

M E M O R A N D U M

24 May 1986

To: William Huhli, Michi/Walter Weglyn, Raymond Okamura, Philip Nash,
Kiko Funabiki, Takako Kusunoki Wada, Jimmie Omura

From: Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga

For about two months I have been reading in the Japanese American newspapers about a "script" developed on the JA exhibit by the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History to begin showing in September 1987. This exhibit is to be part of a larger program to celebrate the bicentennial of the signing of the U.S. Constitution.

As a member of the Advisory Committee for the JA exhibit, I made several calls to the NMAH staff persons responsible for this exhibit and asked to see the script. A copy was finally sent to me recently and I am enclosing it herewith with a request for input from each of you.

Members of the Advisory Committee are listed on the attached. Except for Rep. Norman Mineta, Dr. William Emerson, FDR Library, and myself, others are associated with or have vested interest in this exhibit from a military point of view. John Langellier was the predecessor to Eric Saul, of the Presidio Army Museum. Because of the background, or present association, of the Committee members with military history, it is no surprise that Section V - Go for Broke (pgs 26-36) goes into great detail.

The second paragraph of "A Note to the Reader" (2nd sheet of attached stapled material) states that a number of individuals have read the script and that "their comments have not been incorporated into the text" so I don't know the status of this script as of today. This "Note to the Reader" has no date on it.

The packet I received was 61 pages long. In order to save xerox costs and postage, I have reduced the size of the text and placed two-to-four pages on each sheet. In addition, I have run the pages back-to-back. I hope you will not find this too confusing.

In his article, "Bicentennial of the Constitution" (Hokubei Mainichi, May 8, 1986, attached), Raymond Okamura has made an excellent suggestion as to the criteria that should be used when including items for the exhibit; namely, "What does this have to do with the Constitution?" He also made other comments, all of which I find valid for submission to the Advisory Committee.

Please send me a letter or memo with your comments about the script. If you find it adequate, please so indicate. If you think that there are areas that should be addressed, not adequately covered in the script, or if too much emphasis given to certain sections, those comment should also be included.

I'd like to be able to take your letters (or memos) to a meeting of the Advisory Committee scheduled for June 13th. [This is the very first meeting of the Committee.] It's important that voices of more Japanese Americans be heard in the developmental phase of this significant exhibit. Thank you very much for your help.

Note: For Advisory Committee list, see over.

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