



National Council for Japanese American Redress

15 August 1979

INFLUENCING REDRESS LEGISLATION

One of the most important and exciting ways to participate in our society is to exercise the rights of citizenship: to vote, to hold representatives accountable for their actions, to help legislation get passed. We encourage everyone who supports the redress campaign to inform his or her representative.

The most effective methods (listed in order) of influencing legislators are:

1. Visit to local office
2. Letter or mailgram (a Personal Opinion Message is cheaper than a telegram)
3. Personal phone call
4. Postcard
5. Petition

In the redress campaign it is important to convey how the evacuation and imprisonment affected you and your family, and to say why you think redress is an important issue.

Form letters have very little effectiveness compared to letters that display thoughtfulness and individual style.

Points you may want to cover in your letter are:

1. Japanese Americans were denied the constitutional right to a public trial by jury. No charges of espionage or sabotage were ever brought against a Japanese American.
2. The U.S. military intelligence and the State Department agreed BEFORE the U.S. entered the war that Japanese Americans posed no threat to the internal security of the U.S.
3. Twelve percent of all Japanese Americans were in Army uniform during the war (a higher percentage than for the population as a whole) despite the government's denial of the rights of citizenship.
4. American democracy is founded on the right of citizens to petition the government for redress of grievances.
5. In this society only monetary compensation is meaningful to most people. No verbal apology will clear our reputation. No simple apology would help prevent the evacuation of another group in the future.

(The exact wording of the foregoing points should not be used, else their effectiveness will be weakened.)

NOTE: The National Council on Japanese American Redress does not support S1647, the bill recently introduced by Senators Hayakawa, Inouye, and Matsunaga. We feel the bill wastes time and the taxpayers' money by establishing a Commission to determine whether "any or all of those subjected to internment by the issuance of E.O. 9066 were subjected to experiences that entitle them to redress."

We believe that the evacuation and its effects on the Japanese American community have been extensively documented and that what we need is a bill that provides for redress. Hearings on the redress bill will, in themselves, educate the legislators and the public in the vents of 1942.

Please take the time to write Senators Jackson and Magnuson and your congressional representative. Letters give your representatives the support they need to carry out your will. Your letter WILL make a difference!

You may send copies of the same letter to your representative and senators.

Rep. Mike Lowry
Seventh District Office
3400 Rainier Avenue South
Seattle, WA 98144

REPRESENTATIVE LOWRY SHOULD BE WRITTEN
EVEN IF HE IS NOT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE
BECAUSE HE PLANS TO INTRODUCE A REDRESS
BILL TO THE HOUSE.

(District includes southern Seattle, Kent, Mercer Island, Renton, and the Beaux Arts, Eastgate, and Newport Hills sections of Bellevue.)

Rep. Joel Pritchard
First District, State of Washington
House Office Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20515

(District includes King County: that portion between Puget Sound and Lake Washington from Yesler and East Madison streets north to the county line, and Bellevue area. Snohomish County: Mountlake Terrace.)

Rep. Al Swift
Second District, State of Washington,
House Office Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20515

(King County: that part including the principal cities of Bothell, Kirkland, and Redmond. Snohomish County: all except Mountlake Terrace.)

Rep. Norman Dicks
Sixth District, State of Washington
House Office Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20515

(King County: Auburn, Federal Way, Maury Island, Redondo, Bainbridge, and Vashon Island. Pierce County: including Puyallup, Steilacoom, Sumner, and Tacoma.)

The Honorable Warren G. Magnuson
Room 127, Russell Senate Office Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20510

(Senator Magnuson is chairman of
the Appropriations Committee.)

The Honorable Henry M. Jackson
Room 137, Russell Senate Office Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20510

(Senator Jackson sits on the
Governmental Affairs Committee,
which will review S1647, the bill
introduced by the Nikkei senators.)

PLEASE SEND A COPY OF YOUR LETTER TO: NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR JAPANESE AMERICAN REDRESS
P.O. BOX 12230, SEATTLE, WA 98102.