

REDRESS

The Office of Redress Administration (ORA) recently reported that redress payments have been made to 79,515 eligible individuals, and that 2,316 applicants have been found ineligible for payment. ORA administrator DeDe Greene will address the community about the cases denied and other redress issues at a meeting on Thursday, April 13 at 7 PM at the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center, 244 S. San Pedro St., Los Angeles.

The community meeting, sponsored by the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations, Los Angeles, will provide the ORA an opportunity to update the community, and to let eligible nikkei know that they can still apply for redress. The ORA estimates that thousands of potentially eligible internees have not applied for redress, and that approximately 500 cases are eligible, but are pending because applicants need to send in needed information or documentation.

"NCRR urges nikkei to stay involved with redress. The ORA will close its doors in 1998 when the provisions of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 end. We call upon community members to encourage eligible nikkei to apply for redress or to call NCRR to get assistance," stated Kay Ochi, vice president of NCRR. "NCRR is still very concerned about those denied redress. We hope that the ORA will reconsider these categories. Last year several categories were reconsidered and dozens of people were made eligible for redress. We hope that the 'benefit of the doubt' clause as provided in the 1992 amendment to the Act will be applied."

In March, 50 cases were found eligible for payment. Of these cases 27 people were in Arizona, 4 in Hawaii, 4 Peruvians and 9 internee/evacuees. The largest category of denials represents 774 people who were born after the parents' evacuation or internment. Other large categories include 303 internees from Latin America who left the United States after the war, 259 Hawaiian applicants, 162 applicants who relocated to Japan, 141 'voluntary' evacuees, and 102 railroad workers.

Other categories of evacuees/internees found ineligible include 18 people born in Boulder, Colorado, to Japanese language school instructors, 13 Latin American Japanese who remained in the U.S. after the war, 70 people who were in the military, 76 cases of persons in Japan, 61 cases involving curfew or travel, 53 cases where no government action was found as the cause of loss of liberty or property.

NCRR will provide information about the remaining denial cases at the April 13 meeting.

For further information about the community meeting, call NCRR at (213) 680-3484.

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