



Pacific Citizen Photo By George Johnston

DRUMS OF VICTORY—Members of San Jose Taiko put on a stunning performance as part of the redress celebration held at the Japan America Theatre and the JACCC on Aug. 27 in Little Tokyo.

NCCR Event Draws 1,200 in Celebration of Bill's Enactment

By Laurie Mochidome

LOS ANGELES — Over 1,200 Japanese Americans and other ethnic minorities, some traveling from as far away as New York and Seattle, attended an Aug. 27 event hosted by the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations (NCCR) in celebration of the recently enacted redress legislation.

The program, which took place inside the Japan America Theatre, observed President Reagan's Aug. 10 signing of the bill authorizing monetary compensation and an apology to the estimated 60,000 surviving internees of U.S. camps during WW2.

"We've come far from when the thought of seeking redress was first

considered," said Rep. Norman Mineta (D-Calif.), one of the prime congressional sponsors of H.R. 442 and a featured speaker at the event.

"It's not easy to affect the course of history in a positive way but we have . . . We should be proud we have moved public opinion from where it had been 46 years ago."

Acknowledging the work of Mike and Etsu Masaoka, Miya Iwataki and NCCR national spokesperson Bert Nakano, Mineta further pointed out contributions made toward the redress cause by congressional supporters. They include Speaker of the House Jim Wright (D-Texas), Reps. Robert

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NCRRC Celebrates Signing of H.R. 442

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Matsui (D-Calif.), Barney Frank (D-Mass.), Mike Lowry and Tom Foley (both D-Wash.), and Sens. Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga (D-Hawaii).

Though clearly jubilant over the recent victory, Mineta stressed that much work still needs to be done. He cautioned Japanese Americans to "remain vigilant" against possible future attacks on their civil and human rights.

In a lengthy address, Nakano stated that enactment of the redress bill "strikes a direct blow against racism and against governmental theft of the constitutional rights of all people."

He and other NCRRC leaders attributed the successful campaign for Reagan's signature, in part, to the diversity of grassroots supporters both inside and outside of the Japanese American community, a point illustrated by those earlier singled out of the audience for recognition.

Among the local dignitaries, NCRRC members, JACLers and friends were L.A. Councilman Mike Woo, *coram nobis* plaintiff Fred Korematsu, former JACL National President Harry Kajihara and former JACL National Director Ron Wakabayashi, who is now de-



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CELEBRATION—Sue Kunitomi Embrey was one of the many people in attendance during the Aug. 27 redress celebration sponsored by NCRRC in Little Tokyo. Embrey was honored as the Japanese American of the 1986-1988 Biennium by the JACL at the National JACL Convention in August.

puty director of the 1988 Southern California Dukakis campaign.

"We in NCRRC have always believed that the courage of a united community would bring us victory and that is how it happened," said Nakano. "This campaign has taught us much. It has awakened for all Asian Americans our tremendous potential political power."

The Saturday program, which ended with dinner and an address by Rep. Mervyn Dymally (D-Calif.) on the theater's outside plaza, featured a purification ceremony, performances by the San Jose Taiko and jazz musician Glen Horiuchi and a video chronicling NCRRC's redress involvement.

One of the leading organizations of the redress movement, NCRRC was founded in 1980 by a small group of Los Angeles-based Japanese Americans. Since then, it has expanded to a network of eight chapters established throughout California and in other parts of the country.

CONTROVERSY

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writing." Kondo's Aug. 30 response to Caen's note read, "Do your research! Never during the course of World War II was there any evidence of espionage among the *Japanese Americans* nor their *parents* who were legal residents of the United States.

"The item in your column gives the false impression to your readers that there was. To write such a statement in your column indicates that your intent was to imply that there were among us who betrayed our nation in time of war.

If this was meant to be a joke, you have carried it too far without adequate explanation."

Kondo later said that Caen "probably doesn't know the difference between Japanese and Japanese Americans."

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