

BILL YOSHINO



GENERAL BOARD / 1451 DUNDEE AVENUE / ELGIN, ILLINOIS 60120 / PHONE (312) 742-5100

Church
of the
Brethren

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October 16, 1981

Japanese American Citizens League
National Headquarter
1765 Sutter Street
San Francisco, CA 94115

Dear Friends:

I am sharing with you the "Resolution on Justice for Japanese-American World War II Internees" enacted by the Church of the Brethren General Board on October 11, 1981. This board consists of twenty-five members and is the principal administrative body for our denomination.

We are sharing a copy of the resolution with Ms. Joan Z. Bernstein, chairperson of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians and with the President of the United States.

Please feel free to use our statement as you see fit. Should you desire further contact with us we are prepared to respond in whatever ways you deem helpful. Best wishes in your efforts to make known a dark page of our history and may such illegal imprisonment not be repeated in this land.

Respectfully yours,

Chuck Boyer

Charles L. Boyer
Peace Consultant

CLB:sp

Enclosure

RESOLUTION ON JUSTICE FOR JAPANESE-AMERICAN WORLD WAR II INTERNEES

WHEREAS, the Presidential issuance of Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942, placed in motion the uprooting and internment of approximately 120,000 men, women, and children of Japanese descent resulting in serious violations of their human rights as well as inestimable personal and material losses; and,

WHEREAS, no hearings or trials were held prior to February 19, 1942, no credible claims of wrongdoing were ever lodged against these innocent victims who were uprooted for more than three and one half years, blatantly violating constitutional guarantees and depriving them of their human rights; and,

WHEREAS, we believe that violence takes many forms among which are oppression, denial of justice and a violation of personhood, and have committed ourselves to work forthrightly for liberation, justice and peace in ways that respect the life and potential of every person and the whole human family; and,

WHEREAS, many among us struggled in the 1940's for the rights of these interned people and sought to serve through the Farmersville Work Camp, Manzanar Relocation Camp, New York City and Chicago Brethren Ministry to Resettlers; and,

WHEREAS, a U.S. Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment is now conducting hearings and is empowered to recommend remedies to the Congress of the United States;

THEREFORE the Church of the Brethren General Board meeting in Elgin, Illinois, on the 11th of October, 1981, feels compelled to review this sad period of our history; and,

BE IT RESOLVED that we encourage this special Commission to call upon the Congress of the United States to:

- 1) Acknowledge as a nation that the actions taken against American citizens and legal residents of Japanese ancestry during 1942-46 were wrong and contrary to the Constitution of the United States.
- 2) Make just redress.
- 3) Enact safeguards and thus provide a lasting memorial so that arbitrary governmental repression will never again victimize any group of people in the United States.
- 4) Signal to all the people of the world through such actions that the United States does indeed carry out in practice the ideals embodied in our Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and Bill of Rights; and,

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that we call upon the staff of the General Board to convey this resolution to the President of the United States, appropriate members of the Congress of the United States, and members of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment.

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Adopted by:

Church of the Brethren General Board, Elgin, IL 60120.....October 11, 1981