

# Results of Japanese American Redress Survey Revealed--

Rafu 1/22/87

# Japanese America Speaks Out in Favor of Reparations for World War II Incarceration

## Nearly 90 Per Cent of 3749 Responding Support Current Redress Campaign

More than 3700 persons have responded to The Rafu Shimpo Japanese American Redress Survey, and more than 95 per cent of those polled indicated that they support the current campaign seeking redress for the World War II incarceration of Japanese America by the United States government. Only 155 respondents, or 4.13 per cent, said they opposed the redress drive. Nineteen, or .050 per cent of the total, said they did not know enough about the issue to take a position.

Results of the unprecedented survey were read into the record of the Commission on the Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians in Washington, D.C. July 14.

Three-thousand, three-hundred and fifty persons, or 89.36 per cent of those surveyed, said they felt "direct monetary payments to individuals (or their heirs) affected by the wartime incarceration" would be the most appropriate form of reparation. Three-hundred and ninety-one, or 10.43 per cent, favored an income tax credit plan which would allow former internees to deduct a specified amount each year from their Federal Income Tax payments, and 1206, or 32.17 per cent, favored the establishment of a Community Trust Fund for community services and senior citizen housing.

Only 502 persons, or 13.39 per cent, said a Presidential Apology would be a satisfactory form of redress.

Of those opposed to the redress campaign, 83 respondents, or 2.21 per cent of the total, said "raising the redress/reparations issue might create a backlash against Japanese Americans." Sixty-six of those polled said the "camp experience was 35 years ago, and we should forget about it." Forty-six persons (1.23 per cent) said "seeking redress is hopeless and a waste of time." Twenty-two respondents (0.59 per cent) indicated they did not feel wrongs were committed against Japanese Americans during the war.

Survey results showed that Nisei, or second-generation Japanese Americans, showed the most concern about the redress issue by sending in 53.51 per cent of the total responses. Sansei, or third-generation Nikkei, were responsible for 597 or 15.92 per cent of the completed surveys. Five-hundred and sixty-one (14.96 per cent) Issei—first generation JAs—filled-out the survey; most of them taking advantage of the Japanese language translation of the questionnaire. Nearly 12 per cent, or 443 of the respondents, were Kibei Nisei.

Sixty-eight per cent, or 2551 of the total surveyed, indicated that they had been interned in one of the wartime concentration camps.



### IF YOU DON'T FEEL JAPANESE AMERICANS SHOULD SEEK REDRESS, PLEASE STATE THE REASON WHY:

- I do not feel wrongs were committed ..... 22/0.59%
- Seeking Redress/Reparations is hopeless and a waste of time ..... 46/1.23%
- The camp experience was 35 years ago, we should forget about it ..... 66/1.76%
- Raising the Redress/Reparations issue might create a backlash against Japanese Americans ..... 83/2.21%
- Other ..... 42/1.12%

### DATA ON SURVEY RESPONDENTS:

- Generation of Respondents Opposed to Redress:
  - Issei (Japanese-born, 1st generation) ..... 38
  - Nisei (U.S.-born, 2nd generation) ..... 72
  - Sansei (3rd generation) ..... 9
  - Yonsei (4th generation) ..... 2
  - Kibei Nisei (U.S.-born, Japan-educated/raised) ..... 20
- Generation of Respondents in favor of Redress Movement:
  - Issei ..... 523
  - Nisei ..... 1934
  - Sansei ..... 588

## Redress Survey Results

### WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS ON THE ISSUE OF REDRESS?

- I think Japanese Americans should seek Redress for the World War II incarceration experience ..... 3575/95.36%
- I do not think Japanese Americans should seek Redress ..... 155/4.13%
- I do not know enough at his time to take position ..... 19/.050%

### IF YOU SUPPORT THE JAPANESE AMERICAN MOVEMENT, WHAT DO YOU FEEL WOULD BE THE MOST APPROPRIATE FORM OF REPARATION?

(Check any number of categories)

- Direct monetary payments to individuals (or their heirs) affected by the wartime incarceration ..... 3350/89.36%
- An income tax credit plan under which former internees would deduct a specified amount each year from their Federal Income Tax payments ..... 391/10.43%
- Establishment of a Community Trust Fund ..... 1206/32.17%

**IF YOU SUPPORT THE JAPANESE AMERICAN MOVEMENT, WHAT DO YOU FEEL WOULD BE THE MOST APPROPRIATE FORM OF REPARATION?**

(Check any number of categories)

—Direct monetary payments to individuals (or their heirs) affected by the wartime incarceration	3350/89.36%
—An income tax credit plan under which former internees would deduct a specified amount each year from their Federal Income Tax payments	391/10.43%
—Establishment of a Community Trust Fund	1206/32.17%
Such a trust fund should be used for:	
—Providing community services	399/10.64%
—Providing civil rights defense	223/5.95%
—An educational program about the camps	216/5.76%
—Other	63/1.68%
—Issuance of a Presidential Apology	502/13.39%
—Other	84/2.24%

**IF YOU FEEL DIRECT MONETARY REPARATIONS TO INDIVIDUALS IS IN ORDER, WHAT AMOUNT DO YOU FEEL WOULD REPRESENT APPROPRIATE COMPENSATIONS?**

—\$ 5,000	30 (.895%)
—\$10,000	112 ( 3.34%)
—\$15,000	216 ( 6.44%)
—\$20,000	286 ( 8.54%)
—\$25,000	2295 (68.81%)
—Other	411 (12.27%)

—Generation of Respondents Opposed to Redress:

—Issei (Japanese-born, 1st generation)	38
—Nisei (U.S.-born, 2nd generation)	72
—Sansei (3rd generation)	9
—Yonsei (4th generation)	2
—Kibei Nisei (U.S.-born, Japan-educated, raised)	20

—Generation of Respondents in favor of Redress Movement:

—Issei	523
—Nisei	1934
—Sansei	588
—Yonsei	24
—Kibei Nisei	423

**NUMBER PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS INTERNED:**

—In favor of Redress/Reparations	2461 68.84%
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**NUMBER PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS INTERNED:**

—Opposed to Redress Movement	82 59.90%
	(2.19% of total respondents)

**OVERALL TOTALS:**

—Survey Responses	3749
—Issei	561 14.95%
—Nisei	2006 53.51%
—Sansei	597 15.92%
—Yonsei	24 .006%
—Kibei Nisei	443 11.82%
—Others	118 3.15%