

September 29, 1981

Mrs. Leslee Inaba Wong  
Chairperson Outreach Committee  
East Coast Japanese Americans For Redress  
[REDACTED]  
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Dear Mrs. Wong:

I thank you for your newsletter concerning information that redress hearings will be scheduled in New York.

I am one of thousands of Japanese Americans caught in Japan during the war. So Redress is something to be watched from the sidelines.

I have contended for many years that the JACL should look into the hundreds and possibly thousands of cases of stranded Nisei who still would come home if they only knew how legally.

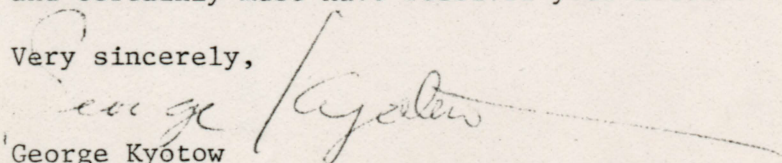
A great many children were sent to be cared for by grandparents. Came the war and they received neither messages or aid through the Red Cross as abandoned citizens. At war's end, speaking no English by now, they knew not what to do. An early attempt to set up a branch of the JACL was opposed by the hierarchy fearing guilt by association should a Nisei later to be declared treasonous be in their midst.

I've always contended that you help your fellow Nisei brethren under any and all circumstances until one is found guilty. These Johnny Come Lately leaders jumped on the band wagon to help Iva Toguri when she was ready to go free anyway.

But not a hand has been lifted to the lost Nisei in Japan. For all we know hundreds of these stood to inherit property and monies of their parent or parents who died in camp or as a result of it. I was told the Nisei Story project was over. I say that's an illusion until someone takes up the study of the legal and constitutional rights of stranded Nisei still in Japan.

I wish to add that Nisei members in our Lions Club are all members of JACL and certainly must have received your letter.

Very sincerely,

  
George Kyotow  
New York Japanese Lions Club

George Kyotow  
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