

The mass exile and imprisonment of Japanese Americans from Pacific Coast areas during World War II is widely regarded as the most flagrant violation of the Constitutional rights of any American minority group in modern history. The Republican Party of the State of Washington, through the efforts of former Governor Daniel Evans and present State Supreme Court Justice ^{James} Dolliver, can claim the distinction of having former President Gerald R. Ford issue his Presidential Proclamation of February 19, 1976, which publicly announced the termination of Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order No. 9066 of February 19, 1942.

During the months immediately following the issuance of Roosevelt's Executive Order and pursuant to its provisions, over 110,000 persons of Japanese ancestry (two-thirds of whom were American citizens), strictly on a racial basis, with no formal charges, with not even a pretense of individual hearings or trials, and with a total absence of any proof of subversion, espionage, or sabotage were by Government edict stripped of their jobs, homes, and freedom and placed in concentration camps for an average of over three years. Most of those directly responsible for the ordering and carrying out of this rape of the Constitution's Bill of Rights and the human rights of an innocent racial minority are now dead. None of those responsible has ever been punished.

We seek no vengeance against nor punishment of the persons who initiated and committed this outrage. Common sense and justice, however, would require that this nation make some attempt to undo the great wrong which was committed by its officials. Without some formal public attempt to provide some kind of direct individual redress for Japanese Americans who were unjustly exiled and imprisoned during World War II, the protective provisions of our Constitution against the use of arbitrary arrest and imprisonment by government officials stand meaningless.

On behalf of the Seattle Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, I ask that the platform of the Republican Party of the State of Washington include a provision declaring the Party's support for H.R. 5977 which provides the kind of redress which the members of my organization are seeking. Favorable action on this matter would be a welcome indication that the Republican Party truly regards the Constitution of the United States as something more than a scrap of paper where the rights of minorities are concerned. Such action would also help in attracting to the Party the increased trust and support of voters of minority groups.

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