

# ORA denies some camp-born children

The Office of Redress Administration has made payment in 74,962 cases as of Feb. 1. The balance of individual payments are scheduled for Oct., 1993, but the ORA has rejected claims in 33 cases involving children who were born in camp after their parent(s) "voluntarily" returned to camp. The JACL urges these claimants to appeal.

The ORA also has some 800 cases under special review, including 300 involving individuals who claim to have been evacuated out of area in Hawaii. The ORA has located the General Orders but not the evidence they were enforced only against individuals of Japanese ancestry.

The Hawaii Chapter, JACL, has persuaded ORA to continue its investigation. Anyone with pertinent documentation should contact the ORA in Washington, D.C.

There also are some 1,200 incomplete cases awaiting a response from claimants who have been asked to provide additional information, such as current ad-

resses and birth certificates. Some of these cases, the ORA said, have been pending for over a half-year. The ORA has asked community organizations to assist in contacting the claimants. It is feared some claimants may have become discouraged, have moved or become ill or that the original claimant has died and the children need to be notified of the status of the claim.

Dipping into its own budget, the Justice Department also reprogrammed its current budget to pay non-Japanese spouses and parents who were interned with their families. Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) of San Francisco, led the effort in the last Congress to authorize the reprogramming.

The willingness of the Department of Justice to allocate some of its own budget to the redress program is a testament to their continuing commitment to redress. These claimants can expect payment this year, if they meet the birthdate cutoff.