

2/2/81

RE: Proposed outline for CJA speech

- I. Camps were an injustice - human and constitutional rights violated
 - A. Part of a long history of injustice against Ja. Amer.
 - B. Camps is one experience that has affected most all JA's and can unify Ja. people.
- II. Effects of camps are still felt today - internalized guilt, loss of identity, destruction of communities, impoverishment of Issei.
- III. Why R&R
 - A. Monetary compensation cannot replace the damages, suffering and deaths but is a concrete acknowledgement of wrong doing by the government. Unless it hurts the government's pocketbook, this country could care less.
 - B. Thur winning reparations can help to insure that it won't happen again.
 - C. Also a fight for other TW people and is in line with their similar struggles.
- IV. How to win R&R
 - A. We support many different efforts in the Ja. community but feel that it is primarily thru mass support, building mass pressure that we can win. Cannot rely solely on the legal system or politicians to deliver justice. This has been a historical lesson epitomized by the mass incarceration.
 - B. We hope the commission hearings will bring across the need ~~of~~ for R&R but feel that it alone will not win it. Mass pressure will be key in this effort.
- V. What can we do?
 - A. Petitions, Programs - need for broad education about the issue
 - B. Commission hearings - apply mass pressure on the government
 - C. Outreach to Ja. and other communities - build a broad base of support - get more people active.
 - D. Investigation into legal recourses & legislature.

February 2, 1981

Dear Friends:

The Concerned Japanese Americans, an ad hoc committee, interested in bringing critical issues of Japanese-Americans to the Japanese community, welcomes you on Sunday, February 22, to a program observing the 1942 Executive Order 9066 which prompted the incarceration of all people of Japanese ancestry on the West Coast.

This program is being conducted in conjunction with the redress campaign which is taking place in Japanese communities around the country.

Although some 39 years have elapsed and Japanese Americans, on the whole, seemed to have had successful and productive lives, the injustice perpetrated against them during the World War II period have not been rectified. Government officials, private organizations and individuals have acknowledged the gross violations of civil rights. However, many Japanese Americans have felt that stronger measures are necessary for a fair redress that such acts of wanton mass evacuation will never take place again.

Six years ago, redress and reparation proposals were initiated by different organizations and individuals. Bills before the Congress and Senate have also have been introduced. Internment Study Commission has also won government approval. A class action suit against the U.S. government is also in the planning stage by a Washington law firm.

The first national redress and reparation conference was held in Los Angeles in November attended by 300 Isseis, Niseis, Sanseis from various parts of the country, including New York. A report on this will be given along with the different opinions mentioned.

CJA feels that it is also important that the Japanese community also recognize that the Japanese are not the only ones to have been violated. More severe injustices have been perpetrated on Africans (Blacks), misnomered American Indians, Chicanos, Mexicanos, Puerto Ricans, Hawaiians, Eskimos, Chinese and Pilipinos. Some of these groups are also now engaged in seeking redress. We must become aware of one another's struggles, and in solidarity, support one another.

Although our incarceration lasted just short of four years, we must be cognizant of the fact that the camp experience has had its impact on all Japanese to the present day. Also, many Americans across the country are still unaware that concentration camps for one ethnic minority was a reality in America.

We hope that all peoples of Japanese ancestry who were affected by Executive Order 9066 and their progenies will attend the February 22nd "Day of Remembrance" program. We also extend an invitation to Japanese nationals and all interested others.

In Unity - For Redress and Reparation,
Concerned Japanese Americans