

MINUTES OF THE WASHINGTON COALITION ON REDRESS - February 23, 1983

Attendance" Chuck Kato (Chairperson), Cherry Kinoshita, Karen Seriguchi, Tom Scott, Jane Yambe, Chiz Omori, Tom Nakao, Jim Egawa, Massie Tomita, Theresa Takayoshi, Sam Shoji.

Meeting Called to Order by Chuck Kato at 7:35 p.m.

Minutes of January 26, 1983 approved. Treasurer's report given showing \$6,650 as current balance. Donations from the Asian Law Association and Henry Itoi were reported. Treasurer's report accepted.

Day of Remembrance - February 19, 1983 - Report given by Chuck Kato on the "E.O. 9066 Fun Run" held at Seward Park. Approximately 200 runners participated as well as many other observers who came to cheer on the runners. It was felt that event was successful and it might be held as an annual event if interest continues. Members of the committee are to be commended for their efforts and the work well done.

Following the "E.O. 9066 Fun Run" a community gathering at the Nisei Veterans Hall was held. Over 200 persons came to this meeting to hear Congressman Mike Lowry speak on redress for the Japanese Americans and the Japanese nationals living permanently in the United States. Kathryn Bannai spoke on the subject of Coram Nobis and about the cases which have been filed in federal court on behalf of Gordon Hirabayashi, Fred Korematsu and Minoru Yasui. She is the attorney for Gordon Hirabayashi. (This meeting was a "pot-luck" with community members providing food for the luncheon buffet).

Speech Workshop - Joanne Yamachi, Ph.D., will be in Seattle on March 13, 1983 to conduct a workshop that is focused on individuals to develop an effective manner and style when making public presentations. This is an effort to help WCR organize a speakers bureau for the purpose of talking with the public on the issues of World War II evacuation and the redress issues. This workshop is being re-scheduled for this date after being postponed earlier. WCR has previously approved expending some funds for the expenses. Those attending will be assessed a fee to help pay for the costs also. Karen Seriguchi will firm up the details and contact members of WCR.

Rep. Lowry's Bill on Redress - Cherry Kinoshita gave an update on the preparation and progress of this Bill. It may be introduced in the House of Representatives in March. There is a need to line up support on this Bill from other members of the House.

Senate Bill on Redress - Cherry Kinoshita reported that a similar Bill to that of Rep. Lowry will be introduced to the U.S. Senate by Senator Alan Cranston of California. Chuck Kato will contact Bert Nakano, CCRR, to find out what the situation is in that area on this matter. Senator Cranston will be in Seattle on March 19, 1983 to meet with community people. She will get notice and publicity out for this meeting.

Redress Issues - Discussion held on various plans and strategies

needed to support the redress bills and legislative efforts. Some of the ideas expressed were:

1. Publicize the issues in various medias when the Bill(s) is introduced in the House and in the Senate.
2. Write to co-sponsors of the Rep. Lowry's Bill to express appreciation and to ask them to seek additional support from other members of the House of Representatives.
3. Send "mail-outs" to local JACL Chapters in the United States to seek their help in contacting congressional members in their own state to get them to support the redress bills.
4. Contact a variety of national organizations to seek their support on redress and the Bills.
5. Get a list of the senators supporting the Senate Redress Bill (Senator Cranston's Bill) and write to them to express appreciation as well asking for their continued support in seeking other senators for support and co-sponsorship.

Motion - Theresa Takayoshi made a motion and seconded by Chiz Omori that a letter be written to the editor of the Rafu Shimpō and distributed to other newspapers to announce the introduction of Senator Cranston's Bill and to seek national support for its passage. Motion was passed.

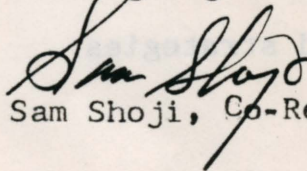
State of Washington Bill for Compensation - Cherry Knoshita reported on the progress of this Bill for payment of a sum to Japanese Americans who were employed by the State of Washington at the outbreak of World War II and were forced to leave or resign their jobs due to the evacuation and/or oppression imposed upon them. The Bill will be placed on the Senate floor soon by Senator George Fleming of Seattle. Thanks to Sen. Fleming and support seeking passage is being requested.

War Relocation and Internment of Civilians - Chuck Kato reported that the preliminary report has been completed and will be made public on February 24, 1983. No recommendation to resolve payment has been made in the report but a recommendation on this part will be done by June 30, 1983. The report does show clearly the error that was committed by the U.S. Government when Japanese American were incarcerated.

Symposium on Incarceration and Redress - Chiz Omori reported that a symposium is being held in Salt Lake City, Utah, March 10-13, 1983. WCR has not been invited to attend other than this is to be an open meeting to the public. No details known other than people from all part of the U.S. may be attending.

WCR Volunteer Theresa Takayoshi and Karen Seriguchi will be participating in a school project of Lindbergh High, Renton to discuss the evacuation and internment of Japanese Americans during WW II.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.



Sam Shoji, Co-Recorder