

August 5, 1981

I wish to testify of incidents which occurred during those evacuation years but are not known to most people. I was drafted into military service February 1, 1942 and so I did not go through the evacuation experience.

I was sent to Camp Robinson, Arkansas where I received basic training and was later permanently assigned. It was during this period that the Pacific Defense Command evacuation was implemented.

When I became eligible for a furlough, I requested one to visit my parents at Poston, Arizona relocation center. I was told that all persons of Japanese ancestry were not allowed in that area.

A fellow nisei service man named Albert Ito lost a brother in the alleged riot at Manzanar. When he requested an emergency furlough to attend his brother's funeral, he was denied the request for the same feeble reason.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt made a visit to Fort Riley, Kansas. During his visit, nisei servicemen stationed there were put into a barracks building and kept there under armed guard. As fate would have it, another group of nisei servicemen, overlooked by persons in charge of this ridiculous security measure, roamed about at will.

The U.S. government did not trust the Japanese American service men - witness the segregated non-combatant units to which we were assigned. I feel that since it was the decision of the government to induct the nisei into military service, they should have been

accorded fair and impartial treatment - to not allow a serviceman to attend his own brother's funeral can never be justified!

No apologies can erase or rectify these injustices and so I urge this Commission to recommend redress and reparations in the greatest degree possible.

This Commission should not have been necessary to address the issue of redress and reparations. The documented evidence established by previous studies has been overlooked - why? Shortly after World War II, when Congress first made monetary compensation for losses incurred during the evacuation process, sufficient facts were brought forth to justify payment of losses claimed. Many persons who held positions directly responsible for the evacuation process, later gave public testimony citing the injustices and the unnecessary events to which these American citizens were subjected.

Everyone of Japanese ancestry and even others incurred financial and psychological losses as a result of the U.S. government's actions and they should be compensated for these losses as recommended by the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations as follows:

1. Monetary compensation to individuals/or their heirs who suffered evacuation
2. Restitution to the Japanese American community
3. Overturning of the legal basis justifying the evacuation and the camps
4. Education of the American public so that future generations may learn from the mistakes of the past and not allow them to happen again to any people

Submitted by:

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Date: