

*Mike M. Masaoka*

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February 22, 1977

Mr. Shosuke Sasaki  
Apt. 401  
7004 Murray Avenue, S.W.  
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Dear Shosuke:

In response to your letter dated February 17, may I say that I used the word "token" in reference to reparations deliberately because I personally feel that no matter how much is paid by the government it will be only a "token" amount insofar as what we actually suffered amounted to.

As for the statement which the Seattle Committee plans to put out, may I say that I take great exception to the statement in the last paragraph that "the decision by the JACL leaders in 1942 to cooperate with the Evacuation Order was bad enough". My personal feeling was then and remains today that under the circumstances of those times we had no other alternative if we wished to avoid bloodshed, etc. Moreover, because we "cooperated" as we did, we now have a much stronger claim for reparations, etc.

It seems to me that we in JACL who believe in the reparations issue already have enough problems without gratuitously adding such comments which will only tend to be divisive and self-defeating.

Sincerely,

  
Mike M. Masaoka

MMM:mt



February 28, 1977

Dear Mike,

Thank you for your letter of February 22nd which I received on February 25th. I appreciate your frank and forthright objections to the second sentence of the last paragraph of the article which the Seattle Committee had intended to release.

We have eliminated the offending sentence and expanded that paragraph into two paragraphs. We hope that you will find the revision acceptable. A copy of the revised article is enclosed.

Again, I thank you for your prompt reply and help.

Sincerely yours,

*Shosuke*