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## United States Senate

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September 13, 1978

Clifford I. Uyeda, M.D.  
Japanese American Citizens League  
1765 Sutter Street  
San Francisco, California 94115

Dear Dr. Uyeda:

I wish to share with you my thoughts on the proposal adopted by the JAACL National Convention calling for financial redress of former World War II internees, which you were thoughtful enough to provide to me.

I regret that I personally have very grave reservations about the wisdom of proposing this legislation at this time.

There is no doubt that former internees lost a great deal, both economically and emotionally, from their tragic experiences in these camps.

The financial compensation provided by the United States Government after the war was pitifully inadequate.

More recently, as you are aware, Congress has taken steps to partially atone for this by providing former internees with Social Security and Civil Service retirement credits for the time spent in these camps.

I doubt that there can ever be any adequate compensation for the emotional damage inflicted by the internment.

To ask Congress, however, to appropriate \$25,000 to each internee or his survivor, seems to me an ill-timed request.

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There now exists a strong sentiment among many members of Congress that the government has, perhaps, bent over too far backwards in attempting to redress the wrongs committed against native Americans.

This backlash affects legislation involving American Indian affairs.

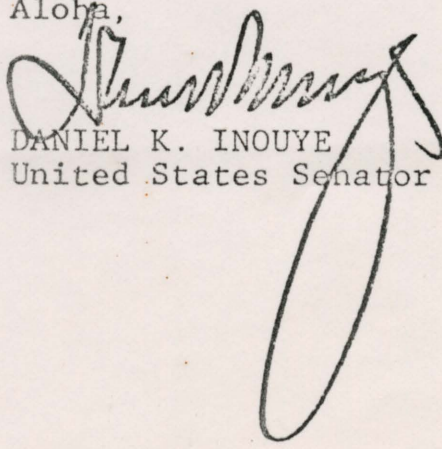
And, just in the last few days, Hawaii suffered a defeat when the House rejected a proposal to create a commission to study the matter of reparations to native Hawaiians who lost their land during the unlawful overthrow of the Hawaii monarchy by the American Government.

I realize that it is unfair for Japanese-Americans to be categorized with native American groups, because their problems and history differ so greatly. But from a pragmatic political standpoint, I foresee much difficulty in obtaining successful consideration of the JACL proposal at this time, due in large part to this "backlash" I have described.

I regret that I cannot offer you a more optimistic viewpoint, but from my position in the Senate, this is the most honest assessment I can provide to you. To do less, I believe, would be a disservice to you.

Thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts with you on this matter. Please let me know if there is anything you feel I can do for you.

Aloha,

  
DANIEL K. INOUE  
United States Senator

DKI:jmpl