

Japanese American Citizens League

Seattle Chapter

526 SOUTH JACKSON, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98104

May 31, 1976

Dear

The revocation by President Ford of Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1976, was an important milestone for all Japanese Americans in their progress toward equality of treatment before the laws of this nation. We are deeply cognizant of the fact that without the sending of letters from persons and groups such as yours to the President in January requesting such action, the revocation proclamation could not have been issued, and we take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks for your cooperation in making the issuance of that proclamation possible.

We also thank you for your response to the questionnaire which was sent with the cassette tape and the printed text of our "Appeal for Action" which was mailed to all 98 J.A.C.L. chapters early last December. Enclosed is a summary of our tabulation of the replies to the questionnaire which have been returned to us up to April 25, 1976. The results reflect the opinions of chapters whose membership constitutes a majority of the J.A.C.L.'s total national membership. The answers indicate that overwhelming majorities of Japanese Americans are in favor of:

1. The message contained in the "Appeal for Action".
2. Payment of reparations to individuals (as opposed to block amounts to organizations or groups).
3. Giving priority to Issei in any disbursement of reparations.
4. The amount of reparations suggested (\$5,000 to each evacuee both "voluntary" and "involuntary" plus \$10 a day for each day of confinement).
5. The "Bootstrap Concept" of funding (as against direct Congressional appropriations).
6. Support for legislation to make the payment of reparations a reality.

In recognition of the opinions and desires of the majority of those who responded to our questionnaire, the Seattle Evacuation Redress Committee has now adopted as its basic position on reparations for the World War II evacuation and imprisonment of Japanese Americans the preceding six points. Furthermore, in order to make clear certain aspects not mentioned in our "Appeal for Action", your attention is called to the following three points which constitute the rest of our basic position:

Page 2
May 31, 1976

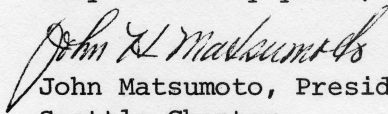
1. All reparations payments should be exempt from income taxes.
2. The fact that any former evacuee's current income is not subject to income taxes will in no way harm his eligibility to apply for and receive reparation payments.
3. Unclaimed reparations and reparations which some former evacuees choose not to receive personally (which could amount to as much as 20% of total reparations) would be placed in a special trust fund to be used for educational and cultural purposes by Japanese Americans on the basis of recommendations made by various Japanese American groups, and for a legal defense fund which will be used to protect Japanese Americans from discriminatory and unequal treatment under Federal laws, regulations, and edicts.

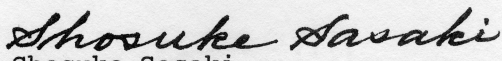
We wish to emphasize that although the six points listed in the second paragraph of this letter and the three points listed in the third paragraph constitute our present position, we feel that the suggested amounts of \$5,000 for each evacuee and \$10 per day of confinement should be increased if in the immediate future court decisions involving sums awarded to victims of unjust imprisonment should make the amounts we have suggested significantly lower than compensation which other victims of unjust imprisonment are receiving.

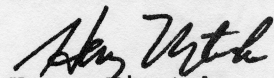
We also want it understood that although we favor the "Bootstrap Concept" of funding, we are not against funding by direct Congressional appropriations, if the latter method appeared to be more likely to be acceptable to both houses of Congress.

The total of nine points listed in the second and third paragraphs of this letter will be presented as National Committee Redress Plan No. 1 for consideration by the delegates at the J.A.C.L. national convention in Sacramento in June 1976. We hope that you will find our proposals worthy of your support.

Very sincerely yours,


John Matsumoto, President
Seattle Chapter


Shosuke Sasaki
Evacuation Redress Committee


Henry Miyatake
Evacuation Redress Committee

Enclosure: Summary Data of Responses

SUMMARY DATA OF RESPONSES RECEIVED FROM "APPEAL FOR ACTION"

Mailout of December 7, 1975
(Data received through April 25, 1976)

TOTAL NUMBER OF BOARD (AND REGULAR) MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS 778

1. Response of attending members to the reparation appeal for action message of December 7, 1975:

(A) In full agreement	<u>68.9%</u>
(B) In partial agreement	<u>28.4%</u>
(C) In opposition	<u>2.7%</u>

2. Method of reparation funding:

(A) In favor of funding through direct congressional appropriations	<u>30.5%</u>
(B) In favor of the bootstrap method of funding	<u>69.5%</u>

3. Disbursement of reparation funds:

(A) In favor of reparation payments directly to each individual claimant	<u>89.0%</u>
(B) In favor of payment in block sums directly to various Japanese American organizations and opposed to payment to individual claimant	<u>11.0%</u>

4. Issei priority:

(A) In favor of giving priority to the Issei in any disbursement of reparation payments	<u>96.7%</u>
(B) In opposition to giving the Issei priority	<u>3.3%</u>

5. Feelings of members to the amounts of reparation payments suggested in the message: (\$5,000 to every person affected by the evacuation plus \$10.00 per day for each day of imprisonment)

(A) Those who feel that the amounts are reasonable	<u>70.6%</u>
(B) Those who feel that the amounts are excessive	<u>0.9%</u>
(C) Those who feel that the amounts are grossly inadequate	<u>28.5%</u>

6. Those willing to give support to passage of legislation to permit payment of reparations which were suggested to each person affected by the 1942 evacuation order:

(A) Yes	<u>94.4%</u>
(B) No	<u>5.6%</u>