

Japanese American Citizens League

5415 NORTH CLARK STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60640
(312) 728-7170

WILLIAM J. YOSHINO
REGIONAL DIRECTOR

March 7, 1981

Mr. Minoru Yasui
Executive Director
Commission on Community Relations
City and County of Denver
Room 302, Annex III
144 West Colfax Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Min:

Once again, thank you for taking the time from your busy schedule to appear in both Cleveland and Chicago. It was a pleasure meeting True and please convey my regards.

I must reiterate my thoughts on your consideration of the Redress chair. As stated, I believe the incoming chair must possess the quality of instant credibility and respect among the JACL membership and the Japanese American community. The incoming chair will not have the luxury of time to establish him/herself in this position. Further, because time is of the essence, the chair must have, among other things, a knowledge of the issue and JACL's role therein, a grasp of the politics inherent in the issue, a working relationship with those already involved, and a willingness to take the lead in future "minefields" surrounding the issue and the JACL role therein.

You are aware of John Tateishi's open-ended commitment in the coordinator's role. I believe John will serve at least through the hearings, thus, whoever assumes the chair should have strong staff support for that period of time. Once the hearings end, and when we are past the point of submitting testimony and influencing the Commission and its staff, we will enter yet another phase of the overall program, i.e., consideration of the findings and Congressional lobbying. I believe this would be a logical transition point for the consideration of a new chair (subject of course to the discretion of the powers-that-be). There is precedent for this in John's action of dissolving his first committee. Thus, I see the new chair sitting for less than one year, with the concentration of work commencing now and continuing through the summer.

I must say, that any decision you make should be based in your physical well-being. I can attest that the current JACL redress staff will do all that is humanly possible, in terms of deflecting work from the chair. I would be deceitful to suggest the new chair will not be

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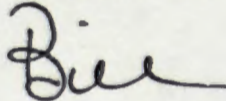
called upon to invest in time, travel, and perhaps, mundane chores.

I offer the foregoing not as an argument in favor of your assuming the chair, but as a somewhat objective appraisal of what is required for your consideration. I can, in part, appreciate the complexity and difficulty of the decision facing you. I believe you must weigh the positive side against the negative, factoring in whatever personal and emotional variables that exist.

Whatever your decision, I know that you will, in some manner, continue in the program. You have my profound respect in all that you have accomplished and in all that you represent.

With warm personal regards,

Sincerely,



Bill Yoshino