

August 10, 1981-Los Angeles

Joan Bernstein  
Chair  
Commission on the Wartime Relocation  
and Internment of Civilians  
2020 New Executive Office Building  
726 Jackson Place N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20506

Dear Joan Bernstein:

Last June Hugh Mitchell, a member of the commission you chair, was handed two letters by the Seattle Community Committee on Redress/Reparations.

One letter asked that Gordon Hirabayashi be placed on the agenda of the hearings in Washington, D.C.. One letter asked that I be placed on the same agenda.

Senator Mitchell had delivered both letters to your staff director, Mr. Paul Bannai. Mr. Bannai delivered Hirabayashi's letter but not mine to the staff.

I called Tom Taketa and am convinced I was penalized by the incompetence and the prejudice of the JACL members of your staff.

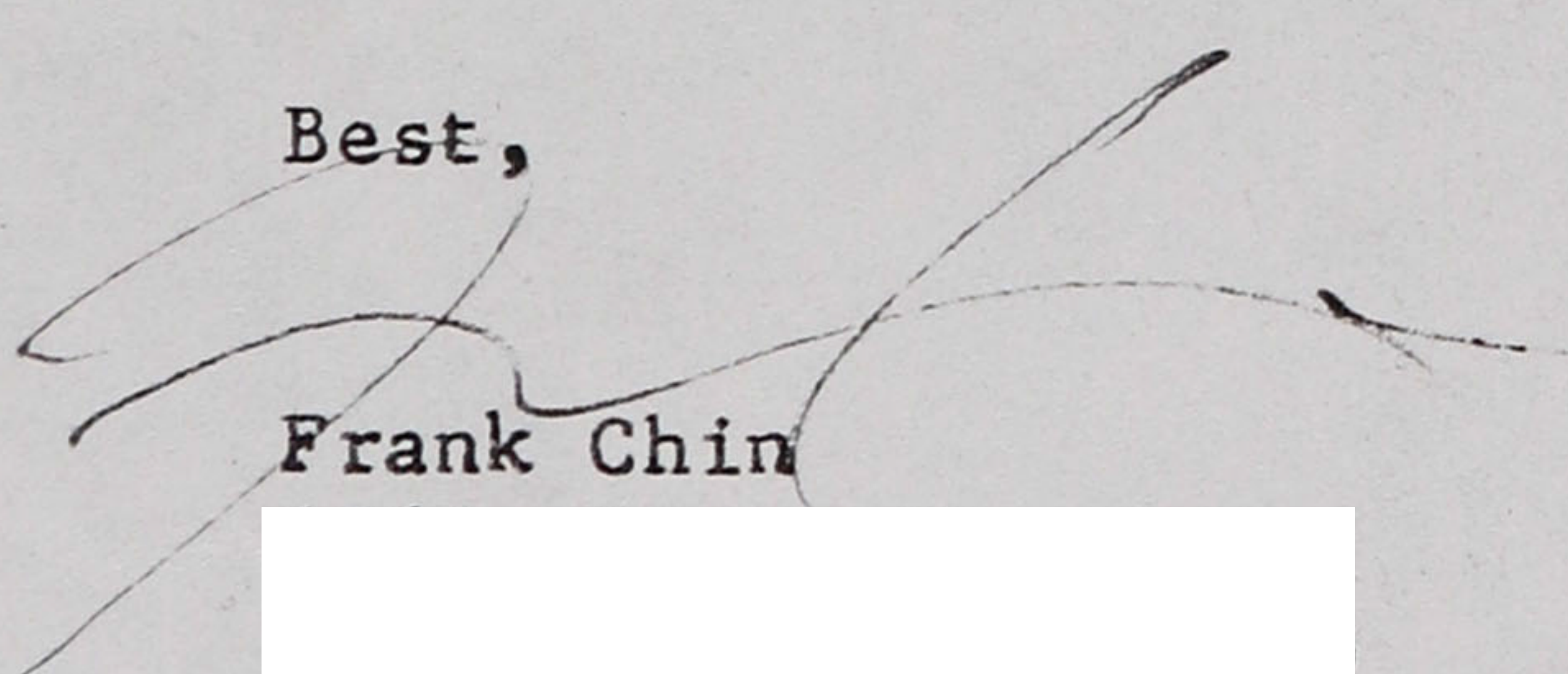

I am a writer and scholar in Asian American literature, culture and history. I have recovered much Nikkei writing from the camps and the period before the camps. I, with my colleagues, Jeffrey Paul Chan, Lawson Fusao Inada and Shawn Hsu Wong reissued the Nikkei classic, "No-No Boy," by the late John Okada.

I am currently under contract to Howard University Press for a book on the impact of the evacuation and internment on the ethical integrity, literary and linguistic development of the Japanese Americans.

I believe my research will ~~help~~ add to the commission's understanding of the damage suffered by the Nikkei because of the evacuation and internment.

Please accept this as my formal request to be placed on the agenda of the commission hearings in Seattle.

Best,

  
Frank Chin  


cc: Bannai  
Taketa  
Community Comm. on Redress/Reparations:Seattle.