



July-August 1990

NCRR BANNER

National Coalition for Redress/Reparations

July-August 1990

244 South San Pedro #411, Los Angeles, CA 90012

(213) 680-3484

REDRESS FUNDS APPROVED TO START IN OCTOBER

In October, the Office of Redress Administration (ORA) will begin processing checks to 25,000 eligible persons. Verification packets should have been received by persons 69 years or older. Those receiving the forms should complete and return them as soon as possible so that processing can be completed by October. If you have questions, or have not received a packet (69 years or older and have sent a voluntary information form, VIF), call ORA's toll-free number. If you need help in completing the forms, the Little Tokyo Service Center and the Japanese Community Pioneer Center are providing that service in English and Japanese (other community centers and senior citizen centers are also providing assistance). NCRR does not have all of the answers but we will direct your concerns directly to the ORA.

Bob Bratt, the ORA Director, will conduct a special workshop for Veterans and Voluntary Evacuees on August 30, at 7:00 pm at Centenary Methodist Church to address the large volume of questions we have received. If you have not already submitted a voluntary information form, we advise you to do so even if you are unsure of your eligibility.

Redress Eligibility for Veterans is a four-step process:

Step 1: send a letter or fill out a VIF with your name, current address, birthdate, telephone number and dates of military service.

Step 2: a special military verification packet will be mailed to you as your age group comes up. There are two criteria through which veterans are eligible (meeting only one criterion is necessary). **Loss of Property** (real or personal of any value) due to the inability to safeguard it during the evacuation or due to seizure by the government and/or **Deprivation of Liberty** when an individual was prohibited from visiting his interned family or forced to submit to undue restrictions amounting to a deprivation of liberty prior to visiting his family. Veterans must

provide some evidence to document their claim. The ORA will accept evidence statements from two individuals with firsthand knowledge of the "loss" or "deprivation" (friends or family members, even sons or daughters though not even born at the time, who have heard of the person's loss can write an evidence statement. A copy of the military discharge papers and a signed declaration form must also be sent.

Step 3: ORA will review and then send a letter of potential eligibility. This letter will ask the individual to sign another declaration and provide proof of current address and birthdate to confirm that the eligible person and the individual responding to the military packet are the same person.

Step 4: ORA will review the response and will then mail a "good to go" letter, confirming that the processing is complete and that the recipient will receive a check when funds are available.

NCRR hopes that this information will help veterans who have received the packet or who will be receiving it. Please encourage others veterans you know to also submit a VIF or write to the ORA:

Office of Redress Administration

P.O. Box 66260

Washington, D.C. 20035-6260

ORA'S toll free number: 1-800-395-4672

NCRR hotline number: 213-680-3484 (message)

NCRR IS MOVING IN A NEW DIRECTION!

NCRR is a grassroots organization made up entirely of volunteers. We welcome your participation in new committees that have been established:

Redress/Reparations committee monitors the ORA, responds to community concerns about the redress process, follows-up on the "Civil Liberties Education Fund," helps implement education about the camps in the

schools, and monitors materials being developed about the camps and the redress struggle.

Community/Campus Outreach committee centralizes redress materials, develops media material and maintains a speakers bureau for outreach presentations. The committee arranges for outreach presentations to community and campus groups.

NCRR Conference/Tenth Anniversary Organizing committees working with other NCRR chapters in planning a statewide conference in October to set a new direction and structure for NCRR. This event will also be commemorating the tenth anniversary of NCRR.

Organization/Membership committee maintains an updated membership roster, publishes the Banner and maintains information and material about NCRR.

While maintaining active committees, NCRR has also been involved in support/solidarity work on a number of issues. These include addressing issues of housing in Little Tokyo, monitoring census/redistricting activities, and education concerning the status of minorities in Japan.

New NCRR Statement of Purpose: At a recent meeting of the statewide NCRR steering committee in San Francisco, the following new statement of purpose was adopted:

The National Coalition for Redress/Reparations (NCRR) is a grassroots organization based in the Japanese American community that upholds the Constitutional, civil and human rights of Japanese Americans, Asian Pacific Americans and all Americans. To this end, NCRR shall continue to work as an organization, and in coalition with others, to:

- Seek rapid and complete implementation of redress measures and reparation payments related to the incarceration of Japanese Americans in 1942;
- Work to educate the American public so that future generations may learn about the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans and about these mistakes of the past so that they will not allow them to happen again;
- Support others who have suffered or still suffer from acts of injustice and violations of civil liberties;
- Further the social, cultural, and political development and empowerment of the Japanese American and Asian Pacific communities.

NCRR Sponsors Program on "Minorities in Japan: Seeking Common Ground"

On June 5 and 6, NCRR participated in an ad hoc committee with other organization in organizing and hosting a two day visit by a delegation of Ainu,

Burakumin, Korean, and Pilipino delegates representing these minority groups in Japan. The U.S. tour of this delegation was organized by the Japan Pacific Resource Network and the International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (Japan). The delegates were hosted at a luncheon sponsored by NCRR with community leaders and later a reception, held at Centenary Church, provided an opportunity for over 200 people to hear about the conditions of minorities in Japan. The visit provided an opportunity to work with others in expressing support and building a common bond.

NCRR Joins with Others to Halt Approval of Video About the Camps

NCRR initiated a Southern California ad hoc committee to work with others in halting the consideration of a video about the camps for incorporation into California classrooms. The video, entitled "Without Due Process," contained a number of inaccuracies and generated considerable criticism from many within the community. On July 6, Superintendent Bill Honig's office announced that the video would not be considered by the State Curriculum Committee.

NCRR Highlights

- In May, NCRR was honored by the Mayor of Los Angeles' Asian Pacific American Heritage Committee by being selected as one of the "Asian Pacific Americans of the Decade" for public service contributions.
- In April, NCRR was given an award for community service by the Asian Pacific Student Union at their statewide conference held at UCLA in April.
- NCRR member Bernadette Nishimura was recently honored as a "Woman of the Year" by Assemblywoman Lucille Roybal-Allard.
- A contingent of NCRR members attended the recent concert at the Japan American Theatre featuring NCRR members Glenn Horiuchi and Lillian Nakano.
- NCRR members assisted in organizing a contingent of 300 Asian Pacific Americans who attended the recent Nelson Mandela Celebration held at the Coliseum on June 29.

NCRR apologizes for not keeping you informed through more regular mailings of the **Banner**. We hope that this **Banner** will help update you on NCRR's activities and upcoming plans as well as give you the latest redress news.

Future Events: Put these on your calendar!

- Aug. 4 -** NCRR General Meeting, 11:00 am, LTSC office, 4th floor, JACCC, Little Tokyo.
- Aug. 12 -** NCRR Statewide Steering Committee meeting, 2:00 pm at the JACCC, 4th floor.
- Aug. 18-26-** NCRR Information Tables at Nisei Week, JCCC Plaza
- Aug. 28 -** Community Reception for Sung Soh, recently released political prisoner from South Korea (Korean born in Japan). Time and place to be announced.
- Aug. 30 -** Bob Bratt, 7:00 pm, Centenary Methodist Church, 3rd & Central, Little Tokyo. On-site parking available.
- Sept. -** Fundraiser to re-elect Mervyn Dymally to Congress, sponsored by Japanese Americans for Dymally. Congressman Dymally has been a staunch supporter of redress, sponsoring NCRR's redress bill. He is being challenged by redress opponent, Eunice Sato of Long Beach. Time and place to be announced.
- Sept. -** Premier showing of "Shimon", produced and directed by Kaz Takeuchi. "Shimon" means "fingerprint" and refers to Japan's discriminatory Alien Registration Law, which requires the fingerprinting of Koreans and other foreigners living in Japan. NCRR has been involved in supporting the struggle of Koreans and other minorities in Japan. Time and place to be announced.
- Oct. 20 -** NCRR 10th Anniversary Conference on the Future Direction

10th Anniversary Celebration Conference

NCRR - "Moving into the '90's"

October 20, 1990

- Celebration of redress payments, with Bob Bratt and keynote speaker, Congressman Robert Matsui
- Workshops on Civil Rights issues, Education on the Camps, Future of our Little Tokyos, Empowerment and Culture
- Dinner and Cultural Program

We need your help and ideas in making this conference a success. Join us at our next NCRR General Meeting and get involved! For more information, call (213) 680-3484.



Join NCRR! Renew your membership today!

Introducing NCRR's youngest member, Sachi Murase, born May 24, 1990, to June Hibino and Mike Murase. Welcome Sachi!

NCRR is on a new membership drive. We need your input, participation and support in helping chart NCRR's future direction.

☐ One year/\$10 ☐ Donation \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Send to: NCRR
244 So. San Pedro Street, #411
Los Angeles, CA 90012

"So what are you waiting for? Hurry and join now!"

Support the Passage of the Civil Rights Act

Last year, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a series of decisions that turned back the clock in job discrimination cases. Recently, the Senate passed the Civil Rights Act of 1990 which will strengthen laws against job discrimination. The Act will make clear that discrimination on the job as well as in contracts is forbidden.

Important points in the proposed law will:

- Place the burden of proof on the employer, to show that an educational requirement unrelated to the job is a "business necessity," once a worker proves that these requirements have limited the number of minorities hired.
- Make it difficult to challenge and unravel previous court rulings which settled hiring and promotion time-tables for minority workers.
- Provide victims of intentional discrimination the right to recover punitive damages.

The House of Representatives has yet to vote, but it has been widely reported that President Bush will veto it as it is now drafted. The passage of this law will be a important blow against the Reagan/Bush era's anti-labor and anti-minority policies. It's an election year! Let's make it a point to write and tell our representatives in Washington to support passage of H.R. 4000, the Civil Rights Act of 1990.

Rally to Protest Firing of Aki Maehara

A support committee has been formed by the Third World Student Coalition and faculty at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, to fight the termination of Aki Maehara, staff of the Office of Student Outreach and Recruitment. NCRR is part of the committee and joined the rally on July 24th and has sent letters to President Hugh O. LaBounty asking that he rescind Aki's termination and set up an independent committee to investigate the factors leading to the firing. Aki had received positive evaluations up until his attendance at a rally organized by the Third World Student Coalition which cited numerous incidences of harrassment of minority students by security on the Cal Poly campus. After the April rally, Aki began to receive negative memos and finally a notice of termination effective July 26. The support committee is continuing to send letters to President LaBounty as well as requesting the State Legislature to investigate.

Write to:

Dr. Hugh O. LaBounty, President
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
3801 W. Temple Avenue
Building 1, Room 227
Pomona, CA 91768

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