

MIDWEST REGIONAL OFFICE

## Japanese American Citizens League

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

WILLIAM J. YOSHINO  
MIDWEST DIRECTOR

December 17, 1987

Ms. Shinae Chun,  
Special Assistant to the Governor  
State of Illinois Center, 16th Fl.  
100 West Randolph  
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Shinae:

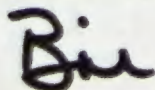
I write in reference to the letter I wrote to Governor Thompson on November 13, 1987 requesting that he send a letter to President Reagan urging support of S. 1009 and H.R. 442.

The legislation has yet to be considered by the Senate. We anticipate action sometime after the first of the year after Congress reconvenes. Your assistance in bringing this matter successfully to the attention of Governor Thompson would be greatly appreciated.

I am enclosing a draft of a letter to the President. This may give you some direction in drafting a letter for the Governor. Please let me know if you require further assistance on this.

Warm regards in the holiday season.

Sincerely,



Bill Yoshino

encl.

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Dear President Reagan:

I write to ask your support for H.R. 442, the Civil Liberties Act of 1987, and S. 1009, a bill to accept the findings of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians. I urge you to sign this legislation.

In 1942, the Government instituted actions which resulted in major civil and Constitutional rights violations. On an en masse basis, the Government forcefully removed more than 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry from their homes and communities, solely on the basis of their ancestral heritage.

Over forty years after the internment, the United States Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC), following extensive study, concluded in part:

. . . The broad historical causes which shaped these decisions were race prejudice, and war hysteria and a failure of political leadership. . . A grave injustice was done to American citizens and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry who, without individual review or any probative evidence against them, were excluded, removed and detained by the United States during World War II. (CWRIC, PERSONAL JUSTICE DENIED, p. 18)

It is tragic when one segment of our population is singled out for discriminatory treatment. This is what happened when persons of Japanese ancestry were forced from their homes and communities and incarcerated in 1942. Individual and collective freedom were ignored and denied.

I know you feel strongly about the infringements on basic rights such as individual freedom. You stressed this in your address to the nation on November 14, 1985 when you stated:

. . . we love freedom and stand ready to sacrifice for it. We love freedom not only because it's practical and beneficial but because it is morally right and just.

I request that you ponder this issue carefully and find that the legislation does truly address the greivous wrongs inflicted on a group of Americans.

Sincerely,