

Office Of The Mayor
City of Seattle

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Charles Royer, Mayor

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AUG 28 1984
MAYORS OFFICE

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

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of non-federal actions, even though clearly directed and influenced by national policy. In Seattle, several citizens of Japanese ancestry were terminated from City employment. On March 5, 1984, City of Seattle Ordinance 111571, among other steps, authorized payments of \$5,000 to each employee of Japanese ancestry terminated from City employment. While these actions provide some remedy to offset what can only be described as a massive, national program of social injustice, the basis for federal action is both compelling and essential to finally put to rest this dark chapter of the nation's history.

The resolution before you is identical to the one I sponsored and was that adopted in June by the U.S. Conference of Mayors. The support of the National League of Cities for the Commission's recommendations would further add to the broadbased coalition of national organizations urging swift Congressional consideration of the necessary implementing legislation, H.R. 4110 and S. 2116. In the House, more than 100 cosponsors have signed on to H.R. 4110; in the Senate, 19 Senators have cosponsored S. 2116.

Please let me know how I can further assist your review and consideration of this resolution.

Attachments