

Redress to Those Eligible Under Ishida Regulations to Begin 9/3/97

ORA requests the community's assistance with continued outreach efforts.

In accordance with the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, the Office of Redress Administration (ORA) will officially cease operations on Aug. 10, 1998.

ORA has been working on several claims and projects to ensure a successful close-down in less than one year, stated DeDe Greene, administrator for redress.

California Meetings

In August, ORA focused its outreach on a series of community meetings in Los Angeles and San Francisco. ORA director Joanne Chiedi, senior operations manager Lisa Johnson and attorney Emlei Kuboyama provided attendees a detailed update on current ORA activities and projections for the future.

The meetings provided the opportunity for community members to make suggestions and share concerns. In turn, ORA representatives requested the community's assistance with continued outreach efforts, Greene related.

Ishida Update

ORA announced that it has scheduled the next payments for September. Again, this payment will include those individuals who have already been notified of their eligibility under the *Ishida* regulations. ORA asked that these claimants notify ORA of any address changes as soon as possible to avoid a delay in payment.

Railroad Research

ORA staff continues to research the firing of persons of Japanese ancestry from railroad positions during World War II, Greene said. Assisted by experienced researchers and noted historians, ORA is searching for additional historical documents to help shed light on this issue.

Historian Michi Weglyn has offered suggestions and guidance on this issue. In addition to research at the National Archives, ORA will be working with certain state archives in an attempt to gather information on meetings of various defense boards.

Outreach

ORA is looking for new outreach opportunities, and needs the public's assistance, Greene commented. ORA would like to send representatives to conventions, camp reunions, and community meetings that concern redress. Anyone knowing of any such events is asked to notify Emi Kuboyama (Helpline 1-888-219-6900 or fax 202/219-9314).

ORA representatives distributed updated posters at the recent workshop. Persons who did not receive one or would like to request additional copies should call the ORA Helpline.

Search for the Unknowns

The search continues for indi-

viduals who may be eligible for redress. With help from the Social Security Administration and the Internet, ORA staff has successfully accounted for several persons listed on the *List of Unknown Historical Records*.

Leads from family and friends are also an effective means of finding these potential redress recipients. Greene asked the public to continue to circulate these booklets within organizations and the community, or contact ORA to obtain additional copies.

New Applications

Although ORA will be open until Aug. 10, 1998, it would appreciate having all new claims well before the end of the program, and is encouraging those who are interested in redress to submit their information by January 1998.

"We must receive all new cases by this date to ensure that a determination can be made before the end of the program. We would like the opportunity to give each claim a thorough, individual review," Greene explained.

ORA Statistics as of August 1997

Number of cases paid:	80,351
Unknown historical records:	2,452
Total ineligible:	1,861