

SETTING UP MEETINGS

It takes a long time to set up a meeting. For each visit that you schedule, it probably takes three or four phone calls depending on how competent the Congressional staff person in that particular office is. And then, there are always the callbacks to confirm, usually a day or two before. I always made the callbacks, although with 101 visits to do, I couldn't do all of the callbacks. There was only so much I could ask of Congressman Dymally's other staff to do since I was working for him and supposed to be doing his work too. So, it's several calls to set it up and sometimes it was having to explain the whole issue to the Legislative Director and tie it in to why it's important for their Member to see our delegation. It really took a lot of work! And then of course,



[Senator Alan Cranston of California meets with NCCR delegates](#)

there were the callbacks to make sure it was still happening! For some of the offices, they wanted me to tell them exactly who was going to be visiting them. We didn't get the list of names (who was actually coming to Washington D.C.) until very late in the game. If they insisted on having names, I would end up just giving them a name but that person may have ended up on a

team to see someone else. There is a lot to scheduling visits, especially when you want to fight to make sure that the Congressman is there, not just a staff person. If there is no way that the Member is going to see you, then I wanted to make sure that the Legislative Director or the Chief of Staff was the person that our team saw. They had the ability to make things happen.

I learned how to do this in an earlier visit to Washington D.C. when we had a very small group go for the first time. I was trying to schedule meetings for us to see some of the committee members that were dealing with redress. That was my first taste of it. While working in Congressman Dymally's office, he had a Scheduling Secretary, so I never had to do schedules. She was sort of tough because there were so many lobbyists trying to get in to see him. Every time a class from a grammar school or a librarian's association from his district visited Washington D.C., they wanted to meet him. The Scheduling Secretary has to

be tough and they usually have a prioritized list of whom the Member should see. So when it comes down to “crunch time,” you have to be glib and you need to know what to say!



Off to the Congressional offices, Dorothy Shundo and Fred Korematsu lead the way.

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