

John T



JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS: • 1765 SUTTER STREET • SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94115 • (415) 921-5225

TO: Chapter Presidents

DATE: December 22, 1978

FROM: John Tateishi, Chairman
National Committee for Redress

SUBJECT: February 19th Resolutions

COPIES: National Committee for Redress
National Board
National Staff
Mike Masaoka
PC

Enclosed are the following items:

1. Draft of the proposed resolution
2. Worksheet
3. "An American Promise," President Ford's proclamation upon rescinding EO 9066

The draft resolution has been prepared as a guide for your chapter. If you feel that you want to make changes, feel free to do so. Please keep in mind that the important thing at this time is to get the resolution passed; our goal is to have February 19th declared a day of remembrance wherever JACL chapters are located. In this regard, we don't wish to confuse the intent of the resolution as an endorsement by local governments for Redress. The resolution is not for Redress but for a day of remembrance.

The worksheet is intended to provide you with guidance on obtaining the resolution. The information on the worksheet comes from Frank Iwama, National Legal Counsel for JACL.

The "An American Promise" proclamation is for your information.

If you have any questions or problems regarding the resolutions, don't hesitate to contact me. My home phone number is (415) 453-8389. You can also contact Debbie Nakatomi, Administrative Assistant, at JACL Headquarters (415) 921-5225.

Thanks for your cooperation and good luck!

RESOLUTION _____

A JOINT RESOLUTION by the City Council and the Mayor of the City of _____, supporting a day of remembrance for those persons of Japanese ancestry, evicted from the West Coast of the United States and incarcerated during the years of the Second World War.

WHEREAS, prior and subsequent to the outbreak of World War II, there existed positive evidence collected and held by the United States Government that denied any existence of disloyalty toward the United States by persons of Japanese ancestry; and

WHEREAS, on February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, authorizing the uprooting and imprisonment of all Pacific Coast residents of Japanese ancestry; and

WHEREAS, all persons of Japanese ancestry in these areas were subsequently forceably removed and imprisoned within the confines of barbed wire and armed guards in detention camps located in desolate areas throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, these constitutional and moral violations did in fact deny persons of the basic guarantees innumarated in the Bill of Rights; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this Joint Resolution is to support a day of remembrance;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF _____ THAT the City of _____ acknowledges and condemns the constitutional and moral violations perpetrated against persons of Japanese ancestry during World War II; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City of _____ proclaims February 19, 1979 as "A Day of Remembrance" in recognition of the loss of liberty and injury to human dignity suffered by those affected by Executive Order 9066, and in recognition of those travails experienced during World War II by Americans of Japanese ancestry.

RESOLUTION WORKSHEET

1. Find out when City Councils, Boards of Supervisors, etc. meet.
2. Determine if there are any members of the Councils or Boards who would be sympathetic with the resolution, whose past records indicate he or she is sympathetic to Japanese American or minority causes, or who has close ties with the JA community. These are the people you'll want to talk to first.
3. Often appointments have to be made to see Council or Board members. This can be done by phone. Appointments should be made in an official capacity--i.e., as a representative of your local chapter, perhaps by the Chapter President.
4. If possible and if time allows, try to set the meeting date well in advance of the meeting date of the Council or Board. You may have to have subsequent meetings or contacts, so you want to insure that you have adequate time.
5. You may want to meet with your chapter board to determine the exact wording of the resolution. Your final draft should be prepared before you present it so that it reflects the attitude of the local chapter and JA community.
6. Before you meet with Council or Board members, make sure you have factual information regarding the Evacuation and Redress. The JACL booklet on Redress will provide you with this info; it might be a good idea to give a copy of the booklet to whomever you talk to about the resolution as background information.
7. When you meet with Council or Board members, indicate that this is a nation-wide project by the National JACL, that other city and state governments are being asked to pass similar resolutions, and that you are asking for support from your local community government. You should also point out that the passing of these resolutions will be covered by local and national press.
8. If your Council or Board objects to some of the wording or points of the resolution, try to be flexible. The important thing is to get the resolution passed to commemorate February 19th as "A Day of Remembrance" for Japanese Americans.