

Reparations Coalition Terms Evening Hearings With Commissioners Success; Over 200 Attend

The Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, under pressure from the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations, agreed to hold a last-minute evening testimony hearing in the community Tuesday, Aug. 4. This informal but officially recorded hearing enabled persons who could not attend the day sessions at the State Office Building to offer their oral testimony to the U.S. government.

Three commissioners, Dr. Arthur S. Flemming, Judge William M. Marutani and former U.S. Senator Hugh B. Mitchell, came to the Little Tokyo Towers senior citizens housing complex at the invitation of NCRP.

Although the community had only a few days notice to prepare for the community hearing, more than 200 persons attended the bilingual session.

NCRP had repeatedly requested cause of the reluctance of many Japanese, particularly the older Issei and Nisei, to testify in the formal and intimidating atmosphere of a federal proceeding.

The audience was visibly moved by the sad, bitter and angry testimony of those who had been incarcerated in concentration camps. One woman, silent for over 30 years even to her own family but angered by the statements of redress opponents, mustered the courage to speak about the death of her brother who was shot in the back, an innocent by-

stander, at Manzanar. Ewan Yoshida, who has not seen his father since he was 11-years old when FBI agents took his father away, has spent the last 20 years trying to determine if his father is still alive. The stories the Japanese told were many and moving, and each person was able to speak without the constraints of time limitations and without having to prepare written testimony.

One witness summed-up feeling of many in the room when he said that the Japanese community has really come together as a community around the issue of reparations, and that after 40 years, we are finally leaving the camps.

—MERILYNNE HAMAN

Redress/Reparations Topic of KCOP Program

Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians vice-chairman, Rep. Daniel E. Lungren (R-Long Beach) and Manzanar Committee spokeswoman, Sue Kunitomi Embrey, will be guests on "News in Review," Saturday, Aug. 8, over KCOP, Channel-13, from 8 p.m. They will be discussing the three-days of CWRIC hearings in Los Angeles this week.