No. 10842   **1746 POST STREET, SAN FRANCIS**

Open Letter

NCRR to Attend Redress Hearings

Dear Editor:

On June 20 and 21, House Bill 4110 will be heard before the House Subcommittee of the Judiciary. The bill, introduced by House Majority Leader Jim Wright (D-Texas) and entitled "The Civil Liberties Act of 1983," represents the culmination of years of perseverance and determination on the part of Nikkei and other supporters throughout the country. Currently, 103 congressmen have signed on as co-sponsors to the redress bill.

Closely following the recommendations of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC), the bill calls for the establishment of a 1.5 billion trust fund out of which $20,000 will be paid each surviving internee. In addition, the bill calls upon the President to pardon those convicted of violating curfew laws and military orders pertaining to the internment. For the Aleuts and Pribilof Islanders forced from their lands during the war, the bill would establish another separate trust fund of $5 million from which $5,000 payments would be made to each individual affected by the evacuation.

The National Coalition for Redress and Reparations (NCRR) strongly supports House Bill 4110. The NCRR, a grassroots organization made up of Nisei and Sansei members as well as various church, labor and community groups, has worked actively to promote the issue of redress and reparations since its founding in 1980. The NCRR mobilized testifiers and organized for the CWRIC hearings in 1981, and has continued to organize local redress efforts, sponsor educational programs, and conduct various outreach presentations and letter-writing and petition campaigns. The NCRR views these congressional hearings as a major step forward for the redress movement: a historic moment for the Japanese American community as well as a significant accomplishment in light of the political backdrop of the current administration. Because of the importance of the hearings and the importance of a community presence at those hearings, the NCRR will be sending a delegation of 11 people from Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Jose and New York.

The purpose of the delegation will be to lobby various congressmen to support the bill as well as to urge for the consideration of four additional points to be included in the bill: (1) Emphasize the urgency of a speedy process of payment if justice is to be sincerely accomplished, (2) Push for individual payments of $25,000 rather than $20,000, (3) Urge payments to each and every individual of the estimated 120,000 internees, not just the survivors, with payments for deceased individuals paid into the trust fund, and (4) Urge that payments to the Aleuts in Alaska equal the same amount as that to Nikkei.

Although HR4110 has initially received some strong support from prominent members of Congress, the legislative campaign for redress will not be an easy or quick one. These hearings are only the first step in a process that may take many more hearings and many more years. The NCRR is committed toward redoubling efforts to educate, activate and win support for redress among all sectors of society .

Supportive individuals and organizations are asked to write Sam Hall, Jr., Chairman of the subcommittee on Administrative Justice and Governmental Relations, 2236 Rayburn H.O.B., Washington, D.C. 20515, urging his support for HR Bill 4110.

Also, written testimony or statements may be submitted to the above address, attention: William Shattuck, Subcommittee Staff Coordinator of Redress Hearings. Be sure to note "incorporate in records" on the submitted statement.

For more information on the House hearings of for copies of HR 4110, contact Cathy or Mari at (415) 922-8898.

NCRR
Bay Area Regional Coun