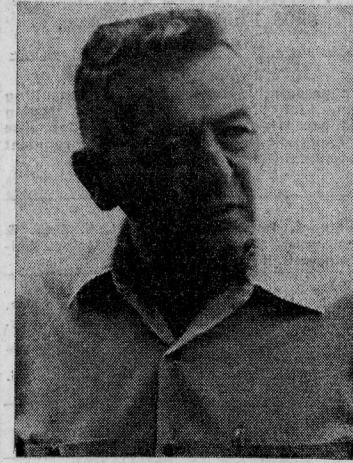
Lazo, now 57 and a counselor at Los Angeles Valley College, added however that "it's important to be out here today... because it's been 40 years too long for justice, and hopefully, observances like this will get all of the communities, people from Los Angeles, Seattle, Chicago and New York, get them together and realize that the only way we're going to get any progress is if everybody works together."

The marchers included clergymen like Rev. Wes Yamaka of Sage United Methodist in Monterey Park and Rev. Ren Kimura from San Fernando's West Valley Japanese Community Christian Church. Groups of marchers were transported to the march and rally by bus. Young Japanese American parents pushed their children down the march route in baby strollers.

Organizers of the march, the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations, received endorsements from groups such as the 100th/442nd Veterans Association, United Teachers of Los Angeles, Lutheran Oriental Church of Torrance, Nikkei Students Union of UCLA, Manzanar Committee, Little Tokyo Peoples Rights Organization as well as groups in San Diego and San Francisco.

Similar "Day of Remembrance" activities were held in San Diego, San Francisco, Sacramento, San Jose, New York, Seattle and Chicago.

A rousing performance by Kinnara Taiko, led by Johnny Mori of the Sansei rock group Hiroshima, marked the start of a rally at the end of the march in front of the old Nishi Hongwanji



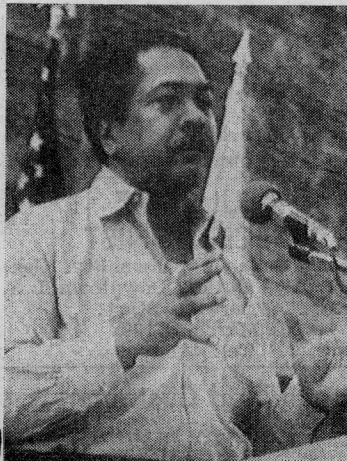
Ralph Lazo
Volunteer Internee

the nagging thought of what might have been," Tanibata told the crowd. "Just imagine what we could've been... and, in turn, I can say that America—a great nation as it is—could have been even greater had she compassionately accepted the differences of Japanese Americans in spite of the extraordinary situation of 40 years ago."

Congressman Mervyn Dymally next stepped to the podium and told the marchers: "In his recent debate on the budget President Reagan has told the Congress to put up or shut up. I think it would be appropriate if the redress committee also called on Congress to put up or shut up on this issue of redress..."

Dymally whose district includes a large number of Japanese American constituents, said he and Seattle-area Rep. Mike Lowry were ready to carry a Japanese American redress bill in the House. The Black Democrat's advocacy of the appropriation of a trust fund approach to redress, however, received a cool reception from ralliers. Under his plan a commission would administer reparations funds appropriated by Congress.

In closing the program, NCRR spokeswoman Miya Iwataki detailed her organization's view on how the government should



Mervyn Dymally
Pushes Trust Fund

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—Photos by TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIO

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