

Redress reaffirmed

Bush's signature completes '88 act

With a signature, redress is a reality—finally and completely.

President George Bush signed H.R. 4551, the Civil Liberties Act Amendments of 1992 on Sunday, Sept. 27, as he was campaigning by train through Ohio and Michigan.

The bill authorizes an additional \$400 million to complete the individual payments and provide funding for historical research and education programs. In fiscal year 1993, \$250 million of this will be available for individual payments beginning Oct. 1, in addition to the funds remaining from the original act. According to JACL, this means that 25,000 eligible individuals born on or before Dec. 31, 1943, should receive their checks

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—Dennis Hayashi

sometime this October. The balance of the individuals found eligible should receive their checks next year.

The bill also removes redress payments from consideration as income when calculating benefit under all pension plans under the authority of the Veterans Administration. The previous exemption did not cover the older plans.

"With the signing of H.R. 4551, the constitutional rights of the Japanese Americans interned 50 years ago have finally been vindicated," said Dennis Hayashi, JACL national director. He also credited the efforts of the lead sponsors: Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii) in the Senate and Congressman Norman Mineta (D-Calif.) in the House. "Without their leadership and the staunch bipartisan support of an overwhelming majority of the House and the Senate, the historic program to redress the wrongs committed against over 120,000 Americans of Japanese descent would have become a hollow promise to more than

Mineta, Matsui—comments on signing

Reps. Norman Mineta (D-Calif.) and Robert Matsui (D-Calif.) congratulated President Bush for signing into law the Civil Liberties Act Amendments of 1992.

Mineta, who authored the bill, said, "I am relieved that the president ultimately chose not to break faith with the commitment made by Congress and former President Reagan to heal the unjust scar of disloyalty borne by Americans of Japanese ancestry for the last half century," Mineta said.

"Earlier this year, when President Bush had his version of this legislation introduced into Congress, I had my doubts about the president's commitment to the letter and spirit of The Civil Liberties Act of 1988 with its historic apology and compensation for the injustices of the forced evacuations and internments that took place

starting in 1942," Mineta said. "But the support in Congress was strong and bipartisan for the legislation he signed into law today. It simply was the right thing to do."

Matsui, one of the original sponsors of the bill, praised the president. "I am elated that we were able to get what amounts to a technical adjustment to the original redress law through the



MATSUI

legislative process so quickly. I think this proves that providing justice for Americans of Japanese ancestry who were illegally interned by the U.S. government is an issue that transcends partisan lines. The Congress saw the need to extend the program and passed this legislation unanimously. And I am pleased that President Bush, who had already indicated his support of the bill, signed it into law in a timely manner." ☐



MINETA

Behind the scenes in Washington, D.C.

By KAREN K. NARASAKI
Washington, D.C. Representative

While we celebrate the passage of "The Civil Liberties Act Amendments of 1992," I thought I would share with you a glimpse of the work that was going on behind the scenes. Many deserve credit, but the following focuses on individuals inside the process who worked to achieve passage of this latest bill.

15,000 individuals."

Karen Narasaki, JACL Washington, D.C., representative also commended the president's personal support of the bill as well as the support of more than 40 civil rights and religious organizations. The signing is the culmination of a seven-month lobbying effort by JACL and many

of these organizations. Many people said that it was improbable that the redress bill would pass this year. Some said we should wait until after the election year; some said that we should compromise and

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MORE WHO HELPED—Co-sponsors of bill—page 4. Bill Hosokawa talks about Bush aide Clayton Fong—page 6.

of these organizations.

In signing the act, Bush said, "No monetary payments can ever fully compensate loyal Japanese Americans for one of the darkest incidents in American constitutional history. We must do everything possible to ensure that such a grave wrong is never repeated." ☐

Redress amendments co-sponsors

By **KAREN NARASAKI**

Washington, D.C., representative

Before the redress bill was signed by President George Bush, it went through an expedited voting process in both the Senate and the House. This means that there were no recorded votes. The following is a final list of the House and the Senate co-sponsors. Many more members of Congress had pledged to vote in support of the bill, but for various reasons had not yet signed on as co-sponsors.

Senate co-sponsors of S.2553

Brock Adams (D-Wash.), Daniel Akaka (D-Hawaii), Bill Bradley (D-N.J.), Alan Cranston (D-Calif.), Dennis DeConcini (D-Ariz.), Slade Gorton (R-Wash.), Mark Hatfield (R-Ore.), Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii), Daniel Moynihan (D-N.Y.), Bob Packwood (R-Ore.), Warren Rudman (R-N.H.), John Seymour (R-Calif.), Paul Simon (D-Ill.), and Ted Stevens (R-Alaska).

House co-sponsors of H.R.4551

Neil Abercrombie (D-Hawaii), Chester Atkins (D-Mass.), Les AuCoin (D-Ore.), Richard Baker

(R-La.), Howard Berman (D-Calif.), Ben Blaz (R-Guam), Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), Albert Bustamante (D-Texas), Tom Campbell (R-Calif.), William Clay (D-Mo.), John Conyers (D-Mich.), Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.), Ronald Dellums (D-Calif.), Julian Dixon (D-Calif.), Mervyn Dymally (D-Calif.), Don Edwards (D-Calif.), Eliot Engel (D-N.Y.), Lane Evans (D-Ill.), Eni Faleomavaega (D-American Samoa), Dante Fascell (D-Fla.), Vic Fazio (D-Calif.), Edward Feighan (D-Ohio), Hamilton Fish (R-N.Y.), Barney Frank (D-Mass.), Richard Gephardt (D-Mo.), Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.), Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.), Henry Gonzalez (D-Texas), Frank Guarini (D-N.J.), Tony Hall (D-Ohio), Charles Hayes (D-Ill.), George Hockbrueckner (D-N.Y.), Joan Kelly Horn (D-Mo.), Frank Horton (D-N.Y.), William Hughes (D-N.J.), Henry Hyde (R-Ill.), Andrew Jacobs (D-Ind.), Jim Jontz (D-Ind.), Joseph Kennedy II (D-Mass.), Dale Kildee (D-Mich.), Michael Kopetski (D-Ore.), Peter Kostmayer (D-Pa.), Tom Lantos (D-Calif.), Richard Lehman (D-Calif.), William Lehman (D-Fla.), Mel Levine (D-Calif.), John Lewish (D-Ga.), Tom Manton (D-N.Y.), Matthew Martinez (D-Calif.), Robert Matsui (D-Calif.), Nick

Mavroules (D-Mass.), Jim McDermott (D-Wash.), Michael McNulty (D-N.Y.), George Miller (D-Calif.), John Miller (R-Wash.), Norman Mineta (D-Calif.), Patsy Mink (D-Hawaii), John Moakley (D-Mass.), Jim Moody (D-Wis.), Constance Morella (R-Md.), Sid Morrison (R-Wash.), Robert Mrazek (D-N.Y.), Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.), Major Owens (D-N.Y.), Wayne Owens (D-Utah), Leon Panetta (D-Calif.), Ed Pastor (D-Ariz.), Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.), Bill Richardson (D-N.M.), Robert Roe (D-N.J.), Ed Roybal (D-Calif.), Bernard Sanders (I-Vt.), George Sangmeister (D-Ill.), Patricia Schroeder (D-Colo.), Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), Jose Serrano (D-N.Y.), David Skaggs (D-Colo.), Stephen Solarz (D-N.Y.), Fortney Pete Stark (D-Calif.), Louis Stokes (D-Ohio), Gerry Studds (D-Mass.), Al Swift (D-Wash.), Esteban Torres (D-Calif.), Edolphus Towns (D-N.Y.), Jolene Unsoeld (D-Wash.), Bruce Vento (D-Maine), James Walsh (R-N.Y.), Craig Washington (D-Texas), Maxine Waters (D-Calif.), Henry Waxman (D-Calif.), Ted Weiss (D-N.Y.), Pat Williams (D-Mont.), Howard Wolpe (D-Mich.), Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), and Sidney Yates (D-Ill.). ☐

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agree to drop the education fund or settle for a smaller authorization this year and obtain authorization for more money next year. However, the lead sponsors of the legislation, Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii) and Congressman Mineta (D-Calif.), stood firm in their belief that although it would be tough, it could be done.

Sen. Inouye asked Sen. Glenn (D-Ohio), chairman of the Governmental Affairs Committee, to expedite the process in the Senate. The bill went directly to the

full committee for consideration, rather than having to wait for a subcommittee hearing. Sen. Inouye's prestige and the affection with which he is held in the Senate were key to the bill's passage. Many senators still remembered his eloquent 1989 speech.

Congressman Mineta was tireless in his efforts to move the bill in the House. The bipartisan bill was introduced by two House leaders, Congressmen Richard Gephardt (D-Mo.) and Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.), with more than 50 co-sponsors. Mineta persuaded Congressman Jack Brooks (D-Texas), House Judiciary Commit-

tee chairman, to bring the bill up for consideration, and together with Congressman Matsui (D-Calif.) led the orchestrated pressure on the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to find a workable solution to the budget impasse.

Congressional staff are unsung heroes. Legislation does not pass without smart, effective and dedicated staff. Chris Strobel, legislative assistant to Congressman Mineta, and Marie Blanco, legislative assistant to Senator Inouye, are all that and more.

Chris Strobel was committed to passage this year and whenever

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we faced a hurdle, he spent countless hours coming up with creative ways to overcome it. He became an expert on very arcane budget minutiae and kept JACL constantly informed of the bill's progress and current strategies. In the legislative process, it is very easy for bills to die even without opposition. Because there are a multitude of legislative initiatives competing for committee time and floor time, most bills die for lack of attention. Chris Strobel was constantly reminding key congressional staff and administration officials of the need to move the bill along. He kept negotiations going and was able to telescope a seven to 10-day process of preparing the bill for the president's signature into a two-

day process.

Marie Blanco had a daunting task. In the Senate, one senator can virtually block a bill. Past redress efforts had given us reason to believe that there might be several senators who might seek to do so. Moreover, many of the senators from the more conservative states had been attacked by some of their constituency for their past support of redress. While they were still willing to vote for this year's bill, they did not want to openly fight for it. Sen. John Glenn, the Governmental Affairs chairperson, is up for re-election and although he was supportive of redress and willing to assist Sen. Inouye, he was cautious because of the budget issue. Marie was able to keep the bill moving in the Senate. She let us know where the potential trouble spots were and advised us on our lobbying strategy.

Paul Cardus, aide to Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-Hawaii), helped to move the bill through the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee. Amendments were necessary on the Senate bill to make it consistent with the House bill and Paul Cardus smoothly managed the Committee process. John Nakahata, aide to another member of the Governmental Affairs Committee, Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.), had been through the redress legislative process before. He provided us with invaluable inside information and insight on the process.

Within the administration, Patricia Saiki, the administrator of the Small Business Administration, and Clayton Fong, deputy liaison to the president, helped press our cause. Saiki met with me and offered to ask OMB director Richard Darman why he had not yet agreed to meet with the

House sponsors of the bill to address the budget issues which were endangering passage of the bill. The external pressure, generated by JACL members and other community organizations, combined with inside pressure pushed OMB into offering a way to work out the budget impasse.

Clayton Fong was a strong voice of support inside the administration with OMB and others. At a critical juncture, we discussed the fact that some members of Congress still were confused about the Administration's position on the bill. Clayton Fong obtained approval to send out an open letter to the Japanese American community which reassured members of Congress of the President's support for swift passage.

Department of Justice officials also helped to smooth the way for final passage of the bill. The Office of Redress Administration

provided its final estimate of eligible individuals in time for the House Judiciary Committee to revise the legislation to ensure that there would be sufficient funds to pay all eligible individuals.

There are many other Congressional staff who assisted in the passage of "The Civil Liberties Act Amendments of 1992." They all deserve our gratitude and appreciation. ☐