



17th BIENNIAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

January 17, 1962

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To: JACL CONVENTION PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

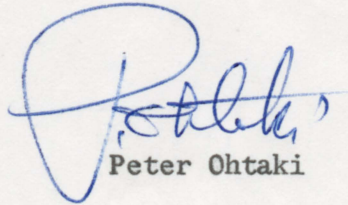
Joe Hamanaka
Ute Hirano
Elmer Ogawa
George Tanagi

cc: Jim Matsuoka

Subject: Friday, January 19th Luncheon Meeting.

This Friday's Luncheon at the Kalua Room concerns primarily the composition and possible research for the history of JACL in the Pacific Northwest area. This must be compiled in a report to be presented to one of our local Senators or Congressmen, and be read in Congress so that we might have something in the Congressional Record.

Second item on the agenda is to step-up our Display Program.



Peter Ohtaki

Attachment: Congressional Record copy



Congressional Record

United States
of America

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 84th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

San Francisco Host to National Japanese American Citizens League Convention

EXTENSION OF REMARKS OF

HON. JOHN F. SHELLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 1956

Mr. SHELLEY. Mr. Speaker, under leave to extend my remarks, may I call the attention of my colleagues in both the House and the Senate to the 14th biennial national convention of the Japanese American Citizens League—JACL—which will be held in San Francisco over the Labor Day weekend, from August 30 to September 3, with headquarters in the historic Sheraton-Palace Hotel.

JACL, as most Congressmen are aware, is the only national organization of Americans of Japanese ancestry; its name identifies its constituency and the reasons for its being. All of its members are native-born or naturalized citizens of the United States; most, but not all, are also of Japanese ancestry.

Its twin slogans, which express its purposes and objectives, as well as summarize its activities and achievements, are "For Better Americans in a Greater America" and "Security Through Unity."

CONVENTION PROGRAM

The convention begins with a meeting of the national board, composed of the elected officers and district council chairmen, on Thursday morning, August 30. The national council, composed of the official delegates representing 38 chapters and members in 32 States, the District of Columbia, the Territory of Hawaii, and Japan, begins their deliberations the following day, Friday, August 31. Climax of the convention is the traditional banquet on Labor Day, when the outstanding Japanese American in the United States for the past 2 years will be announced as the Nisei of the

Biennium. The last such award was presented to Sgt. Hiroshi Miyamura, Gallup, N. Mex., Congressional Medal of Honor winner and one of the 10 outstanding young men in the Nation as selected by the United States Junior Chambers of Commerce. Guest speaker at the banquet will be Maxwell M. Rabb, Secretary to the Cabinet of the United States and adviser to the President on minority problems. The final event will be the Sayonara ball on September 3.

For the first time, special events will be held for the newly naturalized citizen parents, for the ladies, and for the younger citizens. And Convention Queen Sharon Nishima of Sacramento, representing the host district council, will reign over the festivities.

Jerry Enomoto, immediate past president of the San Francisco host chapter, is the convention chairman.

OFFICERS, TYPICAL AMERICANS

Typical of the cross-section of America that comprises JACL are its officers.

National president is George Inagaki, of Venice, Calif., a former nurseryman recently turned real estate salesman.

National vice president is Ken Tashiro, of Orosi, Calif., a farmer.

National vice president is Tak Terasaki, of Denver, a pharmacist.

National treasurer is Dr. Roy Nishikawa, of Los Angeles, an optometrist.

Board secretary is William Mambu, of Seattle, an attorney.

Thousand club chairman is Shig Wakamatsu, of Chicago, a chemist.

Dr. Thomas T. Yatabe, first constitutional national president, of Chicago, a dentist, and Hito Okada, immediate past national president, of Salt Lake City, Utah, an insurance agent, are also members of the board.

Chairman of the Pacific Northwest district council is Dr. Kelly Yamada, of Seattle, another optometrist.

Chairman of the northern California-western Nevada district council is Yas Abiko, of San Francisco, a newspaper publisher.

Chairman of the central California district council is Jin Ishikawa, of Fresno, another attorney.

Chairman of the Pacific southwest district council is Dave Yokosaki, of Los Angeles, an attorney and motion picture executive.

Chairman of the intermountain district council is George Sugai, of Payette, Idaho, a businessman.

Chairman of the mountain-plains district council is Robert Horinuchi, of Denver, an accountant.

Chairman of the midwest district council is Abe Hagiwara, of Chicago, a social worker.

Chairman of the eastern district council is William Sasagawa, of Philadelphia, an engineer.

National director is Mas Satow of San Francisco; Washington representative is Mike Masaoaka of the District of Columbia; Pacific southwest director is Tats Kushida of Los Angeles; and legal counsel is Frank Chuman, also of Los Angeles.

SAN FRANCISCO APPROPRIATE SITE

The city by the Golden Gate, which I have the honor to represent in the Congress, is particularly appropriate for a gathering of this kind, for no other city in America has been more closely identified with Japanese Americans and their destiny than San Francisco.

Gateway to and from the Orient, it was through this port that the first immigrants from Japan arrived three quarters of a century ago, to make their own significant contributions to the building of Western America. It was here that the Treaty of Peace was signed 5 years ago, opening a new and greater era of friendship and cooperation between the United States and Japan.

San Francisco has always been closely associated with the Citizens League movement since its inception in the midtwenties. One of the earliest chapters was organized here. In 1929 in San Francisco, a meeting of the California chapters decided to federate into

a national association to promote the citizenship of the then young Japanese American minority and the welfare of persons of Japanese ancestry in this Nation, who at that time were subjected to considerable legal and other forms of racial discrimination. Though the First Biennial National Convention was convened in Seattle in 1930, and the Second Biennial 2 years later in Los Angeles, the Third Biennial which established the present organizational structure of the JACL was held in this city by the Golden Gate in 1934.

National headquarters before the war was, and at the present time is located in San Francisco.

Probably its most memorable meeting was in the spring of 1942, when an emergency meeting of the National Council was held in San Francisco to determine the course of action which Japanese Americans should take in a war in which they were too often confused with the enemy. It was decided that Japanese Americans would agree to cooperate with the Government in their own evacuation, although they thoroughly disagreed with the necessity for such action and the reasons for what has been described as "our worst wartime mistake."

But, the dedicated loyalty of the Japanese Americans was demonstrated in that mass movement, and the Government and the public at large were forced to reappraise the devotion and allegiance to the United States of these unfortunate victims of wartime hate and hysteria.

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"CHANGING PERSPECTIVES" THEME

Symbolic of the changed and improved status of Americans of Japanese ancestry is the convention theme, "Changing Perspectives."

Using the tools of democracy, JACL has in the 10 short years since the end of World War II, been able to provide that leadership which has enabled Americans of Japanese ancestry to be accepted as welcome and worthy partners in the American way, whereas a decade ago they were held to be suspect by their own Government.

Through the Congress particularly, and State legislatures as well, JACL has been able to eliminate legal sanctions which at one time numbered more than 500 discriminatory statutes directed against people of Japanese ancestry. The great and priceless privilege of citizenship at long last, in 1952, at a time when the 12th Biennial National Convention was in session in San Francisco, was granted to loyal resident alien Japanese. At the same time, the Japanese Exclusion Act of 1924 was repealed and token immigration from Japan authorized under our quota system. The courts of the United States and of the several States, struck down as unconstitutional, laws which discriminated against those of Japanese ancestry solely on the basis of race and, at that time, "ineligibility" to citizenship. The American public at large has come to recognize Japanese Americans for what they are—individual citizens who have demonstrated in combat and at home during World War II that their loyalty is second to none.

Now that their legal status as first-class Americans has been secured under JACL's leadership, "Changing Perspectives" as the convention theme offers some 2,000 or more official delegates and boosters, a challenge to chart the future program and objectives of the JACL in the light of the greater opportunities now available to all Americans of Japanese ancestry.

It is my hope that the members of the JACL will never forget or abandon the basic purposes of the organization. I believe there will always be a valid place in our country for community and national service through active citizens groups dedicated to the goal proclaimed in JACL's mottoes, "For better Americans in a greater America" and "Security through unity." The spirit of self-sacrifice and devotion to a splendid cause which have always characterized and motivated both the JACL leadership and membership should also be retained, for these are rare qualities which are sorely needed in this troubled world today.

I know that my colleagues in Congress join with me in the wish that the 14th Biennial National Convention to be held in San Francisco over the Labor Day weekend will result not only in enjoyment and fellowship for JACL members, but also in the formulation of constructive and forward-looking plans and programs which will bring a greater measure of happiness and prosperity to our Japanese Americans and to their fellow citizens in the years to come.