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Title: Jane Kaihatsu Interview  
Narrator: Jane Kaihatsu  
Interviewer: Anna Takada  
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<Begin Segment 14>

- AT: 00:56:54 So clearly a lot of, um, people from outside the Japanese American community, have really picked up on, this history given, you know, some of the you know contemporary issues. Uh, you know, the general political climate. Um, what, what are your, what are your hopes, for, for future generations, um, especially in regards to this history? Like what do you hope people to kind of take away or learning or, um, you know, what legacies do you hope people to understand from the incarceration?
- JK: 00:57:47 I think the most important thing is that, uh, when America, the population of the United States is a diverse country. Uh, is a diverse, diverse population, there's all kinds of people from all different kinds of countries. And ways of thinking and different religion. And that the Japanese American population, at the time of Pearl Harbor, was easily targeted and it was very small and very voiceless. And I think that the, this, um, uh, the title of the exhibit at the Alphawood Gallery really struck me As They Came For Us. And I had never really thought about it that way, to be honest. But that's exactly what happened was they were targeted, they were marginalized and had been for s, you know, sometime, but in one sense, who, if you're not white, who hasn't been marginalized. And even Italians and Irish, were marginalized. Um, but knowing that they were, ah Japanese Americans were targeted, marginalized and then, um, ignored by most of the mainstream. Of course, the American Friends Service Committee tried to speak up, they were too small. Once they were in camp, the Maryknoll, um, sect tried to be helpful. But, um, most people, um, didn't speak up. The times were different. You didn't challenge authority, but now, times, you should challenge authority and people have. And that's what I hope that people, um, the legacy is that you cannot, when, when, when, uh, injustice is happening to a group of people, you cannot be silent cause this is the consequence. Now, of course, more people were born than died in the internment

camps. But it was, it's still a terrible stain, on the history of the United States and the hypocrisy for what we all stand for. And not to mention, I will be very blunt, economic loss. I mean, my grandparents had a grocery store, Kaihatsu family had homes, you know, many people had farms, lands that would be worth millions had they stayed, I mean, my, you know, my father's neighbors on Santa Monica Boulevard today, if they still had that property in Northern California, if they still had that grocery store in downtown Berkeley. Oh my goodness, you know. So that economic loss was really never addressed. Yes, they received \$20,000. But I had heard that at the time of the moratorium during the Vietnam War when protestors were arrested, um, without, cause they were awarded something like \$40,000 in compensation for like two or three days of unjust imprisonment. Whereas people like my mother spent entire three years in internment camp. So it's, it's costly to United States when we go against our principles. And in today's climate, uh, it's getting dangerously towards that way to people of color who don't have loud voices and don't have people advocating for them. Um, I think it's unfortunate, if every single Japanese American did advocate for these marginalized minorities, it still might not do any good, but it's good to see that exhibits like these, get exposed to other groups of people who may stand up for the others. Uh, I as a Japanese American people, um, I think that we are getting smaller and smaller in numbers. I do worry that the story will disappear, but as long as there's ah people who like put together this exhibit, think about it and these pictures and artifacts, uh, continue to exist, I would hope that the story be told again and again. And, and the descendants of the internees too, though they may be getting fewer in number. I hope they, they still keep talking about it. I know I do. I, I was at the Women's March and I made two giant posters of internment camp pictures. I said, never again. I just carried them around and got people talking about it and they said, yeah, that's right. That was such an interesting march cause there were so many issues that were brought up that, um, had that were deeply upsetting to people. And I thought, I have to make sure I have to do my part that this issue is not going to be buried. That we will continue to talk about it.

- AT: 01:02:28 We are five minutes over an hour.
- JK: 01:02:31 Okay.
- AT: 01:02:31 Um, do you have time for one more
- JK: 01:02:35 Yes I do. Yeah, actually.

AT: 01:02:37 Um, sorry, I'm just trying to cram.

JK: 01:02:39 No, not at all.

AT: 01:02:39 Everything in, all at the end.

JK: 01:02:42 It went fast.

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