

FEBRUARY 26, 1979-Seattle

Michi,

Yesterday I was 39. Today I've returned to being poor and ageless. ~~How old~~ Who asks the age of the Lone Ranger, anyway? Or the Cheyenne scouts. Nobody asks how old those boys were when they finked to Sitting Bull about Custer.

I appreciate your need ~~and effort~~ to rewrite the letter. I appreciate everyone's need to rewrite the letter. Yesterday, ~~at 9:30~~ (9:30 in the morning of ~~the~~ my 39th year in the war) I went to see Congressman Bob Matsui of Sacramento. He was up here for a Buddhist convention, with his family. His kid put handcuffs on me while Tomio Moriguchi's son punched me in the stomach. Matsui got my dander up by mentioning the presence of Lee Moriwaki, a prima facie coward who refused to write on redress or the camps at the Seattle Times for some bullshit reasons of conflict of interest...and personal crap. I wanted to kill him then and there, but getting Matsui down to sign the letter to Hayakawa was more important than putting Moriwaki down, as a clerk-typist, not a writer or a journalist. I think he's an insult to journalism and writing...not to speak of Japanese America.

I think we have Matsui hooked. His wife was a little unsure of me. I had her son up in the air by one foot laughing and giggling, and Tomio's kid biting my leg, when I, as politely as I could, ~~said~~ told Matsui, "he was new blood, that the Nikkei gutless wonders in congress had failed to provide leadership in this Japanese American and justice issue. That if this is how they fight for their own, what the hell good are they for fighting anybody else's battles? His wife blushed. Moriwaki crossed his arms. For ~~once~~ a change, I'd beaten Henry Miyatake to the role of anger crazed knifer...Damn that Henry, he always goes crazy first, ~~and~~ and I find myself forced into the role of the emotional janitor, cleaning up ~~the~~ after the mess and rephrasing what Henry said to ~~sound~~ sound appreciably ~~more~~ different and more reasonable...This time I got there first, and Henry, cleaned up after me by asking if Matsui would sign the open letter to Sleepy Sam. Everyone in the room had already and Matsui said he'd have to read it first. I got of there and got a copy of the letter with ~~his~~ his kid, Brian ~~chasing~~ chasing me with his damned handcuffs and backpack full of boy's toys. Nice kid. I'd never been so close to a little kid about to take on a life of private schools, ~~big~~ big house, big time entertaining, nannies, and breeding to a political future. I envied ~~him~~ him. My parents raised me to be the skinniest streetfighter in town. My mouth kept me from getting beat up or it got me beat up, but my mouth was my best weapon, ~~if~~ If my mouth didn't work, ~~I'd~~ I'd just run like hell, Trouble is most everybody ~~knows~~ knows how to run.

I sat down with Matsui's wife after she'd read the first page of the letter, and she seemed relaxed and less wary of me. She's a lovely woman who wears too much make up. It's the cosmetics of insecurity.

We're also working on Taul Watanabe, Vice President of the Burlington-Northern railroad, and a personal advisor to Dixy Lee Ray, Washington State Governor, Len Sakata, ~~of~~ of the Milwaukee Brewers baseball team, Ken Kashiwa, championship skier,...as well as the other Nikkei in congress... You see the broad cross section of Japanese Americans we're trying to get to sign this letter, for strategic reasons, has to include as many of the Nikkei now inhabiting American pop culture...from the redneck sleaze of bigtime rassling to the gutless wonders of congress who ~~the~~ have

no stomach for identifying themselves in public with each other, Japanese America, or ~~XXXXXX~~ the case for redress.

Oddly enough, though the National Redress Committee is against the letter, we have just today received a \$10. check from JACL National Director, Karl Nobayuki...so ~~now~~ now we have ~~N~~ Karl Nobayuki, Raymond Okamura, James Tsujimura, Minoru Yasui, Ron Mamiya, and Henry Miyatake of the ~~XXXXXX~~ JACL National Redress Committee signing the letter, with your spaced out friend and their's, and mine too, I guess...George Takei...(Mr. Sulu can't be for anything nasty or wrong) Mako (Mr. Integrity of Asian American ~~T~~ theater, the most respected Nikkei actor in L.A.,~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ one time Oscar and Tony nominee) Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston (who must never know I am in the slightest bit associated with this ~~XXXXX~~ project, Days of Remembrance or redress) She hates me for hating her fluffy piece of ~~white~~ white racist ~~fantasy~~ fantasy FAREWELL TO MANZANAR, that Hayakawa uses to prove his case for the camps ~~XXXXXX~~ accelerating the rate of assimilation, and stimulating the~~XXXXXX~~ Nikkei success story...and to tell you the truth, I think of Jeanne with nothing but contempt and pity. But many Nikkei drool over her TV movie...the first of its kind not to use the words "Issei" and "Nisei" The first to consciously destroy history for a prophylactic purpose...But then ~~I~~ movies are my background, my training. ...Jeanne is a respected name in Japanese America, in white America, no matter what I think, and that's a fact. "I'll sign it," she said to Karen Seriguchi, "I know Michi would never sign it, if it wasn't all right."

George Takei is against individual payments. He ~~XXXXX~~ disagrees heartily with Hayakawa, fears the Proposition 13 mentality of the nation as a ~~XXXXXX~~ "harsh political reality," and ~~has~~ has cost hours of work, bringing him to a point where he can publicly support ~~XXXXXX~~ the Nikkei case for redress, without supporting ~~a~~ the JACL program for redress or money... Whites probably will be more familiar with George Takei's name than Mako's, except in New York, the "industry" in L.A...I ~~g~~ think Jeanne and George will catch people's eye and make them feel easier about Japanese Americans, and read the open letter with more of their guard down. George wanted more words on the concentration camps being a crime against American justice, and the wonders of the American Constitution~~XXXXXX~~ being its ~~XXXXXX~~ built in ability to make itself new, absorb revolutions, redress the wrongs ~~ofXXXXXX~~ it caused, and in the long run, resist the rule of fad and domination ~~of~~ by the mob...

Monica Sone is a name I personally esteem very highly. She~~XXXXXX~~ wrote NISEI DAUGHTER, a Nikkei autobiography, the publishers hoped would be no more than a Japanese FIFTH CHINESE DAUGHTER, that was much much more. She ignores the stereotypes and writes from nothing but reality, ~~and~~ Her book sold well. The University of Washington will be reissuing ~~the~~ a new edition. She's a ~~grand~~ Nisei grandma now. Among Asian American lit people and Asian American specialists ~~w~~ she'll be a very strong name. I want to get her name out and attached to redress because I want her to write about redress in her ~~a~~ personal, personable, Nisei way. A Nisei grandmother is a far cry from the ghosts of the radical Sansei of the Sixties that haunt Sleepy Sam. I'm paving the way for her by ~~a~~ mau-mauing the Atlantic and the New Yorker with the super long piece I sent you. My serious attempt at publication is at the New York Times Sunday Magazine. Monica Sone wanted Hayakawa's being a Canadian immigrant who was never ~~a~~ in camp etc. etc. in the letter. Henry Miyatake went into his crazy act on the same point. Crazy enough to poke me in the chest with his finger.

Min Masuda and other insisted on the mention of the \$400 million assessment, ~~and~~

and \$38 million final payout. Amy Uno Ishii would have liked more specific mention of the violation of habeas corpus, ~~xxxxxxx~~ the right to ~~xxxxxxx~~ due process. Lots of people wanted to raise money to hire a hit man instead of taking out an ad. The sociologists wanted...and we're working Harry Kitano.

I admit what I have here is a letter that pleases nobody. But it's a letter that everyone can "live with." To get the kind of spread of the Nikkei home in the Boardrooms of American business, the few Nikkei household names, the names whites and Nikkei respectfully know and respect, we've taken hell from the Nikkei clergy and priesthood to get their names on something short of the Kingdom of Heaven and Nirvanah, come close to being accused of fainthearted moral ~~x~~ cowardice for not stringing Hayakawa up with an earsplitting polemic.

How many times and for how long have you and I talked on the phone about the letter? Two long conversations. ~~That~~ Half hour to forty five minutes each. Multiply that ~~by~~ by ten, at least,..whoo, we have more rewrites of the same letter than the P.C. publishes every week. I swear, I've read all those letters I see in the PC, before. But to you, I feel I owe a detailed and brief description of our strategy, with the letter and the style of the letter. ~~xxxxxxx~~ I ~~xxx~~ composed it to be excerpted and cut. I chose a straight talk style rather than one dressed in adjectives and qualifiers, to avoid the trap of the qualifiers being excerpted and the facts left behind. Cut by whom? By the papers that run stories on who's mad at Hayakawa and why....

We cannot duck or try to hide the fact that the Nikkei enjoy the highest per capita income of any group in the nation. Hayakawa and the papers against redress hit that point hard to argue that you don't need the money. It's a phoney argument, and this letter deals with it. The camps are not responsible for the Nikkei success. Success does not justify ~~xxxxxxx~~ or excuse the ~~x~~ camps.

We use short ~~x~~ sentences, self-contained clauses, without qualifiers knowing the wire services and TV & radio will excerpt quotes. Every sentence is an unequivocal statement, tuned to be easy to read and understand.

We must name ~~xxx~~ a few of the schools Nikkei were attending before the war, and the camps gave the Nikkei what Hayakawa would call scholarships to midwestern and eastern schools. Everything specific is a target. In those school towns, some ambitious, or curious reporter might get an idea for a story on Nikkei in the local college. The Open Letter is a teaser. It's a high class billboard. It's the little people's Hydrogen bomb. It's all form and style. And for the ~~x~~ very involved and knowledgeable a little simpleminded. ~~x~~ However, it's bad form in love and war to throw hand grenades after dropping the H-bomb on a target.

The Washington Post is the second most powerful paper in the country. The open letter in the arsenal of political weapons is our most devastating...of ~~xxx~~ the legal and civilized ~~x~~ weapons. The most sophisticated and delicate.

The lesser know the sponsoring group, the more lawabiding ~~xxx~~ and reserved the reputation, the littler they are in terms of political activism, ~~xxx~~ clout, riches and power, the greater the news interest. Cuz the greater the little folks seem to be taking. The day the full page ad appears in the Post, we will hold simultaneous press conferences in Seattle, Portland, Frisco to show the ad, and say why we did it ~~xxx~~ and tell'em thousand of Nikkei kicked in nickels and dimes to raise the ~~x~~ \$12,500 to tell Hayakawa he does not speak for Japanese America,

The national rate for a full page paid political advertisement is \$12,500. The Seattle Times and Post-Intelligentser, the S.F. Chronicle, the dailies in Chicago, Phoenix, ~~Des Moines~~ Des Moines, all charge the same. Except the New York Times. The most powerful paper in the nation charges more. ~~Lots more.~~

The Washington Post, like the New York Times, ~~is~~ hits every newspaper in the nation. It's a news source for the nation. What's news in Washington is ~~news~~ national news, in a way that what's news in Chicago, isn't national news. In every city with a noticeable Nikkei population, the Washington Post ad will be news. Espeically those cities we've primed with Days of Remembrance, and ~~a~~ shows of Nikkei presence, the Open Letter to Hayakawa will be news. At the press conference, on the local hometown level is the place to say how much you really wanted to get Hayakawa and hated being respectful of him in the letter. You might think of ~~helling~~ a press conf. with Ruby Schaar...

The ~~Washington Post~~ is the second most powerful paper in the country. A full page ad in the Post is worth ~~an~~ an ad in any three other papers. We have a wide reach through the Post. It's not one shot. We don't think one shot.

From the top, we have been working a strategy to ~~get~~ get ~~Japanese~~ Japanese America, ~~the~~ the camps and redress ~~into~~ quickly into the American popular mind ~~in~~ in a way that would prove Hayakawa wrong. We worked ~~to~~ to show Japanese American presence, ~~and~~ ~~coupled~~ coupled with strong statements in support of redress from city mayors and congress people. We collected many. ~~Senators~~ Senators Mark Hatfield and Robert Packwood, sent telegrams that burn the camps into the American memory and seem to support the idea of redress. These telegrams are tickets into their offices for closer talks. We can quote from the telegrams and letters to demonstrate ~~support~~ support in Congress.

The Days of Remembrance brought Japanese Americans out. Their presence did not mean strength for redress, but we played the potential, And the potential was what the press printed. The ~~people~~ people of Portland were leery of the appearance of the word "redress" on the Day of Remembrance poster and invitation. The owner of the bowling alley took the poster down fearing embarrassment or anger from his white bowling clientele. The difference between ~~The~~ The East Coast ~~Nikkei~~ Nikkei and the West Coast, is this is where it happened. "Check any standard encyclopedia" is ~~shrill~~ <sup>petulant</sup> and petulant. Weak style. The facts are tough enough. ~~Officialdom~~ "Officialdom" referred to them then, as they do now, as concentration camps," isn't quite true, or you wouldn't hedge with "Officialdom". Officially ~~they~~ they were not and are not concentration camps. Officials, speaking unofficially, say concentration camps. It's ~~a~~ a phoney issue in ~~the~~ face of the facts. The word "barbed wire" says "concentration camps," more directly and absolutely than ~~quoting~~ quoting second hand officialdom. ~~When you do that, you give up the main stance of the letter, that~~ The letter speaks with the authority of the experience, ~~of~~ of having been there. From that experience and the Nikkei's ~~own~~ own reckoning, I take it as fact that the ~~suicide~~ suicide and ~~madness~~ madness rates rose. I have yet to find a Nisei who was in camp who does not have personal knowledge of at least one suicide ~~and~~ resulting from the camp experience, and one case of unmistakable coo coo. The stories of old Issei women hanging themselves in their barracks are universal. But if you insist it's hyperbole and we have to put the ~~Nikkei~~ Nikkei into ~~the~~ the custody of the ~~WAR~~ WAR WRA stats, I can cut "suicide and ~~a~~ madness". I hate to do it, because, again, it's another invitation to the news to write a specific story. (stcl)



① chin/

to be members of his family. It's the Kettles and he's both Ma and Pa Kettle. This is the launch pad. From here you can go crazy. But don't start crazy. The "has been made to date" addition to the \$400 million dollars line leads the reader to believe the Evacuation Claims Act of 48 is still active and claims can still be made. The fact is tight and tough. They don't need dressing up. The dressing is distracting.

Our emphasis on tone, form, making a solid first impression as a strong lean, blunt fact for a fact-speaking people for redress, is influenced by our having ~~in the~~ other Days of Remembrance in other towns in mind. We want to bring the western mayors out, publicly dumping on the camps and saying things like "we must back the position that says never again," and "It is not enough to just remember. It is not enough to forgive what can't be forgiven..." We are collecting mayors to push for getting redress on the agenda of the conference of Democratic mayors happening in Seattle, April of 1980.

We don't want the letter to discourage or give the mayors the willies about hosting a Day of Remembrance or getting together with three or four thousand Japanese Americans.

But good thing you told me you were trying to ~~get~~ get Hayakawa. We want to use ~~My~~ Hayakawa to get ~~the~~ Congress, and the readers of the Washington Post. But if all you want to do is get him, I can do it for you without changing the letter, and I hope, not violating the version of the letter ~~the~~ <sup>20</sup> a hundred or so people have signed so far. Will you be satisfied with a banner headline, reading:

HAYAKAWA, YOU ARE WRONG.

THEY WERE CONCENTRATION CAMPS,

YOU DO NOT SPEAK FOR US.

~~NYC~~ Above the: An Open Letter to S.I. Hayakawa ~~Senator~~ U.S. Senator, from California  
From; Japanese America

? ~~And if you can't, we'll send you your money back.~~ To satisfy you, I can cut "suicide and madness" and give you the headline, above. Now we have a letter that says ~~in~~ every they were in concentration camps, ~~in~~ Japanese Americans were not ~~Japanese~~ the Japanese enemy, Japanese Americans were American citizens put into concentration camps, ~~in~~ Every paragraph makes one or all of those points. Also, no white backlash.

FEBRUARY 24, 1979-Seattle

Michi,

Got your fifty bucks and your rewrite of the letter and am a little confused. Are you saying you can't go with the original draft and won't sign it?

On your rewrite. It's weak, soft, padded, ~~and shrill~~ The ~~shrill~~ shrill and self-pitying. ~~Every~~ Every ~~shrill~~ shrill and self-pitying. ~~Hayakawa~~ Hayakawa ~~right~~ Your addition of qualifying clauses and phrases, generalized verbs and adjectives weakens the letter rather than strengthens it. What the hell is a "campaign of villification" It's ~~is~~ is inspecific. ~~It's~~ It's rhetoric. It's unnatural ~~and forced~~ and forced language that signals heavy ~~is~~ polemic and oratory, and "Campaign of villification against us" ~~is~~ is no stronger than "Legitimized the race hatred against us." "Race hatred" ~~is~~ vs. "Campaign of villification" which is more dramatic, more immediate, more concrete.

We cannot duck or try to hide the fact that the Nikkei enjoy the highest per capita income of any group in the nation. Hayakawa and the papers against redress hit that point ~~is~~ to argue that you don't need the money. It's a phoney argument, and this letter deals with it. The camps are not responsible for the Nikkei success. Success does not justify ~~the~~ or excuse the camps.

We use ~~a~~ short sentences, self-contained ~~is~~ clauses, ~~and~~ without qualifiers knowing that the wire services and TV & radio will ~~be~~ excerpt quotes. Every sentence is an unequivocal statement, ~~and~~ tuned to be easy to read and understood.

We must name ~~the~~ a few of the schools ~~we~~ Nikkei were attending before the war, and the camps gave them what Hayakawa would call scholarships to midwestern and eastern schools. Everything specific is a target. In those school towns, some ambitious, ~~a~~ or curious reporter might get an idea for a story ~~and~~ on ~~the~~ Nikkei in the local college. The Open Letter is a teaser, it's a high class billboard, it's the little people's political Hydrogen Bomb. It's all form. And it's bad form to throw hand grenades after dropping the H-bomb on a target.

Maybe Ruby Schaar doesn't know the Washington Post, the showbiz of politics and news, and the unique place of the full page ad Open Letter in the arsenal of political weapons. The open letter is the devastating of the legal, civilized weapons. The most sophisticated, and the most delicate.

The lesser known the sponsoring group, the more ~~a~~ law abiding and reserved their reputation, the littler they are in terms of political activism, political clout, riches and power, the ~~the~~ greater the news interest. If all the ~~the~~ midgets took a full page ~~ad~~ out in the Washington Post asking the FCC to ban Randy Newman's SHORT PEOPLE off the radio waves, it would be news on the wire services, possibly network news. ~~and~~ The day the full page ad appears in Washington D.C., we will hold simultaneous press conferences in Seattle, Portland, San Francisco at the very least, ~~and~~ display the ad, say why we did it, and tell them what thousands of Japanese Americans kicking in nickels and dimes to raise \$12,500 to tell Hayakawa he does ~~not~~ not speak for them, means.