

CERTIFIED MAIL P19-2271727

25 JULY 1981

Mr. William Hohri
National Council for Japanese-American Redress
925 W. Diversey Parkway
Chicago, ILL 60614

Dear Mr. Hohri:

First of all, I want to say that you and your staff are doing a terrific job on the Redress/Reparation Movement. I know your daughter, Sasha, and as you can see, we live in the same apartment building.

I have attended the two meetings held in NYC on the Commission Hearings which were held in Washington, D. C. and have learned more. My family and I were incarcerated in a concentration camp at Cila River, Arizona, during World War II.

I've read, heard and seen on television practically everything on the Redress/Reparation Movement and to have these Commission Hearings begun the week of July 14 was tremendous. At today's meeting held here at the Japanese American United Church, Sasha and her colleagues gave us the reports on these hearings; they did a commendable job. The audience participation (about 65 attended) was equally as fruitful.

However, I feel that monetary gain is short lived and soon forgotten EXCEPT for those who are elderly and ill and require immediate care. Their financial needs and help should be met as soon as possible. This is the primary step.

Here is an outline of my recommendations, that:

1. the U. S. Government give gratis to the Japanese-Americans, who were incarcerated during World War II, a Government-owned property (land) specifically for Redress/Reparation payment. Perhaps a round figure of about 120,000 acres commensurate with evacuation figures (?);

2. since most of us former evacuees lived on the West coast at that time, I suggest the site to be located in CALIF, in a quiet, choice, accessible non-polluted area;

3. the site to be in a city or outside the city, say Terminal Island, Oakland, San Diego or the San Francisco area and must not be an amusement park;

4. suggested name - Nikkei Liberty Memorial Park or other appropriate name;

5. the park or property to include:

a. a shrine listing the title and location of all the U. S. Government Concentration Camps for the J-As; a museum giving a brief history of the evacuation and the purpose of the park;


b. proper landscaping with fountains and art work;

c. a lake or two strategically located where swans and ducks abound, picnic areas and seating places where people can enjoy nature and uplift their spirits; an area for music or bon odori, for instance. Maybe, a tea house.

If possible to insure quality design, a competition open to all professional architects/engineers and landscape architects in collaboration with artists and sculptors be invited to participate. All of the above to be provided under perpetual federal funds and to be maintained at all times and all costs be borne by the U. S. Government and the funds to be allocated by said government.

This living memorial will serve as a very elegant eulogy to all of us Nikkeis who were incarcerated. This would give us and our heirs the proper identity and dignity so long due, and possibly erase the awful traumatic experience which exploded into our lives over 39 years ago. The park must be a reminder of our WW II happening, that freedom and democracy requires constant vigilance. So I take this action now on our behalf while the American public is aware and interested and very responsive to our quest.

Sincerely yours,

Yuriko Lily (Matsuda) Porter (Mrs.)


P.S. Spoke to my brother, George K. Matsuda (one of 47 Ronins) about the above and we both agree.

Enclosures: NY Daily News clippings.