

WASHINGTON COALITION ON REDRESS - MEETING MINUTES - JULY 27, 1983

ATTENDANCE: Chuck Kato, Chairperson, Peter Okada, Isamu Yamada, Thomas Hattori, Chizu Omori, Ken Okuma, Karen Seirouchi, Ken Nakano, Sam Shoji, Mark Uomoto, Ted Matsumoto, Jr., Lloyd Hara, Massie Tomita, Theresa Takayoshi

Meeting was called to order by Chair Chuck Kato at 7:45 p. m.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer reported that we have \$5000.00 in the treasury.

Karen asked for and was given permission to have fund cans out at the Puyallup Memorial Dedication.

Karen also proposed selling T shirts at the International District Festival on Sunday, July 31.

Chuck gave summary of Senate Judiciary Committee today July 27. Sen. Grassley heads the Committee. Testimonies by: A sansel from Claremont College - spoke against the Commission, said it was biased, took things out of perspective, Commission report did more harm to the Japanese American community, etc. Lundgren - was very smooth, usual objections - what about Chinese, blacks, Native Americans, etc. Lillian Baker - erratic. John Tateishi was good, better presentation than Ron Ikejiri, but was a little fuzzy in answering "What if Congress does not accept individual payments, what would be acceptable?" Angus McBeth - not that polished.

Mineta and Matsunaga's aides attended entire hearing. Matsui's not present. Inouye's aide only briefly attended.

Received letter from John Tateishi saying National wants to go with Mineta/Wright bill but, encouraged us to go with the Lawry Bill if we wish because we need all the sponsors we can get.

Cherry has contacted: Al Swift through A. A. Drew Pettus. He said Swift thought Lawry bill was a good bill, a fair bill, but did not want to co-sign until he could be sure it would pass. She pointed out that he wouldn't be able to support any bill on that basis, and he agreed it wasn't a good argument. He said he heard it floated around that the idea of a foundation only concept was being considered. Could not pinpoint the source.

Congressman Sid Morrison: Talked to Debbie Fischione. Morrison is opposed to the bill the way it is now written. Amount of money is too high. Asked if he supported the principle of the injustice, etc. She said it was primarily the money. Cherry always asks if they have any questions about the bill or the issue and from there gets into a little educating. She guessed that the aide was of Italian descent and pointed out the discrepancies in treatment, which she could understand.

Congressman Don Bonker: She talked to Dan Evans who said Bonker was not in the past in favor of the monetary concept. Did not feel money was the appropriate response. "Any economic hardship that was experienced have been resolved by now..." She asked, "In what way?" He couldn't answer this and added that Bonker feels some kind of national action is appropriate, but... She urged him and he agreed to get a copy of Personal Justice Denied and a copy of the bill to study it. (Heard later in the day from Ruthann that he called and asked for a copy of the bill.)

Congressman Foley: She talked to Heather Foley (his wife) who is A. A. she said Foley was ill in the hospital and they would not be taking up this issue for a while. When Cherry stressed our disappointment that co-sponsors from California as well as many other states states where they didn't even have a constituency of over 13,000 who were affected, had signed on, but none from Washington she said it wasn't important, that it was important to get the members of the Judiciary Committee. She said Thad Lightfoot would be handling this particular issue.

Congressman Joel Pritchard: Talked to Russ Hokanson who said Pritchard does not plan to co-sponsor. Money not appropriate. Waited to see what Commission recommendations were, but feels some sort of apology is necessary. Urged him to review CWRIC report and discuss with Pritchard again.

We must write to Congresspersons to support Lowry bill. He has 41 co-sponsors to date.

Lloyd gave report on NCRR-JACL-WCR bills. Bert Nakano of NCRR would like to see us all be in accord on any action.

Chuck is going to speak at Vancouver, B. C. on American Perspective on Mon. Aug. 1. This is a Japanese Canadian Seafair type thing.

Sam reported on: Chuck's response to the KOMO editorial since Chuck is too modest to take the credit for it. You did a great job Chuck we really appreciate your efforts.

About the Hunt High School reunion and how they did not use the event for anything but fun and to get together. Sam felt the group should have said something about redress.

Chiz gave a report on Cranston get together sponsored by King Co. Democratic Committee on July 4.

It was proposed that someone be sent to Washington D. C. for the House hearings on the CWRIC Report. Theresa said that she would go since she will be in Indianapolis at that time and the fare would be cheaper. Coalition agreed.

Respectfully submitted by: Theresa Takayoshi