

January 10, 1989

President George Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Bush:

I strongly urge that you include Supplemental Appropriation in the amount of \$500 million in your FY 1989 Budget.

On August 10, 1988 the Japanese American community and thousands of supporters held national celebrations throughout the United States when former President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, thus enacting it into law.

Now we find that President Reagan's budget has not appropriated one penny for Japanese American redress. Was the celebrated signing of our bill no more than an empty promise?

More than 60,000 of the 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry who were imprisoned in these camps during WWII have passed away. We are losing hundreds more each month. The Office of Redress Administration has identified our oldest (and according to legislation - first) recipients: two 104-year-old gentlemen - one in Seattle and one in Los Angeles. It is for these elders and the many others who suffered throughout these years that we ask the maximum amount of \$500 million to be allocated as Supplemental Appropriations in your FY 1989 Budget.

In the words of President Reagan on August 10, 1988:

"What is most important in this bill has no less to do with property than with honor. For here we admit a wrong. Here we reaffirm our commitment as a nation to equal justice under the law."

We remember clearly your own commitment to support this legislation during your campaign for the office of President of the United States. And we would hope that you honor that pledge with positive action in your FY 1989 Budget. Thank you.

Sincerely,

(signature)

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