

LOS ANGELES  
BAY AREA  
**FALL**

THE  
**BANNER**  
NCR

SAN JOSE  
DENVER  
**1993**

The Newsletter of the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations

REDRESS

## NCRR COMMUNITY DELEGATION URGES FULL REDRESS IN D.C.!

**Report from  
Washington, D.C.**  
by Miya Iwataki

During the past year, NCRR has received calls and letters from individuals denied redress. At first, these denials appeared to be exceptional cases, but after more investigation the numbers of those denied as well as the unjustness of the decisions appeared to be significant.

The San Francisco chapter assisted several dozen applicants and in Los Angeles over 150 cases piled up. We felt the ORA was interpreting the law in an overly restrictive manner. A



(back row) A. Shibayama, J. Ota, Inouye-Sanchez, D. Monkawa, R. Nimura, K. Ochi  
(front) M. Iwataki, T. Kitashima, P. Okamoto, G. Shimizu.

series of workshops was organized to give voice to those denied, to train legal counselors, and to launch a mass letter writing campaign to Attorney General Janet Reno and other legislators to de-

mand a fuller implementation of the redress program.

These public meetings were co-sponsored by groups such as the Japanese American Bar Association (JABA) in L.A. and the Peruvian Oral History Project in the Bay Area. In response to growing public sentiment and numerous phone calls, ORA director, Paul Suddes agreed to come to the West Coast to meet with the community. Suddes

could not make any commitments at the time but agreed to give a full report to his superiors regarding our concerns.

After unsuccessful attempts to  
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NEW

Denver, Colorado is the site of NCRR's newest chapter. At a potluck meeting at Denver's Simpson United Methodist Church in June, 1993, community members met with Kay Ochi, NCRR/LA President, to hear about NCRR's efforts to get redress for the 2,400 people who have been denied, and to be updated on NCRR's other community work.

Activists Carolyn Takeshita and Marge Taniwaki organized the event and will serve as NCRR liaisons until an official chapter meeting selects chair(s). Taniwaki attended NCRR's Steering Committee meeting in San Jose in July, and will be attending the NCRR/LA general meeting in December.

## Denver Activists Form NCRR Chapter



(back row) Mickey & Carolyn Takeshita, Jimmie Omura, Marge Taniwaki. Mary Pagano (seated in foreground) with other friends in Denver.

In attendance at the Simpson Church meeting was Jimmie Omura, former editor of the Rocky Shippo and

supporter of the "Fair Play Committee." (Those individuals who resisted

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# ABOLISH THE ASIAN "MUG-FILES!"

One year campaign results in partial advance, stage set for expansion of anti-mugshot efforts.

**Fountain Valley, CA**—A coalition of 60 protestors delivered 500 letters and petitions to the Fountain Valley City council on June 22, 1993. The residents, youth, students, educators and social service workers were composed of Asian & Pacific Islanders, Latinos seeking to abolish the Police Departments controversial practice of taking "photo-mug -shots" of Asian and other minority youth.

After minimum deliberation, the City Council concluded that the practice was legal and did not target only Asians. However, they continue to refuse disclosure of the "mug-files" which are inputted into a national database, in spite of a ACLU demand to disclose them under the Public Records Request Act (similar to the Freedom of Information Act).

"This can stigmatize and dam-

age the future careers of innocent youth, and the "probable cause" used by the police to detain youths are in some cases questionable," explained Joanne Kanshige, mother of 2 youth who have been victimized.

The all white (4 male, 1 woman) Council also announced that the department policy has now been changed to require written permission from the youth being photographed.

"Although this is a small concession from the Council, it's not bad



Asian students & youth, were well represented at rally outside Fountain Valley city hall. (center) David Monkawa, with Kay Ochi and Jim Matsuoka (behind/left)-courtesy, Rafu Shimpō

considering there are very few Asians or minorities registered to vote here to threaten their re-election, stated David Monkawa of NCRR. (Fountain Valley has a 17.4% Asian population

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## EDUCATION

# NO TO PROP 174!

## What Does the Voucher Initiative Really Promise?

by Richard Katsuda

On November 2, Californians will vote on an initiative that could spell disaster for the education of California's children. Proposition 174, known as the voucher initiative, would grant a \$2,600.00 voucher or "scholarship" each year to all kindergarten through twelfth grade private and parochial school students in California who wish to receive the voucher. Funds for the vouchers would be taken from the budget for California's public schools.



Prop 174 will take away \$1.35 billion from public schools, worsening conditions like this overcrowded computer station at King Middle School.

Proponents of the initiative are calling it the "Parental Choice Initiative," highlighting their claim that the voucher would allow more parents the option of choosing a private school. Their arguments include language about how they are "concerned" about minority and other low-income parents who do not have a choice in their children's education because they cannot afford tuition at private schools. Proponents claim that the \$2,600.00 voucher would give parents that choice.

The second main claim of the voucher proponents is that this voucher system would create healthy competition between public and private schools and would therefore improve the quality of education as a whole. They claim that public education has a monopoly on it's students and has thus become self-satisfied with no desire to improve. They further state that public schools are out of control and have not lived up to the proper standard of accountability to the taxpayers who pay for them.

An first glance, the arguments of the voucher proponents might look good. But let's dig beneath the "attractive" surface.

Parents will not have more choice. Most private schools cost much more than \$2,600.00 (many schools

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# JAPANESE LATIN AMERICAN INTERNEES PRESENT CASE FOR REDRESS

contributed by  
Bay Area Chapter

## Washington D.C.—

At the Turner meeting Art Shibayama and Grace Shimizu presented the concerns of the Japanese Latin American internees. From Dec.'41 to Apr. '45, over 2,260 persons of Japanese ancestry were deported from 12 Latin American countries and incarcerated in internment camps in the Panama Canal Zone and United States to be exchanged for U.S. POWs. About 80%, or 1,800, were Japanese Peruvians. Shibayama is one of the 300 Japanese Peruvians who remained in the US after the war who is being denied redress because he was not a US citizen or permanent resident at the time of internment.



Grace Shimizu

Shibayama and Shimizu requested the Department of Justice do whatever is necessary for redress to be extended to all the former Japanese Latin American internees. In particular, they asked that retroactive permanent residency status be given to all former Japanese Latin American internees with current US permanent resident or citizen status. This means that redress eligibility would be recognized for those internees who remained in the US after the war but who had not been able to get retroactive permanent residency status. Retroactive status would also be recognized for those internees who were exchanged during the war or who were deported to Japan or elsewhere after the war but eventually made it back to the US to become permanent residents or citizens.

The Department of Justice has asked the Immigration and Naturalization Service to review the possibility of



Art Shibayama

retroactive permanent residency status in these cases. Representatives Norm Mineta, Bob Matsui, Dianne

Feinstein, Don Edwards and Senator Inouye have agreed to contact the INS to expedite this process. More movement is expected once Clinton's appointee to the INS has been approved.

**Art Shibayama** (member of Nihonmachi Outreach Committee in San Jose, CA; member of the Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project; former Japanese Peruvian internee at Crystal City Internment Camp, Texas)

**Grace Shimizu** (Project Coordinator of the Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project; daughter of a former Japanese Peruvian internee at the Panama Canal Zone Internment Camp and the Crystal City Internment Camp in Texas)

## Washington D.C. report continued...

meet with Attorney General Reno, NCRR arranged for a meeting with Assistant Attorney General James Turner in Washington, D.C. The meeting was to take place jointly with Gen Fujioka from the Asian Law Caucus who had been handling many redress denials. Lillian Kimura, National President of the JACL and Karen Narasaki, JACL lobbyist had made arrangements to also meet with Turner and the two meetings were collapsed into one.

The NCRR delegation members from L.A. were Kay Ochi, Miya Iwataki and David Monkawa. Reiko Nimura represented the Prisoner Exchange children, and Duane Inouye Sanchez, represented the Pre-Internment Children. The Bay Area NCRR delegates included Sox Kitashima and John Ota. Patricia Okamoto represented the Naval Language School

children and Art Shibuyama and Grace Shimizu represented the Japanese Peruvians.

NCRR believed that although the Office of Redress Administration has efficiently compensated those entitled to redress under the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, a significant number of persons who are entitled to redress have been deemed ineligible. These persons suffered a deprivation of liberty or property by federal action due to Japanese ancestry. The ORA must modify its interpretations or amend its regulations to comply with the language of the redress bill as amended by Congress in 1992. In doubtful cases, the benefit of the doubt should weigh on the side of eligibility.

At the end of the two hour meeting, the delegates were able to get a reversal of two categories of "Baby internees" previously denied.

Turner did not commit to any other reversals. He heard direct "testi-

mony" and grounds for eligibility on all of the categories and promised careful reconsideration. "The door is not closed," he concluded referring to the remaining areas of concern.

The delegation also met with Congressman Norm Mineta to update him on the Turner meeting. Norm was familiar with all of the categories and provided very helpful input.

He also updated us on the Redress Education Trust Fund which is in jeopardy due to the tight budget. The Fund is authorized for \$50 million. The Clinton Administration has requested \$5 million. It is estimated that \$10 million is really needed to establish a Board of Trustees and really "get it off the ground." At this point, they are fighting for a nominal amount to keep the program alive.

NCRR also met, updated and discussed follow-up strategies with Con

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gressmen Bob Matsui and Don Edwards, Senators Dan Inouye and Barbara Boxer, and the Chief of Staff for Sen. Dianne Feinstein. They all expressed support for the goal of seeking administrative remedies. In Congress, there is a class of 115 freshmen who are not familiar with the legislative history of redress. And that lack of knowledge coupled with the crippling budget deficit do not bode well for legislative remedies at this time.

**Justice Now! Reparations Now!**

## NAVAL LANGUAGE SCHOOL INTERNEES

contributed by  
Bay Area Chapter

Sox Kitashima and Pat Okamoto represented the children born during the war in Boulder, CO. to Naval Language School instructors. The NLS instructors and their families were released from Army custody to the Navy to teach Japanese to Naval intelligence officers. Under Naval jurisdiction, the families were forced to live by the restrictions and guidelines established by the Navy, which was a denial of their civil liberties.

Asst. Attorney General Turner had not heard of the NLS cases before the meeting. The case for NLS children is



Patricia Okamoto

presently under consideration by Paul Suddes, Director of ORA. Affidavits from NLS instructors stating that the Navy would automatically return an instructor and his family to their original internment camp if an instructor's performance was not satisfactory, have been requested and subsequently sent to the ORA.

## THE CATEGORIES FOR WHICH NCRR SEEKS REDRESS AND THE RESPONSES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AT THE AUGUST 2, 1993 MEETING

**"BABY INTERNEES"**(approx. \*75)—those born in camp but whose mothers left camp and then reentered prior to giving birth. And those not born in camp but entered camp with their mothers "voluntarily."

**Reasons for denial by ORA:** The mother's of these children "voluntarily" entered or re-entered camp, therefore this was an individual "choice".

**Results of meeting:** Decision reversed, due to acknowledgement that these children and their mothers could not leave without the permission of the government and suffered a "serious deprivation of liberty."

**JAPANESE PERUVIANS** (Over 2,200 were taken by the US government from 12 Latin American countries, but less than 300 are considered eligible.)—interned in DOJ camps in the US. About 500 Japanese Peruvians were forced to go to Japan in exchange for white American prisoners. 1,100 were expelled by the US as "illegal aliens" after the war. 300 Japanese Peruvians remained in the US to fight deportation and many became US citizens or permanent residents. 80% of 2,200 were from Peru. **Reasons for denial:** Were not citizens or permanent resident at the time of internment.

**Results of meeting:** DOJ would meet with Immigration to determine whether there is any authority in the DOJ to make their immigration status retroactive to the internment period. Progress might be limited until the new Immigration Director is confirmed.

**"PRISONER EXCHANGE CHILDREN"**(\*\*approx. 200)—those children whose parent(s) were suspected of being community leaders and were sent to Japan in exchanged for white American POWs. In many cases the parents had to sign an "agreement" to leave in order to reunite their families after being forcibly separated.

**Reasons for denial:** Current law prohibits those who went to an enemy country from receiving redress. (The intent of the law was to prohibit those disloyal to the US from receiving redress.) Those being denied did not leave on their own but were coerced to leave and the language of the law does not prohibit children from being redressed.

**Results of the meeting:** Turner said they needed more information describing "circumstances of a coercive nature."

**HAWAII CASES** (\*\*approx. 300)—involved discriminatory enforcement of evacuation orders treating Hawaiian Japanese Americans more harshly than other Hawaiians. Many were relocated away from military bases, lost property and were subjected to curfews, work details and constant monitoring by the military.

**Reasons for denial:** Was not a result of Executive Order 9066, but due to other wartime directives.

**Results from the meeting:** DOJ will re-review "on a case-by-case basis" after more research. Turner determined that the required "Order of Evacuation" would not be critical to these. Therefore, Suddes can look at other aspects to determine eligibility in these cases. Since this category involves many people who are older, there is more ORA concentration here.



**PHOENIX-GLENDALE CASES** (\*\*approx.100-200?)—involved those who were denied access to jobs, schools, churches, hospitals etc. and subjected to curfews and travel restrictions when the line separating the prohibited zone was drawn in the middle of their cities in Arizona. Those in the prohibited zone went to camp while those outside remained, at times across the street from one another.

**Reasons for denial:** These individuals did not suffer loss of liberty or property due to Executive Order 9066.

**DOJ Response:** Turner was aware of these cases, but was "troubled" by the legal ramifications of these cases. This is being studied by the legal staff.

**CHILDREN OF NON-INTERNEED EVACUEES** (\*600-700 denied)—there were no "voluntary" evacuees. Some were interned, and some were segregated geographically away from "military zones." The domicile (permanent home) of these evacuees and their children born during the war remained in the prohibited zone because they intended to return. They were denied liberty in that they were deprived of the right to live in or visit their domicile, family, community institutions in the prohibited zone.

**Reasons for denial:** Loss of liberty or property for the children is not accepted.

**DOJ Response:** No response by Turner.

**CHILDREN OF THE 442nd R.C.T. & OTHER MILITARY PERSONNEL** (numbers unknown) Since Nisei soldiers were not allowed to visit their wives in camp, the women had to leave camp in order to be with their husbands. In addition to the "domicile" issue, the children of the 442nd faced further loss of liberty movement and travel restrictions.

**Reasons for denial:** Loss of liberty for the children of those that "voluntarily" evacuated has not been accepted as a basis for redress.

**Results from the meeting:** Turner was not familiar with these cases either. The ORA staff attorneys may be preparing a paper on this issue for Turner.

**CHILDREN OF THE NAVAL LANGUAGE SCHOOL PERSONNEL** (\*\*16)—whose fathers were ordered to teach Japanese to Naval personnel at the Boulder, Colorado institute. A kind of "naval internment camp."

**Reasons for denial:** Loss of liberty for children is not being accepted as a basis for redress.

**DOJ Response:** Turner was not familiar with these cases, but commented on their similarity to the baby internees. A letter from the ORA with questions to determine eligibility will be going out to the Naval Language School children.

**RAILROAD & MINE WORKERS** (\*approx.70-75) —were fired during the war from their jobs due to ancestry. The FBI came to the homes of these workers, confiscating radios and cameras and held them under house arrest for months. They faced travel and movement restrictions as well as curfews.

**Reasons for denial:** Confiscation and incarceration of this type comes under the "Trading With the Enemy Act", not due to Executive Order 9066.

**DOJ Response:** Turner requested documentation showing government action which (as opposed to company action).

\*approx. number of those already denied.

\*\*approx. numbers of those potentially eligible.

Washington, D.C. the seat of our government where justice is supposed to rule. There are 10 categories that were denied redress. My category is the minor children sent to Japan with their parents on September 1, 1943, the second sailing of the Gripsholm. We American citizens of Japanese ancestry were exchanged for White American citizens who were held by the Japanese government.

When NCRR asked me to be a delegate to Washington, D.C. to represent my category, I was honored but at the same time wondering if I could do it justice. I decided to related my personal story of what happened since December 7, 1941. I was very grateful to all my friends and relatives who so generously donated to help defray some of my expenses. We had a good group - 5 from L.A. and 5 from San representing NCRR. Gen Fujioka of Asian Law Caucus was there to represent JACL. Our three days were busy - eating, going to meetings, having wrap-up meetings.

The main purpose of this trip was to meet with James Turner, Assistant Attorney General of the Justice Department. Time was of the essence as we had 10 categories to present thus each case had to be presented in about 3 minutes.

He listened to each one of us and at the end we had dialogue regarding each case.

One category was reversed and they will be receiving their letters, if not already, but for the other nine, to quote him "the door is not closed."

We have to keep on fighting, keep reminding them of the injustice done to those denied. Keep sending

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Reiko Nimura





(left) Feb.'82—NCRR's first "Day of Remembrance" at the old Nishi Hongwanji. Alan Nishio, and Taiko, familiar NCRR traditions.



(above) Aug.'83—Kathy Masaoka, June Hibino and Jan Yen distribute NCRR info at Nisei Week.

(below) Jul.'81—co-chair June Kizu testifies at the Commission on the Wartime Relocation & Internment of Civilians (CWRIC) in LA.



(right) Congressman Bob Matsui with Bert Nakano, national spokesperson for NCRR.



(above) Jul.'81—(CWRIC Hearings in LA) Crowd cheers as racist Lillian Baker is escorted out after she attempted to tear away testimony from 442 vet Jim Kawaminami's hands.



(above) Jun.'86—NCRR supports Native Americans of Big Mountain at film showing of "Broken Rainbow."



(left) Jul.'87—Fred Korematsu, (left) and NCRR member lobbying aide to Congressman Boland of Massachusetts for redress.

(left) Nov.'85—After one year of picketing and protests led by NCRR, "JAPSS" hair salon changed it's offensive name to "JADSS."



(below) Aug.'87—The lobbying delegation to Washington, D.C. makes the trek from one congressperson to another.



(below) Oct.'87—NCRR joins community to celebrate after House of Representatives signs Redress Bill.



(right) Aug.'93—Stalwart bay area members Tsuyako "Sox" Kitashima & John Ota.



(above) Sep.'89—Press conference at the Capitol. Congressmen, Bob Matsui (ctr.), Norm Mineta (left/ctr.) & 442 vet. Rudy Tokiwa (right/ctr.)



(below) Apr.'91—NCRR San Francisco and Nihonmachi Outreach Committee of San Jose sponsored many Tule Lake Pilgrimages. Here children sing at the program.



(right) Oct.'87—The late Tom Shiroishi at a press conference after the signing of the Redress Bill. Frank Emi, Heart Mtn. Fair Play Committee. (seated)



(right) Sep.'89—NCRR delegation members wrap origami cranes to give to senators as mementos.



(below) Feb.'91—Display of all the camp names and locations at the San Francisco Day of Remembrance.



(above) Apr.'91—Tule Lake Pilgrimage. Students learn from Mits Koshiyama, a draft resister in the camps & member of Nihonmachi Outreach Committee, of San Jose.



(right) Apr.'92—NCRR honors Bob Bratt, former ORA director at dinner. Bratt, presents a "check" representing the one billionth redress dollar to Bert Nakano who received his own redress check that night.





## SENIORS CONTINUE DRIVE FOR IMPROVED HOUSING CONDITIONS

**Los Angeles, CA** - NCRR members Lily Okamoto, Bernadette Nishimura (both officers of the Little Tokyos Towers Residents Council) and Kay Ochi, NCRR President, presented the Residents Council's requests for improvements to the Board of Directors of the Little Tokyo Towers. The organizing efforts to improve conditions at the largest Japanese American senior citizens complex on the mainland has now become a three year struggle.

The residents urged the Board that a hot lunch program be reinstated at the Towers as soon as possible and that the Resident Manager, Mr. Uchimura, be authorized to hire an assistant manager. **Both requests were presented to the Board over one year ago.** Over 14 months ago the kitchen at the Towers was closed when the controversial cook resigned. The resignation enabled the manager to thoroughly steam clean, repair, and repaint the badly deteriorated kitchen. The adjacent dining room was recarpeted and new blinds were installed. The closing of the kitchen was considered a victory by the Residents Council who had pressured the Board for almost two years to correct the perceived corruption in the operation of the food program. However, the 14 month loss of the hot lunch program was not anticipated. The Board is currently looking into hiring a cook.

Another serious concern of the Council is that Mr. Uchimura be assigned an assistant to be on duty on weekends and evenings - times when he is not on duty. Recently, the Management Company authorized an advertisement seeking an assistant. "We're continually frustrated at how long it takes to get anything done. They're content to meet once a month - at that rate, it's not surprising everything takes so long!" stated Lily Okamoto.

### **The Residents Council credits their own efforts and that of Mr. Uchimura for the recent improvements made:**

- The faulty emergency/fire/public address system was completely replaced.
- Major plumbing repairs to the entire building.
- The roof is to be repaired.
- The lobby and hallway are being redecorated.
- A door-hanger system was instituted to help monitor the well being of tenants.

### **The Residents Council also counts these victories in their three year campaign:**

- Mr. Uchimura, Resident Manager, was removed from probationary status, to regular employee status.
- The cook resigned and the kitchen cleaned up.
- Former Board President, George Yamaguchi, stepped down and Mabel Yoshizaki became the new President.
- 6 inactive Board members were replaced with new members.
- 25 residents have been recruited to be on the Residents Council.

"We hope that the communication between the Board and the management Company improves drastically, and that the Board takes a more proactive approach to their running the Towers," stated Bernadette Nishimura.

For more information call NCRR at (213) 680-3484.

### **new Denver Chapter continued...**



Carolyn and Mickey Takeshita

the draft during the internment period due to the oppressive treatment of Japanese Americans by the United States.) Also present was Mary Pagano, who had been a teacher at Heart Mountain Internment Camp during World War II. Pagano, returned to Denver after the war and taught history for 40 years before retiring. Both Takeshita and Taniwaki were her students at Denver's Manuel High School during the 60's. Pagano's sister Theresa taught sixth grade to primarily Japanese American students in Denver for many decades. Bob Horiuchi, Rocky Mountain JACL's Redress representative, and his wife Chiyo, were also in attendance and were very supportive of NCRR's redress efforts.

Takeshita heard about NCRR many years ago while visiting Los Angeles. She and her husband were walking through Little Tokyo and saw a large gathering of people at NCRR's Day of Protest. A friendly young man named Alan Nishio walked up to her and gave her some literature and NCRR buttons. From then on she noticed articles about NCRR's work in the Rafu Shimpō and realized that Denver needed a chapter. Although it took many years to form, Takeshita said, "We look forward to continuing NCRR's work in the Denver area and plan to work on issues which will be of interest and concern to all chapters."

Those interested in NCRR activities in Denver, call Takeshita at 303-455-4987 or Taniwaki at 303-333-2130



## No on Prop 174, continued...

costs three times that amount). Therefore, the vast majority of those parents who cannot now afford private schools would still not be able to afford them.

Secondly, a survey by the Southwest Regional Laboratory found that those schools who were interested in competing for the voucher students could provide only 43,000 spaces for new students. Therefore, even if low-income parents were able to afford a private school with the voucher, space would not be available for most students.

The third and most significant point is that the voucher initiative does not offer choice to the parents. It instead offers choice to the private and parochial schools who can pick and choose which students they will accept. Public schools accept and teach all students. Voucher subsidized schools would not have to accept students they don't want. They could discriminate against any child based on gender, religion, income, mental or physical disability, or some other reason they conjure up. Therefore, even if low-income parents were able to afford a voucher school and there was space available, the voucher school could still reject the child. "Some choice!"

The second argument of voucher proponents plays on the current climate where public education is often portrayed as a failing but self-satisfied institution that is lagging behind private and parochial schools in achievement. Within this environment, many people hold the sentiment that "anything would be an improvement" over what our public education now delivers. Voucher proponents exploit that sentiment by making the claim that the voucher system will improve education for California's children.

The truth is that the voucher system would provide absolutely no measure of reform to the structure or content of education. It would simply abandon our public school children by taking money from the budget for California's public schools. The budget for public schools is already dismal. California would rank 43rd among U.S. states in its funding for public schools if Prop 174 were adopted.

If 500,000 of the 550,000 students currently in California private and parochial schools were to receive vouchers, California's budget for public schools would immediately be reduced by 10% or \$2.6 billion. Each voucher would cost \$2,600, plus the initiative requires another \$2,600 to be deducted from the budget. Therefore \$5,200 would be lost per student from the school budget.

What this initiative would do is subsidize families who can already afford private schools. It would siphon money desperately needed to teach public school children, especially the

**NCCR educators have been active with UNITY L.A in organizing against the voucher initiative. We welcome your ideas and invite you to join with us to defeat Prop 174**

### THINGS YOU CAN DO TO DEFEAT 174!

- **Vote "NO" on Prop 174 on November 4th.**
- **Encourage friends and relatives to vote "NO" on Prop 174.**
- **Invite a speaker from our committee to your home, club or organization.**
- **Pass out literature to schools, organizations, neighbors etc.**
- **"Phone banking," -Make phone calls to potential voters.**
- **Precinct walk to "get out the vote" in November.**
- **Refer us to media contacts you know that will consider covering the story.**

**For more information:**

**Edna Horluchi (213) 913-0817**

**Kathy Nishimoto Masaoka (213) 665-5616**

poor, the slow learners, and those with disabilities, and would give it to these more affluent families. Poor and minority children lose out again.

How does this improve education for California's children? Under the voucher system, the California legislature will be forced to decide whether to raise taxes or let the public schools starve to death. Taxpayers would pay more taxes, much of which would go to private schools that are not accountable to the public. The voucher system would thus not remedy proponents claim that public education is not accountable enough to the taxpayers. The vouchers would in

# JOIN THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

**by Maryann Sakaue,  
Kathy Masaoka  
and Ruth Kondo**

How much do our youth know about the internment of Japanese Americans in U.S. concentration camps during World War II? Unless young people are educated, such an event can happen again. In speaking with many high school students, NCCR found that the school curriculum only superficially deals with the racist events leading up to the incarceration of Japanese Americans. With the increasing need to teach racial diversity and to build multicultural unity, NCCR decided to form an Education Committee to review educational materials now available in the schools as well as to develop new materials.

The Education Committee has been meeting to discuss various approaches in developing our own materials and members have attended a workshop on "Teaching the Internment" in the elementary and secondary schools. In discussion with other educators, the committee concluded that a video on the camps and redress would best meet the needs of high school students. Although there are many individual videos on different aspects of the camps no single video is comprehensive enough or specifically tailored for the classroom. Our hope is also to develop materials for the elementary level and to conduct workshops for teachers to utilize them.

The Education Committee is composed of educators, community activists, parents and high school students. We need your help and your ideas. Currently we are planning fundraisers to finance the video project and conducting oral histories. If you would like to join us or offer suggestions please contact Bob Toji, of the Los Angeles Chapter.

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## BUILDING MULTICULTURAL UNITY AND OTHER SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

● NCRR-LA supported a Pilippino coalition protesting "shock jock" **Howard Stern's** appearance in Hollywood after making racist insults of Pilippinos on the air. The protest occurred despite the presence of 10,000 cheering Stern fans.

● Bay Area and L.A. members joined picketlines to protest the opening of **"Rising Sun"** by 20th Century Fox. The demos organized by Media Action Network for Asian Americans, educated the public about the stereotypical and racist portrayals of Asians in the movie. So far the film has not succeeded financially.

● NCRR-LA members volunteered resources and finances to help save the **Black & Latino Multicultural Center**, a progressive bookstore and community center in Pasadena, CA. The fundraiser features jazz great Oscar Brown Jr., Bobby Matos and Glenn Horiuchi among other artists.

● NCRR-LA co-sponsored a reception for the **Korean residents of Utoro, Japan**. The villagers seek reparations from Nissan Motor Corp. & the Japanese government for forcibly concripting Korean laborers during WWII. Descendents of those laborers are now facing eviction from their land which was secretly sold to developers by a subsidiary of Nissan.

## REDRESS ASSISTANCE

**Los Angeles:** NCRR, (213) 680-3484  
**San Francisco:** Mrs. Sox Kitashima  
(415) 922-1534  
**East Bay:** Marlene Tonai  
(510) 848-3560  
**San Jose:** Richard Konda, Asian Law  
Alliance (408) 287-9710  
**Wash. D.C.:** Office of Redress  
Administration:  
(202) 219-6900  
Appeals Section  
(202) 514-3430

## Abolish "Mug-files," continued...

overall, but only 1 street officer of Asian descent).

This change in policy in Fountain Valley coupled with the nearby city of Westminster's decision to abolish the mugshot practice due to the controversy, has expanded support and encouraged other victims to come forward. UC Irvine Librarian Dan Tsang, Wilson Chen from UC Riverside and others met with NCRR to expand the struggle to other cities in Orange County.

The presenters at the Council reflected the diversity of the 30 plus groups who have endorsed the Youth Alliance: Joanne Kanshige F.V. Youth Alliance-NCRR, David Monkawa, NCRR-LA, Diep Tran, Asian Pacific Islander Student Union, Daniel Tsang, UC Irvine, Ken Inouye, SELANOCO-JACL, Gina Masequesmay, Indo-Chinese Youth Center, Audrey Noji, Rio Hondo Community College Board member, Art Pallacio, MALDEF and Rebecca Esparza, Chairperson, Orange County Human Relations Commission.

Law enforcement officials have placed more attention on Asian gangs nationwide due to their increased activity. However, random harassment of Asian youth and the mugbook practice jeopardizes individual civil and constitutional rights.

More repressive police practices alone cannot address youth alienation and gangs. The severe recession, racist violence, high youth unemployment and increasingly unavailable quality education and other "root" causes must also be addressed.

## Reflections on trip, continued...

those letters to Atty. Gen. Janet Reno.

My hat goes off to NCRR for without them, I truly believe that redress and reparations would not have come about. I thank them for giving me the opportunity to go to Washington, D.C. to be able to meet with Mr. Turner, Mr. Mineta and the office of Bob Matsui and Don Edwards.

## NO on Prop 174, continued...

fact make the education system less accountable. This initiative would furthermore allow taxpayer-funded voucher schools to be set up by anyone who can attract 25 or more students.

The L.A. chapter of NCRR has endorsed the NO on Prop 174 campaign and urges everyone to get the work out on the dangers of the voucher initiative.

Those concerned with the state of public education have good reason to be. The promise of quality education to all children is a tough one to deliver, especially during these trying economic times.

We must prize all of our children. Whether one chooses to send one's child to private schools is not the issue; that is one's personal choice. The issue is whether we as a society are committed to public education. Let's work toward real reform and protect public education, for we all know that public education can be the great equalizer, the key to hopes for a just society where there is equal opportunity for all.

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All the volunteers who so generously helped with the mail out and distribution.

## NIKKEI FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND REDRESS

### Tax deductible contributions allowed

A new organization called Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress, incorporated in Apr. '91, received a tax-exempt, nonprofit status on Oct. '92. This tax status is retroactive to April 1991. The purpose of the Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress is to engage in educational activities that inform the public of the past and ongoing struggle for civil rights in the Japanese American communities. Tax deductible contributions may now be made to this organization to support its educational and charitable programs.

ed. note—The National Coalition for Redress and Reparations is an independent body. Contributions to this civil rights organization sustain important and urgently needed advocacy and political lobbying activities, and are not tax deductible.

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