



JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

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Karl K. Nobuyuki, National Executive Director

JACL NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR REDRESS

From: Clifford I. Uyeda, Date: May 22, 1978.
To: Attendants at the Subject: Draft of Proposal--
 4/29-30th meeting, for comments, suggestions,
 Former Reparations Committee etc.
 members,
 National Board.

Attached is a draft of the proposal formulated at the April 29-30th meeting in San Francisco.

Present were representatives from 8 JACL Districts, our committee members (all 4), JACL Vice President in charge of our committee, and four observers who also participated actively.

This is only the first draft. Further refinements, adjustments and modifications will be necessary before we are ready for presentation to the National Council.

Suggested modifications received have been added. Please also comment on them.

Attempt is being made to state the proposal in accurate but simple and clear statements as possible.

Please return your comments to us by June 9th (Friday).

5204

REDRESS RESEARCH COUNCIL'S

RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO NATIONAL REDRESS PROPOSAL

On Wednesday, July 19th, you will be called upon to reaffirm JACL's commitment to redress for the injustices perpetrated upon persons of Japanese ancestry and their immediate family members as a result of the United States Government's involvement in World War II. Furthermore, you will be asked to support the proposal that has been drafted by the National Redress Committee. We, the Redress Research Council, strongly urge that you consider the following portions of that proposal prior to your voting on it in its present form.

It is in the spirit an informed vote that we ask that you review the material attached and attend the Redress Workshop on Tuesday and participate at the time that the proposal is presented on the Convention floor.

The recommendations which we make are the result of numerous surveys of the Nikkei population and 8 years of intensive research and, based upon such research, solicit your support of the following changes.

1. Eligibility: The present proposal specifically excludes heirs of deceased internees/evacuees from receiving any portion of the appropriations, but rather allocates such funds to a "trust" fund for the benefit of the general Nikkei community. The election to receive or to relinquish such appropriations should be determined by the heirs.

2. Method of Disbursements: The proposal as drafted requires \$100,000,000.00 be appropriated "off the top" for a general trust fund. This method of appropriation will needlessly delay disbursement of payments to individuals, especially the Issei and elderly. Any "trust fund" should only result from unclaimed amounts and from sums to which individuals wish to relinquish their shares.

3. Japanese American Commission: There is no provision in the proposal specifying the purpose of the Commission and, more importantly, stating how the "trust funds" will be used. Without a purpose, the Commission will be given a "free-hand" in distributing and using such funds which will be in excess of an estimated \$300,000,000.00.

Although other areas of concern exist relative to the proposal, which additional concerns are expressed in the attached sheets, the above issues are of our greatest concern. We hope that you will seriously consider the above recommendations in light of the specific revisions which we propose as attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Redress Research Council

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDED CHANGES

TO

NATIONAL REDRESS PROPOSAL

1. Insert following sentence under (C) ELIGIBILITY:

....
(3) Reparations which would have been paid to eligible persons who are now deceased shall be paid directly to said beneficiaries' surviving family members in the following order of priority: First, spouse; second, children; third, parents; and fourth, brothers and sisters.

2. Change wording of (c) ELIGIBILITY, paragraph (2), to make proof of residence easier to establish by adding the following:

"....or by personal affidavits."

3. Change dollar amounts and wording of (D) REDRESS to reflect actual time claimant was interned; for example, a flat sum of \$20,000.00 plus \$15.00 for each day of imprisonment.

4. Change the last sentence of (D) REDRESS to read:

"Payment to individuals shall have the same tax-free status as sums disbursed under Social Security or Medicare."

5. Delete paragraph (2) under (E) METHOD OF DISBURSEMENTS. Placing \$100,000,000.00 in "trust" "off the top" will needlessly delay disbursement of moneys to individuals, especially Issei and elderly beneficiaries for whom time is of the essence. Furthermore, this provision will substantially jeopardize any and all chances of passage in Congress.

6. Include an additional paragraph under (F) JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMISSION defining the purpose of the Commission; such as, "The purpose of the Commission shall be to make funds available for educational, cultural and community purposes of the Nikkei population, and a legal defense fund for the Japanese Americans."

7. Change paragraph (3) under section (E) METHOD OF DISBURSEMENT to read as follows:

"Unclaimed amounts and sums which individual claimants wish to relinquish any right to receipt shall be placed in a special trust fund to be used as set forth in Section (F) hereof and which use shall be based upon the recommendations made by representative Japanese American groups."

8. Delete line (1)(b) and change paragraph (3) under (H) DEFINITIONS to read:

"Imprisonment and expulsion from homes refers to the period beginning December 7, 1941 and ending October 1, 1952."

The change of the ending date is to include those who were transferred from W.R.A. control to the Department of Justice jurisdiction, some of whom were incarcerated until October 1, 1952.

9. Add a new section after Method of Disbursements entitled:

ADMINISTRATION: Administration expenses and costs incurred in connection with individual payments shall be borne entirely by the United States Government and such expenses and costs shall not be deducted from the amounts appropriated for redress payments."

REDRESS RESEARCH COUNCIL