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PRESIDENT BUSH SIGNS APPROPRIATIONS BILL

WASHINGTON.— President George Bush on Tuesday signed into law the 1990 appropriations bill for Commerce, State, Justice and the Judiciary. This bill contains the provision which makes redress payments into an entitlement program beginning in October 1990.

The entitlement amendment, supported by persons of such differing political views as Barney Frank, Newt Gingrich, and Warren Rudman, was first put forward by Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii last September, when it became apparent that redress funding for this year was in trouble.

Entitlement will take redress out of the annual appropriations funding battle. Beginning in Fiscal Year 1991 (October 1990), it mandates \$500 million in FY 1991, \$500 million in FY 1992, and \$250 million in FY 1993. By the end of 1993, all of the redress payments will have been made.

The Civil Liberties Act of 1988 provides for a national apology and a total of \$1.25 billion for payments, but puts a cap on annual expenditures at \$500 million. All payments should therefore be made within three years.

The entitlement program will ensure payments of \$20,000 be made to each of the more than 60,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry who were interned illegally during World War II.

Hawaii Senator Daniel Inouye, whose proposal led to an amendment to the appropriations bill to provide for an entitlement program to guarantee redress payments, stated, "It has been said that the wheels of justice grind slowly—it may seem intolerably slow, to the victims of injustice. However, I hope that it restores a measure of faith in our nation's system of government to see it do its best to redress a wrong that has been committed. While we, individually and as a nation, must put the pain and bitter memories behind us, we must not forget them. Rather, this chapter must remain in our collective conscience as a grave reminder of what we are capable of in a time of crisis, and what we

old boy he was among those interned. "Nearly a half-century ago, 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry had their rights stripped from them because of their race, because of wartime hysteria, and because of weak political leadership.

"For up to four years we were denied our most basic human rights. We endured forcible confinement in stark prison camps scattered throughout remote regions of the United States. For the next 43 years we were burdened with an unwarranted stigma of shame and unceasing questions of loyalty to the United States. But today, the survivors of the internment and the American people can take pride in knowing that justice will soon be done. Our struggle for personal justice will at last be achieved," Mineta declared.

"For 47 years, Americans of Japanese ancestry have sought to right the wrongs of the internment. We did so not out of any rancor or bitterness, but from our deep faith in the United States, in our Constitution, and in the American people. The 10-year legislative struggle which brought us the victory we celebrate today would not have been possible otherwise, nor would it hold the special meaning it does for all those who fought with us for justice. We now hope, and pray, that the tragedies of the internment will never again occur," Mineta concluded.

"We have waited a long time for this day," said Jerry Enomoto, board chair of the Japanese American Citizens League's Legislative Education Committee. "Earlier this year it looked as if the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 might be only another exercise in political rhetoric, another empty promise. But the President's signature on this bill ensures that the promise will be fulfilled. It takes a great nation to apologize to its own people. It takes an even greater one to act on that apology. Today represents a major victory for justice and a giant step toward the healing of the nation.

Grant Ujifusa, JACL-LEC strategy chair, said, "With the

gone on for 15 years, is at last over in the Japanese American community. We are grateful to the President."

Special thanks are due, Ujifusa added, to Senator Daniel Inouye, who "called in a lot of chits on behalf of redress entitlement. For other things he may have wanted to do, he won't have them—a fact of political life."

On the House action earlier, Ujifusa suggested that letters of thanks be sent to Barney Frank and Newt Gingrich, usually fierce political opponents who together stopped strong negative momentum among House members who objected, some of them heatedly and not entirely devoid of good reason, to waiving the requirements of the Budget Act.

Among the last votes taken on redress, Ujifusa commented, "That roll call is where we came closest to losing the whole ball of wax."

Bill Yoshino, national director for JACL, issued the following statement:

"The creation of the redress entitlement is a fitting end to a decade-long struggle to obtain individual compensation for those in our community who suffered the incarceration nearly 50 years ago. The entitlement will insure timely payments to those individuals who qualify under the provisions of the Civil Liberties Act.

"It is time to give special thanks to Senators Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga and Representatives Norman Mineta and Robert Matsui whose commitment through the years made redress possible.

"The work, however, is not completed. The Japanese American Citizens League will continue to monitor the process for verifying eligibles as well as monitoring the three-year payment process scheduled to begin next October. In addition, the JACL will maintain an active involvement with the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund which will be created through the legislation to sponsor research and educational activities so that our experience

must allow to happen again to any group, regardless of race, religion or national origin."

Calling Tuesday "a day of redemption and healing" and "a fitting end to a troublesome chapter in American history," U.S. Representative Robert T. Matsui (D-California) praised the signing into law of the entitlement program for redress payments to the Nikkei who were forcibly uprooted from their West Coast homes and locked up in U.S. concentration camps during World War II.

"Today, Nov. 21, 1989, is a day of redemption and healing for the American system because now we know without reservations that redress payments will be made," said Rep. Matsui. "A wrong has been made right and national honor has been restored."

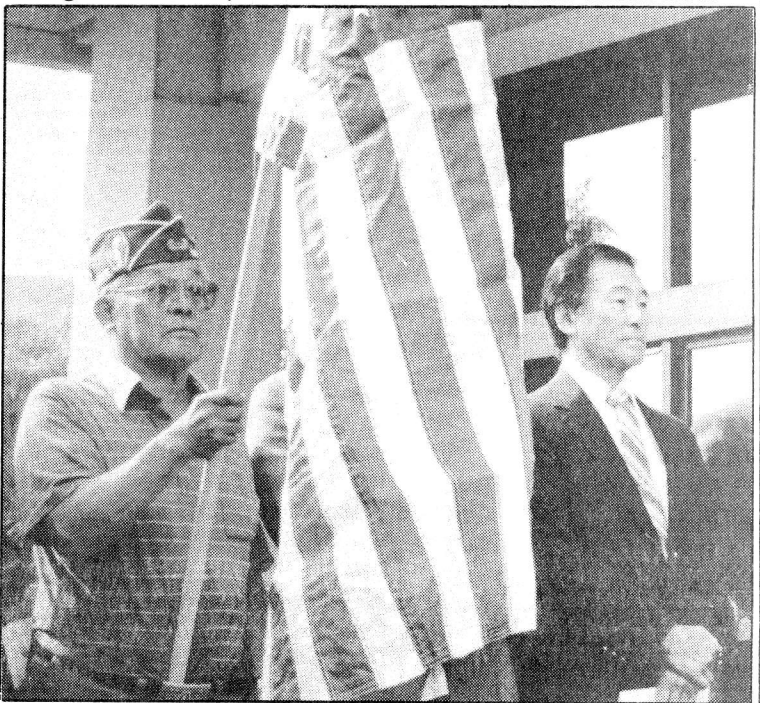
President Bush's signature on the entitlement legislation "marks the appropriate end to a regrettable chapter in American history," stated Matsui, who as a small child was interned with his family in an internment camp.

"Happily, this chapter ends constructively with a reaffirmation of the values this country was built on," he continued. "This is the end of a long ordeal . . . an arduous national march toward redemption."

Norman Y. Mineta, Democratic congressman from San Jose, praised President Bush for signing into law guaranteed compensation for Nikkei former internees.

"This is a truly historic day in American history," Mineta stressed, noting that as a 10-year-

President's signature on the bill, the fight for redress, which has during World War II will be remembered and understood."



FRANK SETO (left) of the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team bears the flag while Frank Emi, Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee leader, looks on during a press conference to mark the passage of the bill making redress to Japanese American internees official.



MITSUMI TOUR 1990

Feb. 10-12 DEATH VALLEY & LAS VEGAS BUS TOUR

Feb. 17-19 ONSHEN (Hot Springs) & GOLF BUS TOUR

Apr. 01-07 EAST COAST TOUR
WASHINGTON/NYC/BOSTON

May 06-18 PANAMA CANAL TOUR
May 26-28 MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY