



# National Council for Japanese American Redress

1428 West Thorndale, Chicago, Illinois 60660

This was not  
in  
prison  
ment.  
This was  
re  
location.

Mitsuye Yamada, Camp Notes and Other Poems  
Shameless Hussy Press

Dear Friends,

Shall justice falter for want of our support?

Not if Ralph Lazo can help it. Ralph Lazo may have the historical distinction -- and a worthy one it is -- of being the only non-Japanese person to volunteer for internment camp. He was a classmate of mine at Manzanar High. As Ray Okamura wrote in his letter to President Carter to support Ralph's nomination to the Study Commission,

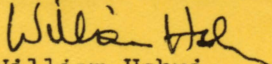
"If there were more good people like Ralph Lazo in the United States, perhaps the incarceration of innocent Japanese Americans would have been stopped."

Once again, Ralph is coming to the aid of his friends. He became a Ronin supporter of our lawsuit with a \$1,000 pledge.

Ralph is our sixth Ronin. (You don't have to have a Japanese face to be a Ronin!) We have a seventh. We need forty more. We also have a couple of hundred very welcomed smaller contributions. We need hundreds more.

Why not join us now? Make your pledge today.

Peace,

  
William Hohri,  
chairperson



# National Council for Japanese American Redress

## JAPANESE-AMERICAN REDRESS: A TIME FOR DECISION

A major decision is unfolding for all Japanese-American victims of World War II internment:

WHETHER WE SHOULD BRING LEGAL ACTION AGAINST THE UNITED STATES INCLUDING A LAWSUIT FOR THE VIOLATION OF OUR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES, SEEKING COMPENSATION THROUGH THE COURTS.

An affirmative reply can only be made if Japanese-Americans respond in numbers and dollars sufficient to underwrite the cost of mounting a major lawsuit. A retainer will be \$75,000. The suit will be for the entire class of victims. Several thousand dollars have already been pledged by a few people, but thousands more will have to be raised if we are to proceed.

THE DECISION IS CLEARLY OURS.

The Washington law firm of Landis, Cohen, Singman and Rauh has agreed to undertake this historic case. In the initial phase, they will expend approximately one full lawyer-year in research, planning, and filing suit. The cost is for this effort. The objective is to overcome previous Court decisions and the statute of limitations, 35 years after the camps were closed. The task is monumental and the risk is substantial. This must be clearly understood by all supporters.

Should the Court allow us to present our case, then class action status will be sought and chances for success improve significantly.

There is overwhelming evidence that Japanese-Americans did suffer a massive miscarriage of justice. The practice of compensation to such victims is well established in the American practice of law. Should we reach the second phase, legal counsel could apply to the Court for further compensation for services rendered on behalf of the class membership, but the National Council for Japanese American Redress will continue to cover on-going expenses of litigation.

\$75,000 is substantial. But it is a burden we should bear and share. We need to take leadership. It is a lawsuit on our behalf. Each of us must form his or her response to this historic decision. If you believe we should proceed, cast your vote with a pledge. (We are asking for a pledge now, instead of a check, in order to allow time for the establishment of a Redress Legal Fund. As soon as the Fund is established, we will ask those who have pledged to make their contribution.)

We seek forty-seven Ronin, who will contribute one thousand each. And many others who will contribute one hundred each or whatever they can.

# # # #

Making a Pledge

Please fill out the form and use the enclosed envelope to mail your pledge to us. We are in the process of establishing a Redress Legal Fund with a major Protestant denomination. We expect that Fund to enable your contribution to be tax-deductible. Also, we want to make sure that we do raise enough initially to see our way through to the end. We will notify those who do pledge as soon as a decision is made, one way or the other.

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mail to: National Council for Japanese American Redress  
1428 West Thorndale  
Chicago, IL 60660

Please accept my pledge and my vote to proceed:

\_\_\_ \$1,000 as one of the Forty-seven Ronin.\*

\_\_\_ \$100 and my hope that hundreds more will do the same.

\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ and my very best wishes for success.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

\*The Forty-seven Ronin, in a famous Japanese story, obtained justice through their self-sacrifice. We have five so far. Only forty-two to go.