

MIDWEST REGIONAL OFFICE

## Japanese American Citizens League

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August 21, 1981

### MEMORANDUM

TO: Ron Yoshino, Henry Tanaka, John Tani, Lary Schectman, Chiye Tomihiro,  
Mike Ushijima, John Tateishi

FROM: Bill Yoshino *Bill*

SUBJ: Chicago hearing preparation

Following are comments and observations concerning the Los Angeles and San Francisco hearings obtained in a telephone conversation with John Tateishi on August 21.

#### TESTIMONY

Both LA and SF had too many witnesses scheduled to testify. The result was that it precluded questioning from the Commissioners.

Many of the witnesses were unrehearsed resulting in prolonged testimony and an inability to focus on salient points. In part, this problem stemmed from an abundance of witnesses that JACL had no control over in that they applied directly to the commission or were recommended by other groups.

The witnesses will appear in panels that may range from 3 to 5 members grouped by content. The entire panel will be allotted a time block. In general, questioning will come following the presentation by all members of the panel. Arthur Goldberg and Edward Brooken, however, tend to freely interrupt with questions. Generally, if the entire panel exceeds its time limitation, no questions will be asked.

Testimony for representatives of organizations (ACLU, AJC, etc.) will be allowed 8 minutes. Expert witnesses (historians, etc.) may be allowed up to 10 minutes.

Tateishi advises that we submit a structured line-up to the commission staff. (I responded that our plans provided for this)

Through Tateishi we will obtain a list of all witnesses from the commission staff.

I suggest that we limit as much as possible, the testimony of officials and that we concentrate our efforts on obtaining only high level testimony such as the mayor or congressmen. Further, I recommend that we do likewise with outside organizations concentrating our efforts in obtaining testimony from ACLU, American Legion, AJC, and perhaps one or two others.

National Headquarters, San Francisco, California

PUBLIC RELATIONS

In Los Angeles, there was not enough contact with media sources. Also, a press conference was scheduled by one of the other groups prior to the hearing which was cancelled after the press had arrived. This did not sit well with the media.

Although the news coverage in LA was somewhat successful, there was a lack of coverage on the talk show circuit.

The commission has retained a PR firm. They will be represented in Chicago by a Bill Wise. Wise's style, as evidenced by previous hearings, is to go in and attempt to take over the situation irrespective of the efforts of local organizations. In all likelihood, he will go straight to the major media sources and set up interviews without proper follow through, i.e., he leaves it up to the media to track down sources for interviews beyond the commissioners.

Suggestions:

- Locally, we have available a bank of individuals willing and able to serve as interviewees.
- We continue our close cultivation of the media as being dependable in terms of information and resources.
- On major programs, we attempt to balance content, e.g., if Dan Lundgren is solely scheduled for a program, we attempt, for overall objectivity, to also have someone like Min Yasui involved as well.
- We attempt, at this point, to work in concert with Wise.
- Tateishi, Yasui, and Henry Tanaka will be at our disposal as spokespersons for JACL.