

Your City, Seattle

Executive Department-Office of Intergovernmental Relations

June 14, 1984



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Charles Royer

From: William B. Stafford, Director, OIR

Subject: USCM Resolution on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians

On Saturday, June 16th, you will be called out of the Housing Committee meeting sometime between 10:00-12:30 p.m. to make a presentation before the Human Development Committee on your resolution on Redress. This memo will provide you with some background on the issue in the broader national context. Attached are the following materials:

- o JACL lobbying guide;
- o Pamphlet, "Personal Justice Denied," the summary and recommendations (see p. 27) of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians;
- o Members of the Human Development Committee;
- o Your letter of September 14, 1983 to Committee Chair Thomas Cooke of East Orange, N.J.;
- o List of cosponsors of House and Senate bills (at your hotel, JACL/San Francisco office will have envelope with breakdown of sponsors by cities);
- o Congressman Mike Lowry's basic letter on redress; and
- o Seattle Ordinance on redress for City employees.

Basic Notes on Background Materials

Of the materials, JACL's Redress legislative handbook is quite good. You should note the resource materials beginning on page 60. The Human Development Committee Members received excerpts (Editorials from Cleveland, Philadelphia and Los Angeles papers on pages 72-74 and Frequently Asked Questions About Redress beginning on page 75) from this manual.

You should also note last year's letter to Mayor Cooke asking for Committee review of the issue at the January meeting. Apparently, USCM felt that the issue could be dealt with as resolution at annual meeting in Philadelphia. You gave opportunity and notice for full review so that argument about sending back to Committee would not be appropriate.

Wartime Relocation and
Internment of Civilians

Mayor Charles Royer
Seattle

- 1) WHEREAS, on February 19, 1942, Executive Order 9066 was issued and provided for the relocation and internment of persons of Japanese ancestry; and
- 2) WHEREAS, from 1942-1946, 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry were forcibly excluded from the West Coast of the United States by military fiat, incarcerated and confined under armed military guard, without hearings or charges, and deprived of basic human rights as a result of actions of the U.S. Government; and
- 3) WHEREAS, on July 31, 1980, Public Law 96-317 was enacted authorizing the creation of the U.S. Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians to review the facts and circumstances surrounding the implementation of Executive Order 9066; and
- 4) WHEREAS, after two and one-half years of study and research, the Commission's findings were issued on February 24, 1983 and six months later its recommendations were released on June 16, 1983; and
- 5) WHEREAS, the Commission's work has already assisted the efforts of several cities and other local governments to remedy prior local actions and policies that denied basic rights and inflicted other injustices upon citizens of Japanese ancestry; and
- 6) WHEREAS, these local efforts, including city enacted-legislation, cannot substitute for the necessary federal actions to remedy the injustices that occurred pursuant to Executive Order 9066, nor do these local actions adequately address the issues raised in the Commission's findings or recommendations,
- 7) NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the recommendations of the U.S. Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians and urges Congress and the Administration to act on these recommendations, including the following major proposals:
 - o Congress should pass a joint resolution, signed by the President, acknowledging that a grave injustice was inflicted upon a specific group of U.S. citizens on the basis of ancestry and offering official apologies of the U.S. Government;

- o Congress should enact legislation establishing a commemorative trust fund for humanitarian and educational purposes and awarding the sum of \$20,000 to each survivor of the internment;
 - o The President should direct the U.S. Department of Justice to review all wartime convictions of Americans of Japanese ancestry and to recommend Presidential pardons based on this review; and
- 8) BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports these recommendations as a formal and honorable way to acknowledge these injustices in the hope that similar aberrations of justice shall never recur.

Projected Cost: \$1.5 billion

Adopted by the U.S. Conf. of Mayors -
Philadelphia, PA - June 18, 1984