



National Council
for Japanese American Redress

925 West Diversey Parkway, Chicago, Illinois 60614

May 18, 1980

Dear Frank,

Thanks for writing.

I've talked to Aiko Herzig & Sillion Nakano about the meeting in L.A. There is a problem of weddings. Nakano's son is getting married on June 29th and Aiko's daughter on July 5th. We have a big meeting scheduled for June 22nd. My suggestion to Sillion was that we try for the 4th of July weekend. Though Aiko will be busy, I'll be there.

The meeting last weekend in L.A. was encouraging. The people are much more sympathetic to the Lawry bill. Only JACLers support the Study. I'm waiting for Ruight Chuman's story. I met him for the first time as well as Frank Chin and Susan Kawase and almost everyone else. People were friendly. A group of us met in the evening at Jim Matsumoto's home, including Frank, Amy, the Nakanos, and others whose names I didn't get or don't remember. Frank explained his devil's advocate role in the Seattle forum. I thought it was well conceived. Too bad people got so upset. Maybe Frank should write it into a play so it would be less threatening. The need for catharsis seems real.

He also went into his idea of testifying before the Study Commission in order to disprove the idea that the camps were humane. After listening to him, I disagreed.

I argued that this might open a Pandora's box. Perhaps people would feel obliged to prove they were treated inhumanely. I feel the denial of physical freedom to humans is inhumane. Perhaps the government would conclude that redress should be based on inhumane treatment. The more we discussed, the more I became nervous about the whole business of testifying before a Commission - why? Why is it necessary? What is it we must prove?

We finally seemed to arrive at a consensus - during a period when Frank was out of the room - that we would testify under protest and that we would picket outside the hearings. But no formal action was taken.

The JACL presence at the LACRR meeting was a joke. Ron Wakabayashi kept saying he didn't know much because he'd only had the job a few weeks. That's just dumb. Then after my sharp attack on the JACL for entrapment, ~~to~~ cowardice, and deception, he replied by saying that since he was not that involved in the JACL (personally, I guess), the attack didn't bother him. Phil Shigetani had to rebut. But Phil claimed that the JACL only passed vague guidelines that didn't really commit to monetary redress. So I read the guidelines to the audience. (Later, I read a letter Phil wrote to the L.A. Times in which he states the guidelines support monetary redress. The letter was in response to Shozuke's article.

By the way, are you getting married? When & where?

Peace,

W. H. H.