

EDITOR: Last July, the JACL National Convention mandated individual payments in redress for every man, woman, and child who had been interned. On March 3rd, 1979, after meeting with the Nikkei members of Congress, the JACL Redress Committee violated that mandate and, instead, voted to ask Congress to appoint a commission. This predominantly white commission will determine how much the internees suffered and will decide how much compensation former internees should get.

The Redress Committee cite political realities in defense of their decision.

But there are other realities. There are cultural realities. There is the question of justice for the Issei. One Issei, Shosuke Sasaki of Seattle, speaks for many when he says, "There is little doubt that Americans of Japanese descent will succeed in getting redress. But for most Issei, justice delayed would be justice denied. The move for a Congressional commission is in effect a move to deny justice to the Issei."

In Los Angeles, the Little Tokyo People's Rights Organization writes, "The demand for monetary payments is at the heart of the reparations issue. . . . The Redress Committee's decision reflected the views of a few Nisei politicians and not the sentiments of the real Japanese community."

We work for a group known as Days of Remembrance. We are not against the National JACL. We are for redress. We brought together more than 2,000 Nikkei in Seattle and 1,500 Nikkei in Portland for two separate days of remembrance. We helped with technical assistance in similar events in San Francisco and Los Angeles. We brought the concept of the February 19th Day of Remembrance proclamations to National JACL. We published the open letter to Senator Hayakawa. We are making redress a national issue. What has the Redress Committee done?

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With the commission bill, the Redress Committee has removed itself from the active campaign. And for this action, Senator Hayakawa has commended them. In San Francisco last month, the senator said, "I said redress was absurd, and I still think it's absurd. And the Redress Committee agrees it's absurd, because they've withdrawn that demand altogether." The JACL has not brought Hayakawa around; Hayakawa claims he has brought the JACL around.

With the commission bill, the Redress Committee admits it can't deliver timely justice for the Issei. The bill means we still have to make the case for redress before talking about the form that redress should take. The Redress Committee refuses to come out in the open with a political campaign. Instead of results, they give excuses. Political realities can be changed. Yet the Redress Committee has made no attempt to rally popular support. They have not run an effective political and media campaign.

They have not projected a vision larger than the problem they are tackling at the moment. Instead of projecting a larger vision, they have reduced their goals. Instead of justice, they talk now of "educating the public."

The only political reality is that the Redress Committee has talked only to the Nikkei in Congress. It's a fact that redress ^{does} poses political jeopardy for our Nikkei in Congress. Why does the Redress Committee ignore the sympathetic whites in Congress who have held out their hands for a redress bill to support?

It is not enough for the public to be educated. It is not enough for ~~the government~~ ^{the government} once again to say, "We made a mistake."

The JACL itself once declared: "Any American who has been injured by false accusation, arrest, or imprisonment is expected to bring the responsible parties into court and obtain a judgment clearing his or her name and collecting

compositor:
note that the phrase is CASE FOR REDRESS, not "cause of redress" as the PC has always printed

new para.

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damages as redress."

If the JACL has abandoned this stance, for whatever reason, a separate organization must be formed to carry forward a genuine redress bill.

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