

G0433

R N

AM-REPARATIONS,460

HS1

BY CLARE WOOD

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

SAN FRANCISCO -- JAPANESE-AMERICAN VETERANS, AMONG THE MOST DECORATED IN WORLD WAR II, TESTIFIED TUESDAY AT A FEDERAL HEARING THAT THEY FOUGHT FOR THE UNITED STATES WHILE THEIR FAMILIES WERE INTERNED.

THE HEARING, ONE OF SERIES OF NATIONWIDE FORUMS, IS TO HELP DETERMINE WHETHER COMPENSATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THOSE INTERNED IN THE UNITED STATES.

OF THE 300 PEOPLE IN THE AUDIENCE, SOME WERE WORLD WAR II VETERANS WHO FOUGHT OVERSEAS WHILE CITIZENS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY SPENT THE WAR YEARS IN CAMPS UNDER A PRESIDENTIAL ORDER,

OBSTENSIBLY AS A SAFEGUARD WHILE THE UNITED STATES BATTLED JAPAN.

ONE OF THOSE TESTIFYING WAS KARL G. YONEDA, A RETIRED LONGSHOREMAN FROM SAN FRANCISCO AND A VETERAN OF THE 442ND REGIMENT, WHICH WAS DUBBED THE "GO FOR BROKE" UNIT BECAUSE OF ITS MEMBERS' DARING. IT WAS THE MOST-DECORATED UNIT OF WORLD WAR II.

YONEDA SAID HIS FAMILY UNDERWENT INTERNMENT BECAUSE "WE HAD NO CHOICE BUT...TO ACCEPT THE RACIST U.S. DICTUM" IF THE ALLIES WERE TO WIN THE WAR.

MINORU YASUI, HEAD OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR REDRESS OF THE JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE, SAID HIS GROUP HOPES THE HEARINGS WILL RESULT IN "AN OFFICIAL RECORD OF WHAT HAPPENED, A COMMITTEE TO RECOMMEND MONETARY COMPENSATION AND (A WAY) TO DEVISE A MECHANISM SO THIS THING WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN."

MOST OF THE FORMER RESIDENTS OF THE INTERNMENT CAMPS WHO

MOST OF THE FORMER RESIDENTS OF THE INTERNMENT CAMPS WHO TESTIFIED TUESDAY ASKED FOR COMPENSATION.

THE HEARING WILL CONTINUE WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY. TESTIMONY HAS BEEN GIVEN IN WASHINGTON AND LOS ANGELES. OTHER HEARINGS ARE SCHEDULED FOR SEATTLE, ANCHORAGE, THE ALEUTIAN ISLANDS, THE PRIBILOF ISLANDS AND CHICAGO.

THE COMMISSION ON WARTIME RELOCATION AND INTERNMENT OF CIVILIANS IS CONDUCTING THE HEARINGS.

THE COMMISSION IS TO MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO CONGRESS BY JAN. 15.

ON TUESDAY, BORIS T. PASH, A RETIRED ARMY COLONEL AND FORMER CHIEF OF COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE FROM 1940-43, TESTIFIED THAT THE INTERNMENT WAS "AN HONEST EFFORT" TO INSURE SECURITY ON THE WEST COAST.

THE JAPANESE-AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE, A 30,000-MEMBER GROUP, LOBBIED FOR THE HEARINGS.

THE NATIONAL COALITION FOR REDRESS AND REPARATIONS IS DEMANDING \$25,000 TO EACH VICTIM, FOR A TOTAL OF \$3 BILLION. THE JAACL HAS NOT SET A FIGURE.

TOM TAKEDA, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF THE COMMISSION, HAS SUGGESTED A TRUST FUND TO PROVIDE HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY AND FOR COUNSELING.

ABOUT 110,000 JAPANESE-AMERICANS AND 1,000 ALEUTIAN ISLANDERS WERE FORCED TO LIVE IN BARRACKS IN REMOTE PLACES, MANY OF THEM IN CALIFORNIA.

THE LAST CAMP, IN TULE LAKE, WAS CLOSED IN MAY 1946.

IN 1948, PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN SIGNED THE JAPANESE AMERICAN EXCLUSION CLAIMS ACT, UNDER WHICH 23,689 CLAIMS WERE FILED, SEEKING \$132 MILLION FOR PROPERTY LOSSES. SOME \$38 MILLION WAS PAID. PROPERTY DAMAGE WAS ESTIMATED AT \$400 MILLION.

APTV-08-11 1603PDT