

August 14, 1990

Mr. Robert Bratt
Administrator
Office of Redress Administration
P.O. Box 66260
Washington, D.C. 20035-6260

Dear Mr. Bratt:

Enclosed is a copy of an article that appeared in the June 1, 1990 issue of the Pacific Citizen. I have highlighted the statement that reads "Many questions were asked by the attendees and were answered clearly and concisely by Bratt. One clarification that drew chuckles from the audience was that individuals conceived in camp but born outside of camp after release would unfortunately not be eligible."

I have such a strong reaction to that statement that I would like the enclosed statements and documentation attached to the Department of Justice's Voluntary Information Form entered into and made a part of my file. Furthermore, I would like to say that this is not just an attempt to get my hands on \$20,000 - \$20,000 isn't going to make me rich or even make a decent down payment on a house here in Southern California. More importantly, I would like to say that my mother felt very strongly that what was happening to her and the Japanese American citizens of the United States during World War II was wrong, immoral and illegal and should not have been happening, even as it did - so strongly that she did not sign the loyalty oath until called on the carpet - so strongly that she left camp 5 months pregnant so her child would not be born in an American concentration camp. This is why I feel it is so important to have this information in my files, so that even if time does diminish the significance of her act, it will be "on the record" for all to see.

After reading an article in the July 20-27, 1990 edition of the Pacific Citizen about the life of Estelle Peck Ishigo, a Caucasian woman who went to camp with her Japanese American husband, I cannot believe the United States government does not feel it owes, at the very least, a statement of apology to this woman and her heirs. Maybe it is no longer a case of justice denied, but it is not yet justice for all.

Yours truly,

Sharon M. Tanihara
11025 Sherman Avenue
Garden Grove, CA 92643
(714) 530-1715
SS# 556-62-3100
DOB 6-15-44

ORA Director Bratt Updates Redress Progress at Oxnard Meet

By Harry Kajihara
OXNARD, Calif. — Nearly 150 people assembled at Casa Serena Hotel on May 16 to hear Robert K. Bratt, director of ORA present the latest information on redress and answer questions.

Together with Ventura County resi-

Five Candidates File for National JACL Offices

SAN FRANCISCO — Five individuals have submitted their nominations form for the 1990 JACL elections as follows:

Office of National President: Cress Nakagawa, San Francisco, Calif.

Office of VP/General Operations: Priscilla Ouchiha, Sacramento, Calif.

Office of VP/Planning & Development: William Kaneko, Honolulu, Hawaii.

Office of VP/Membership: (No candidate).

Office of VP/Public Affairs: (No candidate).

Office of Treasurer/Secretary: (No candidate).

Representative, National Youth Council: Trisha Satomi Murakawa, Los Angeles.

Representative, National Youth Council: Kimberlee Tachiki, Los Angeles.

According to the National JACL Constitution and Bylaws, after the filing deadline additional nominees may not be considered by the Nomination Committee until the National Council convenes (June 19, 1990 in San Diego). At that time, additional nominations from the floor shall include the background information on the nominees as required on the official nominations form and shall also require the endorsement of the majority of chapters from the Candidate's District Council. (See 1988 National JACL Constitution and Bylaws, Article VIII, Section 1 (c)).

For any questions regarding the nominations process, please call Mae Takahashi, Nominations Committee Chair at (209) 431-4142.

dents, in the audience were a qualified redress eligible couple from New Mexico, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Komoro, Santa Barbara JACL President Mike Hide and redress chair George Ohashi.

Bratt opened his presentation by indicating that "tonight's audience would be privy to the very latest on redress."

As of May 11, he believed that 99.9% of redress eligibles have been identified . . . 65,000 individuals, 5,000 more than the initial actuary estimate. The oldest qualifier residing in Phoenix, Arizona, is 107 years young. There are two at 106, 85 individuals over 100, and 1,980 eligibles over 90.

ORA's target at this time is to verify 25,000 eligibles by October 1990, so that 25,000 checks of \$20,000 each can be mailed. At the moment, 19,000 individuals have been verified.

However, 5,500 individuals have not returned their verification package. Since it takes four to six weeks to process the filled verification form(s), it is important that these recipients complete and return the package to ORA.

ORA also estimates individuals 69 years and over will be included in the first settlement in October, 1990. The estimated cutoff birthday is June, 1921.

But some 69ers may have to be deferred to the subsequent second group as more older individuals surface between now and October, 1990, Bratt added.

The ORA director further indicated that they have identified 800 veterans, 69 and over, who may qualify and 400 verification forms have been mailed to date. ORA will be working with Nisei veterans group to identify and verify the younger veterans falling in the second batch of settlement mailouts which will take place in October, 1991.

Many questions were asked by the attendees and were answered clearly.

Continued on Page 7

The meeting was the fourth in a series of meetings called by the president to gather input from civil rights groups and others on the Civil Rights Act of 1990.

Black, Hispanic and labor organizations have met with the president on the Act, most of whom apparently urged the president to support the bill.

The Bush administration has thus far withheld its support, favoring instead a bill with a much narrower scope. Attorney General Thornburgh has, in fact, suggested his inclination to recommend that the president veto the bill in its current form.

Women and religious and ethnic minorities would, under another provi-

Nishimura, 76, active with Maryknoll Church, was also honored by the Los Angeles Catholic Archdiocese for her contributions as a member of the Aging Services for the Archdiocese on Mother's Day

BRATT

Continued from Page 1

and concisely by Bratt. One clarification that drew chuckles from the audience was that individuals conceived in camp but born outside of camp after release would unfortunately not be eligible.

Bratt indicated that current ORA plans include holding a Rose Garden ceremony where six elder recipients would receive their settlement directly from the White House which would initiate the mailout of the remaining 24,994 checks.

Immediate past Ventura County JACL president Chuck Kuniyoshi presented an appreciation plaque to Bob Bratt for visiting Ventura County. The work of Mori Abe, Cherry Abe, Joyce Depew, Harry Kajihara, Janet Kajihara, Chuck Kuniyoshi, Jean Kuniyoshi, Stan Mukai (president), Joanne Nakano, Ken Nakano and Mitzi Ogata, all serving on the redress program committee, was acknowledged.

The meeting ended with Bratt speaking one-on-one to approximately 30 individuals having specific individual concerns.

tion of a meeting.

A clarify House Cor Labor to re produce qu the JACL credited wi number of cluding R Democrats.

"There w icans were r cussions of said Igasaki President B ing us in th of the tremel munity and brings us re lence or of Asian Amer rights dialog

"I am on regional sta are doing t. said Igasaki lot in the c CLers to co Congress tr of 1990

ALO

77
5
(818) 284

not found