

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE
NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR REDRESS
MINUTES OF FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 1980
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA (JACL HQ)

MAR 25 REC'D

Present: John Tateishi (Committee Chair), Minoru Yasui (MPDC) Ron Wakabayashi (PSW), Phil Shigekuni (PSW Liaison), John Tameno (IDC), Chuck Kubokawa (NCWN), Tom Shimasaki (CCDC), Ross Harano (MDC), Cherry Tsutsumida (EDC), George Hara (PNW), George Sakaguchi (SE Liaison); National Staff: J.D. Hoko-yama (Assoc. Director), Bill Yoshino (MDC Regional Director), George Kondo (NCWN Regional Director); EXECOM: Dr. Jim Tsujimura (Nat'l VP), Ben Takeshita (NCWN DC Governor)

1. Call to Order 7:15pm
2. Introduction of Committee members and those attending
3. Legislative Update (Tsutsumida reporting)
 - 3.1 This is, by all indications, the best year to pass the JACL sponsored Redress bills. If we don't get the bills through this year, it will be very difficult in the future.
 - 3.2 S.1647 has been scheduled for Senate committee hearings on March 26th; it is expected that some effort will be made by Congressmen Mineta and Matsui to move HR5499 in the House subcommittee in view of the Senate hearings.
 - 3.3 If there is no tremendous activity on either bills by Nikkei legislators it's because they're extremely busy. They are committed to the issue but have very heavy schedules. There is no strong legislative opposition to Redress in Congress; just a general lack of interest because it's not one of the pressing issues on the Hill.
 - 3.4 Some observations from the Washington Advisory Group:
 - 3.4.1 No document yet presented/published which articulates specifically the JACL stance, ie, the commission. This is needed for the membership because they don't understand what the commission is or how it works. We need this before we can expect to get grassroots support. The Washington Office can handle the lobbying but the statement is necessary for membership support.
 - 3.4.2 Necessary for the Committee to articulate the commission approach before we can begin to discuss strategy within the organization.
 - 3.5 (Kubokawa) Suggest that Ron Ikejiri contact Senator Inouye to indicate to President Carter that this is the 50th Anniversary year of JACL and it would therefore be appropriate for the President to encourage Congressional support of Redress legislation.
 - 3.5.1 (Tsutsumida) Expressed the view that it would be more appropriate for Dr. Uyeda, as National President, to write a letter to Senator Inouye and/or President Carter to seek the President's support.
4. Budget Report (Yasui reporting)
 - 4.1 Yasui explained that, at the request of the Chair, he agreed to lend his name to the Redress fund raising effort and has therefore agreed to serve as the Redress Fund Raising Chair.
 - 4.2 Fund raising efforts thus far have yielded the following results:

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|------------------------------|----------|
| Total contributions to date: | \$19,849 |
| Total chapter contributions: | 16,324 |
| Total PC ad contributions: | 1,445 |
 - 4.3 The major fund raising effort is slated for the March 22 dinner, "An American Testimonial." Projected gross profits at approximately \$150,000, the net sum of which is to be used for the lobbying effort as per the proposed budget of \$120,000 accepted by EXECOM at the Nov. 10, 1979 meeting.

- 4.4 Discussion re Nov. 10 budget
- 4.4.1 (Harano) Request clarification of how Nov. 10 budget was developed and what portions have already been expended.
- 4.4.2 (Tateishi) The budget was developed after a strategy meeting with the Washington Advisory Group prior to the Nov. 10 EXECOM meeting. Specifically, the budget was worked out in consultation with Ron Ikejiri and Kaz Oshiki. Tateishi emphasized that the Nov. 10 budget is intended solely for the purpose of the lobbying effort and indicated that the Committee would have to develop further fund raising plans to carry out the campaign in the districts through Committee members.
- 4.4.3 (Shimasaki) Suggest a \$3/member assessment to raise funds for the specific use of the Committee.
- 4.4.4 (Tateishi) Many of the "Old Guard" Nisei JACLers have indicated that a \$120,000 budget is inadequate to carry out the campaign of congressional legislation.
- 4.4.5 (Yasui) The naturalization campaign ran in excess of \$1 million in 1946 dollars. Believes that the Committee must consider a much larger budget in order to run the campaign nationwide.
- 4.4.6 (Harano) What has been done insofar as the line item on research is concerned? Will the amounts indicated be necessary for the scope of our efforts legislatively?
- 4.4.7 (Tateishi) The figures were determined on the basis of hiring someone to do research on a full-time basis in Washington, D.C., with the intent of having that researcher spend a lot of time in the Library of Congress to secure the many documents which are important to us vis-a-vis the Evacuation.
- 4.4.8 (Yasui) The amount specified not excessive in view of the fact that the research for the document is intended to be presented at both the congressional committee hearings and the commission hearings. It's a document of major proportions.
- 4.4.9 (Harano) Has such a document been compiled, or has the work been started in preparation for the document?
- 4.4.10 (Tateishi) Ron Ikejiri has been doing research and has compiled the materials for the document. In fact, his entire Washington operation has pretty much become strictly a Redress operation, and as a consequence, he and his staff have been overtaxed with work.
- 4.4.11 (Tsutsumida) Someone will probably need to assist Ikejiri with providing a document to present as testimony for the Senate hearing especially now that we suddenly have an impending Senate committee hearing.
- 4.4.12 (Tateishi) Mike Masaoka is obviously the most qualified to put together such a document, but he just doesn't have the time. Also appropriate for the task is Min Yasui.
- 4.4.13 (Yasui) Because of the obligations of his job, he cannot possibly accept the responsibility.
- 4.4.14 (Harano) Suggested Tateishi.
- 4.4.15 (Tateishi) Very difficult to take as much time off from work as would be required; has used up all of his sick leave since taking over the Committee and would therefore have to make special arrangements.
- 4.4.16 (Yasui) Regardless of who might go to assist in preparation of testimony, that person should be compensated. General concurrence of the Committee.
- 4.4.17 (Harano) The Nov. 10 budget has a major portion allocated for research, and that money should be used for such compensation.

- 4.4.18 (Tsutsumida) To Tateishi: would you be willing to go to D.C. to help Ikejiri with the testimony?
- 4.4.19 (Tateishi) Yes, but need to make sure that certain arrangements can be cleared in my department first.
- 4.5 Action:
 - 4.5.1 "Move that the Committee compensate John Tateishi for one week in Washington, D.C. and give authorization for any other expenditures necessary to prepare a document for presentation to Senate committee hearing."
M/S/C (Tsutsumida/Shimasaki)
- 4.6 Tateishi appointed ad hoc committee to determine amount of compensation to be allocated for the document preparation. Ad hoc committee consists of Tsutsumida, Harano, Shimasaki, Wakabayashi, Yasui. The committee instructed to report its recommendation at the following morning's meeting.
- 5. District Reports
 - 5.1 PNW - George Hara
 - 5.1.1 PNW unanimous in support of the Commission legislation, taken by vote of the DC at its last meeting. The chapters are prepared to move on the campaign, but are waiting for direction from the National Committee. National Council for JA Redress (NCJAR) forum in Seattle was successful; it created some conflict because of some comments made about JACL but overall, it was effective in gaining community support. PNW chapter presidents feel there is an over-reaction on National's part to the forum.
 - 5.1.2 After some discussion, the Committee expressed a consensus that it was not opposed to NCJAR or the Seattle group specifically and requested that this be conveyed to the District at its next meeting.
 - 5.2 NCWN - Chuck Kubokawa
 - 5.2.1 Feels that Redress is an issue that needs to be carried to the communities and to various organizations for support. Views the issue as a grassroots effort and has found that there's a good deal of support in the district.
 - 5.2.2 Recommends that a copy of the Articles of the Bill of Rights be distributed to districts through the Committee in order to make the constitutional point more emphatic.
 - 5.2.3 NCWN has committed five tables for the March 22 dinner in LA.
 - 5.3 CCDC - Tom Shimasaki
 - 5.3.1 CCDC in general was opposed to the Redress issue when JACL focused on seeking monetary compensation only, but the district is unanimously in support of the issue as a result of the Tri-District meeting held in Fresno last year.
 - 5.3.2 The district is prepared to support the campaign financially and has purchased two tables for the March 22 dinner.
 - 5.4 PSW - Ron Wakabayashi
 - 5.4.1 The LA Community Coalition on Redress/Reparations (LACCRR) recently held a community forum on the Redress issue. It became evident that there an information gap as to why the JACL has taken the commission approach. The audience attending the forum indicated that it (and the community) is mainly after direct compensation. There's a strong feeling that JACL doesn't represent the community; we need to get other JA community organizations involved directly in the issue, or we'll have real problems when the commission hearings are held in LA.
 - 5.4.2 Los Angeles is a difficult area because of its fragmentation of

- so many different organizations and its general lack of cohesiveness within the JA community. Needs a lot more work on the issue.
- 5.4.3 As a result of the March 22 dinner, the media is interested in the issue. Getting a lot of publicity locally.
- 5.5 MPDC - Min Yasui
- 5.5.1 The majority of JA's in the MP area are non-evacuees who have no burning concern about the issue. But it's important to keep in mind that an area such as the MP district has 46 congressional representatives, and that the Midwest has the majority of representatives of all JACL districts. Consequently, Redress has to be viewed from a national perspective as opposed to a West Coast perspective.
- 5.5.2 At the last MPDC meeting, held in Houston in February, the district officially went on record accepting a resolution in support of the commission bills presently in Congress. There was some reluctance on the part of some of the chapters, but the vote was unanimous.
- 5.6 IDC - John Tameno
- 5.6.1 Although the district has been slow to respond, it voted unanimously at its November meeting to support the commission bills. There needs to be some work in the district to get more support, and as the new committee representatives, will try to get the district moving on the issue.
- 5.7 MDC - Ross Harano
- 5.7.1 The MDC chapters are ready to follow suit with the National Committee. There was some confusion about the approach because of the reporting in the PC, but this was clarified to people in the community at a dinner held in Chicago in February. The purpose of the dinner was to develop plans for a major fund raising testimonial dinner in Chicago, perhaps to honor Rep. Yates, with a goal of raising \$50,000 for the local campaign.
- 5.7.2 The Clark County Board has passed a resolution in support of the commission bills.
- 5.7.3 The Chicago chapter has contacted all the Illinois members of Congress who haven't as yet signed on as co-sponsors of the bills.
- 5.7.4 Important to clarify the JACL position. He, like many, didn't know the "party line" until visits from Tateishi, Nobuyuki and Ikejiri and an explanation of the commission was given.
- 5.8 EDC - Cherry Tsutsumida
- 5.8.1 EDC is a microcosm of the rest of JACL in that there is support for Redress but a need to move the issue in the chapters. The chapters in EDC don't represent a large number of people, but as a district is important because of the connections and influence of many of the membership.
- 5.8.2 A Judge Kashiwa has volunteered his help to develop a legal perspective for the campaign. Suggests that Tateishi discuss this with Judge Kashiwa in D.C. with the possibility of inviting him to the next Committee meeting.
- 5.9 SE - George Sakaguchi
- 5.9.1 Has some names as initial contacts to attempt to develop support for Redress in the South. There are 96 congressmen out of 24 states in the South, and four thus far are supporting the bill.
- 5.9.2 Requests that anyone who knows Nikkei in the South forward these names for him to contact.
- 5.9.3 Would like to know from the Chair if he has authorization to go ahead and make a trip to the South, whether this will be reimbursed by the Redress budget.

5.9.4 In response, Tateishi indicated that at this time, there is not enough money in the budget to reimburse such a trip. Also, that before any trips are made, a proposal with specific projected expenses must be submitted for approval. It was indicated to all Committee members that major expenditures are subject to prior approval by the Chair.

6. Adjournment

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE
NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR REDRESS
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 29 & MARCH 1, 1980
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA (HEADQUARTERS BUILDING)

Present: Dr. George Hara (PNW), Chuck Kubokawa (NCWN), Tom Shimasaki (CCDC), Ron Wakabayashi (PSW), Minoru Yasui (MPDC), John Tameno (IDC), Ross Harano (MDC), Cherry Tsutsumida (EDC), Dr. Jim Tsujimura (JACL National Vice President), John Tataishi (Chairperson, Phil Shigekuni (PSW Liaison), George Sakaguchi (SE Liaison), Dr. Clifford Uyeda (JACL National President), Karl Nobuyuki (JACL National Director), J. D. Hokoyama (JACL Associate National Director), George Kondo (JACL NCWN Regional Director), Bill Yoshino (JACL MDC Regional Director)

1. Call to Order Saturday, March 1, 1980 9:15am
2. Ad Hoc Committee on Budgeting Document Development for Senate Hearing: (Tsutsumida reporting)
 - 2.1 Recommendations:
 - 2.1.1 That \$200/day for up to 14 days be allocated to pay John Tateishi to take a leave of absence from his job to write the text of a document to be presented to the Senate Hearing on S. 1647 scheduled for 26 March 1980.
 - 2.1.2 That airfare and expenses for Tateishi and a JACL staff person to fly to Washington D.C. for the purpose of working with Ron Ikejiri (JACL Washington Representative) to develop the S.1647 document be approved.
 - 2.1.3 That a budget ceiling of \$3000 be established to allow George Sakaguchi to develop support in the Southeast part of the United States be approved, subject to the prior approval of the Committee Chairperson be approved.
 - 2.2 Recommendation from the floor:
 - 2.2.1 Minoru Yasui that item 2.1.1 should be \$250/day.
 - 2.3 Discussion
 - 2.3.1 Should item 2.1.3 be funded from National since this could be a membership development activity? J.D. Hokoyama stated that no funds were available for this purpose.
 - 2.3.2 Accountability for the three committee recommendations should be laid out in advance and a reporting mechanism should be developed.
 - 2.4 Action:
 - 2.4.1 "Move to adopt Committee Report"
M/S/C (Yasui/Shimasaki)
3. Educational Strategy:
 - 3.1 Clarification of JACL position
 - 3.1.1 We will not state, at this time, any bottom line figure that JACL supports.
 - 3.1.2 At this time, we are simply supporting a Commission Bill
 - 3.2 Discussion
 - 3.2.1 (Yasui) The bill says "and to recommend appropriate remedies. We need to address this issue.
 - 3.2.2 (Tateishi) we can't state a figure right now. we're leaving that to the commission.

- 3.2.3 (Yasui) JACL is seeking redress, that was the position adopted at the Salt Lake City Convention.
- 3.2.4 (Tateishi) should the commission recommend an inappropriate remedy, JACL should develop and push its own remedy plan.
- 3.2.5 (Shigekuni) Karl's position is different. In phase two, Karl still says to leave it to the commission. I think in phase two we should support a direct compensation position.
- 3.2.6 (Yasui) "an appropriate compensation"
- 3.2.7 (Harano) Karl might be media gunshy, but he has to watch what he says publicly.
- 3.2.8 (Tsutsumida) we shouldn't communicate in any way that we might consider direct compensation as a lost cause.
- 3.2.9 (Kubokawa) American compensate by money. We should think about a trust fund as well.
- 3.2.10 (Harano) We should take an informal poll on the committee's feelings on direct compensation and trust fund concepts.
- 3.2.11 (Tsutsumida) Other members of the political education committee see the need for a more ideal principle like a human rights fund.
- 3.2.12 (Yasui) If the commission recommends \$1, we should reject that. But a commission recommendation for direct compensation strengthens the possibility to have a Bill with direct compensation passing.
- 3.2.13 (Sakaguchi) I need to have a position on this to tell the folks that I speak to.
- 3.2.14 (Tsutsumida) It's hard for the Nikkei legislators to ask for money. We need to adopt a format that makes them comfortable.
- 3.2.15 (Yasui) The injustice was done to a relatively small population (120,000). This makes reparations economically possible.
- 3.2.16 (Tateishi) The National Council was given a guideline figure of \$25,000. This was presented and adopted as a guideline, we are not rigidly locked into this exact figure.
- 3.2.17 (Yasui) This committee is concerned with the educational aspect of this legislation, that the Commission find and clearly establish that a wrong was committed and should be corrected.
- 3.2.18 (Yasui) Appropriate Remedies means damages (money)
- 3.2.19 (Tateishi) I will have copies of the 1978 National Council minutes distributed to committee members.
- 3.2.20 Straw poll:
 - Are we in favor of monetary compensation?
consensus: yes
 - Would we favor both direct compensation & a trust fund?
consensus: yes
- 3.2.21 (Kubokawa) The mechanism for funding is important. Tax problems, inheritance, probate and other aspects need to be carefully considered.
- 3.2.22 Nikkei Commission: Reparations should go to a Nikkei Commission, not to a governmental agency. The Nikkei Commission should administer the funds. Individual compensation can be paid. Non-claimed reparations can revert to a trust fund.

4. Lowry Bill

- 4.1 We should not oppose this bill.

- 4.2 The Lowry Bill will probably die in Committee
 - 4.3 The Lowry Bill is confusing Congress, the community and others about the content of the JACL Bill. In making generic reference to a redress bill, people don't know which bill your addressing.
 - 4.4 Lowry is a sponsor of the Commission Bill also.
 - 4.5 The Nikkei Members of Congress were presented the Lowry Bill or the Seattle Plan by Ron Mamiya. The legislators felt that it couldn't pass Congress.
 - 4.6 The prior Redress Committee reviewed the Lowry Bill and found a number of administrative difficulties with the Bill.
5. Structure and Informational Flow to Chapters/Communities
- 5.1 Ron Wakabayashi will develop a newsrelease about this meeting.
 - 5.2 Redress Box Score:
 - 5.2.1 We should have a box score in the Pacific Citizen. We should list things like the Title II campaign, noting new sponsors of the bill, organizational and governmental endorsements of the bill and editorial endorsements of the Bill.
6. Timeline and Strategy:
- 6.1 We want to get local and state resolutions endorse the two bills (S.1647 and H.R. 5499).
 - 6.2 Paul Bannai has introduced a California Assembly support resolution on the two bills. The hearing is this week.
 - 6.3 John Tateishi will send copies of draft resolutions to the Committee members.
 - 6.4 Title II endorsement list can be used as a checklist.
 - 6.5 Assignments were made according to region to follow up on Congressmen and Senators that had not co-sponsored the bill as of this date.
 - 6.5.1 Copies of any letters of support should be sent to Ron Ikejiri in Washington D.C.
 - 6.6 Timeline:
 - 6.6.1 Deadline for Senat co-sponsors: March 15
 - 6.6.2 Deadline for House co-sponsors: March 31
 - 6.7 Priorities:
 - 6.7.1 First priority: Development of legislative co-sponsorships
 - 6.7.2 Second priority: Endorsements from organizations and munipicle and state governments.
 - 6.7.3 Third priority: Training and preparation for hearings; Recommendation list for Nikkei Commission, Staffing recommendations.
 - 6.8 Campaign:
 - 6.8.1 We need a simple handout to give out at presentations.
 - 6.8.2 Ross Harano will work out having a layout done in Chicago and send it to John Tateishi for approval and printing.
 - 6.8.3 A special Redress issue of the Pacific Citizen should be developed.
 - 6.8.4 A flow chart in the Pacific Citizen showing the progress of the Bill would be a good vehicle to show where the Bill is and what points we will need to impact next.
 - 6.8.5 We should encourage dovetailing the redress campaign into Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week activities.
 - 6.8.6 We should develop a training package that can be packaged

- 6.8.7 A videotape of actors playing out the actual script from the Evacuation Claims Act Hearings might be a good discussion tool for training at local levels.
- 6.8.8 Buttons
- 6.8.9 Revival of caricatures from various Concentration Camps like Little Nibo at Santa Anita might be a graphic way of politicizing the campaign.
- 6.8.10 A good slide show might be developed for circulation among chapters and community groups.
- 6.8.11 The E.O 9066 exhibit is available to send around the country. It has 250 linear feet of exhibits.

7. Media

- 7.1 Who talks to media as the official JACL spokesperson in the districts?
- 7.2 Voting members on the Committee are official spokespersons on Redress in their districts.

8. Fundraising:

- 8.1 We could ask for local chapter assessments.
- 8.2 We need to develop materials for a solicitation campaign.
 - 8.2.1 Budget
 - 8.2.2 Position statement
 - 8.2.3 publicize contributions
 - 8.2.4 acknowledgements of contributions are important

8.3 Fundraising quotas per district

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|--------------------|-----------|
| Central California | \$ 22,000 |
| PNW | 15,000 |
| MDC | 30,000 |
| EDC | 15,000 |
| NCWN | 140,000 |
| PSW | 140,000 |
| MP | 10,000 |
| IDC | 15,000 |

Total (3 years) \$ 380,000

- 8.4 National JACL Budget Request will be \$48,700 for the next biennium

9. 1980 National Convention Workshop Ideas

- 9.1 training for hearings
- 9.2 mock commission hearings
- 9.3 discussion of alternative ways of constructing reparations
- 9.4 workshop depends on status of S 1647

10. Pacific Citizen

- 10.1 The PC needs to print articles so that the JACL position and JACL supported legislation is clearly reflected in the house organ. We don't want to censor other viewpoints, but the official JACL position on issues should be very clearly laid out.
- 10.2 A box score updating the sponsoring and endorsing persons and/or organizations should be regularly appearing in the PC
- 10.3 We need to articulate the Committee's position and actions, so that a accurate position is continually before the membership.

- 10.4 Any letter to the PC regarding Redress/Reparations should be forwarded to the committee for response. In this way we can have a public forum that also keeps the JACL position clear.
- 10.5 Recommendation:
There should be a full page devoted to updating the Redress campaign every three weeks. Items that can be contained in that page could include:
 - 10.5.1 a list of co-sponsors of the bill (updated)
 - 10.5.2 a Washington report from Ron Ikejiri
 - 10.5.3 a calendar of Redress events which would include the legislative process, forums, television reports, JACL Redress activities, Community based Redress activities, etc.
11. Adjudication:
 - 11.1 Judge Kashiwa has had a great deal of experience in adjudication processes and protocols. He has offered any assistance to the committee that we might request.
12. Commission Members
 - 12.1 We will recommend minority members to the Commission including Nikkei.
13. Adjournment