

**COMMISSION ON WARTIME RELOCATION
AND INTERNMENT OF CIVILIANS**



726 JACKSON PLACE, N.W. □ SUITE 2020 □ WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506 □ 202/395-7390

June 24, 1981

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians is pleased to announce the dates and locations of planned regional hearing sites. They are:

Los Angeles: August 4, 5 and 6, 1981
San Francisco: August 11, 12 and 13, 1981
Seattle: September 9, 10, and 11, 1981
Chicago: September 22 and 23, 1981
Anchorage: September 15, 1981
Aleutian Islands (Unalaska): September 17, 1981
Pribilof Islands (St. Paul): September 19, 1981

This hearing schedule will follow the Commission's National Hearing in the Russell Senate Caucus Room in Washington, D.C. on Tuesday, July 14 and Thursday, July 16, 1981. Exact locations and times for the Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, Chicago, Anchorage, Aleutian and Pribilof Island hearings will be announced at least thirty (30) days before each hearing. Individuals and organizations who want to appear at any of the hearings should call or write Dr. Tom Taketa of the Commission at their national headquarters located at 726 Jackson Place, N.W., Suite 2020, Washington, D.C., 20506.

Two new appointments to the staff have been announced. They are: Cheryl Yamamoto of Hawaii as staff liaison to the Chair, and Stuart Ishimaru of San Jose, California to the research staff. Both are highly qualified in their respective fields.

The nine-member Commission was created by Congress to investigate the circumstances and events surrounding a 1942 Executive Order which resulted in the relocation and internment of approximately 120,000 American citizens and permanent resident aliens, most of Japanese ancestry. The Commission will also investigate the relocation and internment of Aleut citizens in Alaska during World War II. The Commission will report to the Congress on the results of its investigation.

For further information, please contact Dr. Tom Taketa at the Commission on (202) 395-7390.

QUESTION AND ANSWER FACT SHEET - COMMISSION ON WARTIME RELOCATION AND INTERNMENT OF CIVILIANS

On July 31, 1980, President Jimmy Carter signed Public Law 96-317 establishing the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians.

WHAT IS A COMMISSION?

Commissions are from time-to-time established through Congressional legislation to investigate grave problems facing our country. For example, the Kerner Commission conducted a study on Civil Disorder in America and the Scranton Commission on Campus Unrest among other areas investigated possible repression in America. It is through commission studies of this nature that steps may be taken to ameliorate problems.

WHO WILL SERVE ON THE COMMISSION? WHERE WILL IT BE LOCATED?

There are nine members on the Commission. In January 1981, President Carter appointed William Marutani, Judge of Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia, Arthur Flemming, Chairman of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, and Joan Bernstein, former Chief General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The House of Representatives appointed Arthur Goldberg, former Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, Representative Daniel Lundgren (R-Long Beach), and Father Robert Drinan, former member of the House of Representatives. The commission appointments from the U.S. Senate are former U.S. Senator Edward Brooke of Massachusetts; former U.S. Senator from Washington, Hugh B. Mitchell, and Father Ishmail Gramoff.

Ms. Joan Bernstein is the Chairperson of the Commission and Daniel Lundgren is the Vice-Chair. The Commission office address is 2020 New Executive Office Building, 726 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20506; (202)

WHAT EXACTLY WILL THIS COMMISSION DO?

The Commission will review the facts and circumstances surrounding Executive Order 9066 and the impact of this Executive Order on Japanese American and permanent resident Japanese. Additionally, the Commission will review directives of United States military forces requiring internment of Aleut civilians, and recommend appropriate remedies.

HOW WILL THIS BE DONE?

The Commission will hold public hearings nationwide. The purpose of these hearings will be to gather testimony from witnesses. In addition, it is expected that the Commission will contract research consultants, such as attorneys and social scientists, to assist in the fact-finding investigation. The Commission may also request other sources of information such as documents, correspondence, books, memorandums, etc. Further, the Commission may request subpoena powers through the U.S. Attorney General and acquire information from governmental departments and agencies as well as private sources

IN WHICH CITIES WILL THE PUBLIC HEARINGS BE HELD?

The Commission has not yet finalized the number of hearings nor hearing sites. We do anticipate, however, that hearings will be scheduled in Washington, D.C., the Midwest, West Coast and in Alaska.

WHEN WILL THE HEARINGS BEGIN?

In the discussions JACL has had with Chairperson Bernstein, we expect the Commission hearings to begin in mid-Summer.

HOW CAN I APPEAR BEFORE THE COMMISSION? WHO MAKES THE SELECTION OF WITNESSES?

The JACL Chapters have established search committees in their communities to identify potential witnesses to the Commission. The list and biographical information of potential witnesses will be sent to JACL National Headquarters. If you are interested in appearing as a witness before the Commission you may contact your local JACL Chapter or the National Committee for Redress at National Headquarters.

The JACL National Committee for Redress will forward the names of all interested individuals to the Commission. The Commission and the Commission staff will determine who will appear as witnesses.

CAN I SUBMIT TESTIMONY WITHOUT APPEARING BEFORE THE COMMISSION?

The Commission will accept written, personal accounts regarding the experiences and impact of the wartime incarceration. To assist individuals in developing written testimony to the Commission, we have provided suggested guidelines to follow. Written testimony may be submitted to the Commission at any time subsequent to the hearings.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMISSION ON WARTIME RELOCATION AND
INTERNMENT OF CIVILIANS

- August 2, 1979 S.1647, "Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians Act" was introduced in the United States Senate.
- September 28, 1979 HR5499, "Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians Act" was introduced in the United States House of Representatives.
- March 18, 1980 S.1647 was placed before a hearing of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee and reported out of the Senate Committee on May 8, 1980 by a 11-0 vote.
- May 22, 1980 S.1647 was presented on the Senate floor and approved by unanimous consent.
- June 2, 1980 HR5499 was heard by the Judiciary Subcommittee on Administration Law and Governmental Relations.
- June 9, 1980 The House bill reported out of the Subcommittee by a 7-0 vote and was referred to the full Committee on the Judiciary.
- June 24, 1980 Judiciary Committee, by a vote of 16-0, reported HR5499 to the floor of the House of Representatives.
- July 21, 1980 HR5499 was presented on the House floor and was approved by a vote of 279-109. Because of minor differences between the Senate and House versions of the bill, HR5499 was referred to the full Senate for approval.
- July 24, 1980 Senate approved bill.
- July 31, 1980 President Jimmy Carter signed Public Law 96-317, "Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians."
- December 16, 1980 U.S. Senate approved the one million dollars appropriations to fund the operations of the Commission.
- December 22, 1980 U.S. Senate announced the Senate appointments to the Commission as former U.S. Senator Edward Brooke, Massachusetts and former U.S. Senator Hugh B. Mitchell.
- January 8, 1981 The White House appointments selected to serve on the Commission are announced: the Honorable William Marutani, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia; Mr. Arthur Flemming, Chairman of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights; and Ms. Joan Bernstein, former Chief General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMISSION ON WARTIME RELOCATION AND

INTERMENT OF CIVILIANS

January 27, 1981

U.S. Senate approved SB253 amending the Public Law 96-317. SB253 expanded the Commission by two additional members, allowing the Senate and House of Representatives to each make a total of three appointments.

January 28, 1981

U.S. House of Representatives approved SB253.

February 10, 1981

President Ronald Reagan signed SB253 expanding the Commission from a total of seven to nine members.

February 17, 1981

The U.S. House of Representatives named the Honorable Arthur Goldberg, former Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, Representative Daniel Lundgren, (R-Long Beach) and Father Robert Drinan, former member of the House to the Commission.

Father Ishmail Gromoff, one of approximately 1000 Aluet residents of the Pribilof Islands incarcerated during 1942, is selected as the third Commissioner from the U.S. Senate.

June 24, 1980

July 21, 1980

July 24, 1980

July 31, 1980

December 18, 1980

December 23, 1980

January 8, 1981

COMMISSION ON WARTIME RELOCATION AND INTERNMENT OF CIVILIANS
2020 New Executive Office Building
726 Jackson Place N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20506

Chairperson: Ms. Joan Bernstein

Vice-Chair: Representative Daniel Lundgren
U.S. House of Representatives
328 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Commissioners: The Honorable William Marutani
Judge, Court of Common Pleas
One East Pennsylvania Square
Philadelphia, PA 19107

The Honorable Arthur Goldberg
2801 New Mexico Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007

Senator Hugh B. Mitchell
3220 Magnolia Blvd. West
Seattle, WA 98199

The Honorable Edward Brooke
O'Connor & Hannan
1919 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dr. Arthur Flemming, Chairman
U.S. Commission on Civil Rights
1121 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20425

Father Robert Drinan
University of Georgetown Law Library
600 New Jersey Avenue, NW
Room 411
Washington, D.C. 20001

Father Gromoff
P.O. Box 40
Un, Alaska 99685

Executive
Director: Mr. Paul Bannai

Exec.
Administrator: Ms. Lois Wilzewske

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