



JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

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Karl K. Nobuyuki, National Executive Director

JACL NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR REDRESS

December 9-10, 1979

MINUTES

Present: REDRESS Committee Members: Mr. John Tateishi, Chairperson; Mr. Henry Miyatake; Mr. Ray Okamura; Mr. Phil Shigekuni; Mr. Min Yasui; Ron Mamiya, Esq.; Dr. Jim Tsujimura, National Vice President for Research and Services; Dr. Clifford Uyeda, National President
Staff: Karl Nobuyuki, National Executive Director; J.D. Hokoyama, Associate National Director; Debbie Nakatomi, Assistant to the Director; George Kondo, NCWNDC Regional Director

AGENDA

ACTION

1.0 Minutes from September 9 & 10, 1978 Redress Meeting

Accept minutes
(m) Yasui
(s) Shigekuni
Carried: Unanimous

2.0 Camp Harmony Report presented by Ron Mamiya

Discussion - Suggestion was made to proclaim Feb. 19 "A Day of Remembrance" with all JACL Chapters. At the suggestion of the Chair, time line will be submitted and additionally a cost-estimate to assist local chapters in their planning. Informational Packets will be prepared and submitted to Chapter President with a cover letter to encourage their involvement with the National REDRESS Program.

Mamiya suggested that follow-up activities are needed to maintain the interest (e.g. Asian Pacific American Heritage Week, Tule Lake Plaque Dedication, Manzanar, etc.).

Chapters will need assistance from Committee and staff in developing press relationships, approaching local governments for Resolutions, etc.

Chair suggested that we should only encourage participation, not demand it.

3.0 Chapter involvement with National REDRESS Program

The discussion involved the concern over the cost element due to the fact that the REDRESS budget is very limited; it will be impossible for JACL to assume any of the cost of local chapters and districts. Miyatake

Move that it is the recommendation of the Committee to declare February 19, 1979, "Day of Remembrance" as a significant date in the REDRESS movement.
(m) Yasui
(s) Mamiya
Carried: Unanimous

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ACTION

3.0 (cont'd)

suggested that it will be necessary to have a cost breakdown for events.

*****RECESS*****LUNCH*****

4.0 Legislative Proposal

Tateishi indicated that he had met with Congressman Norman Mineta to seek his recommendations. It was suggested by Congressman Mineta that a delegation of JACL individuals meet with the Nikkei members of Congress to further discuss the REDRESS legislative proposal. Non-Nikkei members of Congress were also suggested.

The necessity of proper media coordination was discussed, as was the need for additional monies to further the progress of the National REDRESS Program. Chairman Tateishi indicated that Ms. Karen Seriguchi has offered her assistance in seeking funds through available grants.

5.0 Presentation of the National Education Campaign on the vulnerability of the American Bill of Rights - Nobuyuki.

Discussion outlined the general concept of the violation of the Constitutional rights of individuals. The need for position papers to be submitted with any legislative proposal and additional monies that would be necessary to properly educate and synthesize all material was also discussed in length. It was agreed that Staff would work with Ms. Seriguchi to assist in the development of a proposal for foundation funding.

6.0 Presentation of the IRS Check-Off Plan - Mamiya (See Attachment #1)

Mamiya discussed the need to establish a per diem amount based on property loss, income/business/personal losses to calculate and further clarify the \$25,000 issue. The IRS method was designed to avoid a direct appropriations approach and thereby make it easier for Japanese Americans to receive financial compensation.

7.0 Presentation of the Constitutional Endowment Fund Plan - Nobuyuki

Nobuyuki presented a plan modeled after the U.S. - Japan Friendship Act Trust Fund that would establish a perpetual fund by direct appropriation for consideration. Interest from the fund would be used to pay individuals and develop community projects. A variation of the plan was

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ACTION

7.0 (cont'd)

discussed which would also consider the use of the corpus of a trust fund as well as interest.

- 8.0 Discussion of the need for a delegation of JACL REDRESS individuals to go to Washington to meet with the Nikkei members of Congress to discuss the viability of the proposals under consideration by the Committee.

Move that Ron Mamiya and John Tateishi go to Washington, D.C. as representative of the REDRESS Committee to discuss proposals with members of Congress.
(m) Yasui
(s) Shigekuni
Carried: One abstention

*****Sunday, December 10, 1979, 8:45 a.m.*****

- 9.0 Discussion of pros and cons of various proposals made at Saturday meeting. Nobuyuki asked the Committee to consider addressing the revocation of the legal basis of Japanese American cases (Hirabayashi, Korematsu, & Yasui) as a principle warrant for REDRESS legislation.

Move that the proposed bill shall include: (1) Repeal of the legal basis of the Japanese American cases and a declaration against the effects of the evacuation cases; & (2) Recognition by Congress of the loyalty of Japanese Americans in a statement that will be part of the legislation.
(m) Yasui
(s) Mamiya
Carried: Unanimous

10. Specific Strategy and Timetable

Chair indicated the necessity of a "preferred" proposal and a specific plan of action to include either the IRS method or the trust fund approach to be presented to Nikkei members of Congress.

Move that the IRS Plan be "presented" in Washington to the Nikkei members of Congress.
(m) Shigekuni
(s) Yasui
Carried: One abstention
Amend to include that Ron Ikejiri contact IRS prior to the meeting to establish support within the Administration.

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ACTION

10.0 (cont'd)

Move that the direct appropriation proposal also be presented to the Nikkei members of Congress.

(m) Okamura

(s) Shigekuni

Carried: Unanimous

11.0 Discussion of timetable for introducing a bill to Congress.

Move that the proposed legislation be introduced when number 9066 comes up.

(m) Yasui

(s) Shigekuni

Carried: Unanimous

12.0 Other Business

Discussion: Need to involve local chapters in the REDRESS Campaign. Revive the REDRESS Column in the Pacific Citizen.

13.0 Adjournment