

REMEMBRANCE DAY STRESSES URGENCY OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR REDRESS

By TAKESHI NAKAYAMA

A candlelight memorial ceremony during the ninth annual Day of Remembrance commemorates in tribute to former internees from Southern California who died since the signing of the redress bill last August underscored the urgency of appropriating funds to pay redress before most of the people who suffered through the concentration camp experience are gone.

The Day of Remembrance, organized by the National Coalition for Redress and Reparations, commemorated the Feb. 19, 1942, issuance by President Franklin Roosevelt of Executive Order 9066 which authorized the forced removal of approximately 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry from their West Coast homes and their subsequent incarceration in camps during World War II.

Speakers at the event, attended by an estimated 450 persons Sunday at Los Angeles Trade Technical College, reflected the frustration and disappointment of the Japanese American community that the Presidential budget request provided for no redress payments in Fiscal Year 1989 and only \$20 million in FY 1990.

The Civil Liberties Act of 1987 (H.R. 442), signed into law by President Reagan on Aug. 10, 1988, provided for \$1.2 billion in reparations, with up to \$500 million appropriated annually for 10 years.

"We can't wait 10 years or more for redress payments," said Bert Nakano, national spokesperson for NCR. "We've waited 47 years. The people who suffered the most—50 percent are over 70 years of age—are dying rapidly. We must remind people of the urgency of the matter."

Nakano, who was taken with his family from Hawaii and interned at Jerome, Arkansas, said the community shouldn't sit back and wait. "The \$1.2 billion won't turn up unless the people start working on the budget question. We have to push," he declared.

"The \$20 million in the President's budget is clearly inadequate," keynote speaker Congressman Robert Matsui told the audience. "But it's my feeling that if you work as you have been working, we're going to be able to get the House Budget Committee, the Senate Budget Committee, and the respective Appropriation Committees of both the House and the Senate to increase that amount rather substantially."

However, Matsui cautioned that Nikkei, along with other groups, will have to take into consideration some of the budgetary problems faced by Washington in a time of shrinking programs.

Alan Nishio, a 43-year-old Sansei who was born in Manzanar, a concentration camp in the eastern California desert, stated, "A wrong has been recognized, a wrong has been acknowledged by the U.S. government, but a wrong has not yet been redressed."

The national co-chair for NCR added: "It will not be redressed until compensation has been received by those who were injured as a result of the incarceration."

Nishio stressed the urgency of the redress matter, noting that since President Reagan signed the redress bill on Aug. 10, 1988, some 1,200 former internees have passed away.

"Though the day is damp, our pride is not dampened," said Kathy Masaoka of NCR. "But we are again disappointed in the U.S. government's commitment to justice and redress."

"The Issei, Nisei and Sansei who suffered the internment and relocation committed no crime, yet endured the shame and guilt for the past 47 years," she stated.

The \$500 million payment can be completed by 1992, 50 years after Executive Order 9066, Masaoka claimed. "That's certainly long enough."

Nakano, Masaoka and Nishio urged the Nikkei community to continue the lobbying work, write

the letters to the President and to members of Congress, and to educate the public.

J.D. Hokoyama of the Pacific Southwest District-Japanese American Citizens League stated: "It has been a long and difficult struggle up to this moment, and yet, it appears that efforts on behalf of the redress issue must continue in light the insensitivity of the current administration's token budget proposal of \$20 million. Nearly half of the former internees were not alive to celebrate the signing of the redress bill. We remember them today for all the hardships and heartaches they endured when they were forcibly taken from their homes and put into concentration camps."

He continued: "Reparations must be a speedy process, so that those who deserve compensation the most—our grandparents and parents—will be alive to enjoy the fruits of our struggle. The rhetoric which acknowledges that we are finally recognized as citizens worthy of the same equal protection under the law and inalienable rights guaranteed by the Constitution as any other American are only empty words without action. The signing of the redress bill on Aug. 10, 1988, marked the initial step toward ending a sad chapter in American history. We must now . . . persevere to insure that our government, through the appropriations process, provides the necessary funds to expedite the closure of this sad episode."

Jim Saito, 66-year-old former internee at Amache, Colorado, who was in the audience, reminded that "justice delayed is justice denied."

The feisty Westside resident, who three years ago fought the city of Los Angeles and won a large settlement in a breach of contract lawsuit from the Department of Water and Power, said that without prompt payment

the compensation bill "is a bunch of bull (bleep)!"

Saito, whose 82-year-old brother passed away recently and another 84-year-old brother died last year, demanded to know why brothers and sisters were not included as heirs entitled to redress payments of ex-internees who had no heirs and who died after Aug. 10, 1988.

"After the damned thing (redress bill) was signed, it should have been anybody that was living there (with the ex-internees)," he complained. "Why in the hell does it have to be a husband or wife and children if they don't have it. Why can't it be brothers and sisters, if they took care of them?"

Robert Bratt, director of the Office of Redress Administration of the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., gave an update on eligibility and payment schedule and reported that President Bush has not yet released his budget request.

Bratt, who said there may be no difference between the Bush and Reagan budget requests, said eligibility guidelines have not yet been formulated. Eligibility questions not yet resolved include veterans in the service who were denied access to their interned families; Peruvian Japanese and other Nikkei from the American who were forcibly taken from their countries and held in the U.S.; children held in an orphanage in San Francisco; and approximately 150 patients at a sanitarium in Los Angeles.

"These are groups we refer to as the gray area, people who could be eligible for redress," Bratt stated.

The ORA is formulating regulations which will be sent to Attorney General Richard Thornburgh. "We expect them to be published sometime this spring," he said.

"Our responsibility in the Department of Justice is to identify and locate individuals (former internees), and ultimately to write the (redress) checks," Bratt explained. "Whatever money Congress gives us, we will write checks for that amount."

As of last week, the DOJ official revealed they have approximately 52,000 names and addresses of individuals who have contacted ORA. They are also checking with Social Security Administration, Internal Revenue Service and state motor vehicle departments in search of eligible former internees.

Bratt related that ORA is running stories with the media in Japan seeking individuals eligible for redress, and there is a tele-

OBITUARIES

TOM MINORU ENDOW

CARPINTERIA.— Funeral services for Tom Minoru Endow, 71-year-old Las Animas, Colorado-born Nisei who passed away on Feb. 20 at Cottage Hospital in Santa Barbara after a brief illness, will be held on Friday, Feb. 24, from 7:30 p.m., at Nichiren Buddhist Temple, 2801 East Fourth Street, Los Angeles, under the direction of Kubota Nikkei Mortuary (213-749-1449).

The deceased is survived by his

TAEKO NAKADA

HACIENDA HEIGHTS.— Funeral services for Mrs. Taeko Nakada, 82-year-old Okinawa-born Issei resident of Hacienda Heights who passed away on Feb. 18 in Los Angeles following a brief illness, will be held on Saturday, Feb. 25, from 10 a.m., at Hompa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, 815 East First Street, Los Angeles, under the direction of Fukui Mortuary.

The deceased is survived by

RADIATION LECTURE AT CSULA

California State University, Los Angeles, will present Dr. John B. Little of Harvard University in two seminars on the effects of radiation on humans.

The first seminar, on Thursday, Feb. 23, from 3 p.m., at Biological Sciences Building, Room 144, is "Low Dose Radiation Effects: Fact or Fiction."

The second lecture, "Molecular Structural Analysis of Mutations in Human Cells," is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 24, from 1:10 p.m. at Physical Sci-

REMEMBRANCE DAY STRESSES URGENCY OF REPARATIONS

From Page 1

phone people can call at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. They are also duplicating that effort in Canada.

Guest speaker James Turner, Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, Department of Justice, making his first address to the Japanese American community, noted that the Constitution may be looked at as a contract between a nation and its people. "History records that the legal process due to Japanese Americans and permanent resident aliens in exchange for their liberty was not given . . . The constitutional contract had been breached."

The decision by Japanese Americans to seek redress, Turner noted, the persistence with which it was sought, and the coalition among ethnic groups it fostered, "not only reaffirmed the nation's constitutional beliefs, but spoke out for ethnic minorities throughout the country."

Turner, one of the highest ranking officials in the Department of Justice, added: "I am very proud to have had a role in the enforcement of the Voting Rights Act by which Black Americans are now claiming political equality, and I am now equally proud to be involved in administering this redress program which was won by Japanese Americans who have struggled to preserve the integrity of our constitutional right to freedom."

Turning to subjects other than redress, Matsui told the audience, "I hope you will not think the battle is over . . . you did something unique in petitioning the government to correct an unjust act. Now the Asian American community has an opportunity to use this experience for further empowerment. I think in 1990 when we have the census and reapportionment it's going to be incumbent upon each and everyone of you to make sure that a state Assembly district, a state Senate district, or a congressional district in the Los Angeles area will be one in which an Asian American can possibly win. I think it is important that more people begin to look to run for public office."

Meanwhile, Janette Umemoto

of NCRR asked for support for UCLA Professor Don Nakanishi in his fight for tenure. Nakanishi is striving to become the first Asian American tenured professor at UCLA's Graduate School of Education.

Dignitaries attending the ceremony included Congressman Mervyn Dymally (D-California), Los Angeles City Councilman Michael Woo, Carson City Councilman Mike Mitoma, Torrance City Councilman George Nakano, Los Angeles City Treasurer Rick Tuttle, and Rose Ochi of Mayor Bradley's office.

Traveling all the way from their home in Virginia to witness the event were Aiko and Jack Herzig. Aiko Herzig, a former internee at Manzanar, and at Jerome and Rohwer, Arkansas, was instrumental in uncovering documents indicating that the U.S. government in 1942 suppressed evidence which would have shown there was no military necessity for interning Japanese Americans.

John Ito, who he is "past 60," revealed that he comes into Los Angeles from China Lake in the Mojave Desert to attend the Day of Remembrance observance every year "because I was an internee."

Ito, who was interned at Granada, Colorado, said he was "glad" that the President signed the redress bill, and he urged everyone to take part in the Manzanar Pilgrimage scheduled for Saturday, April 29.

SECURITY BOOSTED AS DIGNITARIES ARRIVE

TOKYO (AP).— Security was heightened after police discovered two time-set projectiles on launchers targeting the runway at one of Tokyo's airports, where 71 foreign delegations were scheduled to arrive Wednesday for Emperor Hirohito's funeral, officials said.

An unprecedented number of foreign dignitaries streamed into Japan two days ahead of Friday's state funeral for Emperor Hirohito. In the wake of the discovery of the projectiles and threats by radical groups to disrupt the funeral, airport security officials and police enforced tighter security measures at Narita and Haneda airports and around Tokyo.

Strict personal and luggage inspections were enforced at Narita airport as 7,000 uniformed and plainclothed police patrolled the surrounding area.

Passenger luggage was under-



AAOS HOLD INSTALLATION DINNER —The Asian American Optometric Society recently installed their new board members for 1989 at the Stouffer Concourse Hotel. Pictured above are members of AAOS. They are (seated l-r) Dr. Jon Hayashida, Dr. Lynn Kurata, Dr. Kendric Kajikawa, (standing l-r) Dr. Barbara Tanizawa, Dr. Seiju Terada, Dr. Cozie Kanemaru, Dr. Ben Shimogaki and Dr. Susan Miyabe.

AAOS INSTALLS NEW OFFICERS

The Asian American Optometric Society (AAOS) held their 16th annual installation banquet on Feb. 4 at the Stouffer Concourse Hotel.

The evening's program featured Dr. Jon Hayashida, former president, who presented awards to Drs. Dennis Nakatani and Rick Kawata for their special efforts in the society.

The board members installed for 1989 were: Dr. Lynn Kurata, president; Dr. Kendric Kajikawa, president-elect; Dr. Ben Shimogaki, Secretary; Dr. Cozie

Kanemaru, co-treasurer; Dr. Rosemary Hum, co-treasurer; Dr. Barbara Tanizawa, director of internal affairs; Dr. Blake Kuwahara, director of public information; Dr. Seiju Terada, director of research and education; and Dr. Susan Miyabe, director of social affairs.

The society is composed of approximately 120 optometrists and ophthalmologists in northern and southern California as well as Hawaii, and affords an opportunity for an exchange of professional experiences.

curity effort more intense than that at the Seoul Olympics last summer was being mounted, Kyodo News Service reported. Leftist radical groups opposed to the monarchy have vowed to disrupt the funeral.

Some 71 official delegations from foreign countries were scheduled to arrive at the two airports Wednesday, said a Foreign Ministry official. In all, 159 dignitaries representing 163 countries were expected for the funeral, including U.S. President George Bush, who arrives Thursday.

It was the first day of a series of "funeral diplomacy" meetings with world leaders in Tokyo for the funeral of Hirohito, who died Jan. 7 at age 87 after a 62-year reign. Takeshita will meet with about 40 of the 55 heads of state who will attend the funeral, including Bush and French Presi-

hinted it might launch a bomb attack to disrupt the funeral but said a direct attack on the ceremonies of the 13-hour funeral would be difficult because of the 32,000-strong police force that will guard it.

An unidentified spokesman for kakurokyo, or the Revolutionary Workers' Association, who refused to be identified, said his group would more likely bomb another target, such as a Shinto shrine, as a symbol of its opposition to the monarchy.

On Tuesday, police discovered timers set on two projectiles on launchers aimed at the runway at Narita Airport, 40 miles northeast of Tokyo, but they declined to disclose what time the projectiles were set for launching. The launchers apparently were set up by radicals protesting the funeral, they said.

Friday is also a national holi-

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