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L.A.'S JAPANESE AMERICANS COMMEMORATE 46TH ANNIVERSARY OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066

MATSUI URGES AUDIENCE TO WORK FOR REDRESS

By TAKESHI NAKAYAMA

Los Angeles' Nikkei community observed the annual "Day of Remembrance", with a salute to the Japanese American members of Congress who were instrumental in passing the redress bill in the House of Representatives, at a program held on Saturday, Feb. 20, at the Japan America Theatre, located in the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center Plaza, in Little Tokyo.

The "Day of Remembrance" commemorated the signing on Feb. 19, 1942, by President Franklin D. Roosevelt of Executive Order 9066 authorizing the government to forcibly uproot 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry from their West Coast homes and businesses and intern

them in U.S. concentration camps.

The event, sponsored by the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations and Japanese American Citizens League's Pacific Southwest District in association with the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, emphasized the need for people to write letters to President Reagan and to their Congressmen urging them to ensure passage of the redress bills.

Rep. Robert Matsui (D-Sacramento) was keynote speaker for the evening. Rep. Norman Mineta (D-San Jose) and Sen. Spark Matsunaga (D-Hawaii) made appearances and spoke to the estimated throng of 500 via videotape.

Seven years ago, Matsui said, he would not have been able to talk about the internment of 120,000 Japanese Americans—U.S. citizens and resident aliens—and redress talk would not have been possible.

"The whole issue . . . would have been something we put in our closet in 1945, and closed the door and we refused to acknowledge for 40 years. I remember as a young student asking my parents, who were born and raised in Sacramento, what it was like, and I remember their inability to acknowledge the internment and their desire that it (the issue) not come up at the dinner table. And I think it happened to all of us of Japanese American ancestry who were interned," Matsui commented.

It was not until 1982 when the presidential Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians was established to study the internment of Japanese Americans, Matsui noted, "that we finally had to face reality in our collective histories."

Recalling the CWRIC hearings held in various cities where large numbers of Japanese Americans lived, he said "for the first time in 42 years, Issei and Nisei were spilling their emotions, their stories and their shame with tears in their eyes, describing the humiliation of the internment."

He remembered how his mother revealed having nightmares about the internment and his father confessed having been jailed once for violating curfew.

"As a result of those hearings, as a result of having faced and

confronted the internment we began to speak out and acknowledge it and say 'it wasn't our fault, it was the government's fault. Why should we be afraid in discussing the internment.'"

Matsui repeated Edison Uno's analysis of the Nikkei internees' situation in which the San Francisco Nisei activist noted, "what happened to us in 1942 was similar to what happened to a woman when she was raped. Here she was the victim, nevertheless because of the very act of the rape, her virtue was questioned."

The Sacramento congressman continued, "He said that's what happened to the 120,000 of us. We were incarcerated by our own government, accused of being disloyal . . . so we had this sense of guilt, sense of shame, that we must have done something wrong to warrant the incarceration."

The hearings finally brought out the true fact, Matsui stated. "It was not our fault. We were victims of racism, we were the victims of a government that did not follow the principles of the Constitution . . . we have no reason to be ashamed. In fact, we should hold our heads high and say we were loyal Americans and the government was wrong."

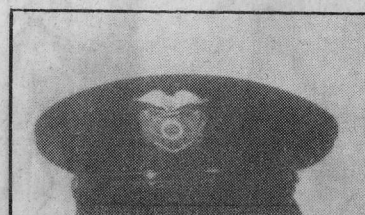
In 1942, the Sansei solon said, the Supreme Court held that the convictions of Korematsu, Yasui and Hirabayashi—who challenged the curfew and evacuation orders—"were correct in interning us because of military necessity, and it was correct to abrogate individual human rights. Nevertheless, some 40-plus years later on the 200th anniversary of



KEYNOTE SPEAKER CONGRESSMAN ROBERT MATSUI joins the National Coalition for Redress/Reparation's Miya Iwataki at the "Day of Remembrance," on Saturday, in Little Tokyo.

JAPANESE OFFICIAL SAYS U.S. TAKING EXTREME MEASURES IN WHALING CONTROVERSY

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP).—Japan has asked the United States to exclude Japanese fish and fish products from U.S. markets.



SAN GABRIEL VALLEY JAPANESE COMMUNITY CENTER

WEST COVINA.— The East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center is seeking candidates to represent the group in the 1988 Nisei Week Queen

IMPROVE ORDER 9066

our Constitution, the people's court—the House of Representatives vindicated us and reaffirmed the cherished values in the Constitution of the United States."

Because 1988 will be a short legislative session because this is an election year and both major parties will be holding conventions, he said it is imperative that the bill reach the Senate floor soon.

We should prepare ourselves for the moment when the bill reaches President Reagan for his signature, Matsui said, as he urged concerned individuals to send letters to the President. "Your efforts will not go unnoticed," he said. "The White House reads the mail, they count the mail and it does have an impact. It will be absolutely essential and critical that you make your voice heard, you make your voice known. I think that we should not relax, that we not rest on our laurels of last year. Much more needs to be done."

Noting that Rep. Dan Lungren (R-Long Beach) not only voted against H.R. 442 but attempted to add an amendment to "gut" the individual monetary payment aspect of the legislation, Matsui said, "I'm convinced if the Asian American community did not take action in opposing Lungren, his nomination (as State Treasurer) would have been confirmed."

He paid tribute to the Japanese American and Asian American community for "sticking their necks out" to stand up for a principle in opposing Lungren.

"You are a force to be re-

Continued on Page 4

QUEEN CONTEST

of the San Gabriel Valley.

Applications are available by writing the center at 1203 W. Puente Ave., West Covina 91790, or by calling weekday morning, except Mondays, at (818) 960-2566.



DAY OF REMEMBRANCE—Some 500 persons attended the "Day of Remembrance" observance on Saturday at the Japan America Theatre. The event commemorated President Franklin D. Roosevelt's signing of Executive Order 9066 authorizing the evacuation and internment of 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry on Feb. 19, 1942.

NIKKEI SHOW ENTHUSIASM AT DAY OF 'REMEMBRANCE'

By TAKESHI NAKAYAMA

People from varied backgrounds attended the "Day of Remembrance" to commemorate the 46th anniversary of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's signing of Executive Order 9066 which authorized the incarceration of persons of Japanese ancestry—U.S. citizens and resident aliens alike—in concentration camps without due process.

Participating in the show of support for the redress movement was Frank Emi, who during World War II was a member of the Fair Play Committee which counseled the Heart Mountain Resisters—young Nisei at the Wyoming internment camp who refused to report for induction into military service until the government restored all their civil rights.

"This was one of the most successful 'Day of Remem-

tory. I felt the camp experience was not really my experience. I was only a baby," she said.

"It was difficult growing up," she recalled. "We were one of the few Japanese families in Venice. We would deny our heritage, try to melt into the background. But the more you hear other people articulate about the internment, the easier it is to express your feelings. It's a good catharsis."

Also attending the DOR event was Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga, who in 1983 uncovered documents in the government archives showing U.S. misconduct in withholding evidence in Supreme Court hearings for three Nisei who challenged government curfew and evacuation orders. The evidence would have shown that there was no military necessity to justify interning 120,000 Americans of Japanese descent.

Oklahoma native Sumi Iwakiri, 61, became interested in the redress movement after reading one of Hohri's articles in a newsletter seven years ago. "I read about redress and what he said made sense. I thought it was ridiculous that the government interned us for our protection. Then a friend in Chicago sent me some information about NCJAR and I thought the lawsuit was a good thing."

Mrs. Iwakiri's grandfather first came to the U.S. when he was in his 50s and settled in Texas, then moved to Kansas with her father, who was then 19. When opportunities for land opened up in the former Indian Territory of Oklahoma, her grandfather bought land there and started to farm and did well. Her father at the age of 25 went back to Japan and married her mother, who was then just 18.

An orientation meeting will be held on Monday, March 14, at 7 p.m. at the center's social hall.

Among the committee members are Mrs. Toshi Ito, Mrs. Marvel Miyata, Mrs. Lillian Nishihara, Mrs. June Fujita, Ms. Julie Tsuneishi, last year's candidate, Keigi Horiuchi, Mamoru Marugaki, Mr. and Mrs. William Cuthbert, Ms. Janet Yamashige and Adam Nakawatase.

JACK NAMIO SAKAUYE

HUNTINGTON BEACH.—Funeral services for Jack Namio Sakauye, 85-year-old Kago-shima-ken-born Issei resident of Huntington Beach who passed away on Feb. 21 at Huntington Beach Convalescent Home, will be held on Saturday, Feb. 27, from 1 p.m., at Green Hills Memorial Park Chapel, 27501 S. Western Ave., San Pedro, with the Rev. Noriaki Ito of Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple officiating, under the direction of Fukui Mortuary.

The deceased is survived by his wife Rose Kazuye; a daughter Ruth Mariko (Tamio) Sakurai; a grandson Russ Hiroshi Sakurai; three brothers, Tom Hami, Akio (Yoshiko) and Roy Tatsuo (Alice Chieko) Sakauye; a sister Miwa (Harley) Asari; two brothers-in-law, Kay Kiyomi (Fumiko) and Jay Michio (Lily) Takahashi; a sister-in-law Ethel Misao (Ty) Kajimoto.

KOICHI SHIBUYA

Funeral services for Koichi Shibuya, 68-year-old Salt Lake City-born Nisei resident of Los Angeles who passed away on Feb. 20 at Cheviot Garden Convalescent Hospital after a prolonged illness, will be held on Saturday, Feb. 27, from 1 p.m., at Rose Hills Memorial Chapel, 3900 S. Workman Mill Rd., Whittier, with Dr. Aron Sato and the Rev. Tatsuyo Kato of West Adams Christian Church officiating, under the direction of Fukui Mortuary.

The deceased, who was a veteran of the Military Intelligence Service during World War II, is survived by his wife Fusako; sons, Edward Hiroaki (Frances Kikue), Dr. Mark Lance of Colorado and Patrick Ko; grandchildren, Kioko and Jon; mother Fumie Shibuya; brothers, George (Lilly) and Dr. Yoshindo (Betty) Shibuya of San Diego; sister Kazue Muramatsu; mother-in-law Takiye Tsuji; brother-in-law Dr. Masachika (Kasumi) Tsuji of Japan; and sisters-in-law, Chiyo-ko Tsuji, Hisako Tsuji and Mary (Mike) Kusuda.

frances we've had so far," Emi observed. "We had more people than in the past and the people seemed to have more enthusiasm this year. Maybe that's because of the success of the bill in the House last year."

Emi, who along with the other Heart Mountain resisters was convicted and spent 1½ years at the federal prison in Leavenworth, Kansas, believes strongly that Americans of Japanese descent who were deprived of their civil rights should be compensated. "That's why I am in NCRR (National Coalition for Redress/Reparations)," he explained, "and I'll always attend DOR."

The passage of H.R. 442 in the House of Representatives made Emi "very happy. That was one of the major hurdles because we were not too sure of passing it. When it passed, it made me feel better about the principles this country stands for. But we've still got a long way to go."

He said the chances of redress "look good. The Senate is almost sure of passing the bill. And if we send enough letters to President Reagan, (White House Chief of Staff) Howard Baker, and even Mrs. Reagan, it may help. Reagan, if he signs the redress bill, can be known as the President who finally brought justice to Japanese Americans after 46 years."

Emi will be participating in a conference—along with writer Frank Chin, James Omura, wartime editor of the *Rocky Shimpō*, and William Hohri of the National Council for Japanese American Redress (NCJAR) who is involved in a class action lawsuit against the government—on March 26 at Washington State University to discuss the Heart Mountain resistance, along with internment and redress issues.

Former internee Suzie Katsuda, 46, a member of NCRR, thought the program went "really well. And I thought that 'Tachinoki' was moving."

Katsuda said she became interested in the redress because her brother, Richard, was actively involved in NCRR.

Because she felt "strongly" about redress, she went to Washington with the NCRR contingent to lobby for H.R. 442. Passage of the redress bill in the House of Representatives was "great. I was not too hopeful at first because the group I was with had to talk to some difficult legislators. But the other people did a good job in persuading legislators to vote for the bill.

"Before (her involvement with NCRR), I would rather have forgotten about that event in our his-

Japanese descent. Herzig-Yoshinaga, who is active in NCJAR, said the program was very good. "Today the people were all roused up."

The Nisei researcher would certainly like to see redress legislation enacted. "The House of Representatives passing H.R. 442 was wonderful," she said. "But it will take the courts to remove the convictions (of Yasui, Korematsu and Hirabayashi). Unless Congress passes a bill saying the evacuation and internment were unlawful, passing only redress legislation might be a deterrent to the government repeating such an act against a people, but it would not change the precedent. That's why we're involved in the class action lawsuit."

NCJAR's class action lawsuit, *Hohri v. United States*, will have a hearing on March 8 in the Federal District U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, according to Herzig-Yoshinaga. "If the decision there is favorable it will be good news for Japanese Americans. If the decision is not favorable, we will appeal to the Supreme Court."

"My mother got homesick, so the whole family went to Japan for a visit in 1939," Mrs. Iwakiri recalled. "My grandfather stayed in Japan but the rest of the family returned to the U.S. and were living in Los Angeles when the war broke out. We were sent to Heart Mountain."

Her husband, Brooks, a native of Washington who lived in Hood River, Oregon, was never in an internment camp. He voluntarily evacuated from Oregon to St. Xavier, Montana, with his parents and brothers and sisters. There, they farmed on land not too far from Heart Mountain.

The Iwakiris met not in Montana or Wyoming, but in Los Angeles after the war.

"Brooks thought that going to camp was a good thing," revealed Mrs. Iwakiri. "At first, we used to argue about it. In order to avoid arguments, I sort of went 'underground' to read books about the camps. Then I told Brooks about the camps until he realized that the government had done an injustice to Japanese Americans. I won him over."

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