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## REDRESS

# First Payments Begin for Fiscal Year 1992

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WASHINGTON.—The Department of Justice said the Office of Redress Administration (ORA) on Tuesday began making fiscal year 1992 redress payments of \$20,000 each to 25,000 eligible Japanese Americans who were interned in government concentration camps during World War II.

John R. Dunne, assistant attorney general in charge of the Civil Rights Division, said ORA will disburse 22,800 payments to eligible recipients—born between July 1, 1920, and Dec. 31, 1927—during

the first week of October.

"In the first week of the new fiscal year, we will distribute more than 90 percent of the redress payments for the entire fiscal year," said Dunne. "ORA is leading an effective and aggressive campaign, and we plan to continue at our current rate until all eligible recipients receive their redress payment."

Most of the remaining cases in the current payment group—between the ages of 63 and 71—are pending because ORA has not received sufficient documentation to

process the case.

"We have approximately 2,000 cases remaining in the first payment group that will be verified as soon as ORA receives the documentation requested in the Letter of Potential Eligibility," said Robert K. Bratt, administrator of ORA. "Once these cases are determined as eligible for redress, payments will be disbursed as soon as possible."

Redress payments to eligible Japanese Americans were authorized by the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. ORA, an office in the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division, administers the redress, or payment, provisions of the act.

Last October, ORA paid 20,300 people in the first round of payments.

Congress allocated \$500 million for the program for fiscal year 1992.

Under the redress program, ORA identifies and locates all potential recipients, verifies their eligibility and makes payment to those deemed eligible. No application is required.

Under the act, the oldest individuals or their surviving heirs are paid first. Last year's payment group included a 107-year-old man and continued through those born June 30, 1920.

The final payments are scheduled to begin Oct. 1, 1992, the first day of fiscal year 1993, and will be made to the youngest eligible recipients, including those born in internment camps.

Persons who have questions regarding the submission of their documentation are encouraged to call ORA's toll-free Help Line at 1-800-395-4672 (voice) or 1-800-727-1886 (Telephone Device for the Deaf). The Help Line operates Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST.