

7004 Murray Ave. S.W., Apt. 401  
Seattle, Washington 98136  
June 4, 1978

Dr. Clifford I. Uyeda, Chairman  
J.A.C.L. National Committee for Redress  
1765 Sutter Street  
San Francisco, California 94115

Dear Clifford:

Thank you for your letter of May 30th and the enclosure. Since terminating my membership in the J.A.C.L. at the end of 1977, I have stopped going to any gatherings of that organization. I have, however, told most of my J.A.C.L. acquaintances that I would be willing to meet with any of them at my apartment if they wished to see me and phoned at least a day in advance. Although I am retired, my reading and studies keep me quite busy. With eyes which are getting weaker with each passing month, I avoid going to large gatherings which are so often a waste of time.

Until Henry Miyatake, the former chairman of the Seattle Evacuation Redress Committee, began his study of the reparation problem around five years ago, no real thinking or analysis of the matter had been done by anyone in the J.A.C.L. There was no split ten or even five years ago within the J.A.C.L. over reparation plans because there were no known plans then in existence. There was also no serious division since then concerning the method or amount of reparations among the former evacuees and inmates of those prison camps. All polls taken indicated overwhelming preference for individual payments. The only real division of opinion developed between those who believed (as the Seattle J.A.C.L. does) in individual reparation payments directly to the former evacuees and the small groups of persons from other areas who were opposed to individual payments and were extremely eager to have the money put into a fund or funds which presumably the groups would then proceed to spend on their pet projects.

The delay of almost two years since the 1976 National Convention was due entirely to the failure of the J.A.C.L. national officers to take action despite promises made to the Seattle Evacuation Redress Committee by Murakami, Uno, and Honda when they were in Seattle around a year and a half ago.

I am firmly of the belief that every dollar of any reparations made available by the American Government belongs to the individuals who were directly affected by the World War II evacuation and mass imprisonment orders. That the individual victims of the injustice should be given the money to spend or keep as they wish can hardly be matter for dispute. To take a stand as you and your committee have done to deny the immediate kin of deceased evacuees the right to receive reparations money which the deceased would have received if living is consenting to a form of unauthorized misappropriation of other people's money. I can not consent to such a "compromise" which I am unable to perceive as being any different from approving an act of theft.

Although no longer a J.A.C.L. member, I remain in frequent communication with most members of the Seattle Evacuation Redress Committee. A letter stating the Committee's position concerning your committee's proposal is now being prepared and will be mailed to you within the next few days.

Sincerely yours,

*Shoichi Sasaki.*