



# JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

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May 28, 1981

Mr. Sam Honda

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[redacted], MN [redacted]

Dear Sam:

Thank you for your letter of May 25, 1981. I thank you for your efforts in fundraising to date. It's encouraging to see the effort being made in Twin Cities.

Sam, I would like to make some remarks with regard to JACL's position on redress and John Tateish's role within the redress program.

With respect to JACL's position, the organization has never deviated from the position of monetary compensation for individuals, while it's true that the guidelines concerning redress as passed at the 1978 convention included the concrete monetary figure of \$25,000, it is also true the 1978 position that was voted on and passed was meant as a guideline for pursuit of this issue legislatively. The JACL decision to pursue the issue of redress through a Commission was in no way intended as a deviation from the position of monetary compensation. The Commission is merely a vehicle, a means of achieving the intent of the 1978 convention guidelines. It is true that we are not now stating an exact figure for the purpose of compensation, for it would be somewhat presumptuous to do so inasmuch as we are not privy to the extent of damages accruing from the evacuation experience. Thus, JACL will await the completion of the Commission process so that a determination can be made based on the composite of information obtained by the Commission's investigatory process. The JACL, however, will advocate a general position of community and individual compensation before the Commission. I understand that there are many within our organization and community who do not favorably regard compensation, however, in terms of the larger goal of hoping to insure that a similar tragedy is not repeated, it is really the only course to pursue.

John Tateishi, as you know, serves in a staff capacity in the redress program. John oversees all aspects of the redress program and is, without question one of the most knowledgeable individuals on the subject within our organization. John remains as one of the key spokespersons for JACL notwithstanding his relinquishing the chair of the National Redress Committee. Min Yasui and JACL have entrusted in John, broad responsibilities which include acting as one of the key spokespersons on the issue of redress.

I truly appreciate your efforts, Sam, and I look forward to seeing you in St. Louis in August.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

Bill Yoshino