

MAY 23 1978

National JACL Hq
1765 Sutter St
San Francisco, CA 94115

18 May 1978

Dear Sir,

The attached two resolutions are for the information of your leaders and others who are still interested in reparations.

These two NIKKEI resolutions--#9 on reparations and #20 on civil service credit--have been approved and accepted by a VFW post* overseas. These two resolutions are being processed to be presented to the Department of Pacific Areas VFW Convention, Seoul, South Korea in June. If approved there, they will be sent for action to the VFW National Convention, Dallas, Texas in August.

The reparations resolution has reached the National Convention twice the past two years, but has not been approved. But it has served well as an educational vehicle to non-Japanese VFW members who had to discuss and vote on the measure.

The other resolution on civil service retirement credit has been successful, and has been approved and accepted by the VFW National Convention for the past two years, 1976 and 1977. (This info has been relayed to CIC by letter attached to resolution.)

As requested above, please send your national leaders including Reparations Committee Chrmn Dr Clifford Uyeda, copies of the resolutions. There is a definite need for a national NIKKEI organization similar to JACL to lead the campaign for reparations and to issue firm policy stands and statements on reparations.

We NIKKEI overseas have been using material from your Pacific Citizen for our resolutions. We are grateful and thankful for the JACL's PC. It is a good communicator.

* VFW Post 9723, Japan
has 1156 members

Sincerely,

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Alex Yonichi

TO RECTIFY AN INJUSTICE

BACKGROUND:

WHEREAS, in the early part of World War II, without due process of law, 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry were irrationally deprived of their civil rights, callously evicted from their homes on the West Coast, Hawaii, and Alaska and infamously interned in relocation centers by Executive Order No. 9066 issued February 19, 1942, and

WHEREAS, these people were forcibly evicted, falsely imprisoned, and wrongfully and shamefully detained in such places as horsestalls in racetracks, fairgrounds, and hastily constructed assembly centers and relocation centers, all with oppressive barbed-wire fences and watch-towers manned by armed men, and

WHEREAS, during this most onerous chapter of American history, 73% of those interned were United States citizens and the rest were their alien resident parents or children, and none was ever charged with nor committed any single act of espionage, sabotage, or treason against the United States, and

WHEREAS, this mass evacuation from the West Coast was a tragedy and a gross atrocity precipitated by racism, ignorance, intolerance, bigotry, lack of strong and positive leadership by officials, and an irresponsible media which incited hate passions fostered and encouraged by the racists and those in the economic and political fields who would stand to gain by the banishment of the Japanese, and

WHEREAS, although the unjust internment was a bitter episode and spiritually brutal and debilitating experience for those who were interned, the Japanese-Americans still retained faith in and loyalty to the United States and displayed an even greater willingness to make sacrifices on the battlefield, at home, and in the holding centers, and

WHEREAS, most of these people lost their homes and property, amounting to a total of 400 million dollars, most experienced in the interruption of their careers, shattered lives and livelihoods, and all lost real wages while forcibly detained in the internment camps, since maximum pay per month was only \$19.00 for professionals such as doctors and less for others as compared to \$114.30 per month for German and Italian POW's in U.S. concentration camps, and

WHEREAS, internees and relatives of internees bravely and patriotically volunteered for military service and zealously and dauntlessly fought for the United States throughout the world, many of them, while serving with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and its attached units, military intelligence organizations, or other combat air and ground units, being killed or wounded, and

CURRENT SITUATION:

WHEREAS, there are 47,000 Japanese Americans over age 65, one-fifth of them or 9,400 are living below poverty level standards with incomes of \$2,482 a year for males and \$1,312 for females, and rolls are getting larger each year requiring immediate government assistance, and

WHEREAS, there are lonely and destitute elderly Japanese Americans scattered throughout the United States by the evacuation and they should be with their consent, transported to Japanese American community centers for the aged so that they could be taken care of by those interested in them, and by those who speak the same language, and be fed oriental food as available, and

WHEREAS, the pitiful economic situation of these poor lonely elderly was directly caused by their being expelled from the West Coast at the height of their productive years, by not being able to save for their old age and by having lost everything they had and had worked for, and

VFW AND JAPANESE:

WHEREAS, the progressiveness of the V.F.W. is well known: from 1933 thru 1935 it campaigned to seek naturalization for Japanese who had fought for the United States during World War I, and later V.F.W. posts in California were in the unpopular forefront to eliminate the alien land law, and

WHEREAS, in the midst of the anti-Japanese and "don't let the Japanese come back to the West Coast" movement in 1944, a San Francisco V.F.W. Post was courageously the only veterans' organization at that time which accepted membership from Japanese American GI's who were serving in the China-Burma-India (CBI) theater, and

WHEREAS, a good number of these Japanese American veterans are currently members of V.F.W. posts throughout the country and overseas and including over ten all-Nisei V.F.W. posts, and

WHEREAS, such a mass evacuation and internment without trial and due process of law, violating the integrity and dignity of law-abiding citizens and residents, shall not occur again in these United States to any group of people as a result of their race, color, or national origin; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, as a form of redress for its iniquitous actions, the U.S. Government, through the Congress and the President of the United States, right the wrong by passing an evacuation reparation bill to show that the mass evacuation and internment were unjust, wrongful, and illegal, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the reparation bill cover monetary damages to all evacuees, for loss of gainful employment, hardship and suffering,

Resolution No. 9 - Page 3 - Continued

cultural deprivation, mental anguish and forced relocation; and that it cover payment of allowances to include a lump sum payment of \$5000 for each individual eligible and an additional award of \$10 for each day of confinement, with the unclaimed portions to be placed in trust for Japanese American cultural-education-rehabilitation purposes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the evacuation reparation bill be funded and the cost be defrayed partially from the \$320 million which is being received by the United States from Japan for the cost of public utilities and facilities which were turned over at the reversion of Okinawa, and that it be supplemented by money secured through a sharing system--the Government to take income tax payments from Japanese American tax payers and to disburse same as reparations to verified recipients and organizations such as the Japanese American Citizens League for community projects, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the recipients of the reparation are to include all those from the West Coast and over 1,300 from Alaska and Hawaii who were interned in the United States mainland and Hawaii, those who were born in the camps, those who voluntarily relocated to avoid internment, those who were jailed because they refused to evacuate, U.S. citizen Nisei who were reclassified in 1942 to 4-C (enemy aliens), and non-Japanese married to evacuees, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the reparations for Japanese Americans who have died since the evacuation and those living who do not want their share of the reparations be deposited in a common central government fund for use in the social, cultural, educational, and rehabilitation programs plus nursing homes and/or Japanese American community centers for the aged, with first priority earmarked for immediate assistance to the elderly Japanese who have been so courageous and quiet, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Department of Pacific Areas in Convention go on record ardently supporting our loyal Nisei and Sansei members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and their families who were interned in these camps, and that it send a copy of this resolution to the National Headquarters for presentation at the 79th Annual National VFW Convention to be held in Dallas, Texas in August 1978, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the National VFW in Convention go on record actively championing the above recommendations, and that a copy of this resolution be sent to each member of Congress, the Cabinet and to the Vice President and President of the United States.

Submitted by Post 9723

Committee for Internment Credit
487 - 23rd Ave
San Francisco, CA 94121

INFO
copy to not JACL

17 May 1978

Dear Sir,

I am enclosing a copy of a VFW resolution which has been presented to a VFW post overseas on Apr 18, 1978 and was unanimously approved by its members on May 16. This resolution is about Civil Service Retirement Credit for Japanese Americans.

Your Committee could possibly use it or tell about it to the Senators.

This the third time in three years that a similar resolution has made the rounds to the National VFW convention. The current resolution will now be presented to a Department of Pacific Areas VFW Convention in South Korea in June. If it passes there, it will be sent to the National VFW Convention, Dallas, Texas, in August for action.

The first resolution was accepted by the 77th National VFW Convention held in New York in 1976. The following year, 1977, a similar resolution #653 was approved at the 78th National VFW Convention held in Minneapolis, Minn. Now, the third resolution is on its way to Korea and then Dallas. Can CIC use this information in a subtle way to impress the Senators?

My Senator is Sen. Cranston. I have written him earlier requesting that he exert some pressure so that hearings are scheduled for S. 224.

Unfortunately, I can not attend the Dallas Convention. If there are any CIC members in the Dallas area who are also VFW members, they should attend the Convention to keep an eye on the resolution.

~~Enclosed~~ Keep up the excellent work!

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Sincerely,

Alex N. Yorichi

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Resolution No. 20

Apr 18, 1978

CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT CREDIT

WHEREAS, during World War II and without due process of law, 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry were divested of their civil and constitutional rights, stripped of the last vestiges of human dignity, callously and irrationally evicted from their homes on the West Coast, and infamously and grievously interned in assembly and relocation centers as a result of Executive Order No. 9066, issued February 19, 1942, and

WHEREAS, many courageous Japanese-Americans dauntlessly and ungrudgingly volunteered from these internment camps for combat military service, the 442d Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service and other combat units and from amongst those loyal and worthy veterans who were fortunate and were not forced to sacrifice their lives and who came back alive, some applied for and were successful in securing civil service (CS) employment, and

WHEREAS, these same faithful veterans and CS employees have reached or are reaching retirement age, and for the time spent in the assembly and relocation centers as wards/employees of the U.S. Government (professional employees such as doctors received \$19.00 per month while others received \$16.00 in wages from the Government) they do not receive any federal employment credit, with the exception made only for pre-war Japanese American Civil Service employees who are receiving civil service credit for retirement purposes by Public Law 86-782, and

WHEREAS, the U. S. Government should instantly and without further delay make expiation for its acts of persecution against loyal Japanese-Americans who were indecently and disgracefully forced to move against their wills, and under all principles of fair play, civil rights, and equality, should award civil service credit to them for the time spent in the wartime centers since they were being paid a token amount by the U. S. Government, and

WHEREAS, there are a number of V.F.W. members amongst the several hundred people who are eligible for this credit, and

Resolution No 20-- Page 2 -- Continued

WHEREAS, the House bill, H.R. 9471, sponsored by Congressman Norman Mineta, passed the House on Jan 23, 1978 by an overwhelming vote of 366 to 12, and

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Department of Pacific Areas in Convention go on record that all Japanese-Americans who are now or were civil service employees and who were interned during WWII in the assembly and relocation centers be granted civil service credit for the days, months, or years they were so interned, and

BE IT FURTHER, resolved that this resolution be presented to the 79th Annual National V.F.W. Convention, Dallas, Texas in August 1978, and that the National Convention be strongly urged to go on record advocating this resolution as has been done in the 1976 and 1977 National Conventions, and

BE IT FURTHER, resolved that the National V.F.W. Convention ask the U.S. Senate for the immediate enactment of S. 224 on this subject, introduced by Senator Daniel Inouye, and to the members of the following committees: Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs and Subcommittee on Civil Service and General Services.

Submitted by Post 9723