

**COMMISSION ON WARTIME RELOCATION  
AND INTERNMENT OF CIVILIANS**



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**COMMISSION REQUESTS ADDITIONAL FUNDS, TIME  
TO STUDY EFFECTS OF WORLD WAR II EVACUATION**

The Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians has requested that Congress appropriate additional funds up to the full \$1.5 million authorized, and extend the Commission's life until June 30, 1983 to enable it to complete studies and investigations which it could not otherwise undertake.

The Commission was created by Congress in 1980 to inquire into the facts and circumstances surrounding Executive Order 9066 issued by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on February 19, 1942, review U.S. military directives pursuant to the Executive Order which required relocation and detention in camps of persons of Japanese ancestry, and to make recommendations regarding redress. The Congress authorized the expenditure of \$1.5 million for the Commission's work at the time the statute establishing it was passed, but only \$1 million was appropriated.

Since beginning its work, the Commission has held twenty days of hearings throughout the nation and heard more than 750 witnesses. It has also conducted an extensive search and review of archival materials that set out the course of governmental decision-making and the outside opinions and pressures that were brought to bear on government during World War II.

In letters to House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill and Senate President Pro-tempore Strom Thurmond, Commission Chairperson Joan Z. Bernstein said the Commission's present budget and reporting date would enable it to provide Congress with a competent and thoughtful record and report, but would not enable it to provide the work on the long-term impact of the evacuation which would complete the investigation and evaluation which the Commission has undertaken.

"We cannot undertake the studies of economic losses and long-term impairment of psychic health and well-being...which a full account should

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include," Bernstein said. "These require the hiring of a variety of experts and the collection of data and information which are beyond the Commission's present budgetary ability. Review and analysis of land assessment records on the West Coast, the information and records compiled through the operation of the Japanese-American Evacuation Claims Act, and a professional review of the literature on the sociological and psychological impact of the evacuation and detention are among the basic items which would have to be undertaken in order to complete this job. In addition, we are unlikely to have the funds which would allow a mass printing of the hearing record."

More than 120,000 Japanese Americans, Aleut native Americans, and Japanese nationals were evacuated and detained in camps in remote areas during World War II as a result of Executive Order 9066.