



National Council  
for Japanese American Redress

ONG-PONG  
5428  
BY DUU JANG

# National Council for Japanese American Redress

AN INFORMATION KIT  
ON THE CAMPAIGN TO OBTAIN  
REDRESS FOR THE WORLD WAR II  
EXPULSION AND INCARCERATION  
OF AMERICANS OF JAPANESE DESCENT



# National Council for Japanese American Redress

THE INCARCERATION OF JAPANESE AMERICANS  
DURING WORLD WAR II

## History

On February 19, 1942, two months after the United States entered World War II, the U.S. government ordered the wholesale uprooting and imprisonment of all Pacific Coast residents of Japanese ancestry. President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066 forced three generations of these residents out of their homes and businesses; made them give up, curtail, or abandon their property and education; deprived them of all civil rights; stigmatized them as "enemy aliens;" legitimized the race hatred against them; and forced them into concentration camps, where they lived regimented lives behind barbed wire, under guard, for an average term of three years.

A violation of the most basic American traditions and laws, the internment was the culmination of four decades of pervasive and strident anti-"Jap" propaganda, the effects of which are felt to this day.

Judging from polls taken on the West Coast, a great many Americans still believe that the wartime charges of possible espionage by Japanese Americans were justified. In fact, however, not one person of Japanese ancestry living in the United States was ever convicted, or even charged with, espionage or sabotage. Further, the U.S. military intelligence, the FBI, and the State Department carried out intensive surveillance of the Japanese American community prior to America's entrance into World War II. All agreed that the Japanese and Japanese American residents were extraordinarily loyal to the United States.

Until now, Japanese Americans have made no real attempt to obtain redress for the humiliations, loss of income, and loss of civil rights they suffered during their unwarranted imprisonment.

By custom and tradition, any American who has been injured by false accusations is expected to bring those responsible into court and obtain a judgment clearing his name and awarding monetary damages from the offending parties.

(more)

The Rationale for Redress

In any consideration of redress the nature of injuries and losses for which we hope to obtain monetary compensation must be defined. The Evacuation Claims Act of 1948 paid former internees a total of \$34.2 million (after legal and processing fees) as compensation for property losses--which were estimated by the Federal Reserve Bank at \$400 million. Under the terms of those payments, Japanese Americans are precluded from asking for a more just settlement for losses of property. Our current efforts, therefore, are directed toward obtaining redress for other injuries and losses.

- For the mental and emotional suffering at the time of the evacuation, and the psychological injuries sustained from the exile from our homes, no fair compensation in dollars can be computed.
- Almost equally impossible would be any attempt to place a dollar value on the educational losses inflicted on the Japanese Americans of school age by the sudden termination of their normal schooling and by the government's suppression of the teaching of the Japanese language and certain branches of Japanese culture.

On the basis of recent court awards to persons subjected to unjustified imprisonment of a few days, a payment of \$10,000 to each person forced to abandon his domicile as a result of the Evacuation Order of 1942 appears to be appropriate.

- Furthermore, we believe that we are entitled to seek compensation from the government for the prolonged loss of our personal liberty, for the loss of normal wage and salary incomes, and for the loss of business income for those who owned businesses and farms.

According to our estimate, based on 1942 dollars, the total wages and salaries lost by the Japanese Americans during their imprisonment was more than \$280 million. No amounts for the value of lost pension rights, job seniority, lost opportunities for promotion, etc., are included in that figure.

The total loss to Japanese Americans of the net incomes of businesses and farms they were forced to leave behind is estimated at \$155 million in 1942 dollars.

(more)



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The Incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II  
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To cover these three types of losses, we suggest a payment of \$15 a day to each former inmate for each day of confinement, in addition to the flat payment of \$10,000.

The National Council for Japanese American Redress asks the support of all who truly believe in the principles that led to the founding of our country. Redress for the years spent in internment camps will serve to recognize the faith Japanese Americans maintained in American democracy and justice when America had broken faith with them. Redress will help repair this nation's crime against itself and heal the wounds inflicted during a moment of national racism against innocent and loyal American citizens.

THE WORLD WAR II EXPULSION AND IMPRISONMENT  
OF JAPANESE AMERICANS

Losses Suffered and Compensation Paid

TYPE OF INJURY	LOSSES SUFFERED	COMPENSATION PAID		RECOMMENDED COMPENSATION
		(in dollars)	(as % of loss)	
Property loss	\$400 million (in 1942 dollars; Federal Reserve Board estimate)	\$38 million	9.5%	
Imprisonment without due process of law	Loss of civil rights and personal freedom Disruption of family and community life Damage to health resulting from lack of customary medical care and forced exile to extreme climates -- Dollar equivalent: indeterminate Loss in man-years of personal freedom estimated at 375,000	0	0	 \$15 per day of imprisonment per person  \$10,000 per person affected by the wartime evacuation order 
Loss of wages and income	Estimated loss based on pre-1942 salaries: more than \$280 million	0	0	
Loss of businesses	Estimated loss: \$155 million	0	0	
Government suppression of Japanese culture	Two generations deprived of ethnic culture and language	0	0	
Forced exile	Resettlement expenses for more than 120,000 persons	0	0	
Psychological and emotional damage	Suicides and mental disorders brought on by the traumas of expulsion, imprisonment, and release -- Monetary damage: not calculable	0	0	

PROPOSED  
LEGISLATION





# National Council for Japanese American Redress

## SUMMARY OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

### A. METHOD OF FUNDING

1. Redress payments will be funded through the voluntary allocation by Japanese Americans of a portion of their federal income taxes.
2. Japanese Americans whose income is not subject to federal income taxes OR whose income is such that no income taxes are paid shall remain eligible for redress payments.
3. Any Japanese American taxpayer who elects not to contribute shall not be eligible for redress payments.
4. The funding period will last until sufficient funds are received to pay all claims and all redress payments are disbursed (est. 10 years)
5. Costs of administration will be borne by the U.S. government.

### B. ELIGIBILITY

Those eligible for redress payments will include:

Former evacuees  
Alien detention center internees  
Children born during internment  
Persons forced to resettle to avoid internment  
Persons jailed for refusing evacuation  
Direct heirs of all affected above, if principal is deceased

### C. METHOD OF DISBURSEMENT

1. Direct payments will be made to all eligible persons in the following order:  
Persons 65 years of age or older  
Persons 50 years of age or older and those disabled  
All other internees, evacuees, and detainees  
Heirs of internees, evacuees, and detainees
2. Sums relinquished by individuals and all unclaimed amounts shall be placed in a Nikkei Trust Fund.

### D. STATUS OF PAYMENTS

1. Payments shall be exempt from all federal, state, and local taxes.
2. Payments shall not be the basis for cessation of or reduction in any government-assisted or -subsidized welfare program.

### E. NIKKEI TRUST FUND

As described in Section C-2 above, this fund will be used for educational, charitable, and legal purposes of Japanese Americans.

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Proposed Legislation (draft)

June 1979

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I. TITLE OF ACT

This act shall be cited as the "World War II Japanese American Human Rights Violations Redress Act."

II. PURPOSE AND INTENT

The purpose and intent of this Act is to accomplish the following:

A. Recognize and redress the injustices and human rights violations perpetrated against Japanese Americans by the United States government during World War II.

B. Discourage and make less likely similar abuses of Executive Powers in the future.

C. Make more credible the sincerity of the repeated declarations of concern by the United States government over violations of human rights by other nations.

III. DECLARATION OF POLICY

WHEREAS, on February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which authorized the wholesale uprooting, exile, and imprisonment of 120,313 persons of Japanese ancestry from the Pacific Coast areas, two-thirds of whom were United States citizens; and

WHEREAS, the carrying out of Executive Order 9066 resulted in gross violations of seven of the ten Articles of the Bill of Rights; and

WHEREAS, such persons of Japanese ancestry in the United States were, with no evidence of misconduct and without trial, deprived of their freedom, jobs, and homes and subjected to psychological and mental suffering unlike any other body of American citizens during World War II; and

WHEREAS, it was the policy of the United States government during and after World War II to suppress the cultural and ethnic identity of Japanese Americans; and

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1           WHEREAS, martial law was never invoked in the United States; and

2           WHEREAS, citizens of Japanese ancestry contributed substantially to the  
3 war effort, served heroically in the United States armed forces, and suffered  
4 the loss of life and limb despite the wartime denial to them of the benefits of  
5 such citizenship; and

6           WHEREAS, in a nation that holds itself forth to other nations  
7 as an example of the proper treatment of their minorities, continued failure by  
8 our government to provide redress to the Japanese American victims of its own  
9 violations of human rights will undermine America's credibility and prestige  
10 among other nations; and

11           WHEREAS, the Evacuation Claims Act of 1948 can in no way be regarded as  
12 an adequate attempt to make restitution because it (1) provided for provable  
13 losses of tangible property only, (2) was carried out in such a manner that  
14 payments made under it amounted to less than 10 percent of total tangible  
15 property losses estimated in 1942 by the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco,  
16 and (3) forced all who received payments made under it to renounce all other  
17 claims against the government; and

18           WHEREAS, mass exile and imprisonment of Japanese American residents of  
19 Pacific Coast areas during World War II solely on the basis of race are con-  
20 trary to the long-established laws and traditions of our nation, and appropriate  
21 recognition of redress for the victims of that outrage by the United States  
22 government is long overdue;

23           THEREFORE, be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of  
24 the United States of America in Congress assembled that the Government of the  
25 United States provide with payments of money, in the amounts and in the manner  
26 specified in the following sections of this Act, redress for the expulsion and  
27 incarceration inflicted upon West Coast Japanese Americans during World War II.

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IV. AMOUNTS OF PAYMENTS

2

The sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) shall be paid to each person affected  
3 by the exclusion and evacuation orders, plus the sum of fifteen dollars (\$15)  
4 per day of incarceration. These sums shall be paid to eligible persons as  
5 defined in Section V of this Act.

6

V. ELIGIBILITY

7

All persons of Japanese ancestry and their immediate family members who during  
8 World War II were exiled, incarcerated, or interned by the United States  
9 government, or who while residing within the "exclusion" areas of the Western  
10 Defense Command were required to move from their homes, are eligible for pay-  
11 ments provided under this Act.

12

A. As far as possible, verification of time spent in the concentration  
13 camps and other related facts shall rely on the records of the Wartime Civil  
14 Control Administration and the War Relocation Authority in the Government  
15 Archives. Where such records are missing or incomplete or where their accuracy  
16 is in serious question, affidavits supplied by claimants and witnesses as well  
17 as other documents may be used to determine the necessary facts.

18

B. Proof of having resided within the "exclusion" areas may be established  
19 by any federal, state, county, or municipal records, other documents, or by  
20 personal affidavit.

21

C. Redress that would have been paid to eligible persons who are now  
22 deceased shall be paid directly to such decedents' surviving next-of-kin in  
23 the following order of priority: first, the spouse at the time of the person's  
24 death; second, the children; third, the parents; and fourth, brothers and  
25 sisters. No other relatives of the deceased shall have the right to receive  
26 such payments.

27

D. The right to receive redress payments shall not be denied because of

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1 a claimant's present residence or citizenship in a foreign country.

2 VI. METHOD OF FUNDING

3 An Internal Revenue Service Special Trust Fund shall be created for the purpose  
4 of receiving federal income taxes paid by persons of Japanese descent who elect  
5 to allocate said taxes for the purposes of this Act. Such election shall be  
6 entirely voluntary; however, any persons who shall not elect to have their  
7 federal income taxes put into said Trust Fund shall be ineligible to receive  
8 any redress payments pursuant to this Act. Any eligible person or next-of-kin  
9 of any deceased eligible person whose income is such that no federal income  
10 taxes are required on it shall not be ineligible for the receipt of payments  
11 hereunder. Said Special Trust Fund shall not terminate until such time as  
12 sufficient funds are received to pay all claims and all redress payments are  
13 disbursed.

14 VII. METHOD OF DISBURSEMENT

15 Direct individual payments by the United States government shall be paid to all  
16 eligible persons as defined in Section V of this Act. Payments shall be made  
17 first to those eligible persons who are disabled or who are 65 years of age or  
18 older; second, to eligible persons who are 50 years of age or older; third, to  
19 all other eligible evacuees, internees, and detainees; and fourth, to qualified  
20 next-of-kin of deceased evacuees, internees, and detainees.

21 VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

22 All costs of administration and related costs of carrying out this Act shall be  
23 borne by the United States government and shall not be deducted from any redress  
24 funds.

25 IX. TAX STATUS OF REDRESS PAYMENTS

26 Redress payments under this Act shall be exempt from all federal, state, and  
27 local taxes.

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X. PROHIBITION AGAINST DENIAL OF WELFARE

BENEFITS OR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Receipt of any redress payments shall in no manner be cause for the cessation of or reduction in participation in any government-assisted or -subsidized welfare program.

XI. LIMITATION ON FEES FOR ASSISTANCE

IN FILLING OUT CLAIM FORMS

Redress payment claim forms shall be made as simple as possible, and those providing assistance to claimants in filling out such forms shall not be permitted to demand or receive more than a flat fee of fifteen dollars (\$15) for each claim.

XII. UNCLAIMED REDRESS FUNDS

Money that could have been paid to persons under this Act and that remain unclaimed shall be placed in a Nikkei Trust Fund (described under Section XIII). These sums include amounts that could have been claimed by evacuees and internees who are now deceased and have no relatives who qualify as heirs under this Act. Also included under this category are amounts that could have gone to those who have renounced or have refused to file claims for redress payments.

XIII. NIKKEI TRUST FUND

The Nikkei Trust Fund shall be used for educational, cultural, and humanitarian purposes by organizations composed of persons of Japanese ancestry in the United States, and for a legal defense fund that will be used to protect the constitutional rights of Japanese Americans.

QUESTIONS  
& ANSWERS



# National Council for Japanese American Redress

## SOME QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON REDRESS

In order to reduce possible misconceptions concerning the National Council's redress proposal, answers to the most frequently asked questions are given below.

1. WHAT CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS WERE VIOLATED DURING WORLD WAR II IN THE EXPULSION AND INCARCERATION OF JAPANESE AMERICANS?

The following inalienable rights, as embodied in the U.S. Constitution, were denied or abridged:

- freedom of religion
- freedom of speech
- freedom of the press
- right to assemble
- right to keep and bear arms
- freedom from unreasonable search and seizure
- right to be informed of charges
- right to speedy and public trial by jury
- right to be confronted by accusatory witnesses
- right to call favorable witnesses
- right to legal counsel
- right to reasonable bail
- right to habeas corpus
- right to life, liberty, and property
- right against involuntary servitude
- right to vote
- freedom from cruel and unusual punishment
- right to equal protection under the law

2. WHY HAVE YOU WAITED SO LONG BEFORE ASKING FOR REDRESS?

The time lag indicates how severe and long-lasting the trauma of expulsion and incarceration has been.

3. THE INCARCERATION WAS UNFORTUNATE, BUT WASN'T IT UNDERSTANDABLE IN LIGHT OF THE JAPANESE SNEAK ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR AND THE ENSUING PANIC?

Japanese Americans were not foreigners, but Americans, and were not responsible for the bombing. Moreover, the FBI, Naval Intelligence, and the Presidentially ordered Munson Report had all documented the extreme loyalty of the Japanese American population to the United States. The government and



military also knew that Japan was incapable of invading the U.S. continent. The expulsion and incarceration of Japanese Americans was accomplished through a well-organized hate campaign that had been waged during the previous forty years.

4. EVERYONE SUFFERED DURING THE WAR. WHY SHOULD JAPANESE AMERICANS RECEIVE SPECIAL CONSIDERATION?

Americans of Japanese descent made the same sacrifices as other Americans did, at home and on the battlefield. Nearly 12 percent of all Japanese Americans were in Army uniform during the war, a figure 50 percent higher than the national average. But no other group of Americans were evicted from their homes and imprisoned.

5. HOW DID YOU ARRIVE AT THE FIGURES OF \$10,000 IN A FLAT PAYMENT PLUS \$15 PER DAY OF IMPRISONMENT?

These figures are suggested amounts and are not rigid. We feel they are sufficiently large to be meaningful to most recipients and are modest in comparison with amounts of compensation awarded in recent decisions to other victims of unjustified imprisonment.

6. WHY SHOULD INFANTS OR CHILDREN WHO WERE PUT IN INTERNMENT CAMPS RECEIVE THE SAME REDRESS PAYMENTS AS ADULTS?

Japanese Americans of all ages suffered emotional damage, the disintegration of family life, false imprisonment, defamation of character, and the violation of constitutional rights. Internment camp schools were of substandard quality, and the U.S. government stripped children of their self-identity by suppressing or prohibiting Japanese language, religion, and culture.

7. WHY SHOULD DESCENDANTS OR OTHER HEIRS OF FORMER INTERNEES RECEIVE REDRESS PAYMENTS?

In effect, redress is the same as damages, from the party who caused the injury, being paid to the persons who suffered the injury. To deny the immediate kin of deceased internees the right

to receive redress payments which the deceased would have received if alive would be a denial of the basic and customary right of inheritance.

8. WOULD IT NOT BE MORE PRACTICAL TO AVOID THE CLERICAL AND PROCESSING DIFFICULTIES WHICH INDIVIDUAL DISBURSEMENTS WOULD ENTAIL AND INSTEAD HAVE THE PAYMENTS GIVEN TO VARIOUS JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY GROUPS IN LUMP SUMS?

Detailed records on every person who entered the internment camps are in the possession of the U.S. government and can be used easily to verify most claims. Lump-sum payments to groups would favor former evacuees who now live near large concentrations of Japanese Americans and would unfairly discriminate against those who live in places remote from such areas.

###

DOCUMENTATION

# THE MUNSON REPORT

I must assume that Mr. S. I. Hayakawa has never heard of the Munson Report, the secret pre-Pearl Harbor loyalty investigation of the Japanese minority ordered by FDR and key State Department advisers who had not been satisfied with the intelligence summation then being turned in by the Army, Navy and the FBI. Curtis B. Munson, the State Department representative charged with this highly clandestine mission, ended up confirming, unequivocally, the accuracy of their reports — most of them the results of over ten years of governmental snooping and spying. The Munson summation certified a highly favorable intelligence consensus that the Japanese American minority — mostly children and elders — posed *no threat* to the nation's security.

But what is equally remarkable about this definitive pre-war report is the revealing character assessment made of a people at a time (October and November, 1941) of rising war feelings which totally contradicts tread-worn myths which, a few months later, "justified" the sending of 112,000 men, women and children to concentration camps, namely, that they were an "unknown people" and their loyalties unfathomable. The *Munson Report*, one of the war's best kept secrets — and coverup — reveals the investigator's surprise at the amazing uniformity of opinions obtained from "business, employees, universities, fellow white workers, students, fish packers, lettuce packers, farmers . . ." Among some of the conclusions arrived at by Munson were the following:

- The Issei (Japanese immigrants denied citizenship, though US residents for 30 to 50 years) were generally assessed to be of high moral character "for the most part simple and dignified" who "send their boys off to the Army with pride and tears." They were looked upon as "good neighbors" and their family life "disciplined and honorable."
- The Nisei (US-born, average age 19, *not* 15) were also held in high esteem, and assessed to be "not Japanese in culture. They are foreigners to Japan. . . . They are not oriental or mysterious, they are very American" and "show a pathetic eagerness to be American." (The "subversive" nature of language schools was considered, even then, to be an exclusionist myth. Has Mr. Hayakawa made a recent survey of Japanese language schools to make such an absurd assertion as "What do you think they are teaching in those Japanese language schools?")
- Munson concluded from his exhaustive findings that *there is no Japanese problem*, also that the Issei and Nisei are "universally estimated from 90 to 98 percent loyal to the United States if the Japanese educated element of the Kibei is excluded." He saw no need for concentration camps and had urged that "the Nisei should work with and among white persons, and made to feel he is welcome on a basis of equality." He recommended that Issei property be placed under Federal control, and that Washington "put responsibility for behavior of Issei and Nisei on the leaders of Nisei groups such as the Japanese American Citizens League." Munson's primary recommendation was: The loyal Japanese citizens should be encouraged by a statement from high government authority and public attitudes toward them outlined."

Considering the level-headed tenor of public thinking only weeks prior to the war's outbreak, it was unfortunate that the charismatic then-Attorney General and other nativist politicians fell in line with the small but vocal anti-Oriental minority demanding wholesale ouster, for this made easy — as one reverse followed another in the Pacific War — the cruel governmental hoax subsequently enacted in the name of national security, "military necessity," and "protection" for these "admirable people." (Incidentally, in Hawaii where tolerance was encouraged, no killer mobs descended on Japanese communities.) Yet I am struck by the forgiving, unfailingly courteous nature of Japanese Americans whose praise in public print of the late Chief Justice [Earl Warren] have been eulogistic, while my right-wing white American friends gleefully shout about "good riddance."

One last point: It was not so much an act of statesmanship, as a stern warning from Washington that violence and bloodshed would result in retaliation against US detainees in enemy hands, which finally caused Earl Warren to order law enforcement officials to safeguard the lives and property of the returnees. But, by then, a minority had been efficiently slandered and crucified, with often awful consequences not only to them but to American nationals in enemy prison camps. For thanks to US media excesses, Tokyo had been provided throughout the war with provocative details of the wholesale mistreatment of a racial group for the crime of looking like the enemy, most of whom were Americans. Documentation for all this may be found in my book, *America Kyosei Shuyojyo* (Days of Infamy) issued by the Political Public Relations Center, Tokyo, and in the American edition published by William Morrow, New York, under the title *Years of Infamy: The Untold Story of America's Concentration Camps*.

— Michi Weglyn  
New York City

**WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY  
WARTIME CIVIL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION**

**Presidio of San Francisco, California**

**April 24, 1942**

**INSTRUCTIONS  
TO ALL PERSONS OF  
JAPANESE  
ANCESTRY**

**Living in the Following Area:**

All that portion of the City of Seattle, State of Washington, lying generally south of an east-west line beginning at the point at which Jackson Street meets Elliott Bay; thence easterly along Jackson Street to Fifth Avenue; thence southerly on Fifth Avenue to Dearborn Street; thence easterly on Dearborn Street to Twenty-third Avenue; thence northerly on Twenty-third Avenue to Yesler Way; thence easterly on Yesler Way to Lake Washington.

Pursuant to the provisions of Civilian Exclusion Order No. 18, this Headquarters, dated April 24, 1942, all persons of Japanese ancestry, both alien and non-alien, will be evacuated from the above area by 12 o'clock noon, P. W. T., Friday, May 1, 1942.

No Japanese person living in the above area will be permitted to change residence after 12 o'clock noon, P. W. T., Friday, April 24, 1942, without obtaining special permission from the representative of the Commanding General, Northwestern Sector, at the Civil Control Station located at:

1319 Rainier Avenue, Seattle, Washington.

Such permits will only be granted for the purpose of uniting members of a family, or in cases of grave emergency.

The Civil Control Station is equipped to assist the Japanese population affected by this evacuation in the following ways:

1. Give advice and instructions on the evacuation.
2. Provide services with respect to the management, leasing, sale, storage or other disposition of most kinds of property, such as real estate, business and professional equipment, household goods, boats, automobiles and livestock.
3. Provide temporary residence elsewhere for all Japanese in family groups.
4. Transport persons and a limited amount of clothing and equipment to their new residence.

**The Following Instructions Must Be Observed:**

1. A responsible member of each family, preferably the head of the family, or the person in whose name most of the property is held, and each individual living alone, will report to the Civil Control Station to receive further instructions. This must be done between 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M. on Saturday, April 25, 1942, or between 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M. on Sunday, April 26, 1942.

2. Evacuees must carry with them on departure for the Assembly Center, the following property:

- (a) Bedding and linens (no mattress) for each member of the family;
- (b) Toilet articles for each member of the family;
- (c) Extra clothing for each member of the family;
- (d) Sufficient knives, forks, spoons, plates, bowls and cups for each member of the family;
- (e) Essential personal effects for each member of the family.

All items carried will be securely packaged, tied and plainly marked with the name of the owner and numbered in accordance with instructions obtained at the Civil Control Station.

The size and number of packages is limited to that which can be carried by the individual or family group.

3. No pets of any kind will be permitted.
4. The United States Government through its agencies will provide for the storage at the sole risk of the owner of the more substantial household items, such as iceboxes, washing machines, pianos and other heavy furniture. Cooking utensils and other small items will be accepted for storage if crated, packed and plainly marked with the name and address of the owner. Only one name and address will be used by a given family.
5. Each family, and individual living alone, will be furnished transportation to the Assembly Center or will be authorized to travel by private automobile in a supervised group. All instructions pertaining to the movement will be obtained at the Civil Control Station.

**Go to the Civil Control Station between the hours of 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M.,  
Saturday, April 25, 1942, or between the hours of 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M.,  
Sunday, April 26, 1942, to receive further instructions.**

J. L. DeWITT  
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army  
Commanding



A Puyallup, Washington, temporary detention camp: 1942

RAFU SHIMPO

Thursday, April 13, 1978  
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### **WWII JA internment cited as precedent for Nixonian acts**

WASHINGTON, (AP). — Richard M. Nixon, in his forthcoming memoirs says that a plan for break-ins and wiretapping he approved as President met "a higher obligation" to the country and therefore was justified and legal, ABC News said Tuesday night.

The network said it had been given a few pages from the book—due for publication in May—by the Soho News, a weekly newspaper in New York City. The Soho News said it planned to publish the material in Wednesday editions.

ABC said Nixon contends in the book, as he has before, that an otherwise illegal act becomes legal if it is done by the President. It said he cited the so-called Huston Plan, drawn up by White House aide Tom Charles Huston, as "justified and legal because he saw a higher obligation."

The Huston Plan called for wiretaps, break-ins and mail surveillance to gather data on alleged U.S. radical groups.

The plan was withdrawn by Nixon five days after he approved it because of objections by then-FBI director J. Edgar Hoover.

Nixon cited as precedents for his actions the suspension of some civil liberties by Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War and the internment of Japanese on the West Coast at the outbreak of World War II.

RESOLUTIONS



MIKE LOWRY  
SEVENTH DISTRICT  
WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
1205 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
(202) 225-3106

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
3400 RAINIER AVENUE, SOUTH  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98144  
(206) 442-7170

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

MAY 3, 1979

COMMITTEES:  
BANKING, FINANCE AND URBAN  
AFFAIRS  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
THE CITY  
INTERNATIONAL TRADE, INVESTMENT  
AND MONETARY POLICY  
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT  
MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
FISHERIES, WILDLIFE CONSERVATION,  
AND THE ENVIRONMENT  
OCEANOGRAPHY  
PANAMA CANAL

EXECUTIVE ORDER #9066, SIGNED BY PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT ON FEBRUARY 19, 1942, FORCED AMERICANS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY TO GIVE UP FREEDOMS GUARANTEED TO ALL AMERICANS BY THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION. WITHOUT HAVING BEEN CHARGED WITH A CRIME, WITHOUT TRIAL OR CONVICTION, WITHOUT ANY INDICATION OF ANYTHING OTHER THAN LOYALTY TO THIS COUNTRY'S WAR EFFORT, THOUSANDS OF JAPANESE-AMERICANS WERE ARBITRARILY DETAINED IN CAMPS. HOMES AND BUSINESSES HAD TO BE ABANDONED. FAMILIES AND FRIENDS WERE TORN APART. THE SCARS OF THIS TERRIBLE INJUSTICE REMAIN TODAY.

WITH THE FOCUS ON HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE ACKNOWLEDGE THIS DISREGARD FOR THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF OUR OWN CITIZENS. I FULLY SUPPORT CURRENT EFFORTS TO DEVELOP LEGISLATION FOR REDRESS FOR JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS WHO HAVE SUFFERED BECAUSE OF THIS SHAMEFUL PERIOD IN OUR NATIONAL HISTORY.

IT IS WITH GREAT HONOR THAT I SUBMIT FOR THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE WEEK SPECIAL ORDER THIS ARTICLE BY RON A. MAMIYA. MR. MAMIYA IS AN ATTORNEY IN SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, AND IS A THIRD GENERATION SANSEI WHOSE PARENTS WERE HELD IN DETENTION CAMPS. HE IS PAST CHAIRMAN OF THE LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL REDRESS COMMITTEE OF THE JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE (JAACL).

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

MIKE LOWRY  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

On behalf of Pacific Asian American Heritage Week,  
Mike Lowry read the foregoing on the House floor,  
along with reading Ron Mamiya's editorial into the  
Congressional Record.

REPARATIONS FOR AMERICA

A resolution passed by the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church, June 5, 1979, by a vote of 990 to 10:

WHEREAS, in 1942, the government of the United States of America did forcibly remove from their homes and detain in concentration camps over 110,000 persons of Japanese ancestry, both citizens and resident aliens of this country; and

WHEREAS, this action was initiated by a presidential executive order, enabled by Congressional legislation, and supported by the Supreme Court, thereby implicating the total government; and

WHEREAS, despite the government's claim of military necessity, the action proved to be made solely on the basis of race and for racist motives, there having been not a single case of sabotage committed by such persons and there having been no such action taken against persons of German and Italian ancestry; and

WHEREAS, reparations are a proper means of redressing this gross injustice and of repairing the damage done to these tens of thousands and to the Constitution of the United States of America;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Northern Illinois Conference support Japanese American redress legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this support be communicated to our senators and to congressional representatives from the districts within our conference bounds.



# National Council for Japanese American Redress

On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which ordered the expulsion and imprisonment of Pacific Coast residents of Japanese ancestry.

The following municipal, county, and state governments issued proclamations supporting the commemoration of February 19, 1979 as a Day of Remembrance.

## PROCLAMATION ISSUED BY:

State of Washington  
Fife, Washington  
Puyallup, Washington  
Seattle, Washington  
Sumner, Washington

State of Oregon  
Gresham, Oregon  
Portland, Oregon

State of California

County of Contra Costa  
County of Los Angeles  
County of Monterey  
County of Sacramento  
County of San Francisco  
County of Santa Clara  
County of Santa Clara, Human  
Relations Commission  
Berkeley, California  
Del Rey Oaks, California  
Los Angeles, California  
Marina, California  
Monterey, California  
Oakland, California  
Pacific Grove, California  
Richmond, California  
Sacramento, California  
San Bruno, California  
San Francisco, California  
San Jose, California  
San Mateo, California  
Saratoga, California  
Seaside, California  
Sunnyvale, California

State of Colorado  
City and County of Denver, Colorado

Salt Lake City, Utah

Dayton, Ohio

New York, New York

## SIGNATORY:

Governor Dixy Lee Ray  
Mayor Joe A. Vrauer  
Mayor Mary Meyer  
Mayor Charles Royer  
Mayor Lewis R. Noel

Governor Victor Atiyeh  
--  
Mayor Neil Goldschmidt

Joint Assembly and Senate,  
California State Legislature  
Board of Supervisors  
Kenneth Hahn, Board Chair  
Board of Supervisors  
Sandra Smoley, Board Chair  
Ella Hutch, Supervisor  
Dominic Cortese, Board Chair

David Steward, Chair  
Mayor Warren Widener  
Mayor Charles Benson  
Mayor Tom Bradley  
Mayor Robert Ouye  
--  
Mayor Lionel Wilson  
--  
--  
Mayor Phil Isenberg  
Mayor Richard Griffith  
Mayor Dianne Feinstein  
Mayor Janet Gray Hayes  
Mayor Janet Baker  
Mayor Henry J. Kraus, Jr.  
--  
Mayor Gil Gunn

Mayor W. H. McNichols, Jr.  
Mayor Ted Wilson  
Mayor James H. McGee  
Mayor Edward Koch



PROCLAMATION

"A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE"

WHEREAS, prior and subsequent to the outbreak of World War II there existed positive evidence collected and held by the United States Government that denied any existence of disloyalty toward the United States by residents of Japanese ancestry; and

WHEREAS, on February 19, 1942, the President of the United States signed Executive Order No. 9066, authorizing the uprooting and confinement of all Pacific Coast residents of Japanese ancestry; and

WHEREAS, all persons of Japanese ancestry were removed and imprisoned in detention camps thus denying them the basic guarantees innumeraed in the Bill of Rights; and

WHEREAS, Japanese Americans from within these detention camps at their first opportunity, volunteered their services to the United States Army and served gallantly in both Europe and the Pacific; and

WHEREAS, on February 19, 1976, President Gerald R. Ford, in a Proclamation on Executive Order 9066 and the subsequent mass evacuation stated in part:

"I call upon the American People to affirm with me this American Promise - that we have learned from the tragedy of that long-ago experience forever to treasure liberty and justice for each individual American, and resolve that this kind of action shall never again be repeated:"

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tom Bradley, Mayor of the City of Los Angeles, joined by members of the City Council, do hereby proclaim February 19, 1979 as A Day of Remembrance in Los Angeles; recommend that all our citizens take pause to remember on this anniversary of that sad day in American history-what can happen if we allow our mass emotion and fear to override the basic tenets of our Nation's Constitution; and to renew our commitment to the preservation of justice and dignity for each individual.

TOM BRADLEY, MAYOR  
Signed by All Council Members  
February 19, 1979

# Proclamation

WHEREAS, Among the tragic events attendant upon America's precipitous entry into World War II, one of the most deplorable was the issuance of United States Executive Order No. 9066, which authorized the evacuation of Japanese-Americans from their homes on the West Coast of the United States and directed their confinement in detention camps during the long years of war; and

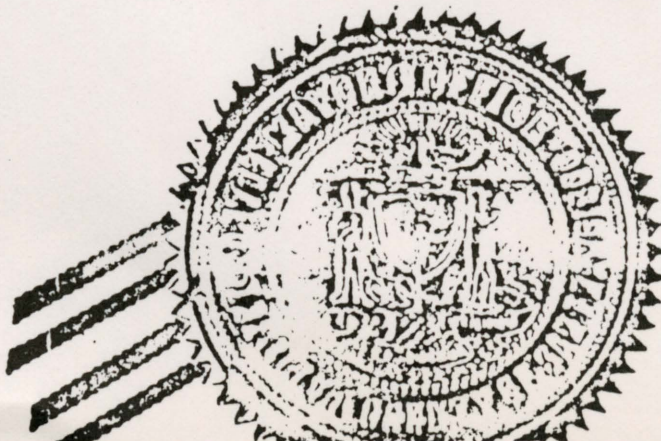
WHEREAS, Despite our City's rich Japanese-American history and the ties of friendship and common interests we shared with our Japanese-American neighbors, the people of San Francisco accepted this edict, and we witnessed an unprecedented violation of the spirit of equality and justice for all, which is the foundation stone upon which our Nation was built; and

WHEREAS, Although the passage of time has clearly brought home to all of us realization of the enormity of the injustice that was perpetrated against these loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry, we can never fully atone for the indignity, the shame and the hardship they were caused to endure; and

WHEREAS, On Monday, February 19, 1979, the Thirty-seventh Anniversary of the issuance of Executive Order No. 9066 will be observed as A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE by the Bay Area Japanese-American Community, and appropriate ceremonies will be held at the site of the Tanforan Detention Camp in San Bruno;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dianne Feinstein, Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco, do hereby proclaim Monday, February 19, 1979, as A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE in San Francisco; and do join with all San Franciscans in reaffirming the AMERICAN PROMISE, issued by President Gerald Ford on February 19, 1979: That we have learned from the tragedy of that long-ago experience forever to treasure liberty and justice for each individual American, and resolve that this kind of action shall never again be repeated.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City and County of San Francisco to be affixed this fourteenth day of February, nineteen hundred and seventy-nine.



*Dianne Feinstein*  
Dianne Feinstein  
Mayor



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

ROBERT B. DUNCAN  
3RD DISTRICT  
OREGON

February 16, 1979

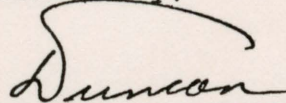
A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE  
327 N. W. Couch Street  
Portland, Oregon 97209

I am sorry that I am unable to be there today with you for this "Day of Remembrance".

"A Day of Remembrance" is a well chosen phrase for this occasion. We as a nation are sorry for what happened to our fellow citizens of Japanese ancestry and for the circumstances that seemed at the time to justify those events. We can and should never forget the philosopher Santayana, who said: "Those who fail to learn (and remember) history's mistakes are doomed to repeat them."

I hope that this occasion will be a strong reaffirmation of the meaning of the Bill of Rights for all our citizens. The Constitution does not single out certain groups for special treatment under that Bill of Rights; it applies to all of us. We must never forget that while we come from varied backgrounds, we as a nation united must never retreat from the need to maintain equal justice for all.

Sincerely,

  
ROBERT B. DUNCAN  
Member of Congress

RBD:tom

MARK O HAIFIELD LB  
P O BOX 732  
SALEM OR 97303

western union

Mailgram®



4-064651E046 02/15/79 ICS IPMRNCZ CSP PTLB  
5033995731 MGM IDR N SALEM OR 100 02-15 0725P EST

DEAR FRIENDS,

I AM SORRY THAT SCHEDULE CONFLICTS MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO BE WITH YOU FOR THE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE. IT IS CERTAINLY FITTING THAT YOU TAKE THIS OCCASION TO REMIND ALL AMERICANS OF THOSE DARK DAYS AND DEEDS, WHICH WE SHOULD NEVER FORGET NOR FORGIVE. WHILE WE CANNOT RIGHT THE WRONGS OF NEARLY 4 DECADES AGO WE CAN VOW NOW THAT THEY WILL NEVER BE REPEATED.

MARK O HAIFIELD, US SENATOR

western union

Telegram

M PRA237(1310)(1-0127260043)PD 02/12/79 1307

1979 FEB 12 PM 10:18

ICS IPNAWA WSH

10030 GOVT WF WASHINGTON DC 52 02-12 102P EST

PMS A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE, DLR

327 NORTHWEST COUCH ST

PORTLAND OR 97209

I'M SORRY I CAN'T BE WITH YOU TO COMMEMORATE A SAD PERIOD IN AMERICA'S PAST. OUR GOVERNMENT'S TREATMENT OF OUR OWN PEOPLE DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR WAS TRAGIC AND INEXCUSABLE. FOR JAPANESE- AMERICANS IN OREGON AND THROUGHOUT THE NATION, I HONOR BOTH YOUR MEMORIES AND YOUR COURAGE. SINCERELY

BOB PACKWOOD US SENATE WASHINGTON DC 20510

**WU**  
western union

**Telegram**

PRC499(1913)(4-061876E047)PD 02/16/79 1829

ICS IPMRNCZ CSP

5032818376 TDRN PORTLAND OR 27 02-16 0629P EST

PMS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE STEERING COMMITTEE, DLR ASAP-BEFORE 12

NOON PST 2-17 RPT DLY BY MGM, DLR

327 NORTHWEST COUCH

PORTLAND OR 97209

IN A MULTI-RACIAL SOCIETY NO GROUP CAN MAKE IT ALONE. WE MUST WORK  
TOGETHER TO CURE THE ILLS OF THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM YOURS IN  
REMEMBRANCE

LUCIOUS HICKS IV PRESIDENT PORTLAND NAACP 2752 NORTH WILLIAMS  
AVE PORTLAND OR 97212

NNNN

1979 FEB 16 PM 4:12

URBAN LEAGUE OF PORTLAND LB  
718 WEST BURNSIDE SUITE 404  
PORTLAND OR 97209

**WU**  
western union

**Mailgram**



4-075988E045 02/14/79 ICS IPMRNCZ CSP PTLA  
5032240151 MGM TDRN PORTLAND OR 116 02-14 0723P EST

THE URBAN LEAGUE OF PORTLAND IS PLEASED TO SUPPORT A DAY OR  
REMEMBRANCE. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT OUR COMMUNITY BE COGNIZANT OF SOME OF  
THE INADEQUATES IN OUR HISTORY. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE REDEDICATE  
OURSELF TO BUILDING A SOCIETY WHERE NO SEGMENTS OF OUR COMMUNITY CAN  
SUFFER SUCH TRADGIC INDIGNITIES BECAUSE OF RACE OR ETHNIC ORGIN.  
WE SHARE YOUR CONCERN THAT THERE BE COMMUNITY UNDERSTANDING AND  
AWARENESS OF THE DISRUPTION OF LIVES OF JAPANESE CITIZENS, PROPERTY  
CONFISCATION AND ENTURNMENTS OF FAMILIES.  
IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT ALL SHARE THE OBLIGATION AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR  
THE ACCEPTANCE OF ALL CITIZENS AND MUST DILIGENTLY PROMOTE INTERRACIAL  
HARMONY AND UNDERSTANDING SO THAT AMERICAN S WILL NEVER BE GUILTY OF  
SUCH AN INFAMOUS TRADGY AGAIN.

NATHAN W NICKERSON ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR URBAN LEAGUE OF  
PORTLAND



CLIPPINGS

# Internment victims return — this time by choice

by JACK BROOM  
and PETER LEWIS  
Times staff reporters

PUYALLUP — They came by the hundreds, in buses, trucks and cars.

They gathered quietly in a huge registration area. For identification, each wore a bright yellow tag.

But this time, there was a difference.

They came by choice.

About 2,000 Japanese-Americans gathered yesterday afternoon at the Puyallup Fairgrounds, the site they once knew as "Camp Harmony," a relocation center at the start of World War II.

Here they lived on straw-filled gunny sacks, in crowded, drafty rooms, surrounded by a sea of mud and the ever-present barbed-wire barricades.

**THEY RETURNED** yesterday in a 90-minute caravan of about 300 cars, starting at Sicks' Stadium in Seattle. The caravan stretched several miles along Interstate 5. State troopers accompanying the procession said traffic moved smoothly and safely.

At the fairgrounds, participants

reflected on the past and especially recalled those early days of World War II.

"You remember," said the Rev. Paul Nagano, minister at the Seattle Japanese Baptist Church. "You were corralled in this place like livestock. Uprooted from your homes and your jobs without due process of law."

Mr. Nagano, who spent time in a relocation camp in Arizona, said the evacuation of Japanese-Americans "made a mockery of citizenship . . . and of human decency."

The mass relocation of 123,000 Japanese-Americans living on the West Coast was ordered February 19, 1942, by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, two months after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

**WITHOUT ANY** formal charges or evidence of wrongdoing, the government required Americans of Japanese descent to give up their jobs, homes and belongings and report to relocation centers.

The order uprooted about 7,200 Nikkei (Japanese-Americans) who lived in the Seattle area. They were taken to Puyallup for several months and then transferred to more permanent facilities in other states.

Now, in reparation, the Japanese-American Citizens League is asking that the United States government pay \$25,000 to each person imprisoned in the camps, a total of about \$3 billion. Representative Norman Y. Mineta, California Democrat, is expected to sponsor such a bill in Congress next year.

"The whole thing that happened to us is a part of our history, but how many people know about it but us to whom it happened?" asked Amy Uno Ishii of Los Angeles. Ms. Ishii is the sister of the late Edison Uno, an early leader of the campaign for financial redress.

Yesterday, the concept received support from Seattle Mayor Charles Royer, who spoke at the rally.

Royer, who was 3 at the time of the evacuation order, said it's "good to be reminded" of the injustice.

"It's time to hold this country's feet to the fires of the past," Royer said. "I'll be with you in your fight."


(Photos and more details, A 3, 5, 6 and B 2.)


Sunday, November 26, 1978
The Seattle Times

WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY  
WARTIME CIVIL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION  
Presidio of San Francisco, California  
April 24, 1942

**INSTRUCTIONS  
TO ALL PERSONS OF  
JAPANESE  
ANCESTRY**

Living in the Following Area:





**W.R.A. CAMP HARMONY**  
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

**A bus ride  
to 'Camp  
Harmony'**

Japanese-Americans boarded a bus (lower left) for the ride to Puyallup, a destination about which a previous generation of their people had no say under terms of a 1942 government order. Kathy Wong hugged Ben Tong in the parking lot of Sicks' Stadium as they prepared to join a caravan yesterday to the Puyallup Fairgrounds, known as Camp Harmony in World War II. — Staff photos by Kathy Andrisevic.



Examiner/Nicole Bengiveno

Women take front row seats to hear 'remembrance day' speeches at Tanforan yesterday

## Tanforan: 'Like a bad dream'

By Alan Cline

Min Yasui remembers.

This middle-aged American born of Japanese parents remembers internment, the days of '42, in vivid pictures: "The barbed wire, machine gun nests, searchlights, armed sentries. The heat and stench during the summer. The flies."

Yasui, executive director of the Denver, Colo., Committee on Community Relations, remembers his challenge to a military order 37 years ago requiring sundown curfew for West Coast residents of Japanese ancestry.

And the 270 days and 270 nights spent in solitary, spent, he says, in a 6-foot-by-8-foot cell, until the U.S. Supreme Court made a ruling that freed him — from a Portland, Ore., jail.

Yasui, a lawyer and Army Reserve officer at the time, remembers and he urged a Day of Remembrance crowd of about 1,000 yesterday at ceremonies in the Tanforan Shopping Center parking lot not to forget.

"Your experiences should never, never be forgotten," he said.

Tanforan in San Bruno was a horse racetrack and one of 15 assembly centers for the Japanese and Japanese-Americans, way stations before shipment to one of 10 permanent relocation or concentration camps, as the Japanese now call them.

Feb. 19 was selected because it marked the 37th anniversary of the signing by President Franklin D. Roosevelt of Executive Order 9066, authorizing the wholesale evacuation of West Coast citizens of Japanese ancestry.

A theme for the day was "redress," and most of the speakers expressed



MIN YASUI  
'37 years ago I lived like a dog'

strong feeling in support of a Japanese American Citizens League demand that the 110,000 internees be paid for their incarceration. No figure has been set, but the most talked about sum is \$25,000 each.

"Thirty-seven years ago I lived like a dog," Yasui said. "Our country can do no less than to provide reparations."

Proclamations commemorating the day came from the cities of San Bruno, San Francisco and the Legislature. Yasui and several other speakers mentioned — in unflattering terms — a politician considered, without direct accusation, something of a turncoat:

Sen. S.I. Hayakawa, born in Canada of Japanese parents and an opponent of redress.

Many in the crowd wore large identification tags, "Badges of Honor" with name and camp number. Some 8,033 were incarcerated, with most going on to Topaz, Utah, 100 miles south of Salt Lake City.

"It was just like a bad dream," recalled George Tanaka, No. 41713, retired head gardener for The City. He was there with his wife and daughter, Jeanne Garcia of San Bruno, who was 10 at the time and recalled them being herded like sheep, lining up for everything, and the mud that went with a racetrack in spring.

Architect William Tsuchida brought his mother, Mon, 85; wife Kimie, and daughter Leonora, 10. Tsuchida spent only a day at the racetrack before entering the Army. His mother went to Topaz.

Oakland City Councilman Frank Ogawa was interned from Oakland and also wound up at Topaz. He remembers how he and his wife were billeted in horse stalls, "no chair or table, just an Army cot," but he could not remember his Tanforan number.

Ogawa said he has talked frequently at Rotary Club meetings of his experiences and how "we thought it was a great adventure."

Not so with Ernest Iiyama, also interned from Oakland.

"I'm beginning to remember a lot of things I had completely forgotten," the computer specialist told the crowd. "It is not enough to say: 'Excuse me, I was wrong.' We suffered and the government should do something."

# The Sunday Star

VOL. 58—NO. 32

TWO SECTIONS, 32 PAGES

CHICAGO, SUNDAY, MAY 13, 1979

MEMBERS of Chicago's Japanese American community led by Dr. Frank Sakamoto (center)—voiced their demand Wednesday, May 9, for reparations from the U.S. government for the sufferings and losses sustained by the Japanese Americans incarcerated in "relocations camps" during World War II. Flanking Dr. Sakamoto in front of a mural at the Japanese American Service committee building, 4423 N. Clark, were William Hohri and the Rev. Michael Yasutake.



## Japanese Americans ask 'relocation' redress

By JESS CARLOS  
Staff Writer

LEADERS of the Japanese American community have launched a campaign seeking financial compensation for losses sustained by Japanese Americans who were incarcerated in World War II "relocation camps." Their effort was sparked by California Republican Sen. Sam Hayakawa's stand against proposed redress legislation.

The campaign seeks payment of \$25,000 to each of the estimated 80,000 surviving members of the 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry detained during 1942 through 1945 in camps scat-

tered over the West Coast and some Western states.

"This is a call for redress, a call for justice. We hope this campaign will prevent the American government from perpetrating this again," said the Rev. Michael Yasutake, chairman of the redress committee of the Japanese American Citizens league, 5415 N. Clark.

A FORMER camp prisoner himself, Mr. Yasutake made his statements at a Wednesday, May 9 press conference underneath a concentration camp mural at the office of the Japanese Ameri-

can Service Committee, 4427 N. Clark.

He was joined by Dr. Frank Sakamoto, an optometrist at 5423 N. Clark, and also president of the Andersonville Chamber of Commerce, and by William Hohri, 4717 N. Albany. Both men also are former detainees and members of the nationwide league, which launched the campaign concurrently in various large cities across the nation.

Hayakawa has reportedly said that there is "not a damn chance in the world" that reparations legislation could go through the U.S. Congress, and that he will "filibuster against it personally."

The senator also has minimized the plight at the time of the prisoners, noting that there was "nothing prison-like" in what he termed were "relocation centers." Hayakawa also has said that the \$3-billion in reparations being asked by the league "not only is not necessary, but it's an insult."

THE JAPANESE AMERICANS are not a disadvantaged group, according to the senator. The median income for the entire nation in the 1950s when the former detainees were given small reparations, was \$9,598. The Japanese American median income was \$12,500, he said.

But an "open letter" to Hayakawa read by Dr. Sakamoto countered that "after camp, we had nothing. It was hard work, combined with the help of a few good friends, that brought us our present success."

"The redress we seek is not for property losses, but for the violation of civil rights, wrongful imprisonment, loss of income, and psychological, social and cultural damages."

He noted that the Evacuation Claims act of 1948 paid out a total of \$38-million, or 9% of the \$400-million property loss assessed by the Federal Reserve bank. The reparations claim of the league would total \$3-billion.

HOHRI ARGUED that the present success of his compatriots is no excuse for the government to ignore the claim. "If my Datsun runs into your Cadillac and damages it, it does not excuse me from paying you just because you can afford a Cadillac," he said.

## Other views



# \$3 billion a small price to pay

By David Horsey  
Journal-American Political Writer

In the orchestra my father directed at Enumclaw High School, there was a talented young violinist — a Japanese American girl.

It was the spring of 1942. My mother remembers her amazement when she discovered the girl simply disappeared one day.

The girl, her family and more than 7,000 other Japanese Americans in Washington had dropped out of sight — herded into prison camps without provocation, without criminal charges, without evidence of wrongdoing, without trial.

Like many white Americans, no matter how shocked they were by the forced internment, my parents were distracted by the war fever around them. Within weeks after the young violinist disappeared, my dad was on maneuvers with the Army.

In the 36 years since then, there has been little to remind the country of the internment tragedy. White Americans returned home from the war and resumed their lives. The Nikkei — the Japanese Americans — returned to start over, to rebuild from the rubble and forget.

IT WAS patriotism — wanting to prove they were loyal Americans — that kept the Nikkei from resisting internment. It was the

same patriotism, combined with fear of renewed racism and profound disillusionment with the government, that kept the Nikkei quiet after they were freed.

But Saturday, Nov. 25, in Puyallup, the Nikkei announced they want their story told at last. Nearly 2,000 Japanese Americans from the Puget Sound area gathered at the Western Washington Fair site to remember the days they spent there in detention before being shipped to the prison camps.

They were there to say widespread ignorance of the internment episode makes it more likely such an abrogation of the Bill of Rights could happen again. They want the United States government to admit it was wrong and to take steps to insure it won't be done to another group of Americans in some future time of crisis.

Next to black slavery and the annihilation of American Indian society, the forced uprooting and imprisonment of the Nikkei is the worst case of overt racism in American history. Yet I didn't learn about it until I was a senior in college. Many other Americans share a similar ignorance.

THE LEADERS in the movement to build awareness of the internment have decided the one way to get people's attention is to talk about money — big money. They are asking Congress to pay \$3 billion in reparations to the victims

of the prison camps.

Thus far, the response in Congress has been less than enthusiastic. This is not a popular time to be talking about spending more money.

Many newspapers have editorialized against paying reparations. The Wall Street Journal considers it a poor investment, since the Nikkei seem to be a vanishing breed. In this state, the generally progressive Daily Journal-American said reparations would serve no purpose and would do nothing to guarantee a similar outrage would not happen again.

But the Nikkei see things differently.

They contend redress for unjustified injury is a central pillar of the American justice system.

The Japanese-American citizens incarcerated without due process of law suffered great economic, social and psychological hardship. So, it is not a question of government generosity, it is a question of legal right to redress, they insist.

THEY SAY only a clear admission of guilt on the part of the government, through reparations, will clear the name of the Nikkei. The lies and racist propaganda that justified the internment program are still believed by many Americans and the Nikkei no longer want to bear that burden of false guilt.

They point out that West Germany, at the urging of the

American government, has paid and continues to pay billions of dollars in reparations to Jews victimized by the Nazis. They rightly say it is hypocritical not to apply the same standard in this country.

They say it is important that reparations be paid soon, while many victims of the internment are still living. It is a way to settle accounts with people whose lives have been irrevocably damaged by government tyranny.

Even in the camps, the Nikkei held fast to a faith in the goodness of America. Reparations would show that faith, though tested, was not misplaced. It would show the new generation of Japanese Americans their grandparents were not fools to commit their lives and posterity to a new land.

IN AN impersonal sense, the biggest tragedy of the internment is that it blunted the growth of a very special segment of the American people. The mistake of 1942 was the belief the Nikkei were Japanese. The Nikkei are Americans — like all Americans, they are a hybrid of two worlds, but, nevertheless, they are Americans.

It is not enough to try to forget the internment. The episode must be faced squarely by all of us. Reparations should be paid as a symbol of brotherhood.

Only then can we all move ahead, without mistrust, building on the cultural richness and diversity that makes America a special place to live.

JOE/DAILY NEWS © 1978