



CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF CHICAGO

COUNCIL CHAMBER
SECOND FLOOR, CITY HALL

ROMAN PUCINSKI

ALDERMAN, 41ST WARD

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(CHAIRMAN)

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ZONING

December 7, 1984

Dear Congressman,

Enclosed please find a copy of a resolution urging the United States Congress to pass legislation providing restitution to Americans of Japanese ancestry interned in the United States during World War II. The Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, of which I am Chairman of, heard testimony from people who had experienced the "camps" and told of the affect it has had on them to this day. This resolution passed unanimously in Committee and in the City Council.

It is my understanding that House Resolution 4110 and Senate Bill 2116 will be reintroduced when the 99th Congress is called to session. I urge your support of this important legislation which would provide restitution to a group of Americans that were unjustly treated.

Your consideration of this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Yours very truly,

ROMAN PUCINSKI
Chairman,
Committee on
Intergovernmental Relations

RCP/ro
enclosure



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ZONING

December 11, 1984

Mr. William J. Yoshino
Regional Director
Japanese American Citizens League
5415 North Clark Street
Chicago, Illinois 60640

Dear Mr. Yoshino,

The Committee on Intergovernmental Relations would like to provide for your information a copy of a letter that was sent to congressmen and senators in Illinois. The letter was also sent to the chairmen of the various committees in which H.R. 4110 and S.B. 2116 were taken under consideration.

If I can be of further assistance please feel free to call me.

Sincerely,

ROMAN PUCINSKI
Chairman,
Committee on
Intergovernmental Relations

RCP/ro

Yeas -- Aldermen Roti, Rush, Tillman, Evans, Bloom, Sawyer, Beavers, Humes, Hutchinson, Vrdolyak, Huels, Majerczyk, Madrzyk, Burke, Brady, Langford, Streeter, Kellam, Sheahan, Kelley, Sherman, Stemberk, Krystyniak, Henry; Marzullo, Nardulli, W. Davis, Smith, D. Davis, Hagopian, Santiago, Gabinski, Mell, Frost, Kotlarz, Banks, Damato, Cullerton, Laurino, O'Connor, Pucinski, Natarus, Oberman, Hansen, McLaughlin, Orbach, Schulter, Volini, Orr, Stone -- 50.

Nays -- None.

Alderman Natarus moved to reconsider the foregoing vote. The motion was lost.

The following is said resolution as adopted:

WHEREAS, From 1942-46, 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry were forcibly excluded from the West Coast of the United States by military fiat, incarcerated and confined behind barbed wire fences under armed military guard, without charges or hearings, and deprived of basic human rights by orders of the United States government; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (C.W.R.I.C.), after 2 1/2 years of study and research, issued its report of February 24, 1983, concluding that the exclusion and detention of Americans of Japanese ancestry were not a matter of military necessity but were caused by racism, war hysteria and a failure of political leadership; and

WHEREAS, The same U.S. Commission (C.W.R.I.C.) issued its recommendation on June 16, 1983, that the United States should enact a joint resolution, signed by the President, acknowledging a grave injustice was done to a group of people on the basis of ancestry and offering official apologies; that the United States Congress should establish a commemorative trust fund for humanitarian and educational purposes; and that the sum of \$20,000 be awarded to survivors of such experiences as a symbol of this nation's regret that such an unjust event occurred and as a token of honorable efforts to acknowledge such wrong to the end that similar aberrations of justice shall never recur; and

WHEREAS, Americans of Japanese ancestry, through the leadership of the Japanese American Citizens League, seek the implementation of legislation based upon the recommendation of the U.S. Commission (C.W.R.I.C.) as a means of promoting human rights and upholding the Constitution of the United States; and

WHEREAS, On October 6, 1983, H.R. 4110, the Civil Liberties Act of 1983 was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives and on November 17, 1983, S.B. 2116, a bill to accept the findings and implement the recommendations of the C.W.R.I.C. was introduced in the U.S. Senate; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved, That the Chicago City Council endorse the findings of the U.S. Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians and urges the Congress of the United States to enact H.R. 4110 and S.B. 2116 in order to carry out those recommendations to preserve and rectify the honor and integrity of this Nation; and

Be It Further Resolved, That the City Council of Chicago urge all legislative bodies in the United States to enact similar resolutions urging Congress to redress the wrongs inflicted on Japanese Americans during World War II.

COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS.

UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND SENATE URGED TO
PASS LEGISLATION PROVIDING RESTITUTION
TO AMERICANS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY
INTERNED DURING WORLD WAR II.

The Committee on Intergovernmental Relations submitted the following report:

CHICAGO, October 31, 1984.

To the President and Members of the City Council:

Your Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, having had under consideration a Resolution (which was referred on July 9, 1984) endorsing the findings and recommendations of the U.S. Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians and urges the Congress of the United States to enact House Resolution 4110 and Senate Bill 2116 which would provide restitution to Americans of Japanese ancestry interned during World War II.

This recommendation, as amended, was concurred in unanimously by the members of the committee.

Respectfully submitted,
(Signed) ROMAN C. PUCINSKI,
Chairman.

On motion of Alderman Pucinski, the said proposed amended resolution transmitted with the foregoing committee report was *Adopted* by yeas and nays as follows: