

THE BANNER

AUG

1994

The Newsletter of the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations

LOS ANGELES

SAN JOSE

BAY AREA

DENVER

REDRESS DENIED / REDRESS PURSUED:

An Update on Cases
under appeal and
recent judgements

56 CLAIMANTS IN GLENDALE, ARIZONA MAY RECEIVE REDRESS

On August 3, 1994, the Office of Redress administration (ORA) announced that 56 people (previously denied) who resided in and around Glendale, Arizona during WWII may now be eligible for redress. Deserene Worsley, the Acting Executive Officer for the Civil Rights Division, stated that payments could begin in October, 1994, if claimants return requested documentation.

NCCR is concerned that the documentation requested may be difficult for claimants to provide and will continue to pursue this with the ORA. Worsley stated that the ORA is still working toward a judgement on the Japanese Peruvians, and is waiting for opinions from the Office of Legal Counsel in regard to the minor children who returned to Japan with their parents. Other actions by the ORA includes their appeal of the Linda Kawabe Consolo lawsuit in which the US

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NO ON PROP 187!

Initiative scapegoats undocumented
immigrants for economic woes

Asian Americans have been subjected to racist anti-immigrant hysteria from the Chinese Exclusion Acts to the imprisonment of Japanese Americans in concentration camps during WWII. Immigration laws have historically been "loosened up" when corporate needs require cheap labor and "tightened up" continued on next page

JUSTICE, RESPECT, UNION! NEW OTANI HOTEL WORKERS

Two pro-union workers suspended!
Heat turned up on management

Approximately 250 workers at the New Otani Hotel in Little Tokyo have been trying to unionize the hotel for the past several months. The mainly Latino and Asian workers have no protection from unjust disciplinary policies and make only 50% of the wages

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...Redress, continued from page 1

Court of Federal Claims' judge ruled in favor of Consolo, a child of an early evacuee who resided in Utah during WWII.

The ORA has paid redress to 79,343 cases and has ruled 2,280 people ineligible. Of those deemed ineligible, approximately 400 cases are being reviewed by the ORA. NCRR encourages all those who feel that they were unjustly denied to contact the ORA right away.

CONNECTING DENIED INDIVIDUALS TO LAWYERS

NCRR urges all those who have been denied redress to call NCRR about the status of your appeal. A meeting is planned with lawyers to discuss the strengths of individual cases which may be taken up as lawsuits against the government. If you feel you have a good case against the government, please call (213) 413-6537.

..Prop 187, continued from page 1

when jobs are scarce and the economy is unhealthy. PROP 187, the so-called Save Our State or SOS Initiative is an attack on all immigrants, both legal and undocumented and attempts to scapegoat undocumented immigrants for California's economic woes.

PROP 187 will turn public school teachers, doctors, human service providers and their staffs into immigration officers, forcing them to report any and all "suspected" children and parents to the INS. Millions would have to be spent for administration alone. The denial of immunizations and preventative care to those "suspected" of being "illegal" may create a public health disaster and contribute to a "police state mentality" where everyone is suspect. Those who look and sound "foreign" could be denied, or subjected to delays in service at hospitals, schools and social service offices.

PROP 187 WILL NOT HELP OUR ECONOMY.

It is a vague, divisive initiative that conflicts

NCRR REQUESTS BRATT'S RETURN TO THE ORA

NCRR is actively pursuing the return of Robert Bratt to the ORA. Since the June, 1994, departure of the former ORA director Paul Suddes, NCRR has written to Janet Reno and Deval Patrick requesting that Bratt be returned to the ORA as its Executive Administrator. Bratt has confirmed that he is very willing to return to the job if that is NCRR and the community's wish, and if the Department of Justice allows it. Bratt would remain at his current position with the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice and administrate the ORA. Community members are requested to write Deval Patrick, Assistant Attorney of Civil Rights, urging Bratt's return.

Patrick's address is: Department of Justice, 10 Constitution Ave. N.W., Washington D.C. 29530.

by Kay Ochi, LA Chapter President

with Federal Laws. Instead of saving money by denying services, California could lose more than \$10 billion in federal funds to our schools and MediCal to legal residents. These funds would have to be replaced by California taxpayers. PROP 187 does nothing to deter unlawful immigration.

**VOTE NO ON PROP 187
ON NOVEMBER 8, 1994.**

You can help defeat Prop 187

Volunteer for
voter registration
phone banking
speaker's bureau

**JOIN Asian Pacific Islanders Against
Prop 187**

For more information call: Miya Iwataki at 213-680-3484 or David Monkawa at 213-625-7705

END REPRESSIVE POLICE PRACTICES

Orange County youth/
community on the move!

Asian youth in Orange County have been subjected to detentions and being photographed by law enforcement officers for being "suspected" as gang members or associates. These on the street "mug-shots" are used to show crime victims possible suspects in a photo-line-up. The photos entered into a statewide computer data-bank are kept on file for 2 to 3 years and have been known to jeopardize the employment of some youth into highly sensitive security jobs. The "mug-shot" practice also stigmatizes and harasses youth. NCRR first exposed the problem when it learned that most of the photos were of minority youth, mainly Latinos and Asians.

After many demonstrations and delegations to various police departments, the NCRR and

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WE ARE A COMMUNITY OF IMMIGRANTS

- Nearly 40% of all APIs in the US live in California (over 2.8 million).
- Of the 1 million APIs in LA County nearly 70% are foreign born or recent immigrants.
- 77% of all APIs speak a primary language other than English, and 44% do not speak English well.
- In LA County, many API immigrants live below the Federal Poverty guidelines of \$13,000/yr for a family of 4, 46% of Cambodians, 40% of Lao, 27% of Vietnamese and 26% of Samoans live below the poverty line and rely on public human services.

...New Otani Workers, continued from page 1

that workers make in San Francisco, Las Vegas, New York and Hawaii. Those cities are 80% unionized while LA only has a 30% union workforce. One of the leaders, Ana Alvarado stated, "We are not interested only in more wages, but also basic respect & dignity."

Kajima Corp., owners of the New Otani came to Little Tokyo amidst much controversy during the 70s, when the city was "redeveloping" Little Tokyo. Many cultural and community groups believed that tenants should not be evicted to make way for a luxury hotel and that Little Tokyo should be "redeveloped" in the interest of working people and small businesses instead of big tourism dollars.

NCRR has played a leading role along with their activists and especially Hotel & Restaurant Union Local 11 to support the workers' efforts.

Letters have been written, delegations have been organized and demonstrations numbering in the hundreds have been geared towards the General Manager Kenji Yoshimoto, to protest the intimidation and harassment of pro-union workers.

NCRR believes that as Japanese Americans and Asian Pacific Islanders, support of the unionization efforts will contribute to:

—**Rebuilding LA**—Each union contract won from the employers will mean millions of dollars worth of wages and benefits going into those inner city communities where most tourism workers reside.

—**Building unity and respect between Japanese Americans and Latinos** and breaking down stereo-types of Japanese as being "rich and disinterested in poor people."

—**Holding corporations more accountable to the communities which host them.** Companies like the New Otani require millions of dollars in infrastructure construction in order for them to "move in" to our communities. This money comes from our wallets as taxpayers.

—Most of all, support for the struggle will benefit the workers and greatly add to the political clout of tourism workers in LA.

For more information call: David at 213-625-7705 day 213-680-3484 night.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

Ahe NCRR Education Committee has been discussing strategies to most effectively educate the general public about the internment experience. At this time, our focus has been on elementary and secondary teachers and students.

Our plan is to present an in-depth workshop for teachers in order to teach them about the evacuation and internment and to provide guidance on how to teach about that experience. In addition to historical knowledge and constitutional / human rights issues, the workshop will explore ways to incorporate art and literature in teaching about the internment.

We hope to work with United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA) in order to reach the broadest range of teachers. Tentatively the workshop is scheduled for November.

We welcome your participation. For more information call: Bob Toji (310) 478-1731

NCRRs ALAN KONDO HONORED- NCRR to Compete in the GREAT CHILI COOK-OFF!

Come out and taste NCRR's super, secret & sensational Chili at Visual Communication's ChiliVision VIII on August 27 at the JACCC at 5:00 pm. Our chili will only be 'out-classed' by VC's screening of "Yuri Kochiyama: Passion for Justice" and by ALAN KONDO, the recipient of the Steven Tatsukawa Award. For tickets call (213) 680-4462.

KAY OCHI & NCRR TO BE HONORED AT HISTORICAL SOCIETY DINNER

Kay Ochi, president of NCRR/LA, will receive a community service award from the Japanese American Historical Society of Southern California at its annual dinner on Saturday, September 10, 1994, at the Torrance Holiday Inn. Kay remarked, "This is a tremendous honor, and because of the tremendous group of people in NCRR, we have accomplished a lot for redress and for civil rights. Honestly, I am just one cog in the terrific NCRR machinery- NCRR deserves the entire honor!" Interested individuals should contact Iku Kiriya at (310) 326-0608.

...Police repression, continued from page 3

the Fountain Valley Youth Alliance was able to get the city's policy changed to requiring written permission to be photographed. Since that time, a broader local group, alliance Working for Asian Rights & Empowerment A.W.A.R.E. was formed to continue the work in Orange County.

In June 1994, AWARE held a successful event at the Vietnamese Community of Orange County about repressive police measures such as the "Asian Mug-files." About 60 youth, parents and community members advanced case after case of examples of police abuse or examples where one's constitutional rights were jeopardized.

—It has not shown to be an effective crime deterrent. No statistics are kept to justify its funding.

—It is discriminatory and unjustly targets minority youth.

—The criteria for "suspected" gang members and associates is vague and over emphasizes superficial trends in dress.

We urge you to oppose the Asian-mug-file practice.

NCRR and A.W.A.R.E. believe that youth crime is a serious problem which requires law enforcement and long term solutions like jobs education and recreation for youth. However, taking random photographs of "suspected" gang members who happen to be minority youth is not the answer to crime nor does it foster respect for the law in our youth.

For more information call: JoAnne Kanshige or Daniel Tsang at 714-962-1577

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sat., August 20,—NCRR Community Redress Meeting - JACCC, Room 410

Sat., August 27,—ChiliVision VIII - Chili Cook-off and Program - JACCC

Sat., September 10,—NCRR General Meeting JACCC, Room 410

Sat., September 10,—Japanese American Historical Society Annual Awards Dinner - Torrance Holiday Inn

Fri., Sunday, Nov. 11-13,—Family Expo- Sharing the Japanese American Experience at the Los Angeles Convention Center. Japanese American National Museum