

**U.S. Department of Justice**

Civil Rights Division

*Office of Redress Administration*

Verification Unit

P.O. Box 66260

Washington, D.C. 20035-6260

OCT 18 1996

Dear Kay:

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the recent activities of the Office of Redress Administration (ORA).

Within the last month, ORA staff conducted four workshops in California and Hawaii, which were attended by over 500 claimants. These workshops were very successful in updating the community on the recent events in ORA, as well as working with claimants one-on-one to discuss their individual cases. ORA is now following up with several of these claimants after further review of their cases.

We are very pleased to announce that the regulations making minor children eligible who were relocated to Japan during the war were published in the Federal Register on September 27. Checks were mailed to the majority of the 125 cases in this category on October 3. The remainder are awaiting final documentation from the claimants, and should be finalized over the next few weeks. With this round of payments, ORA has now issued a total of 80,120 redress payments.

The regulations affecting the Ishida cases are under review within the Department. As we announced at the workshops, we hope that these regulations will be finalized this winter and published in the Federal Register, so that we can begin issuing decisions to these cases as soon as possible. We have received several questions about when these cases found eligible might receive their redress payments, however, ORA is not able to determine the payment cycle at this time. When this is determined, the claimants will be notified directly. We will also make the community leaders aware of the payment schedule.

One of ORA's primary efforts is outreach, with the sunset date of the program (August 10, 1998) less than two years away. The list of historical records for individuals who ORA has been unable to contact has been reduced to approximately 3,300 names, and ORA's goal is to account for as many of these individuals as possible before the end of the program. We would like your help in this endeavor. ORA would like to send a representative to upcoming internment camp reunions, conferences, and other events in the Japanese American community to publicize the redress program. ORA will provide copies of the listing of unknown individuals at these events, asking the community for assistance

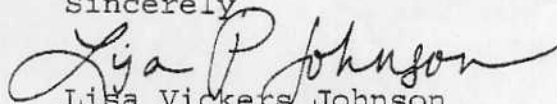
in determining the whereabouts of these individuals. ORA also plans to identify retirement homes or communities which have a large Japanese American population who could assist in our search efforts. Please contact me at (202) 219-6150 with ideas regarding any possible retirement communities to target, as well as upcoming events in the Japanese American community. Additionally, ORA welcomes your other outreach ideas for any ways we can locate potentially eligible individuals. Within our budgetary constraints, ORA is committed to spreading the word to as many individuals as possible before the program ends.

The unknown lists will be available in booklet form in early 1997. We hope that this format will give more people the opportunity to look over the list and provide ORA with information on the whereabouts of these individuals. We will continue to produce the list for posters as well.

Also, I wanted to thank you for your comments regarding the minor children regulations you gave DeDe at the workshop. I apologize for the mail delivery problem, but the letter appears to have never reached our division. I did notice a red date stamp on your letter, but it does not resemble the stamp used by the Department when mail is received. As you know, at the point we received your comments at the workshop, the regulations were signed by the Attorney General and had left the Department. We regret that they did not reach us in time for the comment period.

Thank you for all of your efforts in assisting ORA in outreach and other phases of the program. I look forward to hearing from you about your ideas for the future, and as always, please contact any member of the ORA staff with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Lisa Vickers Johnson  
Project Manager