

The Evacuation of Japanese Americans
during World War II.

(An ugly Chapter in American History)

by

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I am a Japanese-American. Thirty-seven years ago, I was one of 106,656 persons of Japanese descent who were evacuated from our homes and friends on the west coast during World War II. While in the Minidoka Relocation Center at Hunt, Idaho, I wrote an editorial "By Looking Back, We Look Forward" in a souvenir book we named "Minidoka Interlude". To me the evacuation was the climax to the Japanese - in-America story with a happy ending. It gave us a chance to prove our loyalty to our country and rewarded us with happy surroundings which exist to-day. Today I look back and appreciate the opportunity we had so that we are now able to take our rightful places as free men in the land of free people.

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BY LOOKING BACK, WE LOOK FORWARD

Commodore Mathew C. Perry, in command of a fleet, entered the Bay of Yedo in 1854. He thought he was merely opening Japan to American commerce, but he actually opened America to Japanese labor. When the Chinese Exclusion Act was passed in 1882, Japanese were encouraged to come over as a new source of cheap labor in opening up the rich empire of the West. The number jumped to 24,000 in 1900.

In 1907, a treaty was made with Japan to restrict her immigration. Although only 185 Japanese a year would have been admitted under the quota system, Americans passed in 1924 a clause barring all Japanese immigrants.

AMERICA, OUR HOMELAND

Originally, they came to this country to acquire wealth and to return to their native country. However, they learned to love the American way of life. They joyfully watched their children grow up with their American friends and become good American citizens. Despite the

agitation and the prejudice, they chose not to return to their "Fatherland of birth", but elected to cherish the privilege of living permanently in their "Motherland of dreams".

We are their children. Thanks to their choice, we are in the land of freedom and opportunity. We attended American schools and learned the basic principles and the traditions of our country. We learned to love our country, to support our Constitution, to obey our laws, to respect our Flag and to defend it against all its enemies.

Our associations and customs of living have followed the course of Americans. We have participated in the advancement of community life and contributed generously to charitable enterprises. We have exercised our right of franchise for the promotion of the democratic government and purchased War Bonds to provide for our national defense. We have been law-abiding and enjoyed the lowest criminal record of any racial group. We have made a remarkable record of self-support, literacy and freedom from juvenile delinquency. In fact, our Americanization in two generations has been more complete than that of most national groups. We have lived, believed, worked and aspired as Americans.

WAR AGAINST JAPAN

On December 7th, 1941, Japan made the perfidious attack on our unready forces at Pearl Harbor. Next day, Congress declared that a condition of war existed between our country and Japan.

For us Japanese Americans the war was a revolutionary war: because we had long been accused unjustly of being loyal to the Japanese government and we were determined to fight against Japan, just as the thirteen original colonies had done against their mother country in 1775. For us the war was a civil war: because we had long been the victims of race

prejudice and we were ready to do our part for the preservation of democracy by destroying race prejudice, just as Americans had fought against each other in 1861 for the preservation of the Union by abolishing slavery. For us the war was a war on ideals; because we had long believed in the ideals of democracy and we were willing to take up arms on the side of democracy in defense of our rights as free people, just as Americans of German descent had done in 1917 against Germany.

We were ready to fight in this one war those three greatest wars that have made the glorious history of our mighty nation. With the Army refusing to accept us, however, we were forced to stay in the background.

The F.B.I. arrested a considerable number of Japanese aliens whom they regarded as suspicious. The Army placed all the military forces on a war footing. Assuming that these measures would forestall any possible danger of fifth column activity or sabotage, the public remained comparatively calm. Thus, for a while after December 7, there was no general outbreak of resentment against us.

Through our papers, we expressed our loyalty to the United States and our willingness to serve her. We felt fortunate to be in America, and never dreamed that evacuation of loyal citizens would be permitted in a democratic state.

It was only about six weeks after Pearl Harbor that the public sentiment began to change, due to the appearance in the press of stories of elaborate sabotage by Japanese residents in Hawaii on December 7th. Later on, all these stories were denied by responsible Hawaiian officials. To this day there have been no known acts of sabotage, espionage, or fifth column activities

committed by persons of Japanese descent either in Hawaii or on the mainland.

On the contrary, a fact became known that on the fateful day, Honolulu Japanese stormed the blood bank center with offers of blood. The United Press later revealed that the first prisoner of war taken by the United States was captured by a Japanese American on December 7. Nevertheless, the truth about Hawaii never caught up with the misstatements.

By the end of January, 1942, many newspapers which did much in circulating the misstatements were demanding the evacuation of all Japanese from the west coast.

On January 29th, Attorney General Biddle tried to solve the problem by ordering the evacuation of all enemy aliens from certain limited strategic areas. The order affected in all, less than 10,000 persons. It satisfied neither the politicians, the press, nor any of the agitators.

The hysterical popular pressure for indiscriminate evacuation of the Japanese might have been checked. Americans as a whole would have heeded a stern appeal to refrain from lawlessness and to honor the Bill of Rights, if it had been issued by the President and backed by the press. It would have been a credit to our American democracy if the President had recommended individual exclusion program.

THE EXECUTIVE ORDER

On February 19th, President Roosevelt signed the Executive Order, empowering the Secretary of War or any military commander the Secretary might designate to prescribe military areas and to provide for the exclusion from such areas any persons whose

presence was deemed dangerous to the national defense.

On March 2nd, Lieut. General DeWitt, the commanding general of the Western Defense Command, responded to the Presidential Order and issued the first of a series of proclamations. It prescribed the western portion of the three west coast States and the southern part of Arizona as Military Area No. 1 and stated that all persons of Japanese ancestry, including us American citizens, would be excluded from this area.

To us who had faith in the Constitution of the United States, it was a profound shock that our citizenship did not matter and that the rights guaranteed under the Constitution would be so easily taken away from us without due process of law. To us this evacuation of a minority group seemed to have violated the Bill of Rights.

But we were determined to accept the order with the full realization of the crisis which threatened the democracy of the world and with the deep sense of responsibility common to all free men. We realized that all these sacred, inherent, American privileges, as well as our national welfare and freedom were at stake. We realized that the best interests of the few had sometimes to be sacrificed for the good of many. We felt that our sacrifices would be a real contribution to the victory of our country and to the preservation of the principles in which we believe.

EVACUATION STARTED

On March 14th, the Wartime Civil Control Administration was established as an agency of the Western Defense Command, under Col. Karl R. Bendetsen, to have direct supervision of the evacuation program. In carrying out the program, the War Department felt the necessity of legislation providing penalties for persons violat-

ing orders issued by military commanders. The law, as passed by Congress on March 21st, was criticized by Senator Taft as "the 'sloppiest' criminal law I have ever seen or read anywhere."

On March 23rd, 1,000 volunteers from Los Angeles went to the assembly center at Manzanar to assist in preparing the new community for the later arrival of 9,000 others. On the same day, Lieut. Gen. J. L. DeWitt issued Civilian Exclusion Order No. 1, directing all persons of Japanese ancestry to evacuate Bainbridge Island on or before March 30.

At first we were permitted or even encouraged to move voluntarily out of the prescribed area and resettle inland on our own initiative. Some 8,000 who moved out, however, met strong protests in many communities in the intermountain region. In some areas violence appeared imminent. Consequently, on March 27th, the Commanding General issued an order to become effective on March 29th, prohibiting further voluntary migration.

On March 27th, the curfew order became effective, requiring all persons of Japanese ancestry in Military Area No. 1 to be in their places of residence between the hours of 8 P.M. and 6 A.M.; forbidding possession of firearms, explosives, cameras, radio transmitting sets or shortwave receiving sets; and barring travel more than five miles from home without permits.

ASSEMBLY CENTERS

Ninety-eight more Civilian Exclusion Orders were issued by the Commanding General to complete on June 8th the evacuation of 100,000 people from their homes into assembly centers. Practically all of the centers were set up in race tracks or fair grounds. Accommodations were simple even to the point of crudity. Inevitable idleness,

overcrowding, lack of privacy, and deficiencies did not make our living content or wholesome as much propaganda made the American people believe.

The War Relocation Authority, a non-military agency, was created by President Roosevelt on March 18th. The agency with Milton S. Eisenhower as its Director was vested with authority to formulate and carry out a program for a planned and orderly relocation of persons evacuated.

The WRA decided that Government-operated centers would be established to be temporary homes for the evacuees. When Dillon S. Myer became the director on June 17th, sites for ten relocation centers had been selected and construction work was well under way. In the meantime, we had to spend a whole summer herded together in assembly centers.

EVACUATION IN AREA 2

Evacuation of approximately 10,000 people of Japanese ancestry from Military Area 2 in California started on July 9th with movements direct to relocation centers instead of to assembly centers. This area was far back from the coast and sparsely populated.

General DeWitt had assured us that he did not expect to order evacuation and encouraged resettlement in this area during the brief period of voluntary migration. However, members of the Associated Farmers were active in demanding the evacuation. It was evident that the evacuation was ordered not because of military emergency but because of the concealed greed of certain men and interests for the farms and produce businesses made prosperous by the Japanese.

EVACUATION COMPLETED

Evacuation of 106,656 people of Japanese ancestry from their homes in Military Area No. 1 and the California portion of Military Area No. 2 was completed on August 7, 1942. Final movement from assembly centers to relocation centers was accomplished on November 1st.

It was the first time in the history of the United States that the government ever evacuated all members of one racial group and confined them in designated areas surrounded by barbed wire and guarded by soldiers fully armed. It was affected without trial and with no charges of misconduct or disloyalty on any person involved.

We were the victims of the most unprecedented incident in American history and of one of the most unfortunate episodes in our civilization. We could not handle our properties except at great loss. The total loss was estimated very conservatively at 60 percent or \$400,000,000.

The greatest victim of the evacuation, however, is our country. For the first year of the evacuation, the country paid \$200,000,000; for the second fiscal year she appropriated \$70,000,000. The tremendous cost of the evacuation was not only in money but also in manpower. 5,000 nisei were in the armed forces at the time of the evacuation and would have been as many more if general enlistment through selective service were not cancelled. At least 50,000 who had been employed were made idle and the country discarded millions of man hours of labor.

EASTERN DEFENSE ZONE

On September 10th, Lt. Gen. H. A. Drum, commanding the Eastern Defense Command, announced individual exclusion program for 16 states along the Atlantic coast. It provided for the exclusion of any person whose presence in the Eastern Military Area would deem dangerous to the National defense.

Our east coast was more vulnerable than the west coast because of shorter distance from the source of threats and also because of more defense plants located within the area. Furthermore, the evidence of the cooperation of a considerable number of alien Germans and Italians with enemy governments had been far greater than any alleged against the Japanese. Still, mass evacuation of persons of German and Italian descent was not contemplated. It couldn't have been the military necessity that caused the mass evacuation on the west coast.

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

Beginning November 23rd, the Army carried out a small scale evacuation of people of Japanese ancestry from the Territory of Hawaii to the mainland, affecting only 1,037 of the total 157,905. The islands had been attacked before, and the Japanese comprised 37 percent of the total population. Surely those islands were far more in danger of attack than the jittery west coast where the Japanese comprised a mere 0.1 percent.

One might have expected more drastic treatment of the Hawaiian Japanese. However, the Hawaiian military command refused to take the easier and undemocratic way of shutting them up. General Delos C. Emmons, as well as civil officials and leaders of public opinion, did all in their power to preserve the self-respect

of the Japanese residents. They applied their full force and prestige to check hysteria and violence.

This policy of trust and respect instead of mass evacuation and expressed or implied distrust and disrespect won the grateful and ardent cooperation of the entire Japanese population. The Japanese continued to produce 90 percent of the food raised on the islands and played a leading part in defense work and other occupations. They helped to make Hawaii safe from attack. Why couldn't a similar policy been applied to advantages on the west coast?

GALLUP POLL RESULTS

Gallup Poll Results, reported Dec. 30, showed 31 percent of California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada and Arizona voters as being against our return to the coast after the war. Are they in favor of betraying the democratic objectives which our nation and her allies are fighting to preserve? Do they wish to amend the Constitution of the United State to legalize exclusion solely on the basis of race?

97% of those questioned approved the Army's action in evacuating us from the coast and sending us to detention camps. Have they considered the policy adopted toward the Hawaiian Japanese and come to the conclusion? Have they realized that the evacuation cost the government millions of dollars of unnecessary expenses and robbed the national of millions of work days? Have they thought that it would have taken a great amount of sabotage by the Japanese on the west coast to equal in damage the sabotage of our relationship with allies by this wholesale evacuation? Have they known that enemy aliens by receiving hearings before civilian boards were

treated better than their fellow American citizens? Have they believed that the evacuation impaired the value of American citizenship and that all those rights and privileges guaranteed under the Constitution might be denied to them for just as poor a reason?

More than two-thirds of the voters who were opposed to allowing the Japanese to return thought that they should be sent back to Japan. Haven't they learned that Japanese Americans are American citizens and they have absolutely nothing to do with Japan? How do they expect to send a group of their own people against their will to some place they do not belong?

We are proud that our government is of the people, by the people, and for the people. We are proud that our government is based on the principles of "Liberty and Justice for All." When people think or act not in accord with these principles, we feel that the government ought to inform them of their mistakes. It is our hope that our government will try to point out to her people the significance of the issues raised by our evacuations.

JAPANESE AMERICAN COMBAT UNIT

The War Department on January 28, 1943 announced the formation of a Japanese-American combat unit of 4500 to be recruited from the ten relocation centers and points outside on the mainland and from the Hawaiian Islands.

In centers, only 1,000 offered their services. Even though volunteering was permitted only for admission to a special combat unit, the ratio here was just as high as it had been for the country as a whole where volunteering had been for gaining certain advantages. In Hawaii, where there had been no mass evacuation, 10,000 volunteered

against an expectancy of 1,500.

This situation on the islands merely suggested what would happen if loyalty was taken for granted and accepted as the prevailing fact. In fact the entire situation on the Hawaiian Islands is a dramatic illustration of the happy results of an American method of dealing with the Japanese residents.

ANTI-JAPANESE RACE BAITERS

A Congressional group, under the chairmanship of Rep. Martin Dies, began its inquiry of WRA activities on May 12. From that point on, a steady drumfire of criticism and accusation directed against the WRA and the evacuated people appeared on the press. The Dies Committee was used by anti-Japanese race baiters to discredit the WRA and raise doubts as to our loyalty.

After fifty years of name calling, scare headlines and anti-laws, these race baiters climaxed their campaign against the minority group with the wholesale evacuation. They were not satisfied with what damages they had done.

They accused the WRA of "pampering or coddling" us. A permitted maximum of 45¢ a day for food, ill-equipped one barrack room for a family or two, and extreme winter and summer weathers are hardly the atmosphere in which coddling is usually conducted. The American standard of life cannot be maintained on "board and bed" plus a cash payment of from \$8 to \$19 a month. Besides, what good are Americans without freedom even with plenty of food and comfort?

They have demanded the discharge of enlisted Japanese Americans from the U.S. Army and the continued detention of all the evacuees, including us citizens under Army, instead of civilian control.

They have clamored for the liquidation of our citizenship rights, and advocated our wholesale deportation. They have protested vigorously to our owning or leasing land or even engaging in certain types of business or professions.

Those "patriotic" organizations that pose as chief defenders of the American way have certainly violated its spirit. They have violated the Constitution of the United States by fostering race hatred. They have urged the acceptance of the Axis technique of visiting vengeance upon the innocents for the deeds of others. They have poisoned the public mind, caused disunity on our home front, and slowed down our victory drive.

THE HIRABAYASHI CASE

On June 21, the Supreme Court of the United States handed down its decision on the Hirabayashi case. Gordon Hirabayashi had been convicted of violating both the curfew and the evacuation orders. The Court held that the curfew was a valid exercise of the war power, but ruled that it was not necessary to decide the question of the evacuation orders. It was evident that the evacuation orders presented difficult questions of constitutional power, and the detention within a relocation center, even more difficult questions.

The decision of the Court, however, was of minor importance to us. We did not wish to test the legality of restraints on our freedom. We believed that the obedient, quiet cooperation with the government's plan would indicate the genuineness of our loyalty and should be accepted as our contribution and sacrifice to the war effort. Of more importance is the realization of the government and its people that the evacuation was a mistake from a standpoint of humanity if not

from a standpoint of constitutionality.

SEGREGATION PROGRAM

On June 25th, Dillon S. Myer announced Tule Lake as a segregation center. He stated that 10,000 adults and 3,000 minors would be concentrated at the Tule Lake center for the duration. 10,000 included those who had expressed their desire to go back to Japan, those who had refused to pledge their allegiance to this country, and 290 of 2802 persons who had been requested by the Japanese government to be repatriated. The plan was to start the segregation process in late July and to complete the transfers to and from Tule Lake by the end of October.

Those who were headed for Tule Lake had lost faith in America because of the evacuation and the confinement. They had become disappointed, just as some people would get discouraged if they were betrayed by others whom they had trusted. The case of their children is tragic, for they are American citizens, totally ignorant of Japan and its ways. We do hope that our government will aid many of these children as well as their parents by restoring them to American life.

RELOCATION PROBLEM

The enormous and complicated program of segregation of the disloyal from the loyal will soon be completed. Beyond that assignment lies the more constructive job of restoring the loyal to normal life. The majority of the younger evacuees who could be self-supporting had already been relocated and the future relocation plans would have to take care of family groups.

More than a year of racial segregation and living in camps--crowded, without privacy or conveniences, with inferior food and

little income and with liberties curtailed, has had its effect on our morale. We have lost the pride that kept us away from charity. We have lost our initiative and self-confidence due to lack of meaningful work. We have developed an inferiority complex. We are afraid of not being wanted, of not belonging. We are afraid to re-enter economic and social competition.

We listen to long-wave radio and read newspapers and magazines. We hear of threats of mob action; of refusals of not only resettlement privileges but also business licenses by certain states, town and community officials and groups; of public reaction to unfavorable war news and to propaganda; of publicized high costs of living; and of incidents of racial antagonism. We realize that resettlement in normal society outside is our own problem which has to be solved sooner or later. We cannot become, however, too enthusiastic about going out with bare hands and starting from scratch in some new community where we may face social ostracism, economic barrier, or even physical assault.

We realize that our tragedy will increase every day of our stay in camps. We do not desire to remain in this extraordinary institution. We are willing to go out to meet the struggles and our uncertain future only if the American people have faith in us -- if they remove forever the fear, distrust and discrimination which have prevented our being fully accepted as their comrades and if they insist on fair and just treatment of their fellow citizens.

We have fulfilled conscientiously and patriotically every responsibility and obligation of American citizenship. We have demonstrated by actions the definite and convincing proof of our

loyalty. We do not believe what we request in return is not out of order in America.

AMERICA'S RESPONSIBILITIES

America is at present leading democratic nations in the war against tyranny and oppression. She will occupy a strong and honorable position in the post-war world of peace and security. Resolving her domestic racial problems in the light of the democratic principles will be her initial step in building up the new world.

Consequently, the restoration of our rights and privileges of American citizenship is not only America's obligation to us who have been unjustly treated but also her contribution to the new world which will look to America for leadership. To meet her obligation, she has to educate the people on the ideas of democracy and freedom; to make her contribution, she has to demonstrate to the nations abroad that all nations of different races can be welded into one democratic world just as all races have been welded into one democratic nation.

America was founded and built up into one great republic by many patriots on the principles of freedom, equality, justice and humanity. Americans of today have responsibilities to uphold those principles for which their forefathers had lived and fought and died. Many Americans are fighting overseas to uphold those principles. It is up to those staying behind not to break down what had been built up through the glorious pages of American history and what their sons, brothers, husbands and fathers are overseas defending with their lives. It is a necessity, therefore, for our government to remind her people of these eternal truths of America.

THE PRESIDENT'S PROMISE

President Roosevelt has promised that we shall be returned to our homes on the coast just as soon as the military necessity ceases. We are looking forward to the fulfillment of his promise in the very near future, since it became known that the military necessity never existed on the west coast to the extent of requiring mass evacuation.

General DeWitt was quoted by the Associated Press as having said: "It makes no difference whether the Japanese is theoretically a citizen .. Giving him a scrap of paper won't change him... A Jap is a Jap." Secretary Stimson's letter openly stated that the evacuation was an alternative preferable to mob violence. The evacuation, if caused by race prejudice and fear of mob violence, is a disgrace to our American democracy. In the midst of an all-out war for democracy, America will begin immediately to rectify her mistakes.

After the segregation program is completed, all suspicious persons will be combed out and segregated under guard. Our loyalty has been tested frequently and is now an established fact. How can any loyal person be a threat to his country anywhere at any time? We are welcome to join our armed forces and fight for our country. We are permitted to go out and help out on our home front. Why can't we be trusted to do our job just as well on the west coast?

Japanese American soldiers have shown in action those qualities of loyalty and devotion worthy of the American soldiers. Those boys in the 100th Battalion are demonstrating in Italy what Japanese Americans are really made of. Those in the 442nd Unit at Camp Shelby

have shown that they too have the making of good American soldiers. On the strength of the remarkable showing of all these boys, the right to serve our country through selective service is expected to be restored to us in due course.

On June 1, 1943 Dillon S. Myer announced that not a single act of sabotage or other subversive conduct had been charged against 14,000 evacuees who had been released by the centers to resettle or to take short term jobs. They have done a magnificent job of relieving labor shortage. Their participation in harvesting sugar beets and other much needed crops is worthy of special recognition.

If the selective service is to be restored to us on the strength of the showings of our volunteers, the freedom of movement will be restored to us on the strength of the showings of our pioneers on the mainland and of the Japanese residents in Hawaii.

As we look back, we seem to have lost everything dear in our life. Our family life was disrupted; our business and professions were gone; our savings and securities were lost; our rights and privileges were denied. We have learned much of sorrow and suffering. We have witnessed more of tragedy and sacrifice. We wonder if any other group would have taken such a beating as gracefully as we did -- with little complaints and without deviating from loyalty to our country.

However, we still have our citizenship, our ideals and our future. Our President has said: "The principle has always been governed by that Americanism is a matter of the mind and heart; Americanism is not, and never was, a matter of race or ancestry." We have the support of that American way by many men in our armed

forces, by many students, by influential journals and by a host of religious, social and labor organizations. We may say with confidence that there are more for us than against us.

"The United Nations are fighting to make a world in which tyranny and aggression cannot exist: a world based upon freedom, equality and justice: a world in which all persons regardless of race, color or creed may live in peace, honor and dignity." This statement by President Roosevelt convinces us that we can look forward to the time when we shall regain our rightful places as free men in a land of free people.

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As I look back now and reminisce those trying days at the center and contemplate the disappointing and unpleasant experiences, I recognize them as blessings in disguise. All the tears we shed seem to be the very moisture the "Tree of Happiness" needed to bear its fruits. What made our life miserable and painful were caused by the thorns on the side of the road to the "Land of Happiness".

Today, we the Japanese Americans are living happily in the promised land as promised by President Roosevelt. After the war, American people have been simply wonderful by accepting us as their fellow citizens and making us feel at home in our homeland.

AMERICAN CITIZEN

The Japanese American Citizens League has developed over a period of six years a plan to call for Congressional redress of the World War II incarceration of 110,000 Japanese Americans. The plan is to present the program to the American public through media events and then to have a redress bill introduced in Congress. As an American citizen and not as a Japanese American, I would like to express my opinion on the subject.

During the World War II, Japanese Americans appealed to our Supreme Court for decisions on the Evacuation and the Confinement of 110,000 American citizens without fair trials. The Court declared that evacuation of a group of American citizens without fair trials under national emergency is constitutional, but it declared that confinement definitely is unconstitutional under any circumstances.

However, when North Korea invaded South Korea, we became concerned about communism conspiracy. Those were the days of marches, demonstrations, riots and violence. Congress passed a bill making the confinement of American citizens without trials constitutional. Several years ago, our Congress had second thoughts on the bill and repealed it.

The Court decision and the action by our Congress demonstrate clearly that the confinement of American citizens in relocation centers during the World War II was a mistake constitutionally and morally. We are making another mistake of greater magnitude by not rectifying the first mistake. We should have initiated a move to rectify the mistake by compensating those unfortunate and innocent victims of our wrong doings before they embark on their campaign to ask for redress.

An American citizen has been imprisoned for four years for no crime committed and without any trial but for a simple reason that his distant relative committed an unexcusable crime. He suffered financial loss when he had to liquidate his properties on a short notice at the time of his imprisonment. Not only he lost freedom for four years, but also he spent his four prime years in idleness. Concurrently, he lost his personal income for four years. He faces great difficulty of adjusting to normal life. If he is not compensated for what he has gone through in our country of democracy, how do we expect to be the champion of Human Rights. Is there any difference between Democracy and Communism?

The Japanese American Citizens League with a membership of 30,000 is willing to spend a million dollars for the primary reason of preventing occurrence of a similar shameful and undemocratic incident. Glorious American history does not need another ugly chapter. For a government representing more than 200 million people, the monetary cost should not be of any concern when its reputation is at stake and our Democracy is being tested.

Today, America, led by President Carter, is the champion of Human Rights. We are making beautiful and attractive "window displays" by accepting 150,000 Vietnamese refugees, making commitment to receive many more in the future, agreeing to take in almost all Cuban political prisoners and welcoming many immigrants. We should make "indoor displays" just as beautiful by taking care of our own unfortunate, especially innocent, victims of our wrong-doings.

Skeletons in our closet will not rot away in time. Time will not remove those ugly chapters in our history. But we can make these chapters less ugly or hopefully by a successful handling of the incident, the unfortunate episode may turn out to be a shining example how beautifully our democracy works. The ugly chapter may turn out to be the most beautiful in American History. We should act conscientiously in accord with the basic principles of democracy upon which our nation was founded and preserved for over 200 years and will be looked upon by the entire world to lead in the pursuit of Peace and Prosperity.

The treatment of Japanese Americans during World War II was our mistake. Not doing anything about the mistake is another mistake. Two wrongs do not make a right. It is never too late to right a wrong. Besides, it is far better to be Late than Never.