

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

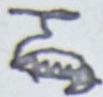
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Japanese American Citizens League
Pacific Northwest District Council

CHAPTERS
COLUMBIA BASIN
GRESHAM-TROUTDALE
MID-COLUMBIA
PORTLAND
PUYALLUP VALLEY
SEATTLE
SPOKANE
WHITE RIVER



FROM: Ed Yamamoto, Governor

DATE: September 27, 1976

TO: Mike M. Masaoka

SUBJECT: 1. Telegraphic response (9/25/76)
from Jim Murakami

COPIES: Jim Tsujimura; Homer Yasui; John Kanda;
Emi Somekawa; Jim Watanabe; Shosuke Sasaki;
Henry Miyatake; Ken Nakano; PACIFIC CITIZEN

2. Proceedings of PNWDC meeting
September 25-26, 1976 Tacoma, WA
relative to Reparations

ENCLOSURES: 1. Draft Resolution
2. Murakami's telegram

1. At the restaurant Saturday night (September 25, 1976) while awaiting the start of the dinner, I was given a telegram from Jim Murakami which had been sent c/o Emi Somekawa of the host Chapter. This telegram (copy enclosed) was a terse account of the action taken by EXECOM on September 12, 1976 specifically as to the appointment of the new Chairman of the Reparations Committee and tentative selection of the members to the new Committee. It would seem that it is now a fait accompli but this does not adequately rectify matters as I see it.

In what manner or to what extent I shall pursue this matter is not yet clear in my mind -- but pursue, I will.

Please share the contents of this communication with whomever (Kaz Oshiki and/or others) you wish to do so.

2. Due to my recent metamorphosis whereby I have shrugged off my cocoon of the "Quiet American" and in view of the NUMBER ONE PRIORITY of the subject matter, on Saturday night September 25, 1976 at the Tacoma Buddhist Church, I used my prerogative and began our meeting by presenting first on our program my case regarding the shabby treatment accorded REPACAMP, and myself as its Chairman, by the new National Board and/or the new Administration. In my telephone conversation with Jim Tsujimura on Sunday night and Monday night (September 12 & 13, 1976) I had learned unofficially of certain remedial actions taken by EXECOM, namely:

- a. the rescinding of and the reversal of all motions and actions taken at the National Board meeting on June 27, 1976 which prohibited the payment of the over-run on REPACAMP expenses and the restrictions governing the reimbursements of all legitimate expenses from the regular funds allocated from the National Budget for the new Biennium and any outside funds raised by the Committee; and
- b. that all the original members of REPACAMP were to be incorporated into the new Committee except that I was to be removed as Chairman and relegated to the rather dubious position as a so-called consultant -- which will turn out in this instance, no doubt, as a patronizing indulgence and not with the true and full consideration normally associated with said title.

The information accorded to me by Tsujimura at that time as reasons for my being replaced as Chairman were:

- a) due to certain unilateral actions I supposedly had taken; and
- b) by my action I had put Murakami "on the spot"; and also
- c) because of a possible conflict of interest in view of my personal support of the so-called "Columbia Basin Plan" concept of the Reparations program. I am to be assuaged by the fact that by no longer being Chairman I will be free to expound and support my personal viewpoints, whereas as Chairman I would be required to remain absolutely neutral -- this reasoning, if such a position were valid at any time, may have been applicable prior to our meetings in Sacramento where the "Columbia Basin Plan" was brought on the floor for consideration and as a result was incorporated into the overall concept of the National JAACL Reparations

- 1 Campaign as unanimously accepted in National Council sessions recently convened at Sacramento, California. In my opinion, this action by the National Council mandates that now a uniform presentation, to the Nikkei Community and to the general public, must be formulated by incorporating all the proposals considered (including the Columbia Basin Plan) which are now a part and parcel of the National JACL Reparations Program concept; and that this new uniform presentation shall be diligently followed by each of the various teams and/or individuals in the field when making their presentations to any audience, group or person toward promoting the JACL National Reparations Campaign; further
- d) by actions in having the "Columbia Basin Plan" published in the PACIFIC CITIZEN and by subsequently bringing it on the floor at Sacramento, this is questioned as being unethical or in conflict of interest. However, immediately following the REPACAMP meeting in Portland it was pointed out to me by certain concerned persons in consultation, that since the "Columbia Basin Plan" had been distributed to all the participants attending the Portland meeting, that it would be entirely legitimate for said plan to be brought on the floor at the Sacramento meetings and that the publication of the "plan" in the PACIFIC CITIZEN as an item on the Agenda was entirely in order; therefore, bringing the "plan" up for consideration at Sacramento and the printing of the "plan" in the PACIFIC CITIZEN as an Agenda item would seem entirely kosher.

The unofficial information I had received up to this point did not constitute sufficient cause for relieving me of the Chairmanship so I concluded that I was not being fully informed of everything that was said or presented against me at the EXECOM Meeting because Tsujimura, no doubt, wanted to spare my feelings. At the meeting Saturday night after having read about half of the communications between you and me and Murakami, someone requested that I dispense with reading any more and get to the point, so this I did. I stated that I had been wronged and wished the PNWDC to support my position by requesting the possibility of a Resolution of some sort protesting my firing by the National Board and/or Murakami.

Tsujimura indicated that his intentions when leaving Portland were identical to my wishes -- i.e., he would insist on the original status quo of REPACAMP and that if denied, the PNWDC would cancel its offer to have \$1,000 per year transferred from its budget allocation for the coming Biennium to the Reparations Campaign. However, when he got to EXECOM he was confronted with various arguments which, no doubt, appeared legitimate to him that indicated the desirability of removing me as Chairman so in his thinking he traded my Chairmanship in compromise for the reimbursement of the expense over-run by REPACAMP and the condition that all original members of REPACAMP would become members of the new Committee contingent upon, of course, if the District Council reappoint the same people and provided further that the individuals involved will accept reappointment. I strongly urged Tsujimura to reveal in full detail, in the presence of persons in attendance, if there were any other things brought out against me at EXECOM but he declined since he felt it was not the proper place to do so (due to the presence of persons aside from PNWDC members) and also because he would prefer to discuss matters with me privately before revealing anything publicly. I respected his position and declined to push the matter further that night.

However, after sleeping on the matter overnight and debating with myself all day while trying to conduct the District business meeting, I came to the final realization that I really had no choice other than to demand a full disclosure of all the reported facts against me and to pursue the matter to the ultimate final conclusion for the good of all concerned (which includes the entire membership and organization of JACL) inspite of any real or imagined threats of character-assassination type of mud-slinging that might be used against me.

With this conclusion firmly reached in my mind, with but 35 minutes remaining until scheduled adjournment, I entertained a motion for a Resolution (copy attached) to censure the National Board and/or the National President for firing me as Chairman of the JACL National Reparations Campaign Committee and strongly suggesting the establishment of a Judicial Review Committee with equitable guidelines for conducting its affairs and to direct the PACIFIC CITIZEN to publish the Resolution to inform the general membership of this action taken by PNWDC.



During the discussion of the motion, I again asked Tsujimura to reveal all the "facts" and further asked him to reveal the names of the complainants and the content of their complaints since the body in attendance consisted entirely of JACL leaders who were in the most part District Council members. Again Tsujimura declined to disclose the details until he had a chance to discuss it with me privately whereupon Hiram Hachiya, delegate from Gresham-Troutdale (when in response to his query, I said that we had not yet discussed the matter), moved to table the matter until the next PNWDC meeting on December 4-5, 1976, thereby allowing Tsujimura and myself to confer. This motion was seconded and carried.

After adjournment, Tsujimura and I discussed our problem for about 10 or 15 minutes. He indicated upon my questioning, that there were 5 or 3 (he wasn't sure) letters or members of the Committee who objected to my Chairmanship and threatened to quit unless I was terminated. I asked him to name names and be more specific as to the contents of those letters but he still declined to tell me, saying that it was in Jim Murakami's position to reveal such things directly to me himself. Tsujimura is to attend another meeting in San Francisco shortly (I presume the clean-up of the "Amy Doi Matter" and the CHD) so I acquiesced to Tsujimura's wish not to answer me provided he deliver my demand to Jim Murakami for an immediate full and complete disclosure including a Bill of Particulars for my discharge so that I can answer any and all unjustified or unwarranted aspersions against me. Reflecting back on certain remarks I overheard or actions that I witnessed (which at the time bore little or no meaning) reveal to me now that this conspiracy against me apparently began to brew immediately after the overwhelming spontaneous endorsement by the National Council (of the National Reparations Campaign concept as presented by members of REPACAMP on Wednesday June 23, 1976) whereby in complete secrecy I have been accused, indicted, tried, convicted, and sentenced and only then finally notified on September 25, 1976 by a telegraphic response (which was forced from the National President). Even this forced response reached me after it was in public print (PACIFIC CITIZEN -- September 24, 1976) which I received in the mail on Monday, September 27, 1976 and read upon returning from the PNWDC meeting.

[AT THIS POINT IN TIME, AFTER MY PRIVATE DISCUSSION WITH JIM TSUJIMURA, I HAVE NOT CHANGED MY MIND THAT A FULL PUBLIC DISCLOSURE, IN DETAIL, OF THIS MATTER BE MADE.]

Additional Personal Comments:

Adding insult to injury (to the entire JACL organization and to the Nikkei Community), Dave Ushio has been named as Co-Chairman. This, in the face of the facts that: for the past four to six years while Dave served first as Washington Legislative Representative and subsequently as National Executive Director, he has consistently dragged his feet on the Reparations question and as late as the National Board meeting February 11-12, 1976 at San Francisco he stated ". . . I agree, I don't think we have the capability or the resources to engage in a full fledged activity . . ."; and that immediately after the National Council unanimously adopted the Reparations Campaign presentation by REPACAMP, Ushio was making remarks about being anxious to become involved in the Reparations Campaign while Wayne Horiuchi on Thursday, June 24, 1976 was filing (with Harry Honda) his PC Column referring to me as the "Temporary Chairman"; and further, the fact that the majority sentiment (including Ushio) of the previous EXECOM and/or National Board felt that the job of achieving a consensus (among the varying factions supporting their own versions of a Reparations Program) would be an "impossible" task * * * * [QUOTES: 1) Sugiyama -- ". . . the Committee to come up with a consensus . . . it is hopeless . . ."; 2) Murakami -- ". . . we don't have the concurrence, I don't think . . . or whether we'll ever get it or not, I don't know.].

But now that they have used REPACAMP and its individual members to their best advantage, after the impossibles have been made possible, the powers-that-be intend to place control of the Campaign into the hands of someone who has proven himself to be the major and prime cause of the dissention and dissatisfaction among the entire JACL structure. However, what the current leadership of JACL decides to do for or with the organization is of minor concern to me. The main reason that I am pressing my case is that I have been wrongly used, accused and abused and I demand a full review of my case and complete exoneration not only for myself but for the good of JACL and the protection of the integrity and rights of all its members. To insure that these gross injustices shall not occur in the future, I charge the National Board timely to establish just and equitable procedures to guarantee a speedy, complete, unbiased and open review or hearing concluding in a true and equitable decision.

Any comments or suggestions you may have will be very much appreciated!

MY:kn