



# RAFU SHIMPO



2/22/95

es Japanese Daily News

259 So. Los Angeles Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Phone: (213) 629-2231

Fax: (213) 687-0737

Established 1903

## ORA's Final Figures: 82,219 Paid Redress

Justice Department must get approval from Congress for additional funds to pay Japanese Latin Americans, any other eligible internees.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON.—The government paid \$1.6 billion to more than 82,000 people of Japanese ancestry who were interned during World War II, the Justice Department said Friday.

The redress program was established by the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 to

make restitution for the fundamental injustice of the evacuation, relocation and internment of Japanese Americans during the war. The department's 10-year-old Office of Redress Administration closed Feb. 5. Final figures were released Friday.

"This was a tragic chapter in the history of our nation," Attorney General Janet Reno said in a statement. "The U.S. government recognized the injustice of its actions during the war and provided a presidential apology and compensation. It was a time when we took away the liberty of an entire community of Americans."

The office provided the full \$20,000 in

redress payments to 82,219 eligible claimants, totaling more than \$1.6 billion.

To be eligible, applicants had to have been alive on Aug. 10, 1988; U.S. citizens or permanent resident aliens during internment, which lasted from Dec. 7, 1941 through June 30, 1946; and interned or otherwise deprived of liberty and property based solely on their Japanese ancestry.

Bill Lann Lee, acting assistant attorney general for civil rights, said the department believes it located 99 percent of eligible claimants.

The 82,219 who received the full payment include 189 Japanese Latin

Americans who had residency or citizenship in the United States here during the internment period.

In addition to the 82,219 individuals, the office paid \$5,000 apiece to 145 Japanese Latin Americans who were deported from their homes in Latin America during World War II to internment camps in the United States.

The Justice Department said that if Congress approves its request for additional funds, the government will make payments to nearly 400 more Japanese Latin Americans who qualify for the smaller awards and to any remaining people eligible for the full restitution.