

CHAPTERS
COLUMBIA BASIN
GRESHAM THOUTDALE
MID-COLUMBIA
PORTLAND
PUZZLE VALLEY
SEASIDE
SPRINGFIELD
WHITE RIVER

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
JAPAN CENTER
22 PEARL PLAZA
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. 94108

Japanese American Citizens League

Pacific Northwest District Council



FROM: Ed Yamamoto

DATE: December 23, 1976

TO: Jim Watanabe

SUBJECT: Your most recent letter to
Jim Murakami regarding me
and REPACAMP

COPIES: Jim Murakami; PNWDC Board Members;
PNWDC Chapter Presidents and Delegates; Mike Masaoka

Thanks very much for your subject letter to Jim Murakami! I did not want to bother you with correspondence on this matter until the proper time -- said proper time would seem to be now since Murakami responded to your letter with a phone call last night to Jim Tsujimura who in turn telephoned me.

From Tsujimura's opening remarks, he apparently felt that I was reneging on my promise and/or decision reached after the conference held in Gresham, Oregon among Murakami, Tsujimura, you and myself in my motel room until 1:15 a.m. Sunday, December 5, 1976. I explained to Tsujimura, that the basis for your subject letter to Murakami was my phone call to you (was it Sunday, December 12,?) after having waited a week with no response from Murakami announcing his appointment of me as Co-Chairman of the Reparations Committee. I pointed out to Tsujimura that I did not call him but called you instead because you were the one who proposed to Murakami, after he stated that Dave Ushio due to changed circumstances was probably now out of the picture anyway, that it might be the opportune moment for Murakami to appoint me as Co-Chairman replacing Ushio and as a compromise measure toward a compatible settlement of the problem under discussion. I explained further that my main reason for phoning you was to verify to my own satisfaction that my interpretation of what transpired during our four-way conference, and the results that I was expecting therefrom, was not in error. You verified my interpretation of the proceedings, with our conversation resulting in your decision to write to Murakami on my behalf requesting Murakami to follow-through to bring about the specific results in accordance with my interpretations.

Tsujimura vaguely recalls the points I verified with you as having been discussed but he thought that the matter was dropped without a compromise decision in my favor, in the resulting manner in which I and you believe transpired.

In any event, Tsujimura felt that according to the conversation he had with Murakami last night, Murakami is reneging on his promise (in certain quarters, of course, I am undoubtedly considered as the "reneger") made during our Gresham midnight conference and that his answer would be "no" in respect to appointing me Co-Chairman of the Reparations Committee.

In the beginning of our conversation last night, Tsujimura indicated surprise that the matter was again, or was still, up in the air and yet it would seem he should have been aware that everything was not settled in the manner he thought, because later in our conversation he mentioned his surprise when he read the note I sent to Murakami (I'll try to find it and send you a copy) at the Council table just prior to convening the PNWDC meeting on Sunday morning in Gresham to the effect of asking him whether he would be announcing my appointment as Co-Chairman that morning. [Until he mentioned it last night, I was not aware that Tsujimura had read the note -- not that I would have minded one way or the other.] Murakami brought the note back and knelt by my chair at the head table and said that my understanding was not entirely correct because he wanted first to discuss and clear the matter with Edison Uno.

December 23, 1976

So, when the time came on the Agenda to discuss the tabled motion on the Resolution of Censure, I made my statement that matters were on the verge of an amicable settlement and that an official announcement to that effect would possibly be forthcoming before the end of the meeting.

You had to leave early to catch your plane home but towards the end of the Agenda in the slot provided for the National Officers Remarks, I asked Murakami if he had anything further to tell us or any announcements to make, and this time (upon his response that he had nothing further to say) I was the surprised one since I had expected him to announce my appointment. Therefore, immediately upon adjourning the meeting, I asked Murakami the results of his discussion with Uno about my appointment whereupon he effectively brushed me aside. He started across the room saying he would get Edison to go over the matter with me. Thereupon Uno came over and presented me with a list of some twenty items (copy enclosed) of his suggestions on Reparations Committee procedures and while encircling two or three items, asked that I consider them and he made some remarks about sub-committees and the chairmanships thereof. But from his attitude and content of his monologue he seemed neither remotely aware of nor mentioned anything regarding my "Co-Chairmanship". As is usually the case in matters concerning myself, it seems that things get dragged out to the very end or immediately following adjournment when there is no time left for effective conclusions to be reached. Therefore, I did not press the matter further and completed my preparations for returning home.

During our conference when the subject turned to the prospect of Murakami appointing me Co-Chairman in compromise I felt a little uneasy and guilty because my spontaneous reaction was abhorrence to anything that smacked of "smoke-filled-back-room-types of deals" but I justified it to myself that by effecting such a compromise my credibility and integrity would be at least partially restored by such actions from Murakami thereby indicating a belated show of trust and respect for my position as opposed to that of my detractors. In retrospect, I am ashamed that I even considered accepting a "deal" and my primary interest now is clarified and redirected toward my original intent to pursue this matter to my ultimate satisfaction so that any member of JACL will be sure that adequate safeguards have been specifically incorporated into JACL procedures to enable him to fulfill his obligations and tasks of his choice free from unwarranted humiliation and unfounded accusations.

In the course of my running-battle regarding this matter, I have been asked if I was trying to be "another Amy Doi" (whatever that is supposed to mean) and also was reminded that in all JACL matters we should avoid dealing in personalities -- to which I heartily agree. But the facts in my case would seem to clearly indicate that those who wished to depose me are the ones who are dealing in personalities.

When talking to Tsujimura last night, I started to explain that immediately following the Sacramento Convention, Murakami received within a very reasonable time a copy of my letter to Mike Masaoka, resulting in a direct response from Mike to Murakami informing Murakami of our strong expectation and desire for the continuation in complete and full effectiveness of the JACL National Reparations Campaign Committee as originally constituted and that it was within the time frame for Murakami to exercise an unembarrassed prerogative by gracefully consenting to the wishes we expressed. At this juncture the choice of "dealing in personalities" was made by Murakami and I cannot take credit for same. Before I was able to make this point, upon the mention of Masaoka's name, Tsujimura indicated that perhaps I should not bring Mike into the picture since he was not fully aware of the latest developments -- I fail to see the rhyme to such reasoning since Masaoka more than anybody else has been supplied with all my documentation concerning REPACAMP and myself from the beginning.



December 23, 1976

I fully appreciate the prerogatives of the new president to fill all chairmanships with new people but in a voluntary organization such as JACL, ethical and moral values should be weighed more heavily than strict technicalities. I must confess my momentary lapse of engaging in personalities when I suggested to Tsujimura that I would accept not being appointed as Co-Chairman if he and Murakami would rescind and/or oppose the placing of Dave Ushio as Co-Chairman or in any other responsible position of authority in the National Reparations Campaign Committee -- although in this case I feel justified in view of his past performance or lack thereof. Of course, Dave should be welcome on the Committee as an equal with all other members if he desires.

Were you or Emi Somekawa or anyone else connected directly with the Reparations Committee notified of the separate Reparations meeting being held during the lunch-break of our PNWDC meeting in Gresham? During the selection of members for the two work committees on Travel and District Office, I remember Tsujimura saying two or three times that he was attending another meeting but I was totally unaware of what meeting until last night when he mentioned specifically that he attended the lunch-break meeting on Reparations with Edison Uno et al. In my naivete I assumed Tsujimura had to attend another meeting entirely apart from JACL (possibly a hospital or some other medical meeting). Perhaps I am extremely dense or insufficiently alert or extremely trusting, but I had no indication of any such meeting being planned or held -- which came as an extremely shocking and disturbing revelation to me last night.

When John (Takizawa?) -- a Seattle member attending REPACAMP meetings in Sacramento -- phoned me from Seattle Friday afternoon, December 3, barely 24 hours in advance stating that this was a courtesy call (perhaps because I am Governor, or presumably a member of the Reparations Committee, or as Past Chairman of REPACAMP) to let me know that Edison Uno and Jim Murakami would be flying in to Seattle Saturday for a noon meeting on Reparations at the SEASIA warehouse, I expressed my appreciation for the "courtesy call" although I could not (perhaps I was not expected to) attend on such short notice especially with the necessity of my being in Gresham on Saturday afternoon -- the same day as the Seattle meeting. But to hold a Reparations meeting at the same place and during the same time as a District Council meeting and keeping the Governor of that District, who is supposedly a member of the Committee directly involved, in total ignorance of such proceedings, is entirely uncalled for and would seem to be an affront of the highest degree to the dignity and honor and respect of the Office of the Governor -- regardless of who is occupying said office.

Therefore, it would seem that 1) a full public restoration of the dignity and authority of the office of District Governor and its place in the chain of command should be firmly re-established; and 2) that a complete revelation and review and adjudication of all the facts regarding my displacement as Chairman of REPACAMP should be made; and 3) that certain remedial steps should be taken such as the establishment of a Judicial Review Board/Committee to fully protect any and all JACL members to ensure a just determination of his qualifications to reasonably perform any voluntary service of his choosing for the continued viability of JACL.

EMY:rs

SUGGESTIONS ON
JACL'S REPARATIONS CAMPAIGN

1. Summary and position paper to be communicated to all committee members.
2. Development of priorities.
3. Development of time table with National Board meeting report in March, 1977.
4. Public relations brochure and appeal for support.
5. Draft legislation.
6. Development and distribution of survey questionnaire.
7. Establishment of speakers bureau and program format.
8. Legislative liason - Wayne Horiuchi, Washington, D. C.
9. Regional representatives, local committees, etc.
10. National publicity effort.
11. Audio-visual presentation - Documentary film or film strip.
12. Funding proposals.
13. Support and sponsorship liason with other organizations.
14. Communications network - mailing list, card index, etc.
15. Congressional liason - specifically Sen. Hayakawa.
16. Leadership development among SaneI JACLers.
17. Data collecting; National Archives
18. Think tank sessions for creative and new ideas.
19. Legal committee to involve lawyers.
20. Establish honorary national committee for letterhead and publicity.

257 - Jim Murakami
Following thorough last night's
discussion. Am I understanding
you correctly that you will make
the proper announcement at
this morning's meeting appointing
me co-chairman.



1546 E. Burnside St. • Crater, Oregon 97003 • (503) 666-9541

Dec. 5, 1976