

simple letter to civil rights org.



JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE  
**NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR REDRESS**

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS: 1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, Calif. 94115 (415) 921-5225  
WASHINGTON OFFICE: 1730 Rhode Island Ave. N.W., Washington D.C. 20036 (206) 223-1240  
John Y. Tateishi, Chairman — Ronald J. Ikejiri, Washington Representative

November 26, 1980

Organization of Chinese Americans  
Mary Au, President  
2025 Eye Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Ms. Au,

As you probably know, on July 31, 1980, the President signed into Public Law 96-317, the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians.

The Commission's task is to investigate the events and circumstances surrounding the government's forced removal and incarceration of over 120,000 Japanese Americans and others during the Second World War, and to determine whether the actions of the government were justified. If the Commission's findings indicate that such actions resulted in an abridgement of the constitutional rights of American citizens and legal permanent residents, the Commission is then empowered to make a recommendation to the United States Congress for some form of redress to the victims.

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), which shares its membership in the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights with your organization, has been involved in an active, two year campaign towards the establishment of the Commission. We are convinced that the measures taken by the United States government in 1942 were totally unwarranted and resulted in one of this nation's worst failures to protect the constitutional and human rights of American citizens. To date, however, there has been little more than a cursory examination by the government of those events.

The JACL is today seeking some form of redress from the government for the experience of 1942-46. And in doing so, we are also seeking the written endorsements of civil rights and other organizations throughout the country who share with us a concern for the viability of the principles of American democracy.

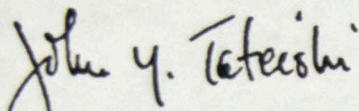
We intend to place before the Commission and subsequently before the United States Congress, supporting documents from organizations which endorse our efforts to seek redress. I therefore invite you, as a co-member of the Leadership Conference and as one of this nation's leading proponents of civil rights, to join with us in our efforts to rectify a past injustice.

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The redress issue is important not only to us but to all citizens of this country. It lays at the heart of American democracy and is manifested in all the basic precepts of the Constitution that all persons shall enjoy equal justice before the law. By pursuing this issue, we feel that we can help insure the future of the democratic principles by which we govern ourselves as a nation.

I would appreciate your consideration in this matter and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



John Y. Tateishi, Chairman  
JACL National Committee for Redress

JYT:chk

Encls.

cc: Mr. Ronald Ikejiri, JACL Washington Representative;  
Member, Executive Committee, Leadership Conference on  
Civil Rights