

NCRB BANNER

NATIONAL COALITION FOR REDRESS/REPARATIONS

VOL. III NO. 3
Sept, 1984

244 South San Pedro Street Room 406
Los Angeles, California 90012

1858 Sutter Street
San Francisco, California 94115

SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING

The hearing on Senate Bill 2116 convened by the Senate Subcommittee, chaired by Senator Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) on August 16, 1984, in West L.A., is seen as a step forward by NCRB, despite some disappointments.

There were many requests by the community to testify before the Subcommittee that were not granted due to the shortness of time, and the decision to give equal time to anti-redress forces. In fact, anti-redress witnesses were given ample testimony time. Washington insiders believe this may have been a strategic move by the Senator due to the controversy opponents were creating around the CWRIC recommendations. These opponents of both House and Senate bills have vitterly complained that the CWRIC members and staff were biased in favor of the Redress Movement. They also contend that evidence which they believe justified wartime internment was ignored.

At the recent June hearings on the House of Representative Bill HR4110, members of Congress opposed to or undecided on the redress issue expressed much interest in the MAGIC cables which were diplomatic cables secretly intercepted. Research on MAGIC compiled and presented by David Lowman, a former National Security Agency archivist who alleged that information found in the cables provided a basis for considering the Japanese Americans a threat to national security, thus justifying the concentration camps. Lowman claimed the cables indicated the Japanese government had developed a network of "second generation" or Nisei espionage agents.

Lt. Col. Jack Herzig, a former U.S. Army Counterintelligence Officer, refuted Lowman's testimony as a "mixture of fact and fantasy." In his testimony, Herzig stated that, "These volumes [of MAGIC cables] contain some 5,800 numbered messages from which Mr. Lowman has selected 47, which he considers basic to his contention that the CWRIC report contains ... erroneous ... conclusions." Herzig pointed out shortcomings in Lowman's testimony. In newspaper articles and earlier testimony, Lowman

referred to "espionage nuggets" found in MAGIC cables dated 9/16/41 from the Japanese Consulate in LA as proof that Japanese Americans were supplying strategic data on production at local aircraft plants. Herzig pointed out that this particular information (types of planes being built, amounts of orders, number of employees, etc.) could have come from a contract, a paper, or a journal; in fact, Herzig presented two articles from the LA TIMES dated 9/7/41 and 9/10/41 which had this same information! Herzig emphasized the fact that not one case of espionage was ever proven against JAs, adding "NOT ONE of the secondary sources Mr. Lowman used establishes any connection between MAGIC and the Japanese relocation and internment."

Testimony in Favor of Redress

Those who testified in favor of S2110 were: Hon. Rep. Mervyn Dymally; Hon. Rep. Norman Mineta; Dr. Arthur S. Fleming; John Tateishi of the JACL, George Takei, Kiyoshi Sonoda, Dr. Mary Oda on the JACL panel; June Kizu and Gordon Nakagawa on the NCRB panel; Councilman Mas Fukai; Washington Redress Coalition representative, Charles Kato; Junji Kumamoto; Yosh Ekimoto; Richard Kato, presenting the statement of Fred Okrand, ACLU Legal Director; Dennis Hayashi from the Coram Nobis Committee; Jack Herzig; and Hon. Sen. Alan Cranston.

Following are some highlights of the testimonies given at the Senate Subcommittee hearing:

Proponents of Redress

Rep. Mervyn Dymally (D-Calif.) took the lead in speaking in favor of redress legislation. He said that "the CWRIC's recommendations are wholly appropriate and acceptable to most reasonable people." Calling S. 2116 and HR 4110 "the most crucial civil rights legislation since the passage of the momentous Civil Rights Act of 1964," he stated that "It will take political courage and persuasion to bring these bills out of committee and onto the floor for debate and passage."

Rep. Norman Mineta of San Jose gave an emotional testimony which touched on the experiences of his own family particularly those of his father and father-in-law who died shortly after leaving camp. "The time has come," he said, for redress. "I ask on behalf of the 60,000 internees who have died with their honor clouded. I ask on behalf of the 60,000 still alive and seeking justice. I ask on behalf of all Americans who believe that our Constitution really does mean what it says—that we are created equal."

Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Calif.) called the internment "the single worst mass violation of civil rights and liberties in our nation's history" with the exception of slavery.

Former CWRIC member Arthur Flemming who was deeply moved by his experience of being on the commission stated that "I'm committed as a citizen to do everything I possibly can to help develop public support for our findings and recommendations."

Testimony in Opposition

Those who testified in opposition to Redress were: Charlotte Elam; Samuel Hayakawa; Frederick Weinger; David Lowman; Henry Kane; Mas Odoi; Kathryn Treadold; Lillian Baker; and Rachael Kawasaki. The anti-redress testimonies took up most of the afternoon session and contained vehement and blatantly racist statements.

Many of the testifiers were irrational, claiming that Japanese "illegals" were driving whites out of business before the war, just as Mexicans are doing today; that Japanese trade practices today are like a second Pearl Harbor; that Japanese Americans as a group were disloyal, untrustworthy, bloodthirsty and uncivilized. A congressional aide observed that permitting these people to say what they had to say may work to our advantage. Since they were able to make their irrational arguments at great length, they probably discredited themselves with their own testimonies. Even to a politically conservative observer, it was all too clear that these people opposed redress not because of the "military necessity" argument that they presented, but because they hate Japanese and Japanese Americans, and they revealed an inability to distinguish between the two; their reasoning was the 42-year old argument that, "A Jap is A Jap."

NCRR believes that the essence of the Redress Campaign is the struggle against racism and for the equality of JAs and all Americans. If the sentiments of redress opponents demoralize, they will have won!

The government is also going to make the redress effort difficult at times. We share the anger of many testifiers who were turned down, and the frustration of those who kept to the 10 minute time limit, while anti-redress forces were permitted 30 minutes at a time. We will just have to keep our overall progress and gains in the forefront of our perspective as we strive to pass the Senate and House bills.

Following are some highlights of the opponents' testimonies:

Leading the witnesses testifying against redress was former senator S. I. Hayakawa (R-Calif.). He claimed that there were "unforseen benefits" to the relocation. "Through the adventure of relocation, almost all Nisei and many Issei were thrown out of their ghettoized Japantown existence into the mainstream of American life and learned to converse, joke, quarrel, bargain or pray with their fellow Americans without racial self-consciousness. They learned to be at home in their own country!"

Charlotte Elam said she had documented evidence that Nikkei were putting "millions of dollars...in Japan-owned banks, thousands of it designated for the war effort" and that "Nisei, to a great extent, were providing subversive materials." In addition children were "taught bushido, which is treachery and brutality," and "there's talk now of bringing those schools back in America today."

Frederick Wiener, a retired U.S. Army colonel, sought to discredit the CWRIC report. Calling it "a solemn public lie" he said that the commissioners were "persons whose reactions and points of view were well-known and predictable" and that the commission's staff members, 40 percent of whom had Japanese surnames, were also biased.

Catherine Treadgold of San Francisco and Rachel Kawasaki were two Caucasian women who spoke vehemently against redress. Catherine Treadgold declared that "They were en masse disloyal!" There were "thousands of illegals" coming here before the war. "Our farmers never knew what hit them... We couldn't compete with that kind of slave labor." Rachel Kawasaki accompanied her Japanese husband and their daughter to the relocation center. "We evacuees and/or relocatees were never interned! We were never incarcerated! And we never resided in a concentration camp because there never was a concentration camp in this United States of America!" "We were not forced to stay at the centers. They were only a temporary way station in the process of implementing the relocation program."

NCRR PANEL TESTIFIES AT HEARINGS

NCRR was represented at the sub-committee hearings by a panel consisting of June Kizu, co-chair of the Southern California chapter of NCRR, Gordon Nakagawa, researcher and member of NCRR, and Mas Fukai, city councilman of the city of Gardena. June explained the nature and principles of NCRR to Senator Stevens and then went on to detail how the Constitutional Rights of the evacuees had been violated. She reiterated that "not one single person who went to camp was convicted of any act of espionage, treason or sabotage." While some have claimed that the internees were allowed to leave the camps at will, June said that this was not true, "while in camps, internees were incarcerated and under military guard. The WRA attempted to implement a leave program after the necessity of detention became difficult to defend. Departure was permitted only after a controversial loyalty review in consultation with the military. The program was ineffective and the larger number spent years behind barbed wire." June also urged that heirs be included for payment of compensation and that the elderly be given priority as recipients of redress.

Gordon Nakagawa addressed the economic losses of the internees and the Japanese community which was destroyed during World War II. Previous reports of \$3 billion as the loss suffered by Japanese on the west coast "represents a gross underestimation of total losses: an overall sum in excess of \$6.2 billion (in 1983 inflation-adjusted money) reflects more accurately Japanese American losses in income and property." Although discriminated against and forced to take menial jobs the Japanese through persistence and hard work were, by 1940, able to have a median income of \$622 which was just slightly less than the national labor force median of \$627 and somewhat less than the California median of \$852. "Moreover, the 6,118 farms operated by the Japanese, as owners or tenants

were valued at \$72,600,000, with an estimated \$6 million worth of equipment in use." Fully 30-40% of the state's truck farm crops were expected to be provided by the Japanese in 1942. "Singular in their pursuit of the 'American Dream,' a better life not primarily for themselves but for their children, the Issei, through years of diligence, hard work, careful savings and investment, and much personal sacrifice, were beginning to realize economic gains by 1941. But with the tragedy of Pearl Harbor, their hopes for acceptance...were dashed, as the pursuit of the American Dream was transformed overnight into survival in an American Nightmare."

The effects on the community are incalculable, "damage to the traditional communities was part-and-parcel of an official policy of the forced assimilation of the Japanese Americans, resulting in a severe undermining of collective pride and identity." The effects are still being felt today.

In speaking for redress Gordon emphasized that "the redress movement is not merely a challenge, but an opportunity for the U.S. to demonstrate... it is a champion of justice and fair play—and that in the face of a grievous error and tragedy, perpetrated by all three branches of the federal government, it has the moral courage and unerring strength of its convictions to redress losses that are at once documentable and incalculable."

Mas Fukai urged Congress to act quickly on the bills "because with each day of delay we are losing many of our brothers and sisters who were deprived of their dignity." He believed that both his parents had "died very sad and unfulfilled, feeling that their dreams really had not come true." His wife's family was sent to Japan in exchange (unknown to them at the time) for an American family held in Japan. His father-in-law later died in the atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

**UPDATE FROM MARK BARNES,
CHIEF COUNSEL FOR SENATOR STEVENS**

The Field Hearings for S2116 held in Alaska "went well" and included representatives from the Aleut and Japanese communities.

The Senator was satisfied with the LA Hearings and the extensive media coverage given the hearings. They were pleased that none of the disruptions and physical threats that the redress opponents were claiming would happen took place.

Senator Stevens, who is a co-sponsor of S2116, is satisfied with the outcome of the hearings and will be pushing for a "markup" this session, and stated he may reintroduce the bill in 1985 and move it forward without further hearings, if that should become necessary.

WHY MORE HEARINGS?

Background: Congressional hearings are a necessary step all bills must go through before "markup," eg., amendments, etc., in the subcommittee in which the bill is reviewed. Contrary to hundreds of bills that are introduced and then virtually ignored, S2116 was given attention due to the interest and political pressure generated by the Redress Movement.

The purpose of Congressional hearings differs from the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians. The purpose of the latter was to get the initial information regarding the concentration camp experience. The purpose of the former is to hear testimony re: the various pros and cons of the bill. From this standpoint, priority is given to various elected officials and has less emphasis on community testifiers.

After a bill is "marked up," it can move to the full committee of the House or Senate, and then move for a floor vote. From here it goes to a joint House and Senate "conference" committee to work out differences between the two versions, if any. Then on for the President's signature. The bill can "get stuck" or killed at any step along the way. Consequently, it is imperative the continued public pressure be present throughout the process. Within the whole legislative process, the hearings have been an important vehicle through which to educate many otherwise uneducated Congresspeople.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

If the bills are not voted on during this session of Congress, they will then be reintroduced into the 1985 Congressional Session and assigned to the same subcommittees. We do not know whether more hearings will be held, or if the testimony given during the 1984 session will be carried forward as a part of the Congressional records and thus expedite the bills into full committee.

On Election Day each of us will have the power of the vote to reelect current sponsors of the bills and to vote for a President who will sign the bills.

GET INVOLVED IN ELECTIONS 84!

We have never been so close to winning redress than we are now but everyone's involvement is needed! There are several key tasks before us: We must re-elect our current sponsors (see list attached); lobby for more sponsors; elect a president who will sign HR 4110 & S 2116; and get support from non-Japanese American constituencies. Although there are sponsors of the bills from both parties, and it is a bi-partisan issue, the content of the platform positions adopted at both conventions differs significantly. (See attached platform positions.)

If your Congressperson is already a sponsor, give him/her encouragement! If he/her is not, let's get them on! Write to your friends and relatives in every state to reach their Congressperson. Even if the bill is not passed this session, it will be slated for a BIG PUSH in 1985. Let's pass these bills now! See back page.

Write to two subcommittee heads to let them know you want the bills passed!

- 1) The Honorable Sam R. Hall
Chairman, Subcommittee
Administrative Law and
Governmental Relations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
- 2) The Honorable Ted Stevens
Chairman, Subcommittee on
Civil Service, Post Office,
and General Services
601 Hart Senate Office Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20510

**REDRESS GAINS
POLITICAL PARTY SUPPORT!**

From the Democratic Party Platform

"We owe history and ourselves a formal apology and promise of redress to Japanese Americans who suffered unjust internment during World War II. No commitment to liberties could be complete without a formal apology, restitution of position, status or entitlements; and reparations for those who suffered deprivation of rights and property without due process 40 years ago."

From the Republican Party Platform:

"More than 40 years ago, a grave injustice was done to many Americans of Japanese ancestry. Uprooted from their homes in a time of crisis, loyal citizens, and residents were treated in a way which contravened the fundamental principles of our people. We join them and their descendants in declaring that the deprivation of rights they suffered shall never be permitted in this land of liberty."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

****Steven Okazaki's latest film, "Finished Business" is a major contribution to the Redress Movement and a general effort to educate the public about the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. The film focuses on the personal experiences of Hirabayashi, Korematsu, and Yasui and the recent effort to reverse wartime convictions. Dates for local showings are:**

- October 6: Gardena High, 7:00 p.m.
- October 13: San Jose, Louis D. Mayer Theatre, sponsored by Nihonmachi Outreach Committee
- October 26: San Francisco, Palace of Fine Arts, sponsored by Asian Law Caucus, Committee to Reverse Wartime Internment Cases
- November 16: Lincoln Center, sponsored by AA Legal Defense Education Fund, 6:30 p.m.
- December 1: NCRR San Francisco Regional

For more information, contact Steve Okazaki, c/o Mouche Films, 346 9th St., San Francisco 94103; 415-861-0695

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HEARINGS/ WASHINGTON D.C. SEPT. 12, 1984

As the Banner goes to press, a second round of hearings is being held by Rep. Sam Hall's subcommittee which houses, HR 4110. Testifying before this half-day session are redress opponents: Col. Karl Bendetsen, Assistant Chief of Staff in charge of Civilians Affairs of the Western Defense Command and Col. Frederick Henry Weiner; And redress supporters: purportedly, Edward Ennis, Director of the Enemy Control Unit of the Justice Department, at the time of the relocation; Ben Ohama, a 442nd veteran and farmer from Pennsylvania, and Kiku Funabiki, a Nisei woman who suffered extreme personal hardship with the early imprisonment of her father and care of her invalid mother. She is from San Francisco. The two evacuee testifiers were selected by JACL and NCRR, respectively, per the committee's request for more on the "human" aspect vs. just the facts. Kiku's expenses were covered by Rep. Sam Hall's office. The followup hearings are seen as "encouraging" by Mineta and Matsui who see these hearings as a educational tool.

****NCRR will receive approximately \$500 from the Union Church (Presbyterian), Los Angeles, which called for a "free will" offering during one of their Sunday services to help raise money for NCRR. NCRR is far richer by the spirit of their support. THANK YOU.**

**JACL FUNDRAISER - SEPTEMBER 22

Featuring Congressman Mineta, prime mover of HR4110. Let's give a rousing, warm welcome-- see flyer enclosed. If you want to order a bento, please call your JACL Office ASAP!!! 626-4471

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未だメンバーシップを更新していない方々の中でこれから NCRR
からメールを欲しい方は会員費(5ドル)と下記の書類を送って下さい

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— 会員更新

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— 団体会員 (25ドル)
5 — 寄附 _____ ドル

Sponsors of HR 4110

Jim Wright (D-Tr), Thomas Foley (D-Wash), Gillis Long (D-La), Peter Rodino (D-N.J.), Norman Mineta (D-Calif.), Robert Matsui (D-Calif), Mike Lowry (D-Wash), Gary Ackerman (D-N.Y.), Daniel Akaka (D-Hawaii), Jim Bates (D-Calif), Howard Berman (D-Calif), Douglas Bosco (D-Calif), Barbara Boxer (D-Calif), Sala Burton (D-Calif), Cardiss Collins (D-Ill), John Conyers (D-Mich), Baltasar Corrada (D-P.R.), George Crockett (D-Mich), Thomas Daschle (D-S.D.), Ron Dellums (D-Calif), Julian Dixon (D-Calif), Mervyn Dymally (D-Calif), Robert Edgar (D-Penn), Don Edwards (D-Calif), Walter Fauntroy (D-Wash, DC), Vic Fazio (D-Calif), Edward Feighan (D-Oh), Geraldine Ferraro (D-N.Y.), Hamilton Fish, Jr. (R-N.Y.), Thomas Foglietta (D-Penn), Barney Frank (D-Mass), Robert Garcia (D-N.Y.), William Gray (D-Penn.), Charles Hayes (D-Ill), Cecil Heftel (D-Hawaii), William Hughes (D-N.J.), Robert Kastermeier (D-Wis), Dale Kildee (D-Mich), Joseph Kolter (D-Penn), Tom Lantos (D-Calif), William Lehman (D-Fla), Mickey Leland (D-Tex), Mel Levine (D-Calif), Edward Markey (D-Mass), Dan Marriott (R-Utah), Matthew Martinez (D-Calif), George Miller (D-Calif), Parren Mitchell (D-Md), Joe Moakley (D-Mass), Bruce Morrison (D-Conn), Austin Murphy (D-Pa), Richard Ottinger (D-N.Y.), Major Owens (D-N.Y.), Jerry Patterson (D-Calif), Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.), Robert Roe (D-N.J.), Edward Roybal (D-Calif), Gus Savage (D-Ill), James Scheuer (D-N.Y.), Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), James Shannon (D-Mass), Paul Simon (D-Ill), Fortney Stark (D-Calif), Pofu Sunia (D-Am. Samoa), Esteban Torres (D-Calif), Robert Torricelli (D-N.J.), Eldolphus Towns (D-N.Y.), Morris Udall (D-Ariz), Bruce Vento (D-Minn), Henry Waxman (D-Calif), Ted Weiss (D-N.Y.), Timothy Wirth (D-Colo), Antonio Won Pat (D-Guam), Charles Wilson (D-Tex), James Jeffords (R-Vt), Sidney Yates

(D-Ill), David Bonior (D-Mich), Harry Reid (D-Nev), Samuel Gejdenson (D-Conn), Solomon Ortiz (D-Tex), Louis Stokes (D-Oh), Harold Ford (D-Tenn), William Clay (D-Mo), Nicholas Mavroules (D-Mass), Howard Wolpe (D-Mich), Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.), James Howard (D-N.J.), Tony Coelho (D-Calif), James Moody (D-Wis), Michael Barnes (D-Md), Lyle Williams (R-Oh), Barbara Mikulski (D-Md), Mark Siljander (R-Mich), Leon Panetta (D-Calif), Augustus Hawkins (D-Calif), Peter Kostmayer (D-Penn), Alan Wheat (D-Mo), Tony Hall (D-Oh), Mario Biaggi (D-N.Y.), Katie Hall (D-Ind), Thomas Luken (D-Oh), Gerry Sikorski (D-Minn), Lawrence Smith (D-Fla), Thomas Downey (D-N.Y.), Richard Lehman (D-Calif), Gary Studds (D-Mass).

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