

Short takes

Legislation introduced to complete redress

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Civil Liberties Act Amendments of 1992 were introduced March 24 to complete the commitment of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 which apologizes and offers compensation to Americans of Japanese ancestry interned during World War II.

The legislation will authorize an additional \$320 million to complete the redress program: \$250 million in fiscal year 1993, and \$70 million in fiscal year 1994, according to Rep. Norman Mineta, co-sponsor of the legislation.

The U.S. Department of Justice has announced that approximately 75,000 former internees will be eligible for individual compensation payments of \$20,000. The Civil Liberties Act of 1988 authorized funding for 60,000 of these payments, based on the best estimates of the number of surviving former internees.

The Civil Liberties Act Amendments of 1992 would also make several administrative changes to the program, as requested by the Justice Department. Included would be compensation for approximately 40 Americans not of Japanese ancestry who accompanied their spouses or children into the camps.

"Congress must live up to its word," said Mineta, who authored the 1988 law. "The Civil Liberties Act Amendments of 1992 will ensure that redress forgets no one, and that no injustice is met with words of apology alone."

Among those joining Mineta as original co-sponsors were Rep. Robert Matsui, Patsy Mink, George Miller, and Mel Levine.