

NCRRR BANNER



VOL. I, FEBRUARY 1981

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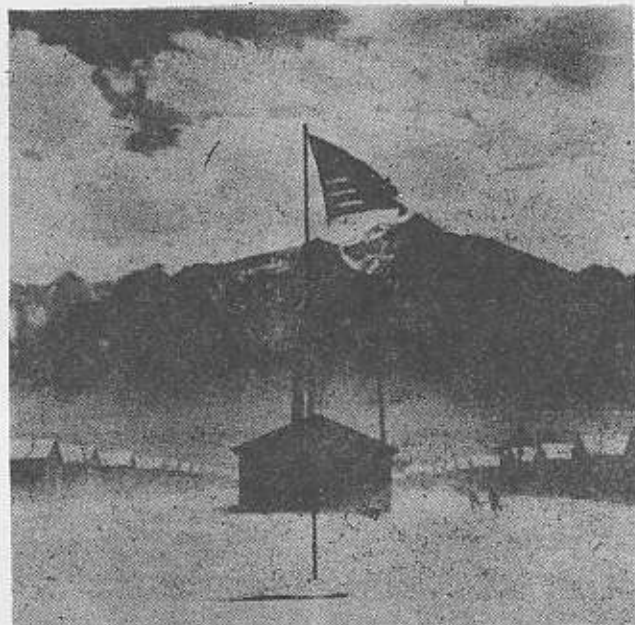
Commission Hearings: Only the beginning...

Presently, the redress/reparations movement is entering into an important period. The Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians is now in the process of being established and will be holding hearings beginning sometime this spring. Originating from a Congressional bill initiated by the JACL and passed in July of 1980, the Commission will be authorized to collect testimony and information concerning Executive Order 9066 and the subsequent relocation and internment of American citizens and residents. At the end of the one-year study, it must determine "whether a wrong was committed" and "recommend appropriate remedies."

While the NCRRR feels that, in principle, the Japanese community should not have to "prove" to any commission that they endured injustice -- for it is well documented in research and personal experience -- the NCRRR does see the upcoming Commission hearings as an important vehicle to educate the public about the camps, and impress upon the government that redress and reparations is due to the Japanese community. Furthermore, the NCRRR feels that the Commission hearings should be a means by which Nikkei can be further united and involved in even greater numbers in the R/R movement.

For this reason, the NCRRR feels that it is crucial to keep the Nikkei community abreast of the latest developments in the Commission hearing process. Currently, the number of commissioners to be designated by the President and Congress has been increased from seven to nine. Five of the commissioners have been appointed so far. They are: William Marutani, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia; Arthur Fleming, Chair of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights; Joan Z. Bernstein, Chief General Counsel of the Department of Health, and Human Services; Edward Brooke, former U.S. Senator from Massachusetts; and Hugh B. Mitchell, former U.S. Senator from Washington. Three of the remaining four will be selected by

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Manzanar, CA 1945

Feb. 19th - Day of Unity & Action

February 19, 1942, is a date that is etched forever in the memories of Japanese Americans. On that day, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which was the Presidential sanction for the exclusion and subsequent incarceration of over 110,000 persons of Japanese ancestry on the West Coast. While the Japanese were not specifically named in E.O. 9066, only the Japanese as a group were singled out as the "enemy" and maligned as "dangerous" to the war-time security of the U.S. This was done despite government knowledge of substantial and documented evidence to the contrary. Military orders authorized by E.O. 9066 rounded up Japanese of all ages, citizens and non-citizens alike, and removed them to barren wastelands of the country's interior in total disregard of due process of law and other rights specified by the Constitution. Tar-paper barracks behind barbed wire became "home" for the Japanese for four years.

In recent years, for Japanese communities throughout the U.S., February 19th has become a Day of Remembrance, a time to recall this grave injustice that so radically shaped the destiny of Japanese in America.

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Nat'l Conference Inspires

LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
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Bert Nakano, member of LTPRO, gave the NCRR keynote speech

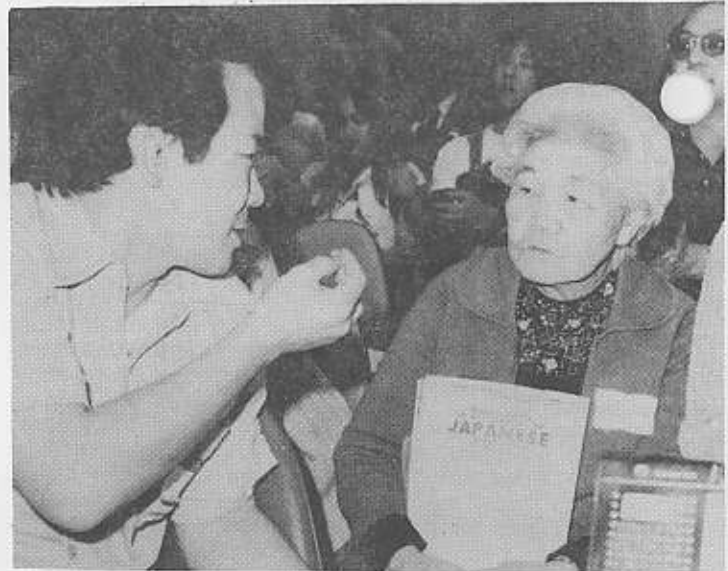
involved in this effort since the group's inception in July 1980. As a result of this, the past few years have seen the burgeoning of a community consciousness on R/R, and it has produced a contemporary mass movement.

The National Conference brought together all strata of the community, and it drew us from across the country. There were workers, students, newcomers, and professionals. There were Japanese people of all generations. And there were people of other nationalities, supporting us in our struggle.

Chanting "ichi danketsu toso shori, united as one we will dare to win victory!" the Japan Food Corporation workers, then in the midst of their strike, showed their solidarity with the NCRR. Michael Pili Humphrey, an activist in the Black Liberation Movement, gave a rousing statement of support, linking the fight for self-determination for Black people with the Japanese people's fight for R/R.

Thirty-nine years have passed since the United States government incarcerated 120,000 Japanese Americans in concentration camps and deprived them of justice and due process of law. Yet, in spite of the long stretch of intervening years since the camps closed, the Japanese American community has shown itself to be a vital and growing force. On November 15 and 16, 1980, over 350 Japanese Americans met at the California State University at Los Angeles at the NCRR-organized National Conference under the banner, "Justice Now! Reparations Now!"

The conference was the outgrowth of several years of community organizing around the issue by member and supporting organizations of the NCRR, which has been actively in-



Most of the conference provided for simultaneous translation in Japanese for Issei



Mako, noted actor/director, reads an excerpt of "The Gold Watch" at the evening cultural program

The proceedings opened with Gordon Hirabayashi delivering the keynote address. Hirabayashi, now a professor of sociology at the University of Washington, was one of three nisei whose courage and resistance led to Supreme Court cases challenging the legality of the curfew orders and subsequent incarceration. He discussed his experiences prior to the camps and his decision to violate the curfew order. He called on all Japanese Americans to reject second-class citizenship and to take the lead in pursuing redress.

R/R Through The Law

Legal workshops held at the NCRR conference provided a wealth of information on R/R and the law. Lawyers and law students from the California State Bar Sub-committee on Redress and other attorneys spent months preparing research on the existing cases which legitimized the forced evacuation as well as research into legislative and legal recourses to win reparations.

The Saturday morning session led off with a lively mock hearing of the Korematsu case. Fred Korematsu, a U.S citizen, refused to obey the evacuation order and was subsequently arrested. The mock hearing showed that the constitutionality of the evacuation order is far from closed and will have a bearing in fighting for reparations.

In the afternoon session, a panel of speakers brought out the history of R/R cases and future legal and legislative alternatives. The first presentation on the 1948 Evacuation Claims Act recounted the act's grave limitations. Loss of life and personal hardships were not allowed as compensatory items. By the end of the program, only 24,103 claims (out of over 120,000 Japanese incarcerated) were settled. Most people settled on an average of \$740 for their businesses, farms, and homes that were lost.

On the issue of legislative and legal strategies for winning R/R in the present, the panelists pointed out that major obstacles must be cleared away before launching legal action. First, the government's sovereign immunity protects it from law suits. Secondly, prior legal decisions must be waived to allow new hearings. This involves waiving the statute of limitations on the case.

One of the cases researched by the State Bar Sub-committee was the 1978 Sioux Indian Black Hills settlement. The land was stolen by the U.S. government in 1877, and legal decisions upheld the government's action. After much pressure, Congress enacted an amendment to the 1946 Indian Claims Acts. The amendment eliminated the obstacle of the previous legal decisions and stated that Congress recognized a moral obligation and, in turn, created a legal obligation to pay reparations to the Sioux. Furthermore, Congress considered the "taking" of the Sioux land a violation of the 5th Amendment as well as Sioux treaty rights. Congress also recognized that the deprivation of the Sioux's livelihood by the taking of the land and relocation was a wrong that must be redressed.



Gordon Hirabayashi delivering the keynote address.

While the circumstances of Japanese American incarceration are different, the Sioux case set important precedents. The NCRR and the State Bar Sub-committee plan to investigate further the possibility of enabling legislation to allow further legal action.

Another legal tactic presented was the constitutional tort approach. A tort is a legal principle that allows individuals to sue to recover damages for violations of civil liberties or injury caused by unlawful action. Since the U.S. Constitution clearly protects individuals from unlawful detention and violation of liberties by Federal and state officials, law suits based on constitutional torts have been filed against unlawful actions by the Federal government. In several cases cited, the courts awarded damages to individuals who were improperly searched, arrested, and detained by police and government officials without reasonable grounds to justify such actions.

In awarding damages for unlawful detention, the courts have granted compensation for medical expenses, lost income as well as general damages for pain and suffering. In this regard, this approach, too, has many implications for Japanese Americans who suffered violations of their civil rights during the incarceration.

While these legal and legislative approaches provide interesting options, several panelists emphasized that the legal/legislative strategy must be linked to a political strategy. Congress will not be induced to recognize the right of Japanese Americans and Aleutians to R/R unless there is a mass movement which creates pressure on the politicians.

In the months ahead, the NCRR plans to continue its legal and legislative investigation around direct appropriations, enabling legislation and other means to win R/R. As the investigation continues, efforts for a grass-roots campaign must be mounted to win even greater support for the just demand of R/R.

LOS ANGELES REGIONAL

Following the successful National Conference in L.A., the flurry of holidays carried us right through to the year-end Little Tokyo Mochitsuki. For this event, the L.A. Regional set up an R/R table with literature and petitions, and talked with people in the community around the issue. In January, the Regional participated in a number of activities, among them: an R/R program co-sponsored by the East L.A. JACL, featuring Judge Robert Takasugi, John Tateishi for the JACL National Redress Committee, and NCRR representatives June Kizu and Jim Matsuoka; and planning for a joint program with the Long Beach JACL.

February's schedule of educational outreach and joint work with organizations around the issue of R/R continues to pick up momentum. Among this month's events are: doing NCRR presentations at both the Orange County JACL and Cal State L.A.'s "Asian Awareness Day"; and participating in the Japan Food Workers Victory Party which celebrated the end of their strike. In addition, the R/R Committee of the Little Tokyo People's Rights Organization, a member organization of the NCRR, is now developing a broad outreach program to help mobilize for the upcoming Commission hearings.

Finally, one of the Regional's main priorities this month is the Day of Remembrance event, which will be a candlelight march from Little Tokyo to the Federal Building, a short rally, a taiko performance, and a memorial service officiated by Rev. Paul Hagiya and Rev. Alfred Tsuyuki.

SACRAMENTO REGIONAL

Since the National Conference, the Sacramento Regional has initiated a petition campaign to secure a Commission hearing in Sacramento. The Sacramento Valley and surrounding area has a significant Nikkei population, and we feel that the particular significance of the Tule Lake Camp must be raised.

Additionally, we are working with the Sacramento Committee for Redress/Reparations to sponsor a Day of Remembrance program on February 19 at the Japanese United Methodist Church. The program will provide an update on the Commission and draw support for a Sacramento hearing site. Group discussions will take place after the program.

Finally, general outreach work continues. At this time our membership consists of Sacramento Tule Lake Committee, Asian Legal Services, Southside Peoples' Art Collective, and individuals. We plan to hold additional meetings and programs in the future to mobilize for the upcoming Commission hearings.



SAN DIEGO REGIONAL

In November 1980 a group of concerned Nikkei met in San Diego to discuss the issue of R/R. Out of this meeting was formed the San Diego Redress/Reparations Committee (SDRRC). With a diverse membership including workers, students, and professionals from several generations of Nikkei as well as from other nationalities, the SDRRC has been an active member organization of the NCRR. The SDRRC is currently involved in activities around a Day of Remembrance program and the Commission hearings.

On Sunday, February 22, the SDRRC, in co-sponsorship with the San Diego chapter of the JACL and the Union of Pan Asian Communities, will present an event commemorating February 19. The event will feature rare contraband footage of the Heart Mountain Camp, a koto performance by Masazume Kai, and dancing by Bando Mitsuhiro Kai, as well as statements by the San Diego JACL and the SDRRC. Japanese translation will be provided, as well as free childcare, transportation for the elderly, and refreshments.

In preparation for the Commission hearings, the SDRRC is circulating two petitions. One is a nationwide petition gathering support for the five points of unity of the NCRR, and the other calls for San Diego to be one of the Commission hearing sites. We feel the Commission should come to where the people are, and there are approximately 10,000 Nikkei in the greater San Diego area, as well as thousands in East San Diego County and Imperial County. The SDRRC will be actively seeking out individuals and organizations interested in testifying at the hearings.

JUSTICE NOW! RE

From the Regionals...

SAN FRANCISCO/EAST BAY REGIONAL

NCRR work in the San Francisco/East Bay area began before the National Conference. The Japanese Community Progressive Alliance (JCPA) in San Francisco, one of the founding member organizations of the NCRR, formed a Redress/Reparations committee and began doing educational outreach in the community. We helped develop an outreach slideshow and attended Board and general membership meetings of community organizations and churches. At these presentations we talked about the R/R issue, the current situation with R/R, the NCRR goals, and how people could get involved. These outreach presentations were also a means to get people's ideas and feedback and to learn of their own personal experiences.

The other aspect of reaching out to the community was the two programs we held prior to the Conference. Both of these programs were held to publicize the issue, mobilize for the Conference, and give those unable to attend the Conference a way to put in their ideas about the R/R campaign. The program held in Berkeley showed a number of Camp films--home movies, War Relocation Authority films, and others about the Camps. The San Francisco program featured a keynote speaker, Edward Miyakawa, the author of the novel Tule Lake. In both of these programs we saw that the interest in R/R is broad and one which can involve many different people.

Most recently, the Regional has been busy planning for a Day of Remembrance event on February 16. This event will include an educational and memorial program after a march to the Kinmon Gakuen, the San Francisco gathering point for the evacuation.

PARATIONS NOW!

SAN JOSE/PENINSULA REGIONAL

Ever since July 1980, with the formation of the NCRR and the signing of the Commission bill, activities in the San Jose area around the R/R issue have been gathering momentum. NCRR member organizations in this Regional include the Nihonmachi Outreach Committee (NOC), the Asian Law Alliance (ALA), and Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI), with active support and encouragement from the local JACL chapters (Sequoia, San Jose, and San Mateo) and from student groups (Stanford AASA, San Jose State ASIAN, University of Santa Clara ALSA and Ethnic Studies, and the South Bay Asian Pacific Student Union).

Inspired by the National Conference, the Regional has been busy planning for a Day of Remembrance program to be held on February 22. The program will feature Edward Miyakawa, speakers from the NCRR and San Jose chapter of JACL, and Mrs. Umeno Fujino, a long-time San Jose resident who will speak on changes she has seen in the San Jose Nikkei community before and after the Camps. In addition to this program, the Regional is supporting and participating in other Day of Remembrance events to be held at the University of Santa Clara, Stanford, and San Jose State University.

The Regional's other major activity has been to launch a campaign to have San Jose designated as one of the Commission hearing sites. Through petitioning, in both English and Japanese, we hope to impress upon the Commission that this region, with the second largest concentration of Nikkei on the mainland, has much to say about the Camp experience and should be heard. Also, whether or not San Jose is designated as a hearing site, the Regional plans to help mobilize witnesses.



Organized by student and community groups, Day of Remembrance programs and memorials have paid tribute to those who suffered in the camps, especially the first generation issei, whose losses were staggering. These events have also become a time to honor the struggles of Japanese who bravely resisted their unjust treatment.

This year's Day of Remembrance activities organized by the NCRR will take on added significance -- not only will they represent a time to reflect on the past, but they will also represent a time for unity and action -- for Japanese throughout the country involved in the just cause of redress/reparations. In San Francisco, San Jose, Sacramento, San Diego, Los Angeles, and New York, traditional music and poetry, personal accounts of Feb. 19, 1942, and the camps, memorial services and candlelight vigils at places of historic significance in Japanese communities will take place through the efforts of the NCRR and other Japanese community groups.

By bringing together broad sectors of the Japanese community to commemorate February 19th as a Day of Remembrance and by conducting general education around the Camp experience, these programs will move the redress/reparations movement one step further; for they will help us confront and understand the Camp experience as well as help us to unite the Japanese community in its present fight for justice in the form of redress/reparations, and strengthen the community's resolve to ensure that what happened in 1942 never happen to any other group of people.

Another round of workshops in the afternoon addressed the important issue of strategy. The legal and legislative aspects of the R/R movement and possible future avenues of action were presented in "Pursuing Reparations Through the Law." Other workshops included one on strategies for approaching the commission hearings, one on conducting outreach and educational presentations to the community, and one on the use of art and culture in the R/R movement.

In the evening, actors, writers, and musicians such as Mako, Momoko Iko, and June and Dan Kuramoto from Hiroshima gave moving performances, demonstrating the broad range of support that R/R has in the Japanese Community.

The second day of the conference was devoted to uniting on NCRR's Principles of Unity and programme to put into action all that was learned and experienced during the workshops and speeches. Although the first day had been an exhausting one, the programme and principles of Unity were unanimously adopted with resounding applause and chants of Justice Now, Reparations Now!

The conference was a significant victory for the R/R movement. The potential to bring together many different people and perspectives to bear on this one issue was realized and the impact of this is carrying itself through the many Day of Remembrance activities. We can all look forward to a bright future in the Japanese people's call for Justice Now, Reparations Now!

The next three speakers on the agenda were Philemon Tutiakoff of the Aleutian/Pribilof Island Association, William Hohri of the National Council for Japanese American Redress, and Ron Wakabayashi, a member of the Japanese American Citizens League National Redress Committee. Tutiakoff gave a moving account of the evacuation and imprisonment of over 850 Aleutian Native Americans under Executive Order 9066. Hohri spoke forcefully for reparations and described the class action suit his organization is initiating. Wakabayashi gave his personal perspective on the JAACL role in the R/R movement and his own participation on the Redress Committee.

Bert Nakano of the Little Tokyo People's Rights Organization served as spokesperson for the NCRR. He expanded on the NCRR's position regarding reparations, most particularly its perspectives on monetary compensation, the rebuilding of communities and the overturning of the legal basis for the camps, all of which are integral parts of the NCRR's five Principles of Unity.

During the morning session of the conference a whole array of educational workshops were held. Topics included ranged from analysis of the Camp's effect on women, the community, family, and individuals, to presentations on the history of the R/R movement.



ERRATA: In a recent leaflet publicizing NCRR's Day of Remembrance activities, it was erroneously mentioned that Concerned Japanese Americans is a chapter of the NCRR. The Concerned Japanese Americans is supportive of the NCRR, but is not a chapter at this time.

The U.S. imprisonment of the Aleut people



The story of the Aleut people is little known, especially the bitter years during World War II when they were forcibly imprisoned by the U.S. government.

Imprisonment and exile

Following the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the U.S. military began construction

of a naval base on Unalaska in the Aleutians. "Our deprivation began with the U.S. military confining us in our hometown with barbed wire fences, M.P.-manned checkpoints, curfew, blackouts . . ." Philemon Tutiakoff, chairman of the Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association, told *UNITY*. "Our chief and church committee questioned the military only to hear . . . a very curt 'national emergency.' Our recommendation went unheeded." The Aleuts were virtual prisoners in their own communities.

By April 1942, the U.S. military had intercepted Japanese plans for the June invasion of the Aleutians. Yet, the U.S. military did nothing to protect the Aleuts or provide for safe relocation.

After Japanese troops overran Kiska and Attu islands, Aleuts on Atka Island fled their village to their summer fishing camp. "That night we saw a glow in the sky . . ." said Vera Neozoroff. "We found the U.S. Navy had burned our village to the ground (to deprive the Japanese of any shelter)." Given only 24 hours notice and limited to one suitcase of personal belongings, the Aleuts were removed from their six island communities by the end of July and taken to abandoned canneries and mines in southeast Alaska. White fisher-

men residing in the Aleutians were allowed to remain. Aleut families were split up as the white spouses of Aleuts were also forced to stay behind.

The camps at Funter Bay, Killisnoo, Burnett Inlet and Ward's Cove, administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Office of Indian Affairs, were island prisons. Amid the rotted timbers of dilapidated buildings, the Aleuts were forced to make their homes. "In our designated 15 by 20 foot home, there were 28 of us," explained Tutiakoff. "There existed no school, no church, no medical facility, no store, no community water or sewage system, no recreation or community facilities." Even U.S. prisoners of war received better treatment than the Aleuts.

Hundreds of Aleuts were stricken as contagious diseases such as measles and influenza swept through the unsanitary, overcrowded camps.

Reasons for Imprisonment

The Aleuts had committed no crime, nor were they a security risk. Yet they remained prisoners for two more years after the Japanese troops had been driven out of the Aleutians in August 1943. Because of the horrible conditions in the camps, the Aleuts demanded to be returned home or allowed to move to another part of Alaska.

The U.S. military opposed both demands; U.S. troops had taken over the Aleuts' homes and did not want to build additional housing for returning Aleuts. Secondly, the government refused to let the Aleuts go because they needed to keep the Aleuts together as a labor force. Over \$1 million in revenues was lost in 1942 when the government sponsored seal hunt was canceled by the forced removal of the Aleuts. To prevent such a loss again, in May 1943 the U.S. government forced the Aleuts to return home for the seal hunt. Left behind were women, children and the elderly.

Although the Aleuts from the Pribilofs were returned in May 1944, other Aleuts did not get released until April 1945. When they reached the islands, tears of happiness turned to sorrow and rage. "We found our little house unlivable with no trace of our belongings," said Tutiakoff. Religious icons, fishing boats, furniture—all were stolen or vandalized by the U.S. troops who even shot up the walls of the houses to amuse themselves.

The war altered forever the development of the Aleut people. Herring spawning lagoons were filled in by the U.S. Navy. Codfish disappeared from waters which had been polluted by the oil tankers. The hospital on Unalaska, destroyed by the war, was never rebuilt, and the Alaska native death rate soared to 765 per 100,000 compared to the U.S. average of 40 per 100,000.

By the end of the war, only half of the Aleuts who were imprisoned ever returned home. Over 100 had died of illness and disease; others simply moved away to other parts of Alaska.

Support the demand for reparations

No reparations have ever been paid to the Aleuts who suffered unjust removal and imprisonment similar to the 120,000 Japanese imprisoned in World War II concentration camps on the U.S. mainland.

At the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations (NCRP) conference held in Los Angeles on November 15-16, the Aleuts voiced their support for a joint campaign to win justice and reparations. Working in conjunction with the NCRP, the Aleuts will be presenting their story and demands before the upcoming hearings of the Commission on Wartime Relocation of Civilians, a congressional investigatory committee. Hearings are slated for major cities where there are concentrations of Japanese Americans and also in Alaska early next year.

One particular demand the Aleuts will raise is that the U.S. government construct multi-purpose community facilities in each community affected by the World War II evacuation to serve as a living memorial to those who passed away from the racist imprisonment.

"We had no choice whatsoever when the U.S. government caused us to simply exist for two and one-half years . . . The Aleuts will cooperate completely in ensuring that no American shall endure what we did," said Tutiakoff.

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UNITY NEWSPAPER

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST JACL ENDORSES NCRP

The following resolution was adopted by the Pacific Southwest District JACL Board, and will be presented to their Council on Feb. 14, 1981.

Resolution Endorsing the National Coalition on Redress and Reparations

WHEREAS, the National Council of the Japanese American Citizens League endorsed the concept of redress for Japanese Americans relocated and interned during World War II as a National JACL position for the biennium at its Salt Lake City Convention in 1978; and

WHEREAS, this concept was carried forth to the establishment of a Presidential Commission on the Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians; and

WHEREAS, the Pacific Southwest District Council recognizes the magnitude of this project and its direct impact on the Japanese American Community at large; and

WHEREAS, the education, motivation, and preparation of the Japanese American Community for the upcoming Commission Hearings can be more effectively accomplished by recognizing and working in conjunction with other community organizations without the compromise of those objectives adopted by the JACL National Committee for Redress; Now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Pacific Southwest District Council endorses and encourages mutual participation with the National Coalition for Redress and Reparations, for educational and informational purposes, and encourages other Districts to consider adoption of this resolution.

In Memoriam

AMY UNO ISHII

DEC. 11, 1920 - JAN. 21, 1981

At the Los Angeles Day of Remembrance program, the NCRR will give a special tribute to a fellow member and dear friend, the late Amy Uno Ishii, who passed away on January 21, 1981. Amy was very well known for her many years of dedication and commitment to the cause of R/R. Through lectures, exhibits, and slide presentations she was an outspoken advocate for R/R, not only locally, but all across the nation. Amy spent countless days in NCRR meetings, and prior to that was active in the Los Angeles Coalition on R/R, one of the groups that helped initiate the formation of the NCRR.

While her presence will be very much missed by all who have worked with her, we will remember Amy's staunch spirit and will try to carry on the legacy of her hard work. Amy had been afflicted with a serious heart condition for many years, but often shared with us the feeling that, despite her own fragile health, she felt assured that the dedication of individuals and groups such as the NCRR would continue to fight for reparations actively.



The following was a public announcement in the Rafu Shimpo (LA) by the Uno Ishii family: "In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Amy's name to the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations (NCRR), 244 S. San Pedro St., Rm. 406, Los Angeles, CA 90012." The NCRR respectfully, and in sorrow, acknowledges the generosity and integrity of the Uno Ishii family's bequest.

COMMISSION

Cont. from pg. 1

the House of Representatives, and the last will be chosen by the Senate. Once the appointments have been completed, a commission staff will be formed and hearing sites designated. It is reported that L.A. may be the first site for the hearings.

Because the Commission is only obliged to "study" whether a wrong was committed, the NCRR believes that all the more importance should be placed upon ensuring that the many voices of the Nikkei community for redress/reparations are heard. The NCRR will be organizing and preparing individuals within the Nikkei communities to attend the hearings, testify, and speak out -- not only on why the camps were wrong, but also to demand that after all these years, meaningful restitution be made.

The NCRR will be planning community educational and programs to build up for the hearings, including such activities as mock commission hearings to help people prepare. Over the next few months, we will be stepping up our outreach efforts in the community through presentations, petitioning, leafletting, publicity in the local media, to make sure that Nikkei know about the hearings and encourage them to attend.

The Commission hearings should be opened up to the widest participation from the Nikkei community. With this in mind, the NCRR has been busy conducting a petition drive in Sacramento, San Jose, and San Diego to present to the Commission and staff so that these

cities may be included as hearing sites. We will also insist that translation be provided at the hearings to allow issei to participate, and that the Commission consider all forms of testimony, e.g. tapes, to allow for those who are unable to attend.

Finally, we plan to present testimony at the hearings and will be organizing other groups and individuals to testify as well. The NCRR feels it is very important that a wide range of speakers address the issue of the camps and R/R. We would like, for example, individuals to talk about their personal experiences and why they support R/R; and community organizations like JCPA and LTPRO to speak out on the effect the camps had on Japanese communities; and students to bring out the need for education about the camps and Nikkei history in the public school system. We also hope to sponsor testimony from those who can speak to other effects of the camps (e.g. sociological, legal, etc.).

In addition to attending the hearings, the NCRR plans to hold educational programs and rallies outside the hearings to more widely publicize the demand of R/R.

Finally, it should be kept in mind that while we must work hard to ensure that the community's voice is heard in the hearings, the Commission is not the final chapter or the only chance to tell the story. The struggle for R/R is a long, up-hill battle, and will undoubtedly need to be carried forward beyond the Commission hearings. Therefore, we must continue to educate, to organize, and to unite our community for the long, hard fight that lies ahead.

補償・賠償の運動と「思い出の日」

一九四二年二月九日は、日本人にとりては永遠に忘れる事の出来ない記憶を刻まれた日です。

その日、フランクリン・ローズベルト大統領は、西海岸に住む日本人を祖先に持つ万人もの日系人及び日本人と隔離・収容させる事になった。行政命令 9066 にサインをいたしました。

行政命令 9066 に於いて、日本人は特別に名指しにその対象とされた訳ではないけれども、日本人及び日系人のみが「敵国人」として選ばれ、戦時中国敵保全にとりて危険である」とせしめられたのでした。

行政命令 9066 で、収容づけられた軍の命令で、あつち

年令の日本人及び日系人、市民、牧ももつ人もたゞ人に拘束す皆かり集められ、合衆国内陸の荒れ果てた不毛の地へと、移住させられました。そして日本人及び日系人は、鉄条網と張りめぐらされたタールを塗った紙のようなバウク小屋を「家」として4年間住む事になったのでした。

最近、全米の日系コミュニティでは

二月十九日を思い出の日(DAY OF REMEMBRANCE)に、日本人、日系人の行く末を決定的に運命づけた重大な不正を思い起す日にしました。

学生、コミュニティのグループに依る思い出の日のプログラム、式典はキャンプで苦しい人々、特に何もかも失った一世に献げる称祖まれています。式典は自分達ととり巻く不正と闘って来た勇気ある日系人達をも又讃えるものともなっています。

今年の思い出の日は特別重要な意義があります。それは単に過去を振り返るといふばかりではなく、全米の日本人が現在要求している賠償実現の為の「団結と行動」の日になるのです。サンフランシスコの地サンノゼ、サクラメント、ロスアンゼルス、シフヨークでも伝統音楽や詩の朗読、一九四二年二月十九日にまつわる個人の思い出、収容所の思い出など記念行事が日系社会で行われます。

現在、補償賠償実現の為の運動は、非常に重大な時期にはいって来て

戦時強制収容調査委員公会が現在組織されつつあります。この委員会の目的は強制収容の調査とする事です。そして恐らく議会に対して何らかの救済勅告を行なう事です。現在九人の委員のうち、五人が決定しています。その人達は、フレイデルの THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS の裁判官であるウリアム・マルチー、合衆国市民権委員会議長であるアーサー・フレミング、ヘルス・アンド・ヒューマンサービス局のナーフ・顧問であるジョアン、ユ、バーンスタイン、前マサチューセッツ上院議員上トワード、ブルック、前ワシントン上院議員ヒュー・B・ミンチナルです。

その他委員は尚ほ多く発表される事になっています。そして各役員もこの春に始まる全国統断公聴会と同時に、尚ほ多く決められる事になっています。

賠償実現全米連絡会議(NCCR)は、公聴会を収容所について人々に知らせる重要な機会であると同時に、日系コミュニティの団結し、この大切な闘いに立ち上る契機でもあります。

委員会は、単に不正が行なわれたかどうかを「調査」するだけの仕事を義務づけられていたのです。私達にとりてより重要なことは、日系社会のより多くの「声」をすくい上げる事であり、補償賠償のより強い支持をフクリ上げていく事となります。

今、私達のコミュニティは、公聴会に参加し、証言する準備をする時です。私達はなぜ収容所が不正であったのかを、重要な事では長い年月の経過を去った後、いくらかの意味ある賠償が日本人その他の人々に為されるという事となります。

賠償請求に関する公聴会は、日系コミュニティからの幅広い参加をもちて行なわれるべきです。

その為にもNCCRは、サクラメント、サンノゼ、サンディエゴで公聴会がもたれるべく、委員会に提出する署名と集めてきました。私達は、公聴会に一世の人々が参加し、すい推進

訳の用意をする手と、また公に参加できない人々の為には証言の内容、テープなど考慮にいれる称主張してきまうた。

できるだけ多くの人が公聴会に参加する事ができらる称、あらゆる努力が払われるべきでしょう。
NCRは、コミニティ教育プログラムなどと計画し、模擬公聴会なども盛り込ませながら、実際の公聴会に臨む準備を始めようとしています。

これから数ヶ月の間、私達は、コミニティに於いてリーフレット配布、署名、説明会、マスコミを使っての宣伝などを進め、日本社会の人々がこの公聴会の手を知り、これに参加する様に努力を続けるつもりです。

最終的には私達は公聴会に於いて証言台に立つつもりです。同時に他のグループや個人がどんと証言して行く様、運動を展開していき、思いをこめていきます。

私達は、収容所について、補償賠償請求について、個人へ

の賠償、コミニティ基金、強制収容の合法性を認めている法的根拠を崩す事など、一層の層の人々が話しをする事の重要性を感じます。

私達は例えは、個人が自らの体験を語り、なぜ補償賠償請求を支持するの、JCPA(日本社会を進める会)やLTPRO(小東京住民の権利を守る会)などのコミニティグループの収容所の歴史や私達のコミニティにどの様な影響を与えたかを語り、また学生や公教育の中で収容所や日本人の歴史についての教育の必要性と主張するなど、の試みを期して行います。また、社会的、心理的、法的な面から収容所の経験が与えた衝撃について、証言する人々を支持したいと思っています。

公聴会に参加するだけでなく、NCRは、教育プログラムやラリーなども計画し、この補償賠償請求の声をさらに広範な人々に伝えたいと考えています。

コミニティの事が公聴会で

反映される事に全力を尽くす事は勿論です。大切な事は、これですべてを終る訳けでも、これが登壇する最後の機会でもないという事です。

補償賠償請求の闘いは、長い坂を登る様な歩みであり、疑いなく公聴会の後も続けられるもので、ことに現在のようには政府がいよいよ保守化の道を辿り行く状況の中に於いては、とりわけその様にまえます。

私達は、それ故教育し合い、組織し、団結を守り続けねばなりません。
この思い出の日を記念する事が重要である理由は、それが補償賠償請求の運動をもう一歩前進させる事に繋がります。

この日を過去の歴史の証左として生かす返さる事に依り、私達は、一九四二年に起きた事を二度と再び起こさない様に出来ると思っています。



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