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Editor  
Pacific Citizen  
244 S. San Pedro St., Rm. 506  
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Editor:

Due to my strong belief in the current efforts by various groups, including the JACL, to seek reparations for the injustices and losses suffered by Japanese Americans during World War II, I followed with great interest the U.S. Senate hearings conducted earlier this year on a bill to establish a commission to study the issue. However, I was flabbergasted and appalled upon recently learning that large portions of the statement presented by the JACL at the Senate hearings were plagiarized from the widely acclaimed book, Years of Infamy: The Untold Story of America's Concentration Camps, by Michi Weglyn. The most blatant example of this plagiarism is contained in section E of the JACL statement entitled, "Life in the Camps," in which the description on pages E1 through E4 are taken word for word from pages 80 through 84 of Weglyn's book. There is no indication that the passages are direct quotations from the book, nor is there any proper credit given to Mrs. Weglyn.

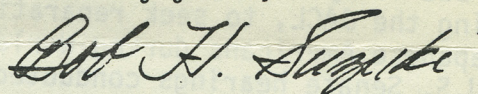
While I have no idea who in the JACL committed this irresponsible act, I think it reflects extremely poorly on the JACL and, moreover, is highly disrespectful and a terrible insult to Mrs. Weglyn who devoted so many years of her life to researching Years of Infamy. As you undoubtedly know, this book was selected in 1976 for the prestigious Anisfield-Wolf Award in Race Relations; and, ironically enough, the JACL also honored Mrs. Weglyn for her literary accomplishment by naming her the Outstanding Japanese American of the Biennium at its 1976 National Convention. Thus, I cannot fathom why anyone would not properly credit Mrs. Weglyn for the passages taken from her book, and can only speculate that it was either an act of sheer exploitation, incredible stupidity or inexcusable laziness. Whatever the case, such an act cannot be rationalized on the grounds that it happened in pursuit of a just and noble cause; unless one believes in the morally bankrupt idea that a good end justifies any means.

Therefore, since the JACL clearly must bear responsibility in this matter, I would hope that the appropriate JACL officials, as a first step, will immediately issue a public apology and explanation to Mrs. Weglyn via the Pacific Citizen and other news media, and bring to account the person or persons responsible. Furthermore, since I understand that the JACL is printing and distributing its statement as a booklet and that the Senate Committee on Governmental Relations will also be publishing the statement in its proceedings of the hearings, I think the JACL should see to it that the necessary

corrections and acknowledgments are made in these publications. And finally, I would also hope that the JACL will provide whatever other remedies that are called for to fully rectify the legal and moral transgressions committed against Mrs. Weglyn.

Inasmuch as I fully support the current efforts to gain reparations for Japanese Americans, my intent in raising the issue is not to embarrass the JACL or to undercut its efforts, but simply to set the record straight and, thereby, help redress the insult inflicted on a most gracious and dedicated individual who certainly does not deserve the shoddy treatment she has been accorded. After all, Years of Infamy provided the JACL, as well as other groups, with one of the most powerful rationales for the current reparations efforts and has contributed as much as anything toward making such efforts politically feasible in the first place.

Sincerely yours,



Bob H. Suzuki, Ph.D.

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