

AMY UNO ISHII

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Dearest Karen,

Thank you ever so much for sending me all the material that you did. It all arrived in time for our Redress/Reparations Conference on the 16th and we had a very good turnout in spite of the rains. I think we had about 150 to 200 in all including Isseis, lots of Niseis and Sanseis. The Committee worked real hard on planning it and everything turned out really well. Everyone did say that the best part of the program was my media presentation which only took about ten minutes of the time but they were so impressed with the slides and the audio portion of it. What we did was, we had several people get together at one of the meetings and we put on tape, all sorts of sayings using both male and female voices in English and Japanese. Then we put slides together to kinda match what was being said and added the music. It was a lot of work for such a short program but very effective. After that, we had several people speak on the different positions of Redress. Karl Nobuyuki spoke on the JACL position and of the Commission. I spoke on behalf of the NCJAR and talked of the Seattle position and H.R. 5977 and Lillian Nakano spoke on behalf of the LTPRO and talked of their position. After that, we had a good question and answer session before breaking up into eight different work groups for an hour. From there, we all came back and summarized the whole meeting and came away all agreeing that we were all working toward the same end result: REDRESS. It looks very much like the JACL is backing off of the money portion of the thing for they don't even mention Reparations and keep skirting around the issue of the monetary payment. Karl was very much upset with me for saying some of the things that I did and he objected to the fact that I said that Edison was very much involved with the Seattle group right up till the time of his death. Karl insists that Edison was working with the JACE and for the JACL and had nothing to do with the ideas of the Seattle group. Many of the people said that Karl

seemed to show some anger and displeasure toward me. I'm very glad that he does for it proves to me that he is afraid of me. I'm not afraid to argue with him and I keep reminding him that he is young enough to be one of my own children for I can remember very well when he and his brother went to Maryknoll School when my children went there back in the '50's. So, as far as I'm concerned, he is still wet behind the ears and has no clout with me.

I'm sending you a few things that might be of interest. The article in the Rafu about the Seattle Internment-Redress Conference was really quite something!!!!!! The Xerox copy of the article came out better than the original, even the photo of Rep. Mike Lowry!!! And, I thought it was great of Dwight to give you folks that much space in the Rafu!!! I'm going to write him a Letter to the Editor and applaud him for giving your group that much space in the Rafu, especially to be able to at least give your version of Redress/Reparations and allow people to know that there are others who think differently than the JACL. I know it puts many people who belong to the JACL in a very difficult position for I'm sure there are many who can go for the Seattle position more than the JACL position. By the way, that's a fantastic photo of Mike Lowry taken by John Harada. Is John Harada from Seattle? Would it be possible to get a copy (black and white glossy) sent to me to be used for future news release? Even a small copy of the photo is fine for we can always get it enlarged or reprinted if I had a good original to work from. Our son, Ken, has a copy camera and is home to do a lot of my work for me.

Along with the Seattle article, I'm sending you another article from the Rafu dated 2/11/80 regarding the Assembly Centers. Remember when I was up that way for the Days of Remembrance a couple of years ago, I took along with me a copy of the Assembly Joint Resolution No. 47. I think I gave it to either Frank Abe or Henry Miyatake but just in case you don't remember, I thought I would enclose another copy of it in with this material that I'm sending to you. It might be interesting to see what happens with it and you might want it as part of your informational material to keep on file. I will try and keep sending you all

kinds of material from time to time as they come available to me. Meantime, I hope you folks will do the same for me for I would be interested in any and all material regarding the internment and or Redress/Reparations. I shall also try and keep in closer touch with William Hohri in Chicago too.

The last part of 1979 was very bad one for me as I had all kinds of problems, both physical and emotional but I think we have things pretty much in control now and I am looking forward to 1980 being a good year for me and one in which I hope to get a lot of things done. I have finally started on a book and am feeling real good about getting it started, the only thing is, there just isn't enough time in one day to work on it and there are days that I'm so frustrated because I want to spend some time at the typewriter and just can't because of so many other committments. The rainy weather has helped a lot for it keeps me in doors much more and I can spend more time writing. It sure is awful when I get started for my mind is going so fast that I can't put my thoughts down fast enough!!! There are times that I get so excited about writing that I can't eat or sleep for days. Having this apartment at the Tokyo Towers has been great too for I can get away from the house and family for a few days at a time and work by myself. Both Jack and Ken are as excited about my getting started on a book as I am. I only hope my health will hold up long enough for me to get the book finished so I can leave it completed for my family.

This is about all for now, I will write again when there is something news worthy. Please give my very best to Frank, Kathy, Henry, Emi, Ron, David and all the others. I'll be going to the East Coast on the 12th. of March for a week. Is there anything that I can do for your group while there? I'm going to be speaking for the Asian American Law Students Association in New York City, then going up to Amhearst to speak for a day, then over to Detroit Michigan to speak to a group there and back to New York and LA. I want to be back by the 22nd of March to attend the Redress dinner at the Bonaventure. Hate having to put up a hundred bucks for the dinner but I'm involved with the Redress issue and want to see just what the five Nikkei legislators are going to have to say about it.

As far as I am concerned, the JACL concept of Redress/Reparations is not good at all for those of us who were interned. That whole Commission idea is awful, I don't like it and don't think it will benefit us in any way and it is going to take much too many months and years for them to get the Commission formed and working. By that time, all of the Isseis will be dead and gone and those Niseis who are still alive will be so old and discouraged that they won't even want it. I often wonder what Edison would have thought of this Commission idea??? I think I will try and get in touch with his family and see if they can give me some information of just what and how Edison thought. I do know that he was all for Reparations for many years and had given a lot of thought as to what way it should be approached. I'm wondering if he had a file amongst his things on this subject that I might be able to get a hold of and study? I'll try writing to his wife and daughter. Maybe I can see them when I go up to the Tule Lake Pilgrimage in May. I might have some time to go up to see them over the Easter vacation but I'm not too sure about that yet.

These were just a few thoughts that I thought I would jot down while I was writing to you. Hope you didn't mind my taking up so much of your time. My typing still hasn't improved at all but I'm slowly working on it with hopes that I can get better at it in time. Again, thanks for everything and regards to all.

Always —
Amy