



MDC CHAPTER PRESIDENTS  
MDC REDRESS REPRESENTATIVES  
September 30, 1981  
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The final report of the commission is due on January 15, 1981, however, it is likely that an extension on this date will be sought to allow time for proper research in compiling as comprehensive a report as possible.

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I would guess the question at this time is NOW WHAT? The hearings represent a step in a process. In the future there is the matter of the recommendation made by the commission and the introduction of a bill in Congress embodying those concepts acceptable to the Japanese American community. In the interim of the filing of the commission report it is necessary that we keep the issue alive through public presentations, etc. I would anticipate that programmatic decisions regarding the JACL redress program will be made at the October 9-11 national board meeting in San Francisco.

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Finally, I've enclosed two items: the hearing agenda produced for the Chicago JACL press packet and a Chicago Sun-Times editorial.

# JACL's Revised Agenda for Hearings of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians

**WHEN:** Tuesday, September 22, 1981, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Wednesday, September 23, 1981, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**WHERE:** Alumni Hall, Northeastern Illinois University, 5500 N. St. Louis, Chicago  
in the Commuter Center (Parking off Central Park Ave., south of Bryn Mawr)

**Commissioners:** Joan Z. Bernstein, Presiding, Attorney, former Chief General Counsel of the  
U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services  
Edward W. Brooke, former U.S. Senator from Massachusetts  
Dr. Arthur S. Flemming, Chairman, U.S. Civil Rights Commission  
Arthur J. Goldberg, former Supreme Court Justice  
Judge William M. Marutani, of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas  
Congressman Daniel E. Lungren of Long Beach, California (Wednesday only)  
Hugh B. Mitchell, former U.S. Senator from Washington

*(Commissioners not attending are Father Robert F. Drinan, President of Americans for Democratic Action and  
Father I.V. Gromoff, a Russian Orthodox priest from Unalaska in the Aleutian Islands.)*

**Contact:** Lary Schectman, Bill Yoshino, or Pat Matsumoto in the JACL Witness Room, 214,  
Phone: 583-4050, ext. 8343

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10 a.m. Call to Order  
10 — 10:10 Opening statements by Commissioners

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#### Statements by Public Figures

10:10 — 10:35 am A statement by Senator Charles Percy will be read by Commissioner Edward Brooke  
Representative of Mayor Jane M. Byrne  
State Senator William Marovitz  
Maryann Mahaffey, Detroit Council Woman Mahaffey was a government worker in one of the camps.

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#### Personal Observation

10:30 — 10:35 Studs Terkel The nationally known author will comment on the in-  
justice of the evacuation and internment and how  
bekenighted Americans were at the time to have allowed  
it to happened. He will also discuss the pro-evacuation  
propaganda of the media and such eminent writers as  
Walter Lippmann.

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#### Organizations

10:35 — 11:20 am Jay Miller, Executive Director, Illinois ACLU  
David Roth, American Jewish Committee  
Minoru Yasui, Colorado Advisory Commission of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission  
Yvonne Delk, New York, United Church of Christ, Office for Church in Society

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#### Case of the Peruvian Japanese

11:25 — 12:15 Dr. C. Harvey Gardiner, Murphysboro  
Seiichi Higashide, Honolulu, Hawaii  
Eigo Kudo, Honolulu, Hawaii  
Elsa Kudo, Honolulu, Hawaii  
George Fujii, Chicago A new aspect of the evacuation story will be introduced  
by these Peruvian Japanese who were among more than  
2,000 South Americans who were seized by order of the  
U.S. Government, taken out of their country, and im-  
prisoned in the United States. Following the war, 90% of  
the South Americans were deported to Japan when their  
own countries refused their readmission. Several hun-  
dred successfully fought deportation in the courts and  
were "paroled" to the Seabrook Farms in New Jersey,  
where the men worked 12 hours a day, 7 days a week for  
50 cents an hour and the women for 35 cents an hour.

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LUNCH BREAK 12:20 — 1:25

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#### Media Reaction

1:25 — 1:50 Historian J. Fred MacDonald, Chicago, PhD, Professor  
Northeastern Illinois University Dr. MacDonald will make an audio/visual presentation  
about the pre-war atmosphere which led to evacuation.

Losses: Economic, Property and Education

1:50 — 2:20

Chiye Tomihiro, Chicago

Tomihiro's father was a law school graduate who was unable to practice law because he was denied the right to be a U.S. citizen. With his law school training, however, he operated a successful business and was able to amass considerable real estate holdings, which he lost because of the evacuation.

Ben Yoshioka, Glenview, Illinois

A government employee, Yoshioka was assigned to assist in property disposition. He cites examples of major financial losses caused by the greed of West Coast businessmen who exploited the unreasonably short time the Japanese Americans had to settle their affairs.

Allan Hida, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin

According to Hida, greater financial losses were incurred because buyers were making offers on a "take it or leave it basis, knowing they had time on their side. . . A greater loss for me is immeasurable — education."

Tom Kanno, White Bear Lake, Minnesota

Evacuation interrupted Kanno's college education in his senior year. He describes the pitiful camp conditions and the racial bigotry encountered when he relocated to Cleveland.

Grace Kimura, Morton Grove

Kimura's family was separated by the evacuation, as her father, a Baptist minister, was hospitalized for a cancer operation. Several minister friends appealed to the Western Defence Command to intern the family in the nearby Santa Anita Assembly Center so they could be near the hospital. Their appeal was denied, and the Mother and three daughters were sent to a camp in Arizona.

"It is ironical that my father who spent his life ministering to the needs of others was not allowed the comfort, companionship and support of his family when he was sick and dying!"

Psychological Impact — Individual

Mas Yamasaki, Dayton, Ohio

2:25 — 2:50

Monica Sone, Canton, Ohio, Author of *Nisei Daughter*  
Masy Tashima, Cleveland, Ohio  
Henry Tanaka, Cleveland, Ohio, Administrator of a Social Service Agency  
Rev. Jitsuo Morikawa, Ann Arbor, Michigan  
Shig Murao, Evanston, School Principal

Impact on Health

2:55 — 3:20

Asaye Honda, Cleveland, Ohio  
Toyo Kawakami, Columbus, Ohio  
Alice Endo, Chicago

Endo's new born baby was vaccinated along with adults and given an adult dosage. As a result he nearly died. The lack of medical facilities, proper medication, and running water made his care exceptionally difficult.

Helen Murao, Evanston

Murao describes the tragic experiences of her orphaned family shortly after Pearl Harbor. First her older sister died, and as the next oldest, at age 16, she was faced with the ordeal of trying to bury her. Because of the curfew and travel restrictions, the young girl encountered incredible difficulties and suffered great emotional pain in her efforts to arrange for burial. When the evacuation was ordered, she was taken from her white foster family and was relocated with her two brothers into an internment camp where the orphans lived without guardians.

Mitzi Schectmann, Chicago

Schectmann's father, who was seriously ill with cancer, was separated from the family when he voluntarily evacuated to eastern Washington on the assurance from the military that the family would be quickly reunited after their processing at the assembly center. The family was separated during the father's trying bout with cancer. He died shortly after he was finally able to rejoin them.

Maye Nakano, Morton Grove

Shortly after Pearl Harbor, Nakano's house was shot at and bullets hit her bed. All of her family assets — a car, furniture, truck, and all personal belongings — were sold for a total of \$15, as most of the locals walked in and took whatever they wanted. The police offered no protection. Later in the Santa Anita Assembly Center, their life savings were stolen when the barracks were ransacked, while they were out making camouflage for the military. Neighbors who witnessed the burglary said the thieves were MPs.

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### Impact on Family

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3:25 — 3:55

Dr. Toro Ishiyama  
Ike Komatsu, Shaker Heights, Ohio  
Mary Sadataki, Northfield, Ohio  
former Social Service Worker  
Kaye Yamashita, Chicago

Providing expert testimony

Released by the government to testify at a government trial in Washington, Yamashita describes conditions outside the camps and the treatment of White Americans who were trying to help their Japanese American friends.

Kei Harada

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### Resettlement Experiences

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4:00 — 4:15

Dr. Dean Frantz, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dr. Frantz will describe his work as Director of Resettlement Services of the Brethren Church.

Rev. Virgil Kraft, Barrington, Illinois

Rev. Kraft will describe the resettlement program of the Methodist Church in Minnesota.

Dr. Kaz Mayeda, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

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### Impact on Sansei (Third Generation)

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4:20 — 4:40

John Sone, Canton, Ohio  
Tom Nakao, Jr., Parma, Ohio  
John Kawano, Chicago  
Ann Yoshida, Glenview

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### Forms of Redress

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4:45 — 5

Michael Ushijima, Buffalo Grove  
Allan Meyer, Chicago Attorney

A veteran of the Military Intelligence Service who served with Japanese-American MIS in the Pacific, Meyer will present his proposal for reparations.

Jack Nakagawa, Chicago

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DINNER BREAK — 5:05 to 6:25

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### Camp Conditions/Problems

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6:30 — 6:55

Henry Ushijima, Park Ridge

An award-winning film-maker, Ushijima will make an audio/visual presentation of camp photos.

George Taketa, Mentor, Ohio  
Harry Taketa, Cleveland, Ohio

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### Sociological Impact/Loyalty

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7 — 7:30

May Ichida, Euclid, Ohio  
Alice Esaki, Chicago

Born in America, Esaki was attending school in Japan when the War began. She describes the discrimination she experienced from the Japanese because she was an American. Rumors of her parents being dragged from their home and imprisoned seemed unbelievable, as friends and neighbors asked, "Where is the democracy you always talked about."

Rev. Michael Yasutake, Evanston  
Tom Tajiri, Park Ridge  
Yoji Ozaki, Chicago  
Exec. Dir., Asian Human Services  
a private mental health agency  
Miyo Hayashi, Chicago

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A psychologist, Ozaki will describe the psychological effects of the internment on the Japanese Americans.

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### Psychological Impact on Family

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7:35 — 8

Kazuko Ige, Elk Grove Village  
Sue Lofton, Chicago  
Rev. Garry Oniki, Chicago  
Akira (Brush) Arai, Chicago  
Lillian Hayano, Chicago

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Impact on World War II Veterans

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8:05 — 8:30 (442nd)	Tomoharu P. Hachiya, Chicago Masaru Frank Kajikawa, Chicago Sam Ozaki, Chicago Principal, Taft High School	Ozaki recalls the sad, humiliating, dehumanizing experiences of the internment. Quoting Carl Schurz, 'My country when right to be kept right, when wrong to be set right.' he states, "My country was wrong therefore I would like to see this wrong set right."
8:30 — 8:40 (MIS)	Dr. Frank Sakamoto, Chicago optometrist Hosen Oshita, Northbrook Shiro Shiraga, Northbrook	Two months before the evacuation, Shiraga delivered his high school's valedictory address, in which he expounded on the need for patriotism during this wartime crisis, highlighting the meaning of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. "It was filled with exhortation about freedom, liberty, and justice for all and the great need for its preservation."

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END OF TUESDAY SESSION

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Wednesday, September 23, 1981  
9 am to 5 pm

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Organizations

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9 — 10:00	George Van Dusen for Congressman Sidney Yates Edwin Cudecki, III. Consultation on Ethnicity and Education Robert Lyons, Deputy Superintendent, Illinois Office of Education Connie Seals, Illinois Human Relations Commission Lillian Kimura, National YWCA Board John Tani, Chicago Chapter, Japanese American Citizens League
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Veterans Organizations

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10:05 — 10:30	John Mahoney, Chicago Past Illinois Department Commander Aris Mantzoros, Arlington Heights Commander of the Cook County Council Warren Fencl, Morris, Illinois Harold Dode, Arlington Heights Edward Kelley, Chicago National President, 34th Division	A resolution of the Illinois Department of the American Legion will be presented along with supporting testimony.  These veterans of the 34th Division will describe their combat experiences, fighting along side the 442nd and 100th battalion.  Kelley will present a petition for redress signed by veterans of the 34th division who gathered at a national reunion in September.
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Impact on World War II Veterans

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10:30 — 10:55	Mas Nakagawa, Chicago	A recipient of the Silver Star for heroism, Nakagawa will describe racial bigotry experienced despite his uniform and battle record.
	Eddie Sato, Chicago	A veteran of the 232nd Engineers, Sato describes the regrettable history of the evacuation. He also tells of his experiences fighting in Italy. While assigned to a German POW camp, which reminded him of his own family's captivity back in the States, he encountered Wehrmacht POWs who lauded the Nisei soldiers for their courage and perseverance.
	Arthur T. Morimitsu, Chicago	A veteran of the Military Intelligence Service (MIS), Morimitsu served on a MARS Task Force Commando Unit in the China/Burma/India theater. He served as an interpreter, interrogator of POWs, and translator of captured documents. "Over 5,000 nisei served in MIS participating in every Pacific landing and campaign. General Willoughby, Chief of Intelligence under MacArthur said the work of nisei MIS shortened the war in the Pacific by two years and probably saved a million casualties."
	Sam Sato	

Forms of Redress

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11:00 — 11:15	Rev. Perry Saito, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin Minister, United Methodist Church	An internee whose mother lost her business and was imprisoned by the FBI, Rev Saito will discuss the support provided by the Methodist church, including a resolution in favor of redress adopted by the United Methodist Churches.
	Shigeo Wakamatsu Dr. John Omori, Glencoe	

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Medical Care/Volunteer Evacuation

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11:20 — 11:40	Betty Hasegawa, Chicago	A registered nurse, one of five among 10,000 people, Hasegawa describes the inadequate medical facilities provided in the camps. The hopelessness of life in the camp destroyed her husband's spirit, and she assumed the family leadership. The family resettled in Rockford, Illinois, where her children were beaten by other school children. One of her sons, who was again attacked and beaten at the age of 24, experienced continuing trauma throughout his adult life and died at the age of 40.
	Tom Watanabe John Kimoto, Chicago	Kimoto lost his business and three homes. Due to resettlement assistance provided by the Maryknoll Nuns, Kimoto later converted to Catholicism.
	Rev. Minoru Mochizuki, Kalamazoo	

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Discrimination/Public Opinion

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11:45 — 11:50	Helen Kiyoko Mukoyama, Chicago	A resident of Chicago during the war, Mukoyama describes her experiences then.
	S. Maren Scharvy	A teacher in the camp high schools, Scharvy describes the intellectual, cultural and social deprivation suffered by her students. She describes the abuses experienced by the students when she escorted them into town.

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LUNCH BREAK 11:55 — 1 pm

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Impact of Evacuation

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1 — 1:50	Maynard Kruger Jan Lynnfield Harold Flitcraft, Oak Park Christopher Anderson, Minneapolis Winifred McGill, Chicago
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Community Analysis Report of the War Relocation Authority

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1:55 — 2:25	Dr. Peter Suzuki, Omaha Rachel Sady	Sady was one of the social scientists assigned to the camps to make a behavioral study on the effects of mass incarceration.
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Organizations

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2:30 — 3:20 pm	The Rev. Dr. Martin Deppe, Oak Park, United Methodist Church Bishop Jesse DeWitt, National Illinois Conference, Chicago Rev. Martha Corsey, Parish of the Holy Covenant, Chicago Rev. Gregory Dell, Methodist Federation for Social Action Myron Kuropalis, Past Ethnic Affairs Advisor to President Ford
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Discrimination/Social Impact

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3:25 — 3:45	Burt Arata, Peoria Hiroshi Kadokura, Chicago Mary Nishimoto, Chicago Frank Watanabe, Norristown, Pennsylvania Hama Watanabe, Norristown, Pennsylvania
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Reparations/Remedies/Crystal City, Texas, Internment

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3:50 — 4:10	Amy Fujii, Chicago Dr. Dan Kuzuhara, Chicago, Asst. Prof. of Psychology, Northeastern Illinois University Merry Omori, Glenview Kay Kaneko, Honolulu, Hawaii
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Constitutional Issues and Monetary Compensation

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4:15 — 4:45	Dr. Shirley Castelnuovo, Prof. of Political Science, Northeastern Illinois University Stanley Kutler, Professor of American Institutions, University of Wisconsin, Madison Victor Rosenblum, Northwestern University
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An independent newspaper, dedicated to championing individual freedom, to exposing abuse of the public trust and to fostering a healthy environment, a sound economy and a just society.

## U.S. must pay internees

Finally, after nearly four decades, it's on the official record: the painful story of how 120,000 Japanese-Americans were lawlessly imprisoned by other kinds of hyphenated Americans in one of the most shameful episodes of this country's history.

Two days of testimony in Chicago this week closed out hearings held in six cities by the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians. And the commissioners have scattered to ponder the report they must submit to Congress by Jan. 15.

The facts are clear:

- In gross violation of more than half the articles of the Bill of Rights, the Japanese-Americans, two-thirds of whom were American citizens, were rounded up in 1942 and interned behind barbed wire, most of them for the duration of World War II.

- They lost homes, farms, businesses—whatever they could not carry or sell out at giveaway prices to the Caucasian scavengers among whom they had lived as neighbors.

- And they lost what money can't replace—families, careers, self-esteem, liberty.

Less clear is what a now-remorseful nation should do about "redress and reparations." But we agree with Studs Terkel, who testified that "some dough should be involved. It can't just be an 'I'm sorry, dear.'"

Yet no amount of money could redeem the debt for the spiritual and emotional damage done to Americans by other Americans. And fair payment for property losses, though justified, is out of the question, given our ravaged economy. The United States in 1948 paid documented claims of \$400 million at the rate of 8.5 cents on the dollar. The balance, with interest added and compensating for inflation, would now amount to many billions.

Even the \$3 billion proposed by one Japanese-American organization—\$25,000 to each of the internees or their heirs—is unaffordable. The sad truth is that \$25,000 is not enough, and \$3 billion is too much.

Still, the nation must pay people something to acknowledge the wrongs done them. And hold out enough, perhaps in a scholarship fund, to keep alive the lesson that the freedom Americans hold sacred is very fragile.