

Uyeda

Mike M. Masacka

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SUITE 520, THE FARRAGUT BUILDING
900 SEVENTH STREET, NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006
TELEPHONE (202) 296-4484

July 11, 1988

Dr. Clifford Uyeda
Golden Gate Chapter
Japanese American Citizens League
1333 Gough Street, D-10
San Francisco, California 94109

Dear Cliff:

On further reflection, I have come to the conclusion that my Open Letter To All JACLers, a copy of which I sent to the Pacific Citizen, was not only overly long and detailed, but more importantly missed a most crucial and overriding thought. Therefore, I am requesting the Pacific Citizen to substitute this revised letter for the one sent earlier.

If the redress legislation is passed by Congress and signed into law by the President, as we hope it will be before the National Convention convenes in Seattle early next month, Congress and the President may decide that they acted improperly in encating it on the basis of the facts and arguments JACL, Go For Broke Nisei Veterans Association, and others have submitted to them over the years, and not on the grounds which your resolution alleges as errors in judgement and sensitivity. If not approved by Convention time, it probably will not be later this session or likely in the future if your Chapter succeeds in its efforts.

Of course I, now as an individual member of JACL but once one of its executives, completely disagree with most of the sentiments expressed in your Chapter's proposition. And I shall be among those prepared to refute and rebut them at the appropriate National Council meeting unless your Chapter voluntarily withdraws it as a horrible mistake.

There is little doubt in my mind that some, if not many, of those in the Legislative and Executive Branches may feel that they legislated on the basis of false, fraudulent, and misleading facts and arguments if the National Organization adopts your resolution in Seattle. They might conclude that we advocates of redress are not the sincere and honest people they believe us to be, and as certain individual and organizational spokesmen have already

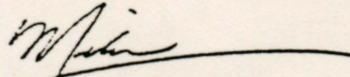
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charged, in urging them to enact this measure which redresses in part our World War II grievances against our Government.

What can Congress do? It can reconsider the legislation and/or refuse to authorize the necessary appropriations. Or it can enact new legislation repudiating its votes of this session on redress and decrying the calibre of people we advocates are. If Congress decides to stigmatize us supporters as lacking in integrity and decency, it will be even more damaging than General DeWitt's infamous words as to the character and loyalty of our ethnic minority, for this time the Government will have some evidentiary proof for their allegations in the form of an officially approved and adopted resolution to that effect.

On the basis of these feelings at least on my part, and probably most JACLers who actually experienced the evacuation with all its denials and deprivations, may I plead with you and your Chapter to voluntarily withdraw your proposed statement. Such an act will not only avoid divisiveness and disruption at the Convention but more positively demonstrate to the Congress, the President, the courts, and the people at large that we evacuees are rightfully entitled to the redress legislation which finally has been enacted into law that represents a national apology and offers individual and collective token payments for some of our major wartime grievances. Much more than personal and organizational dignity are at stake.

Yours in JACL,



Mike M. Masaoka
Washington, D.C. Chapter
Japanese American Citizens League