

LACCRR BULLETIN

A PUBLICATION BY THE L. A. COMMUNITY COALITION ON REDRESS/REPARATIONS NO. 3 LATE SUMMER 1980

WHAT IS LACCRR?

The Los Angeles Coalition on Redress/Reparations (LACCRR) was originally formed in the Spring of 1979 to bring together individuals and organizations interested in raising community awareness and support around the issue of redress for Japanese Americans incarcerated during World War II. LACCRR has been working with organizations that have actively taken up the issue of redress such as the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), the National Council for Japanese American Redress (NCJAR), and the Little Tokyo People's Rights Organization (LTPRO). Several educationals including two conferences have been sponsored or co-sponsored by LACCRR during the past two years. In addition, redress programs for the Japanese speaking community have been held in various communities throughout Los Angeles.

Recently, LACCRR has sharpened its focus in support of direct monetary payments to individuals. LACCRR is also involved in the newly formed National Coalition on Redress/Reparations.

NATIONAL COALITION FORMED!

On July 12, 1980, individuals and organizational representatives from Nikkei communities throughout the nation met in Los Angeles to establish the National Coalition on Redress/Reparations. This meeting was significant in that a broad coalition of community groups was forged in beginning a nation-wide campaign for justice.

The National Coalition on Redress/Reparations has two broad aims:

- 1) To seek restitution for losses and injuries suffered by Nikkei and others who were unjustly evacuated and incarcerated during World War II.
- 2) To seek preventative steps to insure that similar racist acts

and violations of constitutional rights will not occur again.

Five points have been established as the basis for organizations and individuals joining the efforts of the coalition:

- 1) Redress/Reparations means monetary compensations to individuals incarcerated or their heirs.

A minimum of \$15,000 per person is sought for all individuals who were forced to relocate, voluntarily or involuntarily, due to the actions of the U.S. government during World War II. The exact amount of funds to be sought will be determined on the basis of additional investigations. This demand for monetary compensation includes persons taken from Central and South American countries, Hawaii, Alaskan Aleuts, and others forcibly removed from their homes.

- 2) Redress/Reparations means restitution to the Japanese American community---the exact form to be determined by the needs of each respective community.

The Coalition seeks the immediate establishment of a fund that can speed payment to the Issei. It also seeks a fund that will address the losses suffered by the Japanese American community as a result of the destruction and dispersal of "Nihonmachi" created by the evacuation.

- 3) Redress/Reparations means the overturning of the legal basis that has justified the evacuation and the camps.

The coalition seeks to test the legality of the camps. It will be investigating on possible legal remedies such as class action suits or

forms of remedial legislation.

- 4) Redress/Reparations means support others who have or are suffering from unjust actions taken by the U.S. government.

The coalition seeks to work with others to insure that they will understand and support its efforts and that we will also support their efforts to obtain justice for wrongful acts taken by the government against a people.

- 5) Redress/Reparations means that we seek the education of the American public so that future generations may learn from the mistakes of the past and not knowingly allow them to happen again.

It is during times of crisis that extra steps must be taken to guarantee the democratic rights of all individuals. The coalition seeks to incorporate the lessons of the camps into the American educational process to insure that similar acts against an identifiable group can be prevented.

The National Coalition on Redress/Reparations will be working during the coming months to engage in educational outreach, mobilize public support, establish a national communication network, and seek and influence appropriate legislation. A national conference on Redress/Reparations is planned for this fall and will be used to finalize its perspectives and launch a nation-wide campaign.

COMMISSION BILL SIGNED BY PRESIDENT CARTER

On July 31, 1980, President Carter signed the bill establishing a "Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians Acts." This calls for a study to determine whether injustices were suffered by the Japanese Americans, whether it was on the basis of ancestry, and whether redress actions should be taken. The bill has been modified since it was first introduced in the Senate on August

2, 1979 and in the House of Representatives on September 27, 1979.

The commission will consist of 7 members - 3 appointed by the President, 2 by the Speaker of the House, and 2 by the President pro-tem of the Senate. The President has 120 days since the signing of the bill to establish the commission. The chair and the vice-chair will be decided amongst the commission members. The commission's duties will include reviewing Executive Order 9066 and to recommend appropriate remedies, if any. The commission must conclude its study within one year and must terminate 30 days after making a recommendation to Congress. Letters to your representatives in Congress and to the President can be sent for commission member recommendations.

JACL POSITION ON REDRESS

At its biennial convention last July, JACL put forth their recommended guidelines in order to clarify its position on redress.

The guidelines essentially advocate for reparations in the form of monetary compensation to individuals, "...based upon damaged and injuries incurred by each individual at the time of the forced expulsion and incarceration, and subsequent, which amount shall be appropriately adjusted for accruable interest...and for the determinable inflation rates since 1941."

JACL also recommended the establishment of a trust fund to be administered by a perpetual, non-profit Japanese American foundation created by the Act of Congress.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

LACCRR meetings are held bi-weekly in Little Tokyo. We would welcome the participation and support of all interested persons and organizations on this most important issue. Any monetary contributions can be made directly to LACCRR/LTPRO.

For further information (or if you wish to get on our mailing list), please call: Chuck Park @ 660-7830, Roy Nakano @ 825-1006 or Jim Matsuoka @ 498-5637 or write to:

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