



National Council on Redress for Japanese Americans

1428 West Thorndale, Chicago, Illinois 60660

Dear Friends,

The battle has been joined!

At long last, a legal action is underway to sue the United States for the violation of the civil and constitutional rights of 120,000 Japanese-Americans who were taken from their homes during WWII and placed into concentration camps, some 39 years ago.

On May 5, 1981, the National Council for Japanese American Redress signed a letter retaining the Washington law firm of Landis, Cohen, Singman and Rauh to undertake this historic case. In the initial phase, they will expend approximately one, full lawyer-year in research, planning, and filing suit. The objective is to overcome previous Court decisions and the statute of limitations, 36 years after the camps were closed.

For this effort, our commitment is \$75,000.

The sum is substantial. But the action, a class action, is on our behalf. It is a burden we should bear and share. We have raised about \$40,000 from about 250 persons and one significant grant of \$7,500 from the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries of the United Church of Christ. Most of the persons are Japanese-Americans. Many are friends. Some are affluent. Most are not.

We seek "Forty-seven Ronin" who will contribute \$1,000 each. We have twelve. (The "Forty-seven Ronin" is a story of leaderless samurai who obtained justice for their community through their self-sacrifice.) We seek hundreds who will contribute \$100 or more. We have about one hundred. Yet, we are just as appreciative of those who give what they can. (I am deeply touched by a deaf woman's gift of \$10. She was in Manzanar with me.)

The National Council has been in the struggle for redress for over two years. We had legislation introduced in the last session of Congress. Our bill, the Lowry Redress Bill, designed simply to compensate the victims, lost in the political arena of Capitol Hill to pallid legislation which would merely study the issue. We then turned our attention to the Courts.

In November, 1980, we began our effort to raise the \$75,000 for this lawsuit. We set for ourselves an initial goal of \$30,000 to reach before retaining a law firm. This goal was reached at the end of April, 1981. In May, the legal process was begun. Now we seek to raise the funds to complete the task.

Won't you join us?

Peace,

William Hohri,
chairperson

Making a Contribution

Please fill out this form and use the enclosed envelope to mail your contribution to us. We have established a Redress Legal Fund within the United Methodist Church. Your contribution is tax-deductible. And very much appreciated.

Please make your check payable to:

Redress Legal Fund
1428 West Thorndale
Chicago, IL 60660

___ \$1,000 as one of the Forty-seven Ronin.

___ \$100 and my hope that hundreds more will do the same.

___ \$ _____ and my very best wishes for success.

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____