

SOME WERE IN DOUBT

How would I characterize the response of the community back then? It was very mixed and it wasn't always easy. There were people that were speaking openly against redress in our community, people that were considered leaders. There were people that we were able to sway, like my Aunt for example. In my own family, there were those that were not for redress. I believe that many of the people didn't support redress partly because they didn't want to look back at their camp experiences. They were afraid of the controversy, of getting a lot of flak for bringing it all out. They thought, "why do you want to bring it all up again?" Also, a big factor was being afraid that we were not going to win. Why try something that you're not going to win! It took a long time for some people to change their attitudes. When we managed to get the bill passed through one part of Congress, some Nisei would say, "well it's not going to pass the other house!" It was like that every step of the way, these voices that would say that. But people do change, and I think that people were changing over the ten years that it took for redress to pass. People began to feel the support from others and so people began to be more willing to support redress. I do believe that some people were just defeated by being interned and that's why they felt that way. I'm sure within NCRP, we had misgivings at times, but we were always out there busy doing things! We felt the support that the change in attitude was bringing and that gave us a lot of encouragement!



Kathy Masaoka (Oral History Project, June, 2002)