

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Input, Support Needed for Latest Redress Hurdle

Editor:

As some in the Japanese American community may know, we in the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations (NCRRR) have been working this past decade to ensure full implementation of the Civil Liberties Act. Recently, we discovered that the Civil Liberties Act had language mandating that the funds of the Act be invested in government obligations at an interest rate of at least 5 percent per year.

NCRRR believes that this breach of fiduciary responsibility resulted in the loss of millions of dollars that could have been used to compensate those who were denied full redress.

Furthermore, since only \$5 million of the intended \$50 million was appropriated for the educational component of the Act, we feel strongly that more can be done to educate the public regarding the incarceration of Japanese Americans.

Recently, we filed a lawsuit (*NCRRR and Joe Suzuki vs. United States*) to recover funds that we believe were lost due to the government's mistake. While more research needs to be done on exactly how much money was lost from the government's error, preliminary estimates indicate that the amount is much more than the \$45 million it would take to fully fund the educational component of the Act.

Please join us in discussing this issue at a community meeting on Saturday, Dec. 5, at 1 p.m., at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center (JACCC) in conference room C on the second floor. We need your input and support to ensure that the lessons from the Japanese American incarceration are never forgotten.

Sincerely,
National Coalition
for Redress/Reparations

(Reader response is welcome. Send them to: Letters to the Editor, The Rafu Shimpō, 259 S. Los Angeles St., Los Angeles, CA 90012; fax: 213-687-0737; or email: rafushimpo@aol.com.)