

November 6, 1996



**National
Coalition
for Redress/
Reparations**

**Los Angeles
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Dear Redress Applicant:

Because many of you were unable to attend the Office of Redress Administration workshops on the West Coast in September, NCRR is issuing this brief redress update and asking your assistance in lobbying Attorney General Janet Reno.

Before helping individuals with their redress applications, ORA staff members gave a short summary of their current work. The ORA has redressed approximately 80,000 individuals since 1991. Among the categories that the ORA has still **not** found eligible for redress are the railroad and mine workers who were fired from their jobs after EO 9066 was implemented, Japanese Latin Americans who did not become permanent residents in the 1950's and did not make their permanent residencies retroactive to the internment period, and Japanese Americans imprisoned in the camps who did not have legal residency during their internment.

Checks to minors deported to Japan as part of a prisoner exchange program were ready for mailing pending final approval by the Attorney General (these checks were later sent out in October, ending a difficult, three year redress campaign). Applications of former Glendale, Arizona residents who were prohibited from entering town during World War II are still under case-by-case review.

The ORA has received hundreds of applications from children born after their parents left camp and after evacuation as a result of the Ishida/Consolo court victory...520 of these applicants were born in the years 1945 through 1947. Because the ORA received over 200 letters requesting a change of the eligibility birthdate from January 2, 1945 to a later date, Department of Justice legal counsel are studying possible cutoff dates in 1945 and 1946. DeDe Green, ORA Administrator, said that a recommendation is expected this winter and emphasized that any new eligibility date must be legally justifiable. She was unable to speculate on what date would be used. Once the decision is made, Green said that the ORA has sufficient funds to redress all eligible claimants.

NCRR has prepared a letter to Janet Reno requesting her to expedite the change of date review process. We **encourage** you to send her a letter, preferably one you prepare yourself, or the form letter enclosed. Because we have written to Representative Robert Matsui and Doris Matsui, Deputy Assistant to President Clinton, regarding the ORA's review of this category, we request that you xerox a copy of your letter and send them a copy. Their addresses are:

Doris Matsui, Deputy Assistant to the President, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC 20500
Congressman Robert Matsui, 2311 Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20515-0505

As for the other groups denied redress, NCRR believes that they suffered a deprivation of their rights and fully deserve reparations. We are exploring various avenues to try to win redress for these deserving individuals. We feel a sense of urgency because many of these applicants are very elderly. 1997 will be the year that we push for donations for the legal efforts that lie ahead and for volunteers to carry out those efforts.

Sincerely,

Kay Ochi

Janice Yen