

14 February 1981

Dear Editor of Pacific Citizen, JACL  
New York Nichibei, NYC  
Rafu Shimpō, LA  
Kashu Mainichi, LA  
Hokubei Mainichi, SF  
Rikka, Toronto, Canada

I am a yonsei Japanese American. Like many of the sansei and yonsei generation, I am not a member of the Japanese American Citizens League. JACL cannot, and does not, speak for me. I was not a victim of the concentration camp experience but, as with most Japanese Americans, that tragedy has had a profound effect on my own life, so it is with a great deal of interest that I have followed the development of Senate bill 1647, which established the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment.

The JACL submitted testimony at the Senate hearing of S.1647. There has been a great deal of controversy concerning plagiarism on the part of JACL in "its" written testimony. Dr. James Tsujimura, JACL president, has apologized to Mrs. Michi Weglyn, author of YEARS OF INFAMY, whose work was plagiarized, among others, including Eugene Rostow, Roger Daniels, Morton Grodzins, Dillon Myer, et al. However, Dr. Tsujimura's statement about certain "remedial actions" taken by the JACL to rectify its grave error are not true. Dr. Tsujimura's integrity is not being questioned since it is assumed that he received the information for his column, "President's Corner," in the Pacific Citizen from other sources. He has been fed incorrect information.

I bring your attention to the enclosed documents which have come to me from a source whose anonymity I have guaranteed.

1. Copy of Dr. Tsujimura's column, mentioned above.
2. Copy of a letter written to the Government Printing Office (GPO) asking whether the GPO had taken actions described by Dr. Tsujimura in his column.
3. Copy of GPO's reply, dated February 4, 1981.

You will note that two of my colleague's questions were not answered directly because the GPO action, or more correctly, non-action, is clear. The JACL errata sheet, referred to by Dr. Tsujimura, listed over 50 bibliographic sources lifted from Mrs. Weglyn's book, and more than 100 footnotes crediting various authors. This errata sheet was not published by the GPO, as implied in Dr. Tsujimura's column. Since the GPO did not publish it, it could not distribute it. Moreover, since it has not received copies of Mrs. Weglyn's book, it could not distribute them.

(more)

Let me add that, as of this date, neither the errata sheet nor a copy of YEARS OF INFAMY has been received by at least three persons who had testified before the Senate subcommittee, contrary to Dr. Tsujimura's contention that these documents would be sent to those present at the hearing.

Dr. Tsujimura refers to the unexpected "rush" to prepare for the Senate hearing. This does not excuse the JACL Washington staff for its act of plagiarism, since the JACL states it had been preparing for that moment for years. More importantly, and this is a fact overlooked by many-- more than seven months elapsed from the day the study commission bill was introduced in the Senate (August 2, 1979) and the date of its hearing (March 18, 1980). Surely the JACL had fully expected all those months to testify as a proponent of the study commission bill at the hearing.

I will speculate on the danger that the JACL presents in presuming to represent a large segment of the Japanese American community. In its frantic attempts to gain power, it defames all of us, impugns our honor, and threatens the entitlement of the victims (whose rights were violated throughout those years of internment) to receive individual compensation for deprivation as prisoners of war.

I am appealing to you to make these facts known, especially to the Japanese American community, whose sense of justice has been assaulted by misconceptions and misinformation disseminated by the JACL.

*Warren I. Furutani*

cc: Dr. James Tsujimura  
Mr. John Tateishi  
Mrs. Michi Weglyn  
National Council for Japanese American Redress  
National Coalition for Redress/Reparations  
Seattle Chapter, JACL, Redress Committee



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January 8, 1981

Mr. W. Scott Sonntag III  
Superintendent  
Congressional Information Division  
U.S. Government Printing Office  
Washington, D.C. 20401

Dear Mr. Sonntag:

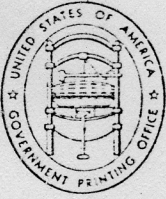
I have noted your letter to me of December 30, 1980 with some confusion since my original letter to you dealt exclusively with GPO operations. While I recognize the role that the originating office has in determining what action your office should take in regard to the documents, my questions are outside the functions of the Senate Committee.

To restate my questions posed in my letter to GPO of December 19, 1980:

1. Has the GPO published an errata sheet to the S.1647 report of Senate hearings on the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians Act, dated March 18, 1980 (63-2930)?
2. If so, has the GPO sent this sheet to all recipients of this Report?
3. Has the GPO received copies of the book, YEARS OF INFAMY, written by Michi Weglyn?
4. If so, does the GPO plan to send that book to the recipients of the Senate report?
5. Has the GPO received a query as to the recipients to which the GPO sent the Senate report?
6. Has the GPO received copies of an "errata sheet" for the GPO to insert in your current stock of that Senate report, or to be included in any reprinting of that report that the GPO may make?

In all candor, these questions are quite straightforward and appear to require simple "yes" or "no" replies. They, in no way that I can see, concern the Senate Committee staff.

Very truly,



United States  
Government  
Printing Office

Washington, D.C. 20401

Rec'd 2-6-81

February 4, 1981

Dear |

This is in reply to your letter of January 8, 1981. It is in the format you discussed with my assistant, Mr. John Morris: A simple "Yes" or "No" answer to your questions.

Question: Has the GPO published an errata sheet to the subject Senate Report?

Answer: No.

Question: Has the GPO received copies of the book "Years of Infamy" written by Weglyn?

Answer: No.

Question: Has the GPO received a query as to the recipients to which GPO sent the report?

Answer: Yes; from the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs.

Question: Has the GPO received an errata sheet for the GPO to insert in its current stock of the report?

Answer: No.

Sincerely,

*W. Scott Sonntag III*

W. SCOTT SONNTAG III  
Superintendent, Congressional  
Information Division