



National Council
for Japanese American Redress

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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60614

DECEMBER 1984

DEAR FRIENDS,

MERRY CHRISTMAS! *Bah, humbug!* Christmas has become so ambivalent—a secularized Christian celebration—that "*Bah, humbug!*" is also ambivalent. Do we accuse the celebration of *humbug* or its secularized exploitation? This same ambivalence infects America's democratic process.

In our recent national election of the President, the votes of many millions of citizens were trivialized when television networks rushed to announce the winner before these citizens had had a chance to vote, effectively telling them that their votes did not count. Lest someone accuse the networks of lacking restraint, they did know who had won before any of the polls had closed. Of course, earlier public opinion polls had predicted the outcome days before the election. One might charge *humbug* either to electoral democracy or to its trivialization by the news media.

I think one of the values of the redress movement is that we citizens are exercising our democratic franchise in both the legislature and the courts. We've moved beyond the electoral process. The movement demonstrates that the practice of democratic rights goes on independently of the electoral process and of the attempts by news reporters and commentators to find democracy's essence in the act of voting. As the story of Christmas illustrates, the biggest news of the day is not necessarily the most important.

I THOUGHT THE Japanese American Citizens League's amicus brief filed in support of NCJAR's appeal of the district court's dismissal, was an act of friendship and conciliation towards NCJAR. Accordingly, I wrote a letter of thanks to the JAACL. The JAACL, of course, has been pursuing legislative redress, an action which parallels NCJAR's lawsuit.

Both actions face serious obstacles. Any new appropriation faces the formidable pressure of a federal deficit lurching towards two trillion dollars. To this, one must factor in the future liabilities of seven trillion our nation faces in federal entitlements (federal and military pensions, social security, and medical care for the elderly). I don't have a number for how many billions these will add to each year's federal budget. But these increases will crowd out all but the most modest or most urgent new appropriations. From either a fiscal or political perspective, redress is neither modest nor urgent.

And of course, the lawsuit, as we now realize, confronts the formidable obstacle of statutes of limitations. Only time will tell whether the obstacle is insuperable. If insuperable, we do have the recourse to enabling legislation. But such legislation, while not a direct appropriation, will confront the pressure of the deficit. An enabled trial, successful for the plaintiffs, will cost the treasury billions, a point sure to be raised by congressional opponents of redress.

It's a difficult time for proponents of either legislative or legal redress. It's a good time to be conciliatory.

ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 29TH, Nelson Kitsuse and I spent a busy day meeting with persons in New York's "God Box," the Inter-church Center at 475 Riverside Drive, to discuss the idea of institutionalizing the redress movement. The discussions were cordial but preliminary. During the day, we met with persons in boards and agencies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and United Methodist Church. After work, we met with friends and supporters in New York to continue the discussion. I sensed some irony in the way persons in the institution, struggling with bureaucratic inertia, looked enviously at the redress movement, while the movement, fully aware of the limitations of voluntary efforts, casts an envious eye at the institution. It's possible that nothing will come of this. It's hard to tell this early.

An Issue for All Americans

On Sunday evening, November 18th, a few of us from NCJAR and the Parish of the Holy Covenant visited with Christ United Methodist Church for a cross-cultural event in which we, in the movement, were exposed to the spirit and love of a black church, while they were exposed to the history of Japanese-American oppression. We used a set of slides of an exhibit called "EO 9066." (The slides were taken by my good friend Rev. Charles Peterson, who gave them to us.) These slides, depicting the wartime experiences of Japanese-Americans, provoked lots of questions and dialogue. The occasion was exciting and joyous. We were inspired by Dr. John Porter, Christ Church's pastor, and congregation.

WE ARE VERY PLEASED to receive our 38th ronin supporter: Mr. and Mr. Gilbert Kinoshita of Anaheim, California. The emergence of ronin contributors has an almost mystical quality of marking progress of our lawsuit. We began our initial drive to raise funds for the lawsuit about four years ago, in late 1980. That was when we first sought 47 ronin contributors of a thousand dollars each who would help us bring our case to court. With our 38th ronin, we are starting to close in on the mystical number of 47, and our lawsuit is now in the appeals court. What will the 47th ronin signify? Sometimes life has more drama than drama, eh?

Peace,

William Hohri

S T A T U S R E P O R T :
G O V E R N M E N T M I S S E S
F I L I N G D A T E

THE GOVERNMENT RESPONSE to our brief filed on October 12 in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia appealing dismissal of our lawsuit, William Hohri et al.,

v The United States of America by the U.S. District Court was due on November 12. We had until November 27 to reply to their response.

THE GOVERNMENT FAILED to file by November 12. When attorney Ellen Godbey Carson requested a copy of their brief, they said they had mistakenly believed their filing date to be November 27. They have now moved for permission to file late. Our attorneys agreed to the motion, providing we are granted fifteen days thereafter to reply.

The judges who will hear our Appeal are to be randomly selected, probably in January 1985, and a date will be set for oral argument.

"IT IS MUCH THE DUTY OF GOVERNMENT TO RENDER PROMPT JUSTICE AGAINST ITSELF IN FAVOR OF ITS CITIZENS AS IT IS TO ADMINISTER THE SAME BETWEEN PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS."

PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN

K A W A S A K I :
W H I C H O N E ?

WITH REFERENCE TO my letter (September 7, 1984 Pacific Citizen), Mrs. Rachel Kawasaki telephoned me, talked for an hour, and assured me that she was not the Mrs. Kawasaki I had known in Poston. I am convinced (now) that the Mrs. Kawasaki I knew was "Rita," not "Rachel." Odd coincidence—both Caucasian, both married to "Kawasaki."

Mrs. (Rachel) Kawasaki and I finally reached agreement! We agreed that we disagree, but without being disageeable about that fact.

I arrived at the opinion that she is one who consistently distorts her view of "facts" or "evidence" (both "pro" and "con") to fit what she believes. I do believe that she is honest, but misguided. This letter is written at her request.

DAVID C. MOORE
Phoenix, Arizona

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October 26, 1984

M E E T
T H E
P L A I N T I F F

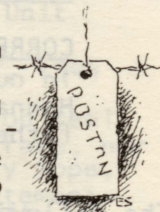
By Chizuko Omori

The individual named plaintiffs in NCJAR's class action lawsuit represents the 120,000 American citizens of Japanese ancestry who were interned during World War II by defendant United States of America.

WHEN I THINK about my time in the Poston (Camp 1), Arizona "Relocation Center," I am reminded of a passage in Lillian Hellman's memoir Pentimento. She talks of her black housekeeper, Helen, who seemed unresponsive to the civil rights movement in the South. After mulling it over, Hellman says, "Helen's anger was so great, hidden so deep and for so long, that it frightened her and she couldn't face it." When I think about my concentration camp experience, I became aware of a deep, deep anger within me, and then, a deep pain which I can hardly face.

Seeing a preview showing of my friend Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston's book, "Farewell to Manzanar," done in the form of a TV play brought out hidden emotions in me—so overwhelming I couldn't stop crying for about a half a day. I realized that I had not dealt with that episode in my life and that it still has a powerful influence on me today.

I WAS 12 WHEN it happened. I was one of those achieving Japanese American kids, who was loved by teachers for being so bright and obedient. Prejudice was not a factor in my childhood. In spite of the Depression, my hardworking farmer parents in Oceanside, California provided enough to keep us from feeling deprived. We grew up as dual cultured: "American school" for most of the day and one hour of Japanese school after that. It seemed in recollection to have been reasonably happy and ordinary.



So the evacuation was a puzzle to me. I know that my parents (Isao and Haruko) were disturbed but they kept up a brave front. I have trouble remembering large parts of my camp experience, so great was the repression. It was a bad time for me. I thought of it for years. I know that it was traumatic, because the emotions which accompany my attempts to talk about it are so great that I feel a trembling in my voice. I must breathe deeply to compose myself.

I HAVE SPENT most of my adult life in a state of alienation from my roots, my childhood culture, and my family. In my confused adolescent mind, I grew to dislike the Nikkei in camp, concluding that they were narrow-minded provincials who were hostile to a smart young girl. I hated being in a segregated group. And then my parents became renunciants and prepared to go to Japan. Nothing could be more horrifying than that. It seemed to be the worst possible fate for the independent, American person I thought I was.

My breach from my parents was never completely overcome, even though we did not go to Japan. My mother died within 2 years after the war at the age of 34. She died of bleeding ulcers, and there was no time for a reconciliation. I still grieve over that.

I went to college, married a Caucasian and lived my life in a white society. My husband and I were Berkeley radicals and I was very active in politics and civil rights. I remember being the only Asian in most of my activities.

Michi Weglyn's book also helped in opening up many of those closed areas, and with the redress movement, my interest in thinking about that past grew. It disturbs me that in most of the literature on civil rights, the camps were hardly mentioned. It was unknown territory.

I VOLUNTEERED TO help others prepare their testimony for the Commission hearings (Seattle) because I knew there would be some who would need help in expressing themselves in English, and especially written English. In the course of my work, I heard a number of stories that really angered me. Some later decided not to testify because they were afraid of possible consequences. I pleaded with them, but to no avail. In reading some of the testimony, I recall one poignant story which haunts me. A young woman was so afraid to leave the camp to face a hostile white society, that she became unbalanced and bashed her baby's brains out with a hammer.

I realized that nobody knew about the evacuation due to our silence and official coverup of the facts. So, I have made a commitment to try to get as full an account as possible before the public. I want to help in establishing some accountability for the evacuation. In so doing, I am undergoing a healing process for myself. We may never see a complete resolution of the issue and we may lose, but it is a good fight, one well worth fighting.

THE WORST THING that came out of the evacuation for us, the victims, it seems to me, is a deep, pervasive fear of the majority, the "others," who did it to us. I see how it had been necessary for us to suppress a great deal for our emotional survival and to get on with the rebuilding of our lives in the white society which had victimized us and could easily do it again. We often act like second-class citizens. Let's face it, because it had been profoundly impressed upon us that we are second-class citizens. It is a temptation to get angry with other Nikkei who would like to forget and "forgive," but I know that they have their reasons. But those of us actively involved—I think—see it as a larger issue; one of what citizenship means, and what color means in this society. We may lose at every juncture, but the truth will no longer be hidden and we may come to a better understanding on questions of identity, democracy, and equality. In the light of history, the evacuation is not really comparable to many atrocities committed and still being committed. Nevertheless, the suffering was great, and it was an artificial act unprecedented in our history.

In August, we lost one of the plaintiffs, Theresa Takayoshi. In her memory, I continue to work for our day in court.

FOOTNOTE: As a named plaintiff, Chizuko Omori also represents her mother, Haruko Omori.

CORRECTION:

In our story on Hannah Takagi Holmes in the November newsletter, it was Hannah's eldest brother Tomotaka, and not Paul, who is buried with her father and mother in Sacramento, California. Tomotaka died in 1920.

The following excerpted letter was sent to Rep. Sam B. Hall (D-Texas), chairman of the House Subcommittee on Administrative Law and Governmental Relations, and the members of the committee in response to hearings regarding redress bill HR 4110.

A N A N G R Y S A N S E I

HOKUBEI MAINICHI
September 29, 1984

As a 28-YEAR-OLD, third generation American of Japanese ancestry, I observed these hearings as one who did not experience the internment camps first-hand but as one who has felt the residual effects of the internment camp experience as a grand-child and child of those who had.

I was impressed with the committee's open-mindedness in listening to those of various persuasions who testified during the hearings of June 21 and June 27. To my dismay and disappointment, I found that during the hearing held on September 12, a distinct attitude change had taken place among the committee members who were present. The committee's questioning of Mr. Ennis, Mrs. Funabiki, Mr. Ohama and Mr. Herzig was as rigorous as prosecutors trying to find fault in an argument based on details rather than as statesmen who should uphold the basic principles of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights of the United States.

THE COMMITTEE WAS meek in questioning Mr. Bendetsen's queer statements. Internees testified that their properties were not held in storage by the government, nor were they shipped to them upon request. Farmers did not receive compensation for the crops which were harvested after evacuation.

Thousands did sleep in horse stalls during their internment in assembly centers in race tracks. In the relocation centers, there were armed guard towers with guns pointing into the camp at the internees. Most did not ask to leave camp because they were too petrified to ask. Those who did ask had a difficult time obtaining clearance.

NOTE: This letter appeared in the April 6, 1984 Pacific Citizen.

In Minoru Yasui's column of March 9, it is mentioned that members of JACL plan to contact Rep. Thomas Kindness (R-Ohio). They should be aware that Mr. Kindness is a former colleague and friend of one-time Col. Karl R. Bendetsen, whose advice Kindness is said to have sought when asked to join HR 4110 as a co-sponsor.

JOHN HERZIG
Falls Church, Virginia

As a third generation American citizen, I encourage you to learn more about this period in history before you pass judgment. I urge you to recommend to the full Congress that they do the same. I urge you to recommend to the Congress the passage of HR 4110.

DONNA RISE OMATA
Millersville, Maryland

In researching the National Archives for information to assist our law firm and the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, Aiko and Jack Herzig came upon some interesting documents. Jack Burling's letter is one of them. The letter says so much considering the fact that it was written 40 years ago. Because of its length, his letter will be printed in installments.

The Honorable Abe Fortas
Under Secretary of the Interior
Washington, D.C.

April 29, 1944

Dear Abe:

I enclose a copy of a letter from Jack Burling to an eminent New Yorker who knows the Mayor very well and will probably try to do his part to keep the Little Flower from starting a harmful feud on a strong issue. Although it is not short, I think you will be interested in Burling's review of the whole development, particularly the facts occurring before your responsibility began.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Ennis, Director
Alien Enemy Control Unit

JACK
BURLING
LETTER

April 27, 1944

DO NOT KNOW, aside from familiarity with your principles generally how you feel about the treatment this country has given its citizens of the Japanese race, nor do I know what your present relations are with the Mayor. I most earnestly hope, however, that you will feel like criticizing his extraordinarily liberal statement pertaining to the Japanese-Americans published this morning in the New York Times. (Clipping annexed.)

If you feel as I do, you may be interested in my observations on the subject. (As you will probably remember, I have been in the midst of the fighting on this subject from January, 1942, to the present date, and I am therefore fairly familiar with the facts.) The Mayor appears to have told the Army and the Navy that the military installations in New York City were such that the Japanese-Americans would constitute a danger. He is quoted as saying that public safety must be made a permanent factor. This directly raises the question of whether these people constitute a military danger.

I THINK YOU WILL find the majority of informed people now, after the original shock of Pearl Harbor, are united in thinking that the Japanese-Americans did not even present a danger on the Pacific Coast in the Spring of 1942, and that General DeWitt's evacuation orders came not as a result of his military judgment, but as the result of his yielding to the Hearst Press and to the racial hysteria of organizations such as the Sons of the Golden West, the West of Sacramento Boys, and the various big organizations. A great deal of evidence has been amassed to support this, but I will not burden you with it all. Some of the highlights are:

1. Presumably General DeWitt had plans for the defense of the coast even before December 7, 1941, yet evacuation was never contemplated. Presumably also at least by December 15, General DeWitt had been informed that the Fleet had been destroyed at Pearl Harbor and was aware of the threat to the coast. Yet, as late as January 2, 1942, DeWitt told James K. Rowe, Jr., then the Assistant to the Attorney General, that he was not in favor of mass evacuation.
2. The proclamations pertaining to all alien enemies gave the Attorney General authority to evacuate alien enemies from military districts. No request to evacuate Japanese aliens from any district on the West Coast was received by the Attorney General until January 23, 1942. It is significant that the press and radio campaign of race hysteria began about January 15.
3. Appearing before a Committee of the Senators and Congressman from the West Coast about February 1, 1942, the representative of the War Department did not agree with the congressional delegation that evacuation was necessary, but took a middle-of-the-road position.
4. Before the War, by agreement, Army Intelligence undertook to do the counter-intelligence work in preparation for an Atlantic war, and the Navy undertook to do the counter-intelligence work for a Pacific war. Thus, the office of Naval Intelligence, by formal agreement, was the intelligence agency to which General DeWitt should have looked for advice as to the menace presented by persons of Japanese ancestry. Yet the Office of Naval Intelligence did not recommend General DeWitt's evacuation order.

Naval Intelligence's Japanese expert in Los Angeles, then Lieutenant Commander Kenneth Ringle, has stated in a formal report to WRA that it was possible to identify those Japanese who might possibly be disloyal (principally the Kibei, or American-born children who were sent back to Japan for their education) and that an identifiable three-quarters of the Japanese population could safely be accepted as American citizens. This available advice either was not solicited or was ignored by General DeWitt. (A paragraph of Commander Ringle's report was published in Harper's Magazine for October, 1942, under the title, "The Japanese in America, by an Intelligence Officer.")

5. **I** HAVE BEEN TOLD by an army officer whom I believe to be truthful that two hours previously he had conversed with Colonel Leslie R. Forney (now Chief of the Counter-Intelligence Group under the Assistant Chief of Staff, Military Intelligence Service, in Washington), who was in the Spring of 1942, General DeWitt's intelligence officer and who, therefore, had the responsibility of advising him on problems of military security, espionage and sabotage, that the Japanese evacuation was, from a security standpoint, nonsense and that it had been dictated by economic pressure.
6. J. Edgar Hoover never recommended evacuation. Instead, he submitted a memorandum to the Attorney General which is altogether without precedent in that he canvassed the opinions of the chiefs of all his West Coast Field Offices. These opinions exactly covered the entire range from conviction that evacuation was unnecessary, through uncertainty, to conviction that it was vital. He did not state his own views at all.
7. On or about February 18, 1942, when General DeWitt came East to confer with the Secretary of War, he did not indicate that he intended to evacuate all of California and all of western Oregon and Washington, but urged upon the Secretary of War and the Attorney General that he be given the authority to evacuate "military areas." It was still believed that the areas he was referring to were areas of particular importance, such as those surrounding airplane factories, exposed beaches, etc. To the best of my knowledge, the Secretary of War never approved in advance the over-all evacuation, and it seems even more clear that he did not approve in advance the placing of the evacuees in concentration camps.
8. No evidence is available to indicate fifth column activities on the part of the Japanese on the West Coast. My office is in an especially good position to judge this because we passed on the case of every alien Japanese who was apprehended by the FBI. In an effort to calm the hysteria and indicate that we were taking rigorous measures, we did intern several thousand. We did not find any evidence that would give rise to a serious inference that there was any organized fifth column on the West Coast at all. Neither before Pearl Harbor nor after, up until the evacuation, which was not complete until June, 1942, was any Japanese apprehended under circumstances indicating that he had been engaged in espionage or sabotage, nor was any sabotage committed at all, nor has one ever been found since.
9. **T**HE ISLANDS OF HAWAII were even more exposed to attack than was California. About one-third of the population of the Territory is of Japanese descent (157,000 out of 423,000). Notwithstanding this fact, the Commanding General in Hawaii never found it necessary to intern all the Japanese and in fact today, while on the Mainland we have approximately 80,000 persons in detention two-thirds of whom are United States citizens. In Hawaii, General Richardson now has interned 153 American citizens of Japanese ancestry pursuant to martial law.
10. Although the Japanese Government obviously took a great risk in the attack on Pearl Harbor and counted greatly on surprise, the Japanese Government did not employ any sabotage on December 7. It is now established by the Army, the Navy and the FBI that no act of sabotage was committed on December 7, 1941, in the Territory of Hawaii, nor has any espionage been discovered in the Islands since that time.
11. General DeWitt submitted an elaborate printed report to the Chief of Staff justifying and describing the evacuation. This report, which was not shown to the Department of Justice before it was released to the public, contains a very considerable number of misstatements of fact, including, for example, a statement that there were great numbers of interceptions of unidentified radio sets transmitting from the shore presumably to Japanese submarines off-shore.

The Federal Communications Commission has stated to us in writing that they had an exhaustive monitoring service on the West Coast at that time, and that they checked every radio interception which the Army listening posts reported as unidentified. They were able in every case to identify the signal, and in no case until the late Fall of 1943 was a clandestine radio heard on the West Coast. FCC expressly informed General DeWitt of this fact prior to the evacuation, and of course prior to the submission of his report. Furthermore, had unlawful signals been heard, the available equipment could have located the sending set within a particular room of a particular house. Thus General DeWitt's argument that it was necessary to evacuate the Japanese because it was impossible to control their radio signaling is contrary to the fact. His report also contains the statement that there was extensive signaling from the shore to the ships. The Federal Bureau of Investigation states that no such case was found.

BY ALL OF THIS I do not mean that as of, let us say February, 1942, intelligent and reasonable men might not have thought that it would be in the public interest to move a hundred thousand persons of Japanese ancestry off the Pacific Coast in view of the unfavorable military situation in the Pacific. Such a view, however, necessarily rested upon general considerations, such as those noted in the opinion of the Chief Justice in the case upholding a curfew upon persons of Japanese ancestry (*Hirabayashi v. United States*, 320 U.S. 81).

Incidentally, the Secretary of War had little relationship to the matter. It was principally handled for him by Assistant Secretary McCloy. I feel sure, from hearing him talk at the time, that he did not favor evacuation or believe that it was necessary. Rather it was his feeling that it was a difficult problem and that he could not assign a General to defend the Pacific Coast and then refuse to give the General the authority which he asserted he needed. Thus, the civilian hands of the War Department never decided the question on the merits but decided merely that DeWitt's request was not unreasonable and that he should be backed up.

The Mayor, however, is not dealing with the question of whether reasonable men, under the condition of war, could have come to the conclusion that the evacuation was necessary, but is reaching that judgment as of today, and it is therefore relevant that in the light of hindsight, no reasonable and intelligent man would now think that the evacuation was in fact then necessary (aside from the possibility of extensive race riots).

Thus the first part of my argument is that the Japanese never did constitute a military peril of importance even when they were a hundred thousand strong on a coast which was threatened by the Japanese Navy.

— TO BE CONTINUED —

- A Harvard Law School graduate, John L. Burling was 30 when he was Assistant Director of the Alien Enemy Control Unit of the Justice Department. In Peter Iron's book *JUSTICE AT WAR*, Edward Ennis stated when interviewed: "I'm still wondering why Burling and I didn't just throw up our hands and quit. Why didn't we throw the whole thing up? I really believe we didn't throw it up because we didn't want to put it in the hands of Justice Department lawyers who were gung-ho for the Army's position. I think we felt that we'd just stay with it and do the best that we could, which wasn't a hell of a lot." As a person, Burling was shy, but explosive in demeanor. According to someone who knew him from childhood: "He wore his nerve-ending outside his skin." Burling died in 1959.

JUSTIFICATION FOR REDRESS

TESTIFYING AT THE September 12 House Judiciary Subcommittee hearing held in Washington, D.C. on HR 4110, Edward Ennis (former Justice Department Director of the Alien Enemy Control Unit) said:

"Japanese Americans as a group proved entirely loyal to their country of birth or adoption... By their conduct, the Japanese Americans have established a strong claim upon our government for recognition of and redress for the harsh discrimination and detention they suffered... It is urged that this committee recommend that surviving victims of this evacuation be financially reimbursed... It takes the government of a great sovereign people... to voluntarily and magnanimously *admit* a wrong and grant amends well within its means. I strongly believe ours is such a government."

PACIFIC CITIZEN
September 28, 1984

A LESSON NOT LEARNED

By G. T. Gojio

SEVERAL RECENT ARTICLES by Washington Post columnist Jack Anderson indicate that the federal government has not learned its lesson from the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. Then, under the guise of military necessity, the government "evacuated" 120,000 Japanese Americans from the West Coast. Now under the guise of supporting local law enforcement officials during a national emergency, the federal government is again threatening the civil liberties of American citizens.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has drafted an executive order entitled the "Defense Resources Act." That act would authorize FEMA to seize private property as necessary for national defense purposes.

The Department of Defense (DOD) is also involved; the Joint Chiefs of Staff issued a report in December 1983 entitled "Military Support of Civil Defense: System Description." In coordination with FEMA, the DOD would allow the military to assume judicial, law enforcement and administrative functions of local government based upon "necessity actual and present."

ONE COMMENT I receive from those who hear our case for redress is that mass internment and relocation would not occur again, that for some reason we have learned from our mistakes. Although I would like to believe that is true, one thing history has shown is that governments consistently fail to learn from the mistakes of the past. The FEMA and DOD documents lay the groundwork for the federal government's intrusion upon the constitutional rights of Americans.

The Hokubei Mainichi (of San Francisco) in its October 20 issue, terms the measure "chillingly reminiscent of the actions taken during World War II internment of Japanese Americans." Jack Anderson describes the FEMA and Pentagon proposals as "willing to scrap the Constitution and turn the United States into a military dictatorship." Although Anderson's comment may seem exaggerated to some, it accurately portrays the danger such proposals pose to our constitutional rights.

THE INTERNMENT OF Japanese Americans, with the sanction of the U.S. Supreme Court has created a serious breach in our constitutional rights by allowing the military to abuse its power under the guise of military necessity. Through that breach has come such measures as Title II of the Internal Security Act of 1950, which allowed the federal government to detain individuals in concentration camps who were deemed a threat to internal security. Now, I believe we have a similar threat, the FEMA and DOD proposals outlined in Anderson's column.

George Santayana, the Spanish American philosopher, stated, "Those who cannot remember the mistakes of the past are doomed to repeat it." We, as concerned Americans, must remember the internment and tell others about it, to ensure that no other group of Americans goes through what we went through. We must be vigilant of our rights, and wary of those both within and without the federal government who seek to deprive us of our hard-earned constitutional rights. These FEMA and DOD proposals are a subtle attack upon those rights, and should serve as a reminder that mass evacuation and internment can happen again.

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November 16, 1984

A P O L O G Y
F O R
C A N A D I A N N I K K E I

THE NEW PROGRESSIVE government of Canada plans to apologize to Japanese Canadians and also consider compensation to those interned during World War II, Multiculturalism Minister Jack Murta said last September. Shortly after being sworn in with the rest of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's cabinet, Murta reminded reporters that the Tory Party favors a public apology to 22,000 Canadians of Japanese descent. He also said he was considering establishing a committee to look into financial compensation.

WHEN THE ISSUE was last discussed in the Canadian parliament, Pierre Elliot Trudeau, then prime minister, opposed compensation for past wrongs, considering it an attempt to "rewrite history." The Japanese community itself is divided on the issue. Some oppose it; some favor individual compensation; others prefer a form of collective compensation to the community, such as educational projects and senior citizens homes.

Excerpted: RAFU SHIMPO
September 18, 1984

LETTERS

WISH TO THANK you, the redress staff, for all the informative news given to us through your newsletter—information which we would not have otherwise.

In Volume VI, Number 7, Mr. Hohri writes of difficulty in writing newsletters, because some letters are too personal or not issue oriented. I feel free expression, whether personal, or otherwise, is part of the newsletter.

Please, keep up the good work.

HANNAH OGAWA
Chicago, IL

WE ARE NOT overly optimistic, but we are not going to give up. Let's try hard for success.

WOODROW SHIOGI
Portland, Oregon

.... Wish you the best of luck in the continuing fight for justice. Please keep up the good work for all of us.

JOE WILEY
Baltimore, Maryland

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NOTE: If you do not wish to have your name listed, please indicate when you remit.



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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60614

NATIONAL COUNCIL for
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