

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 17, 1987

Dear Mr. Yoshimiya:

Thank you for your message to President Reagan concerning H.R. 442, a bill which would implement the recommendations of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians by, among other things, disbursing a payment of \$20,000, tax-free, to each of the estimated 60,000 Japanese-American survivors of the evacuation and internment program. The Administration has concerns about H.R. 442.

There is no question that many loyal Japanese-Americans suffered unwarranted and egregious hardships as a result of the evacuation and internment program that was instituted as part of the United States national defense effort during World War II. We recall today with great admiration and gratitude the thousands of Americans of Japanese descent who fought in the U.S. Armed Forces with honor and courage. Their heroism is all the more poignant against the background of the loss of freedom endured by their friends and relatives as a result of the war.

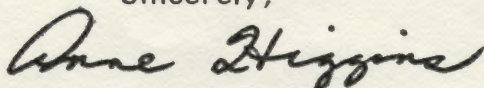
Our Nation acknowledged the unjustified character of these deprivations in the American-Japanese Evacuation Claims Act of 1948, as amended (codified 50 U.S.C. Secs. 1981-1987). The compensation provisions of that Act were intended by Congress to remedy the losses caused by the internments and to close this regrettable chapter in our history. Under the Act, over \$37 million (1958 dollars) was paid in settlement of 26,568 claims. In 1975, President Ford formally recognized that the evacuation and internment were mistakes and repealed President Roosevelt's 1942 Executive Order that authorized these actions. The Federal Government has also offered to vacate the convictions of all Japanese-Americans who were found to have violated wartime restrictions imposed by the Executive Order.

In our view, these steps by the Congress and the Executive branch have recognized and redressed the injustice of that wartime program. I would like to thank you for taking the time to write and provide us with your thoughts on this sensitive

issue. It is important that the President be fully informed of all points of view on such an important matter, and your comments will be carefully considered if this legislation reaches the President's desk.

With the President's best wishes,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne Higgins".

Anne Higgins
Special Assistant to the President
and Director of Correspondence

Mr. Tim M. Yoshimiya
5605 Capstow Way
Sacramento, CA 95822