

March 24, 1980

Dear Frank,

I'm sending you all sorts of things that I had Xeroxed, Jack and some of my friends have been good enough to save these newspaper articles for me while I was gone on my trip to the East Coast. It sure was a great trip and everyone accepted me and my presentation so well. They were very impressed with the slides and they liked the way we put them together with the music and the narrating. This fella named Philip Nash coordinated everything for me as he is a student at the New York University School of Law and they were the ones who were having the ZLaw Day program. They also had Gordon Hirabayashi and one of the Professors of the Law School as speakers on the panel. Mr. Ennis of the ACLU was supposed to appear on the program with us but somehow, things got a bit confused and the communications was bad and he didn't show up. But William Hohri of Chicago heard about the thing and showed up and asked for time on the program, which they were happy to give to him so they could hear his side of the story too. William has a daughter studying in New York so he had reason to go to New York and he seemed very pleased that he was able to make his appearance on the program. He could not stay for the JACL program that was held on Sunday since he had to get to Washington DC for the Senate hearing on Redress.

I also went to the Campus at the University of Mass. at Amherst and did the presentation for the Asian American Studies Group there. Had a chance to see my old friend, Robert Suzuki and his wife, who were also very good friends of my brother, Edison. They are very much interested in Redress and wanted to know what they could do to help in the cause and I think they can organize a very good group in the Eastern part of the country for NCJAR. I'll get their address for you in my next correspondence to you. I know they gave me one of his business cards and it's in amongst all of my things that I haven't had the time to go through yet but as soon as I can find it, I'll send it on to you so you can get in touch with them yourself and send some info on the NCJAR and have them help you organize a group out that way. Then, I also went to the U of Michigan at Ann Arbor and did a presentation for the A/A Students group there. They too, are very much interested in getting involved with the Redress issue and would be interested in the NCJAR rather than the JACL commission route. I have been talking up the Lowry Bill everywhere I have been and it seems the people are more interested in it than the Commission so I do feel that we can really work on getting a good deal of groups to join us and we should organize a very strong coalition as soon as we can. I have a feeling they are going to be asking me to go back to the East Coast to do more presentations and the big interest seems to be in Redress/Reparations so I have to include this in all of my talks. I wish I knew just how you folks feel toward William Hohri, I understand that you had some misunderstandings or something and that's not good for the cause. After all, we're all working toward the same ultimate goal and we should not have any bad blood between us. We need unity and a good understanding between us all. I just developed a new slide presentation on Redress/Reparations that my son, Ken helped me set to music and it is very stirring. I had a chance to show it a few times while back East and they all liked it very much. I would like to offer it to you and your group for use with the understanding that I go with it.

The Redress Dinner at the Boneventure last Saturday evening was very interesting. A good many of us got up and walked out when S.I. Hayakawa was introduced and others walked out during his speech, which made it very obvious he was not liked or respected, and he got a lot of boos for the crowd. He was shamed into leaving early for I'm sure that if he had stayed till the end of the dinner, he would have been rushed by the crowd and possibly beaten up. It took everything in me to keep from tossing stuff into his face when I got up close to him!!!!

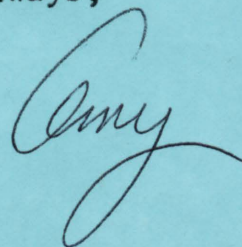
Before I forget, I must tell you, the people on the East Coast are very curious as to what the Japanese on the Pacific Coast, mainly in California, are going to do about S.I. and his popping off as he does and they also want to know what alternative there might be to the JACL plan and how they can get involved. I feel it is very important for someone to make some good contacts on behalf of the NCJAR and do some PR on it to get more people involved. I could mention many names of people who are interested and would want to get involved. I'm pretty sure we can get some of these people to cough up some money for the cause to help us. What do you think??? So many of them feel as I do: they say that S.I. and the JACL is going to sell us down the river and we won't have a chance of getting a thing in the form of reparations. I think we need to organize to counter the JACL, get all of the non-JACL'ers involved and those who are interested in the direct payment plan. I'm sure there are thousands of them out there and all we need to do is to get out and find them and recruit them, now.

What has your group got planned for the future? I'd certainly like being kept abreast of what's happening with the NCJAR. Meantime, I'll try and keep sending you articles of interest from down this way. I have an apartment at the Tokyo Towers in Little Tokyo which is really great and any of you are welcomed to come and stay there any time. It makes a great place for me to have my office and I spend my daytime hours there. When I have meetings to attend in the community and it gets late, I just stay at the Towers and it's really great. It has cooking facilities and a private bathroom with a nice living room and one bedroom. I don't have much in the way of furnishings but I can sleep as many as three or four there so it's nice.

I've been grateful that my health has been holding up. This trip to the East Coast didn't seem to hurt me at all and I'm already thinking that I'd like to do it again real soon. Sure would like to make it up to the Seattle area again if there were something going on. I hope to make it to Tule Lake in the middle of May if I get invited.

This is about it for now, please give my best regards to everyone up that way, including Henry Miyatake and Emi Somekawa. Hi to Kathy and Karen, et al. Jack and the family here send their regards to you too. Can I expect to hear from you again soon?

Always,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Amy".