

1981 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 69

September 16, 1981 - Introduced by Representatives PLEWA, HAUKE, MEDINGER, TUCZYNSKI, CRAWFORD, BECKER, PLOUS, SMITH, ULICHNY, CZARNEZKI, MUNTS, NORQUIST, RADTKE, SHOEMAKER, COGGS, WAGNER, METZ, LEOPOLD, EVERSON, MILLER and KLICKA; cosponsored by Senators FRANK, KRUEGER, KLECZKA and BRAUN. Referred to Committee on State Federal Relations.

1 Relating to reparations for the internment of the Japanese.

2 Whereas, on February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued
3 Executive Order 9066, which resulted in the uprooting and imprisonment of
4 all persons of Japanese ancestry on the Pacific Coast; and

5 Whereas, in the spring of 1942, 120,313 persons of Japanese ancestry,
6 most of whom were American citizens, were forcibly evicted from their West
7 Coast homes and incarcerated in American-style concentration camps; and

8 Whereas, not a single charge of wrongdoing was ever filed against any
9 person of Japanese ancestry residing in the United States during World War
10 II; and

11 Whereas, American citizens of Japanese ancestry and their alien
12 parents, who were legal permanent residents, were never allowed the basic
13 constitutional right of a hearing or trial; and

14 Whereas, in addition to the \$400 million in property losses estimated
15 by the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco in 1942, there were other
16 immeasurable damages suffered, such as the loss of individual freedom, the
17 destruction of personal human dignity, the loss of income, the disruption
18 of careers and the psychological trauma of having been innocent victims
19 imprisoned for 3 1/2 years; and

1 Whereas, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 4 separate test cases that
2 such governmental action is constitutional and thereby established as
3 precedent the right of the government to remove and detain a group of
4 people solely on the basis of race; and

5 Whereas, Japanese-American men volunteered from within barbed wire
6 camps to join the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and demonstrated exemplary
7 heroism, courage and patriotic loyalty as evidenced by the fact that the
8 442nd RCT became the most highly decorated unit in the history of the
9 United States Armed Services for its size and length of service; and

10 Whereas, some 39 years have passed without an official inquiry into
11 the treatment of Japanese-Americans in this chapter of American history;
12 and

13 Whereas, on July 31, 1980, President Jimmy Carter signed Public Law
14 96-317 establishing the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of
15 Civilians to conduct such an inquiry and to recommend appropriate remedies
16 to the Congress of the United States; now, therefore, be it

17 Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That the members of
18 the legislature of the state of Wisconsin support the Commission on
19 Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians and the commission's
20 investigation of the events leading to the issuing of Executive Order 9066
21 and its consequences upon American citizens and permanent legal residents
22 of Japanese ancestry; and, be it further

23 Resolved, That the Wisconsin legislature urges the Commission on
24 Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians to recommend to the
25 Congress of the United States that those individuals who suffered the
26 injustices and hardships resulting from the government's actions in 1942
27 be fairly compensated; and, be it further

1 Resolved, That a duly attested copy of this resolution be transmitted
 2 to the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians.
 3

(End)