

## REDRESS

### The Organization

The National League of Cities has 15,000 members ranging from towns with fewer than 500 residents to our largest cities. The NLC focuses much of its attention on national policies affecting America's towns and cities. It maintains a team of full-time lobbyists in Washington, D.C., to work with Congress and the White House.

### The Issue/Resolution

NLC support of U.S. Commission Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians recommendations including monetary payments. (See Resolution attached)

### Background

At the urging of Mayor Charles Royer of Seattle, the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM), a national organization of Mayors from America's larger towns and cities, adopted a resolution identical to the one before the NLC. Mayor Royer introduced the redress resolution to NLC. The Human Development Steering Committee of NLC recommends adoption of the resolution.

If NLC adopts the resolution, the two largest national organizations representing municipalities will be on record in support of redress.

### Next Steps

The resolution will be considered at the NLC annual meeting in Indianapolis from November 24 - 28. There remain three hurdles, the first is the key:

- 1) Adoption by the Human Development Policy Committee  
(November 25)
- 2) Adoption by the Resolutions Committee  
(November 26)
- 3) Adoption by the general membership of NLC  
(November 28)

Mayor Royer will be addressing the Policy and Resolution Committees. He will answer questions and urge adoption of the resolution.

Action Needed

Write and call your Mayor and Councilmembers on the the NLC Human Development Policy Committee. Let he/she know that JACL supports Mayor Royer is proposed resolution.

Attachments

## PROPOSED RESOLUTION

### Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians

WHEREAS, on February 19, 1942, Executive Order 9066 was issued and provided for the relocation and internment of persons of Japanese ancestry; and

WHEREAS, from 1942-1946, 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry were forcibly excluded from the West Coast of the United States by military fiat, incarcerated and confined under armed military guard, without hearings or charges, and deprived of basic human rights as a result of actions of the U.S. Government; and

WHEREAS, on July 31, 1980, Public Law 96-317 was enacted authorizing the creation of the U.S. Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians to review the facts and circumstances surrounding the implementation of Executive Order 9066; and

WHEREAS, after two and one-half years of study and research, the Commission's findings were issued on February 24, 1983 and six months later its recommendations were released on June 16, 1983; and

WHEREAS, the Commission's work has already assisted the efforts of several cities and other local governments to remedy prior local actions and policies that denied basic rights and inflicted other injustices upon citizens of Japanese ancestry; and

WHEREAS, these local efforts, including City enacted-legislation, cannot substitute for the necessary federal actions to remedy the injustices that occurred pursuant to Executive Order 9066, nor do these local actions adequately address the issues raised in the Commission's findings or recommendations,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the recommendations of the U.S. Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians and urges Congress and the Administration to act on these recommendations, including the following major proposals:

Office Of The Mayor  
City of Seattle



Charles Royer, Mayor

August 24, 1984

TO: Members, NLC Human Development Steering Committee  
FROM: Mayor Charles Royer  
RE: Proposed Resolution on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians

I am writing to request the Human Development Steering Committee to consider the attached resolution on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians at your September meeting in San Antonio.

Attached you will find the following information to assist your deliberations on this issue: summary of recommendations of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians; list of state and local actions in support of Commission's recommendations; and frequently asked questions with answers provided by the National Committee for Redress of the Japanese American Citizens League.

As you will note in the resolution I have submitted for your consideration, the U.S. Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians was established in 1980 pursuant to P.L. 96-312. After extensive research, fact finding and public comment, including field hearings in Seattle as well as other cities, the Commission issued its recommendations to the President and Congress on June 16, 1983. The central theme of the Commission's conclusions and subsequent recommendations is to seek remedy or redress for the actions of the U.S. Government that resulted in the absolute denial of basic rights and other injustices inflicted upon citizens and legal aliens of Japanese ancestry.

The resolution before your Committee addresses the need for legislation and other steps by the Federal Government to remedy official actions taken by the Federal Government during World War II. As you will note in the attached list of state and local actions, the City of Seattle and other local and state governments have adopted measures to remedy injustices that occurred as the direct result