



JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR REDRESS

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS: 1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, Calif. 94115 (415) 921-5225
WASHINGTON OFFICE: 1730 Rhode Island Ave. N.W., Washington D.C. 20036 (202) 223-1240
Minoru Yasui, Chairman, — Ronald J. Ikejiri, Washington Representative

FOR RELEASE: FEBRUARY 24, 1983

JACL STATEMENT

The Japanese American Citizens League is pleased that the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians has issued some 450 pages of documented findings which conclusively demonstrate that the arbitrary World War II forced military evacuation, exclusion and detention of United States citizens and their resident alien parents, who by federal law were denied the opportunity for citizenship and naturalization, were totally unjustified and unnecessary.

The Commission's official recognition of the basic injustices is an important first step toward rectifying one of the gravest and darkest blemishes in the constitutional history of our nation and preventing a repetition against other citizens in times of hatred and hysteria. The Japanese American Citizens League commends the Commission for revealing the little known facts surrounding the internment and for vindicating Americans of Japanese and Aleut ancestry whose loyalty to this country were impugned by their own government's unwarranted actions.

We regret, however, that the report does not reveal to the fullest extent possible the many tremendous economic and other grievous losses suffered by the evacuees and we are hopeful that this vital omission will be corrected, since this nation is entitled to know the total dollar costs of that tragic experience not only to the internees but also to the government and people of the United States.

MORE.....

We trust that the distinguished members of this Commission, in good faith and in keeping with the spirit of their findings, will now translate their recommendations to the President and the Congress in terms that are commensurate with the unconscionable deprivation of individual freedom and the enormous economic losses suffered by the innocent victims of the American style concentration camps.

Only by such recommendations can justice be served and the Congress and the President enabled to act meaningfully to assure that, never again, may United States citizens be subjected to such humiliations and loss of liberty and property as were their fellow Americans of Japanese and Aleut origins in World War II.

The Commission's recommendations will be a test of courage and integrity.