

NCRR LEGISLATIVE CHAIR IWATAKI MEETS REPARATIONS ADM. OFFICIAL

WASHINGTON.— The Office of Reparations Administration has sent 5,000 acknowledgements in response to calls submitting names as of Oct. 11, reported Miya Iwataki, national legislative chair for National Coalition for Redress and Reparations (NCRR), after meeting with Robert Bratt, executive director of ORA in Washington, D.C.

Bratt, according to Iwataki, seemed pleased with the community response to the ORA Hot Line which is in operation from 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. EDT, Monday through Friday (The toll-free telephone number is 1-800-228-8375. For local calls, the number is 835-2094 for Washington, D.C. area residents). Iwataki also met with Valerie O'Brian, staff counsel, and Jean Chipouras, staff assistant.

"Please inform the Japanese American community that they do not need to write to the National

Archives," Bratt emphasized. "The Office of Reparations Administration has all of the information that the Archives have."

On Oct. 11, the ORA opened a small liaison office in San Francisco. "It's a temporary 90-day office," explained Bratt. "We chose San Francisco as our first site because of its proximity to Sacramento where the Department of Motor Vehicles files are."

The San Francisco office will be run by Shirley Lloyd, Bratt's deputy, and have two staff members, including Karen Seriguchi, former director of the Asian American Journalists Association. The San Francisco telephone number is (415) 243-8030.

Bratt's office is compiling a list of inmates from all 10 concentration camps and will be setting up 110,000 files. "And we are actively working with Social Security in Washington to locate Japanese Americans," added Bratt.

"Right now we have just located all but two or three of the families from Bainbridge (Washington)," Bratt told Iwataki. The ORA has been setting up a network of contacts in the major cities throughout the nation that have significant Nikkei populations.

The week of Oct. 17, the ORA plans to have a Notice of Proposed Rule Making published in the *Federal Register*.

This is to comply with the Administrative Procedures Act which mandates that a department, in order to publish any rules, regulations or guidelines which are authorized by law, must put a Notice of Proposed Rule Making and announce for no less than 90 days the proposed rule (or regulation).

Around January or February of 1989, the proposed regulations will come out in the *Federal Register*. This will be after the elections and when a new administra-

tion has come in. There will follow a 30- or 60-day period during which the Office of Reparations Administration will accept written comments regarding the proposed regulations.

In response to community concerns, there will most likely be an appeals process written into the regulations, reported Iwataki. Also discussed with ORA were a list of questions which had come in to the NCRR Hot Line, but which were not specifically addressed in the legislation.

"It is very important that NCRR continue to send them tricky or unusual questions that we are receiving as they come in," said Iwataki. "Because these situations may be taken into consideration as the regulations are being developed."

The NCRR Hot Line is in service 24 hours a day. The number is (213) 620-0761. All calls will be acknowledged.