

THE HEARINGS

I had the responsibility of speaking for NCRR at the Commission Hearings because I was the co-chairperson. I didn't realize the enormity and the long-term repercussions that might follow from anything I said on behalf of the organization at the time. This was because I was teaching and I had a couple of kids, which kept me very busy. It wasn't until late in the afternoon just before I was scheduled to present my testimony that the magnitude of the situation dawned on me. I had shown people the draft of what I was about to say and I thought that I would be able to make a good collaborative presentation on behalf of NCRR.

It was late in the afternoon and I was standing in the back of the room, going over my notes when I showed him the presentation. One of the people we were asking for my speech and said, "How are the four years of taken away--how are broken families -- and give back the destroyed?" When I changed my whole everything. I agreed.



Mike Murase. One of my key points was amount of money we redress. Mike looked at "the money does not defended...it is a they going to give back peoples lives that were they going to repair the how are they going to communities that they Mike said that it line of thought about

[June Kizu reading the NCRR statement at CWRIC](#)

We didn't need to defend anything! What we had to do was to just tell them that they were wrong and that they, the government, needed to come to us to make things right! We were not going to be apologetic or defensive about anything!

When I got ready to speak, Dan Lungren, who was chairing the meeting and looking at the clock told me that due to time constraints, I would be given five minutes and that I would be given a warning when my time was about up. With my change in attitude, I shot back that we had been waiting some forty years to speak, and I said, "do you think you can cut me off in five minutes? With that, the audience erupted in a roar, and from then on, NCRR was in charge!

June Kizu April, 2004

