



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

*Office of Redress Administration**Office of the Administrator**P.O. Box 66260
Washington, DC 20035-6260*

Dear Community Leader:

The countdown has begun. In accordance with the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, ORA will officially cease operations on August 10, 1998. Since my last update, the Office of Redress Administration (ORA) has been working on several claims and projects to ensure a successful close down in approximately one year.

California Community Meetings. This month, we focused our outreach efforts on a series of community meetings in Los Angeles and San Francisco. ORA Director Joanne Chiedi, Senior Operations Manager Lisa Johnson, and Attorney Emlei Kuboyama provided attendees a detailed update on current ORA activities and projections for the future. The meetings provided an excellent opportunity for members of the community to make suggestions and share concerns. In turn, the ORA representatives requested the community's assistance with our continued outreach efforts.

Ishida Update. We have slated the next payment for September. Again, this payment will include those individuals who have already been notified of their eligibility under the *Ishida* regulations. Please advise these claimants to notify ORA of any address changes as soon as possible to avoid a delay in payment.

Railroad Research. ORA staff continues to research the firing of persons of Japanese ancestry from railroad positions in World War II. Assisted by experienced researchers and noted historians, we continue to search for additional historical documents to help shed light on this issue. Historian Michi Weglyn has graciously offered suggestions and guidance on this issue. In addition to research at the National Archives, ORA will be working with certain state archives in an attempt to gather information on defense board's meetings.


Outreach. ORA is looking for new outreach opportunities, and we need your assistance. We would like to send representatives to conventions, camp reunions, and community meetings that concern redress. If you know of any such events, please notify Emi Kuboyama (Help line - 1-888-219-6900 or Fax - 202/219-9314) of any events that may help us. In addition, ORA representatives distributed updated posters at the recent workshop. If you did not receive one or would like to request additional copies, please call our Help line.

Search for the Unknowns. The search continues for individuals who may be eligible for redress. With help from the Social Security Administration and the Internet, ORA staff has successfully accounted for several persons listed on the *List of Unknown Historical Records*. Leads from family and friends are also an effective means of finding these potential redress recipients. Please continue to circulate these booklets in your organization and community, or contact ORA if you need additional copies.

New Applications. Although ORA will be open until August 10, 1998, we would appreciate having all new claims well before the end of the program. Please encourage those who are interested in redress to submit their information by **January 1998**. We must receive all new cases by this date to ensure that a determination can be made before the end of the program. We would like the opportunity to give each claim a thorough, individual review.

A strong partnership with community leaders has been a fundamental reason for the redress program's success. We value your opinion and welcome your suggestions.

Sincerely


DeDe Greene
Administrator for Redress

ORA Statistics as of August 1997

Number of cases paid:	80,351
Unknown historical records:	2,452
Total ineligible:	1,861