

Japanese American Citizens League

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M E M O R A N D U M

To: Chapter Presidents
Redress Representatives

Date: May 8, 1980

From: Bill Yoshino

Subject: S. 1647

The Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs met today in executive session to consider the facts on S. 1647. The committee voted 11-0 for approval of the bill.

It must be noted that six members of that committee are from States comprising the Midwest District. It must also be noted that each of those six midwestern Senators; Charles Percy, Thomas Eagleton, John Danforth, John Glenn, Carl Levin and David Durenburger were present at the Committee session. It must finally be noted that each voted their approval of S. 1647.

The next step in the process is reporting the bill to the full senate for consideration. I might also add that the bill did undergo some changes in mark-up. I will forward the amended version shortly.

This is by no means the end of the process. It is certainly an encouraging sign, however, we still have the full Senate and The House process to contend with.

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On other matters, I have petitioned the Health Insurance Committee for an extension of coverage to MDC. I will keep you informed as I receive information.

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Enclosed is a diagram of the legislative process as well as the Northern California proposal for proportional voting at the National Council.

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Thanks for your continuing efforts on the Redress bill.

S. 1647

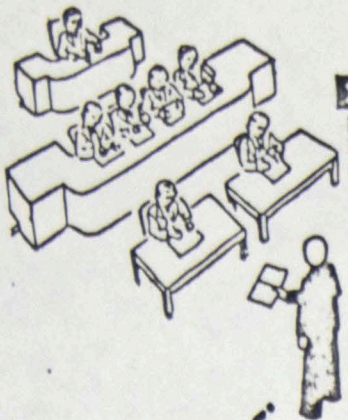
Aug. 2, 1979

How a bill ...

Mar. 18, 1980



2 The committee holds public hearings on the bill.



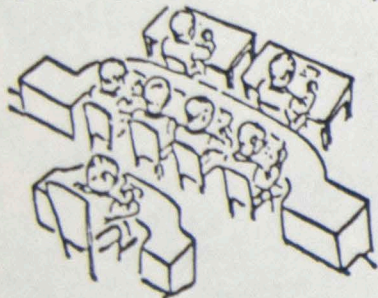
1 Most bills can be introduced in either house. The procedure by which a bill becomes a law is much the same regardless of where the bill originates. In this story, the bill is first introduced in the Senate. It is given a number and referred to the proper committee.

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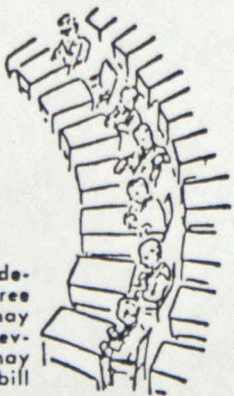


3 The full committee meets in executive (closed) session to consider the facts. It may kill the bill, approve it with or without amendments, or draft a new bill.

4 The committee recommends the bill for passage. It is then listed on the calendar.

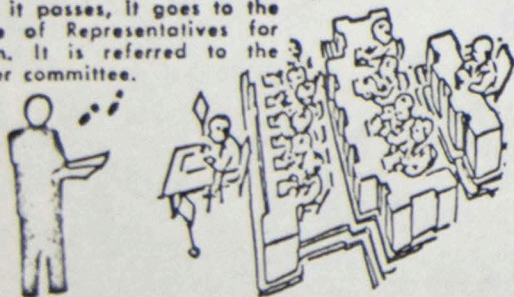


5 The bill comes up for debate. Depending on the degree of controversy, debates may last from a few hours to several weeks. Amendments may or may not be added. The bill is then voted on.



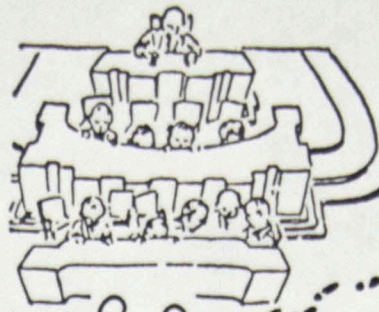
Sept. 28, 1979

6 If it passes, it goes to the House of Representatives for action. It is referred to the proper committee.



7 Hearings may be held.

8 The committee rejects the bill, prepares a new one, or accepts the bill with or without amendments.



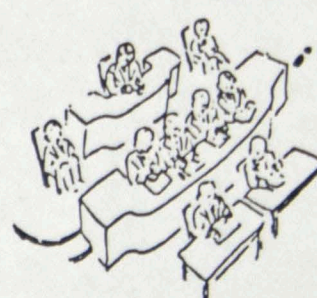
11 It goes before the entire body, is debated and voted on.



10 The Rules Committee is one of the most powerful of the committees in the House of Representatives. After a bill has been recommended for passage by the committee to which it was referred, the Rules Committee can block it or clear it for debate before the entire House.



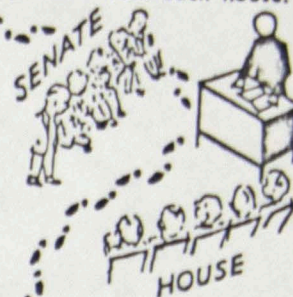
9 The committee recommends the bill for passage. It is listed on the calendar and is sent to the Rules Committee.



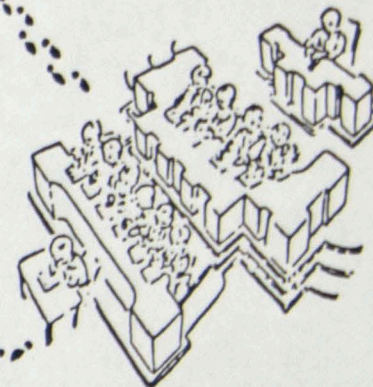
14 If the report is accepted by both houses, the bill is signed by the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate, and is sent to the President of the United States.



12 If the bill is passed by the second body but contains major differences, either house may request a conference committee. The conferees meet and try to reconcile their differences. Representing both parties, five conferees are usually appointed from each house.



13 Generally, they reach an agreement. They report back to their respective houses. The report is accepted or rejected.



15 The President may sign or veto the bill within 10 days. If he doesn't sign within 10 days and Congress is still in session, the bill automatically becomes law. If Congress has adjourned before the 10 days have elapsed and the President has not signed the bill, it does not become law. This is known as a "pocket veto." If the President returns the bill with a veto message, it may still become law if passed by two-thirds majority in each house.



... Becomes a law.