

OVERWHELMING MAJORITY FAVOR REPARATIONS OF SOME KIND

In the Midwest District Survey just concluded, an overwhelming majority of the 176 respondents favor reparations. 83% of the "over 50 age group", 84% of the "30 to 50 group" and 100% of the "under 30" indicated their preference for Reparations of some kind. Impressive as these figures are, it would be unfair to state it is a true picture of the sentiment in the entire Midwest District. Even though all eight Chapters were requested to cooperate in the survey, to our knowledge only four - Chicago, Cincinnati, Milwaukee and the Twin Cities actually sent out questionnaires to their membership.

Detroit returned one response. It was a "No" to the question on Reparations. A follow-up letter explained that the vote "was expressing the feelings of the majority of the people here in Detroit. Most of the group here didn't even file for the Evacuation Claims." The writer concluded by saying, "I personally think Reparations is strictly for the Blacks and the Indians. Pardon the expression, but 'it stinks'".

No response or correspondence of any kind was received from Cleveland, Dayton or St. Louis.

It is interesting to compare the voting of the different age groups to the various questions. The parallel is quite remarkable - particularly at the top vote producing level.

Some explanation is necessary to understand why there are three sets of numbers to each answer. Each number represents the total responses by each of the three different age groups to each specific question. The first number is the total responses from the "Over 50 group". The second number is the total responses from the "30 to 50 group" and the third is the total from the "Under 30 age group". For example, the first question:

1. ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF REPARATIONS OF SOME KIND?

90 41 7 Yes. 13 7 0 No. 5 1 0 Undecided. The numbers 90, 13, 5 represent the total count for Yes, No and Undecided respectively by the "Over 50 age group". The numbers 41, 7, 1 represent the total votes for Yes, No and Undecided by the "30 to 50 group". And the numbers 7, 0, 0 the totals for the "under 30".

2. SHOULD WE SEEK JUSTIFICATION FOR REPARATIONS ON THE BASIS OF CASH OR CONSCIENCE?

21 13 1 Cash. 31 63 4 Conscience. 46 24 4 Both.

(Basis of "Cash" is defined as: Lost salary during internment or because of forced removal. Loss of potential salary or income due to interruption in employment. Other losses based on cash value.)

(Basis of "Conscience" is defined as: Breakup of normal family and community environment. Forced movement and relocation by decree of government. Termination of normal education process for children and young adults. Psychological and emotional damage to adults and children. Humiliation inflicted upon the Nikkei. Forced shutdown of Japanese language and martial arts schools and practice. Cultural deprivation and loss of ethnic identity.)

3. HOW SHOULD WE SEEK PAYMENTS?

- a. 43 16 1 Individual basis (Patterned much like the individual claims filed under the Evacuation Claims Act of 1948).
- b. 14 7 0 Lump sum to a trust fund administered by a board or commission established to control distribution.
- c. 37 17 8 Same as (b) but with a built-in guarantee that individuals can file claims against the fund as well as organizations. (Example of individuals would be the Issei who need and can use the money now. Organizations might be homes for the aged, research centers and scholarship foundations.)

4. HOW DO YOU THINK THE FUNDS COULD BE BEST UTILIZED? State briefly. (They were grouped according to similar content, with no attempt to separate them by age group.)

- 40 Care, housing and aid for the aged and needy - with emphasis on needs of Issei
- 20 Individual basis, e.g., all Issei, all who desire, flat sum to all or all who were over 21.
- 13 Educational purposes slanted to aid to individuals
- 13 Japanese American cultural, educational, research center or centers and community projects
- 2 Publicity and public relations promulgating the accomplishment and contributions of Asian Americans
- 2 Trust Funds
- 1 Improve Japan - American relations
- 1 Tax rebate

5. APPROXIMATELY HOW MUCH SHOULD WE SEEK?
- a. 35 17 3 Over one billion dollars
 - b. 22 7 2 One billion dollars
 - c. 10 7 1 Less than one billion
 - d. 7 4 1 Four hundred million dollars

6. WHO SHOULD BE ELIGIBLE? Check as many as you wish.
- 91 38 8 Former evacuees (in internment camps and/or assembly centers)
 - 67 27 4 Persons forced to leave their residence and involuntarily locate to areas outside evacuation order areas to avoid unjustified internment
 - 62 28 4 Alien detention center internees
 - 59 28 5 Children born in internment camps or assembly centers
 - 57 30 5 Direct heirs of all affected above, if principal is deceased
 - 56 27 4 Persons jailed in local, state and federal jails who refused to evacuate

7. SHOULD JACL BECOME INVOLVED NATIONALLY IN ANY OF THE LEGISLATIVE ISSUES LISTED BELOW? Select four and number them in order of your priority.
- (The numbers are divided into age groups as above; however, they represent total points rather than number of votes. Points were calculated in this manner: Each number 1 priority vote for a particular issue was given 4 points; each number 2 priority vote for the same issue was given 3 points; each number 3 vote counted 2 points; and each 4th priority vote for same issue one point was given.

EXAMPLE: "Reparations", In the "Over 50 group" - 40 people voted it their top priority, therefore $40 \times 4 = 160$ points. 23 people voted it their 2nd priority, $23 \times 3 = 69$ points. 13 people voted it their 3rd priority, $13 \times 2 = 26$ points. And 6 people gave Reparations 4th priority, $6 \times 1 = 6$. Adding all the points: $160 + 69 + 26 + 6 = 261$ points - the total points for the "Over 50 group".

264	115	27	Reparations
181	80	16	Civil Rights Legislation
166	60	10	U.S. - Japan Relations
116	47	2	Asian American Cabinet Committee
67	50	3	Atomic Bomb Survivors Bill
62	15	2	Cabinet level Department of Peace
60	71	7	Rice Act
20	21	0	Hawaiian Native Claims Settlement Act
9	8	1	Iva Toguri Case

(Write-ins)

4	5	0	Affirmative Action
0	4	0	Decrease Federal Control over State
0	3	0	Fight for Balance Budget
4	0	0	Repeal laws providing more individual freedom

8. OTHER INFORMATION AND COMMENTS

Many of us, most of us in the USA suffered as much as or more than those interned because of ancestry during WWII. It's a rip-off to try and force payment to a few at the expense of those who cannot demand such favors.

What is the Washington Representative doing in regard to the items on this survey?

I am grateful for everything I have received as an American citizen of Japanese ancestry living in the U.S. It has now been 34 years since I was evacuated from the West Coast, I hope I am not still licking my "wounds".

People today, both young and old, do not realize this can happen or has happened in the U.S. This step is long overdue.

This should of happened 20 years ago! ...you should get this legislation through before too many people die and can never get the reparations they deserve. The Issei and Nisei have put up with a lot of grief! They should get something back even if it's just a feeling of accomplishment!

Strongly opposed to JACL spending so much time on issues of the past at the expense of not working on current concerns.

...I am concerned with all Asian Americans. To the general public all Asians look alike and are treated alike. The service needs are similar or the same and can be provided by a single agency. A united front will be more effective.

Being a Nisei and one of the victims of 1942 Evacuation, I am highly insulted by your mercenary demands. I have not heard any Issei or Nisei who had been victims

complain and ask for reparations. It seems to me that Sanseis, Yonseis and others who had never experienced life in camp are demanding reparations more for themselves.

I have never been particularly supportive of this (reparations) effort. I think other Asians view it as a self serving gesture on the part of JACL...there are so many other worthy causes to which we should turn our energies. But if I can help, let me know.

I no longer feel individual reparations are viable goals - only in exceptional cases, should it be pursued.

Most of the legislative issues are downright silly or typical of the knee-jerk liberal.

Are we not first Americans? Seeking billions of dollars certainly won't make a wrong right nor will it endear the Japanese Americans to the general public in these troubled economic times. ...shaking our fists and demanding cash reparations for a 30-plus years old injustice somehow cheapens the strength of Japanese spirit and pride (Yamato damashi!).

(The following is printed exactly as submitted - without change.) "We did not want to go to the camp from L.A. because I was expecting a baby and other children were young (7, 4 and 3 yrs.).

So, we went to "White Zone" near Fresno, but after 4 mos. we were order to go to camp or some inland. I could not travel far. The hospital in Poston was not finished, or I could not have milk, egg or protein. I had vitamins, but not enough. The baby boy was born, but troubled liver with all over yellow even finger tips. The doctor said to give a lot of water. I never had enough milk to give. He is small with small bone and other children, 4 and 3 years old at that time are small too. Very important formative years, I could not feed them properly.

I could not forgive what the government did to us besides psychologically so disturbed of small children forced move from own bedroom, playroom and toys. They saw all kinds of Japanese people and they don't like them anymore."

Bill Doi
4437 30th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55406