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GOLDEN GATE CHAPTER RESOLUTION

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At the Northern California JACL District Council meeting (6/26th) to discuss the pre-convention (August 4-10 in Seattle) business, the Golden Gate chapter in San Francisco presented a resolution which will be put before the national convention delegates.

The resolution stated that although JACL, in 1942, was sincere and thoughtful in its performance with the best interest of the community at heart, that in hindsight JACL acknowledge its error in its counsel to the Japanese American community in 1942 and in its reaction toward Japanese American wartime dissidents.

The JACL in 1942 advised willing cooperation rather than compliance under protest, and had branded those who did not fully agree with its advice as "un-American" and "unpatriotic." This has caused a severe internal division within the Japanese American community which has continued unabated over forty-five years.

The admission of error by JACL, the resolution stated, is to achieve one of the fundamental objectives of the redress campaign which is to make the Japanese American community whole. The resolution called upon JACL to actively promote community unity and healing by recognizing the contributions made by individuals and organizations with positions different from the JACL.

The Golden Gate chapter fully realized that the resolution can become controversial at the national convention, but felt that if we can ask the federal government to admit its wartime error JACL should be able to do the same to its own people.

The Golden Gate chapter felt that the admission of error in no way diminished the need for redress for Japanese Americans, nor did it diminished the impact of the heroic deeds of those who fought for America in distant battlefields. JACL was not at fault for the incarceration of Japanese Americans. JACL was, however, insensitive toward its own people in its intense desire to be accommodative to the government. In its patriotic fervor the concerns of its own people had become secondary.

The Golden Gate chapter felt that whatever stands that were taken by the JACL and its opponents during wartime we now need to amend and come together, that we should be able to understand each other's reasons for respective wartime behaviors, and that after 45 years we should be able to view history more objectively.

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