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Title: Yuriko Furubayashi Interview  
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Interviewer: Naoko Wake  
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NW: Now, especially on mainland, on the West Coast, San Francisco, Los Angeles, American survivors in the 1970s and '80s wanted to get American government support them, rather than just having Japanese government support them. Do you have any reactions to that, were you aware of that? That there was such a movement? That survivors in American who were American born American citizens like yourself, who happened to be in Japan because of, you know, for whatever reasons. Family connections. Whereas Hiroshima, they were bombed, became victimized, after the war, they came back and then they felt that America is my government, my country, so I'd like to ask my government for help. Didn't work out, but do you have any reaction to that?

YF: It would be nice if the American government would give something like the *techō*, you know? So they don't have to pay for the medical and all those things. I would, yeah, I can see they asked for, and not only that, you know, they should get it sooner because, soon, because lot of them are aged, they're gonna die off. You know? Not too many people are gonna be living 10 years from now.

NW: That's right, they are getting old, that's very true.

YF: It's . . . so, American government should give them benefit, or give us benefit, you know, so we don't have to, at least, pay a high price for the medical. We've got to pay a premium too, you know? They take it out of the Social Security. But at least American government should pay for that. Yeah? For medicine and stuff. Of course, Japanese government is trying to help. I don't know where the money comes from.

NW: Well, it's Japanese government, paid by Japanese citizens' tax money.

YF: Is that right? I thought Americans were giving them money.

NW: Oh, no. There is no money coming out of the American government.

YF: I think they should give some money, but I don't know. That's, I can see, that there's a demand. But like anything else, you know, are they gonna do it soon or not? Pretty soon, they're not gonna have benefit. Just like my, this, my auntie and uncle. Of course, they sold the property to Nisei, Nisei went into the interment camp . . .

NW: Relocation camp. So they lost it.

YF: Relocation camp. And they took the property and they tore the building and made it into a parking lot, you know. And the government took it. Who has it now, you know? I don't know, the government must have sold it to somebody that, you know, they wouldn't give to, I guess. But that's not right. And, you know, they said that, he was waiting to give up, but he sold it and the people that got it, because he didn't get all the money, he was going back and forth, you know, they cannot be, there's no loan, no anything like that, those days, so the agreement is every year they're gonna pay 1/10<sup>th</sup> or, you know. But, you know, he left in a hurry and, he went back and collect some money and in the mean time, the owner was in a camp, right? And they took everything. I think they're supposed to pay that owner, well, he has the right to ask for it, you know. That's really, that's what I don't understand about this American government. Why would they do that, when other citizens can go to jail, but they don't take their property or they don't do that to any other citizens but they did to mostly to Japanese Americans, right? And they were Americans.

NW: Right, right. Now, in connection with that, when there are American survivors, American born American citizens who were bombed, um, trying to get American government support for their health care needs, it was in collaboration with younger generation of Japanese Americans, Sansei Japanese Americans, who really wanted to improve the social status of Japanese Americans in part because they were just discovering stories like your uncle's, you know, their parents or their grandparents were in relocation camps, it's an injustice done to Asian American minorities and they created a sort of a social movement. It's called an Asian American civil rights movement and that kind of movement really helped the survivors' movement to get some attention from American government. Were you aware of that when this kind of thing was happening, it's 1960s, 1970s, you're busy working in bakery, right?

YF: Yeah, it didn't affect us too much. But I think that's a good thing. They should, you know, state when, you know, Inouye was a Senator, they should have really gotten help from him.

NW: Yeah, yeah. That's true.

YF: But we don't have too much [?]. They didn't take the lion, they only, some of them went to internment camp, they went to the mainland too, but they didn't take the property away. They didn't do justice but in California, I can see because that's what they did to, I mean, indirectly, you know? He didn't get the money because of the person lost everything, poor thing, and he's American. Those kind of people should really, you know, . . .

NW: Be compensated.

YF: Or go into that movement and then get something out of it. You know, some kind of benefit. I mean, that, you know, own, you own something and then they take it away, that's your lifetime savings, so to speak. You know how much, you know, how back you're gonna go for years and years of saving and probably those people had only that much of a land and took them thirty years to save it or forty years. And then they took it away! That is not right.

NW: That's not right.

YF: I don't care even those people are dead, you know, the ancestors, I mean, you know, the children, should somehow get some benefit.

NW: Yeah.

**<End Segment 22> - Copyright © 2013 Densho and Naoko Wake. All Rights Reserved.**