

[redacted]
May 8, 1989.

Frank Abe
Kiro Newsradio
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Dear Mr. Benefactor Frank:

Just returned from my westward odyssey late last night to find your packet of documents and tapes awaiting attention plus a mountain of other matters. Thank you for your foresight in enclosing articles I would never otherwise see. Does it not seem unbelievable that for forty-five years, not a single community group considered adherence to constitutional principles worthy enough for recognition while they pursued lesser lights? This disregard becomes more sharply etched when chroniclers of the tragic Japanese American episodes were adding more laurels ---- Grodzins, Paul Jacobs & Saul Landau, Michi Weglan, Richard Drinnon, particularly, and W. Douglas Nelson and Roger Daniels. It made me often wonder at the intellectual awareness and acumen of the Nikkei generation. I had never any doubt that some day -- but long after I had departed -- that stand will be honored. An historian wrote me that that time will come fifty years after I was gone. I thought it would take much longer.

What appears to be downgraded is that the Book of Dedications is the highest award the International Biographic Association can bestow and that The Honour's List, International Who's Who of Intellectuals and The Hall of Fame, International Directory of Distinguished Leadership are the highest in their respective categories and perpetual in their nature. These are not simply Who's Who but choice selection above the norm. How I merited them, I have no idea but in each case the selection is made by a Board of Editors who evaluate all selectees for the honor. Nikkei journalism has not yet achieved that level to be able to properly judge news significance in their proper perspective. This is the failing of Nikkei journalism in my personal opinion.

Regarding Sharon Noguchi's article, she did an excellent job overall and I applaud her for it and it is certainly quite a change to read some positive and flattering remarks from fellow journalists. However, one article does not a reversion make nor can it be said absolute judgment either of fairness or objectivity be established. I tend to be inclined that Johnston is as you say but find himself in a bind. The question unanswered is whether he will become indoctrinated by the Harry Hondas and the Bill Hosokawas in the end. J.K.? There is an extremely large question mark there and time alone will determine the niche he selects. It takes no Merlin to figure out that at this hour, Frank Abe stands alone in Japanese American journalism in objectivity and his compassions for the eternal nonconformists. That is what James Gordon Bennett set down as his credo and other legends of print journalism -- name you should be familiar with, Gould, Dana, Greeley, Pulitzer, and Lincoln Steffens all contributed in larger or lesser degree. There are many in print journalism but it remains for only a very few to rise to the top to be remembered.

Frank Emi did provide another photograph of the 63 and you are welcome to the one you have. It is possible that I may request that you provide me with a proof-ready copy of the THE FAIR PLAY COMMITTEE "SEVEN" at a later date for inclusion in the Book of Dedications, one method of getting a little recognition for the Resisters. I am behind in submitting pictures and biography for this particular Who's Who to be issued either late in 1990 or thereabouts. It takes considerable time to prepare an edition as after submission, proofs have to be sent out and corrected worldwide. The editor assigned to me is Mrs. Diane Butcher, a co-director of the International Biographical Association.

The Masaoka tape is very interesting and his reasoning rather limpid. Let's get him in a corner and force out the real Masaoka behind the mask. It would be something!

Gratefully,

Jimnie
James M. Omura