

MAY 29 REC'D



**DIVISION OF
HOMELAND
MINISTRIES**
CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

222 S. DOWNEY AVENUE
P.O. BOX 1986/46206
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
(317) 353-1491
CABLE: GO

Kenneth A. Kuntz
President

**DEPARTMENT OF
CHURCH IN SOCIETY**

Rolland G. Pfile
Executive Secretary

DIRECTORS:

A. Garnett Day, Jr.
Church and Community

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*Economic Justice and
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Voluntary Service

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Associate Director*

**INTERNATIONAL
HUMAN RIGHTS
PROGRAM**

*Joint program:
Division of Homeland Ministries
Division of Overseas Ministries*

M. Frisco Gilchrist
Paul Wilson

May 27, 1980

William Yoshino
5415 N. Clark St.
Chicago, IL 60640

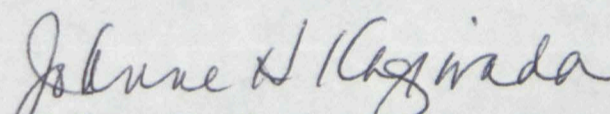
Dear Bill:

Yasuko Matsumoto has asked me to forward to you copies of resolutions in support of the Redress bills. Enclosed are three endorsements from church organizations.

One is an action taken by the General Conference of the Methodist Church in April 1980, which gives guidance for the church's program for the next quadrennium. The second is a statement from their Board of Church and Society, October 1979. And the third is a resolution passed unanimously by the Governing Board of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA at its meeting in Indianapolis, 7-9 May 1980.

Another Hoosier Chapter member, Mary Matsumoto, is working on a resolution from the General Synod of one the Lutheran denominations, which will be meeting in Seattle soon. That will be sent to you also.

Sincerely,


JoAnne H. Kagiwada

enc.

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A BOARD RESOLUTION ON REDRESS FOR JAPANESE AMERICANS

1. The December 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor by
2. Japan panicked the United States and provided officials with
3. with a convenient justification for the arrests and internment
4. of Japanese Americans on the suspicion that they might be
5. aiding the enemy. It should be noted that no Japanese American
6. was ever convicted or even charged with espionage or sabotage.
7. There ^{was} ~~was~~ no similar mass arrests in Hawaii, where Japanese
8. Americans were a large part of the population and contributed
9. importantly to the labor force and military defense effort.
10. Nor were there any mass arrests of Americans of German or
11. Italian ancestry, although these nations were at war with the
12. United States.

13. Over the objections of the U. S. Attorney General and
14. F.B.I. Director, President Franklin D. Roosevelt on February
15. 19, 1942, issued Executive Order 9066, which authorized any
16. military commander to exclude any person from any U. S. area.
17. General John DeWitt, military commander of the Western Defense
18. Command, then set in motion a series of military orders moving
19. 120,000 Japanese Americans -- two-thirds of them U. S. citizens
21. -- out of their homes on the West Coast. They were provided only
22. a few days' notice to sell their homes, businesses and personal
23. possessions and allowed to take only what they could carry.
24. The San Francisco Federal Reserve Board has estimated that
25. \$ 400 million worth of property was lost by Japanese Americans
26. as they were forced to sell at a fraction of actual values.

Resolution on Redress for Japanese Americans

1. After the war, the internees returned to their West Coast
2. homes to find their jobs filled by others, and their homes,
3. farms and property long since taken over. College careers were
4. disrupted, perhaps never to be resumed.
5. Many never recovered from the psychological trauma caused
6. by the internments, and some families never reunited after
7. children drifted apart in the communal atmosphere of the
8. camps, which disrupted family life.
9. Redress for Japanese Americans is a question of simple
10. justice.
11. We, in the Board of Church and Society of the United
12. Methodist Church, recognize the total violation of civil rights
13. and human decency under Executive Order 9066 during World War
14. II ⁱⁿ and the incarceration of Japanese Americans for three years
15. without consideration of their human rights.
16. We, the Board of Church and Society strongly urge the
17. Congress of the United States to pass appropriate redress
18. legislation to compensate for this^e crime against humanity.

RESOLUTION ON

"JUSTICE FOR JAPANESE-AMERICAN WORLD WAR II INTERNEES"

1 WHEREAS, on February 19, 1942, Executive Order 9066 of President Franklin Delano
2 Roosevelt led to the uprooting and internment of approximately 120,000
3 persons of Japanese descent, resulting in serious violations of their
4 human rights as well as inestimable personal and material losses; and,
5 WHEREAS, Japanese-Americans have striven unsuccessfully for 35 years to obtain
6 redress for the injustices they suffered during and after relocation and
7 internment; and,
8 WHEREAS, identical legislative bills have been introduced in the Senate (S 1647)
9 and in the House (HR 5499) proposing the establishment of a "Presidential
10 Study Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians Act",
11 to determine the nature of such injustices, if any, and to recommend
12 appropriate remedies; which bills have been assigned to the House Sub-
13 committee on Administrative Law and Governmental Relations of the Judi-
14 ciary Committee and the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee; therefore,
15 BE IT RESOLVED:
16 that the Governing Board of the National Council of Churches express
17 support for passage of Senate Bill 1647 and House of Representatives
18 Bill 5499 for the creation of a Presidential Study Commission on Wartime
19 Relocation and Internment of Civilians Act; and,
20 FURTHER, that the Governing Board direct the General Secretary to communicate
21 this support to the Chairman of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee
22 and the Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, urging that their
23 ~~Subcommittees promptly hold hearings and report the bills out to the~~ *favorable committee action and speed passage of these bills.*
24 ~~full House and Senate; and,~~

25 FURTHER, that the Governing Board direct the Washington Office of the National
26 Council of Churches to seek further support for passage of S.1647 and
27 H.R.5499 through channels available to it, included W.I.S.C. (the Wash-
28 ington Inter-Staff Committee) and IMPACT; and,
29 FURTHER, that the Governing Board call on member denominations of the National
30 Council of Churches to work for support of these bills through channels
31 available to them and to commend support of these bills to their cons-
32 tituencies.

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43 Policy Basis:

44	"Japanese War Criminals"	6/6/1956
45	"The Churches and Immigration"	2/27/1962
46	"Human Rights"	12/6/1963

Indianapolis, Indiana Meeting
April 15-25, 1980

- Whereas, during World War II, the United States of America did forcibly remove and incarcerate, without charges trial, or any due process of law, 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry, both citizens and resident aliens of America and citizens from Latin America; and
- Whereas, this action was initiated by a presidential order, enabled by Congressional legislation, and supported by the Supreme Court, thereby implicating the total government; and
- Whereas, despite the government's claim of military necessity, this action proved to be made solely on the basis of race, there having been not a single case of sabotage or espionage committed by such persons and there having been no such sweeping action taken against Americans of German or Italian ancestry; and
- Whereas, the American Convention on Human Rights, to which this country is signatory, states;

"Every person has the right to be compensated in accordance with the law in the event he has been sentenced by a final judgement through a miscarriage of justice."

and

- Whereas, legislation has been submitted in the 96th Congress "to provide for payments to certain individuals of Japanese ancestry who were interned, detained, or forcibly re-located by the United States during World War II."

Therefore, Be It Resolved:

- (1) that we urge a study of the facts surrounding the evacuation and incarceration without trial or due process of law of nearly 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry;
- (2) that this General Conference acknowledges the flagrant violations of human rights, and affirms the need for the United States of America for redress legislation;
- (3) that we call upon Congress to support legislation that would determine appropriate remedies and;
- (4) that the General Board of Church and Society be instructed to communicate this resolve to all members of Congress, and to adopt support for redress as part of its program for this quadrennium.