

Rationale prepared by S. M. Yasutake in behalf of the Committee

The main reason for reparation is liberty and freedom denied Japanese Americans during World War II. The basis is moral rather than legal. Evacuation-detention was wrong, immoral, and inhumane. Monetary compensation is justified for this treatment.

Payment

Payment of reparation is to be made to individuals. However, a common fund (trust, corporation) is to be established, so that if individuals so choose, they may contribute their shares to such a fund to be allocated for purposes of cultural or educational development or for the promotion of equal opportunity for Japanese Americans and other Asians.

Trust Fund Administration

It is preferred that such a trust fund be administered by a private group rather than by a government sponsored agency.

Deceased Evacuees

As to payment to rightful heirs of evacuees, it is commonly accepted practice to allocate funds to beneficiaries of the deceased, such as in insurance claims.

Latin American Evacuees

Where the Japanese from Latin American nations were incarcerated in the United States concentration camps mainly because ~~of~~^{at} the instigation of the U.S. government and not primarily because that of the respective Latin American nations, the reparation payment should include those evacuees. If the fault for detention lay mainly with these Latin American countries, then such Japanese should not be included in the Reparations claims.

Funding

A special fund should be established for Reparation work. 1979 is the odd year for contributions for political purposes other than to political candidates. A semi-autonomous committee or commission for lobbying and legislative work would safeguard the tax deductible status of JACL.

A sizable funding is needed for ^{the} national campaign and promotion, as well as for the support of district and chapter programs. A direct national appeal is necessary. Guidelines are needed for chapters for their fund raising, if funds are to be raised by them. Also guidelines for national and local fund allocations are necessary.

Strategies

An efficient network of national, regional and local groups through JACL structure needs to be spelled out specifically for the Reparation campaign.

Strategies (cont.)

The Washington D.C. JACL staff and member leaders will play a vital role. Adequate staffing there is crucial for coordination of information, feedbacks from the Capitol Hill, weekly communication summary of political developments related to Reparation project, etc.

A national strategy is necessary for informing politicians across the country of the nature of the Reparation project. Each chapter will build up support among politicians for Reparation. The responses of politicians could be fed back to the Central Committee for further strategizing, well before the National JACL Convention in summer, 1978.

In this process, Japanese Americans will gain political education by participation, which in turn can build political base for the continuation of the Reparation campaign.

The promotional materials (broshures, news relases) should be given over to professional-promotional writers for refinement.

Suggested title for the main broshure: "Human Rights - Our Dignity"

In promotional campaign - exchange effective communicators, speakers and leaders between chapters and districts across the country. A national funding for this would expedite such a program.