

32. WHY SHOULD HEIRS RECEIVE PAYMENT? IF YOU INCLUDE HEIRS, WOULD NOT THAT SET A PRECEDENT FOR OTHERS, LIKE BLACKS AND NATIVE AMERICANS, TO MAKE CLAIMS FOR ANCESTRAL GRIEVANCES?

The government is not relieved of the responsibility of making amends just because the victim has died. Children and family members of detainees suffered the consequences of lost property, lost income, lost health, ruined reputations, and psychological damage long after the camps closed. No other group of American citizens suffered such a massive denial of constitutional rights in existence at the time. Ours is a unique case in the constitutional history of this country. Blacks were brought here under a free enterprise system (i.e., not by government order), and Native Americans suffered a series of broken treaties between nations. This is not to say that the Blacks and Native Americans did not suffer immensely, but that only in the case of the eviction and incarceration of Japanese Americans was there a total abrogation of constitutional guarantees inflicted against a single group of citizens solely on the basis of race.

33. AREN'T THE NATIVE AMERICANS, BLACK AMERICANS, MEXICAN AMERICANS, AND CHINESE AMERICANS AT LEAST EQUALLY DESERVING OF REDRESS?

We are not in a competition with other groups who have legitimate claims for redress. Each group must pursue its own goals, but we will not get trapped into a divide and conquer situation.

34. WEREN'T THERE NUMEROUS DISLOYAL PEOPLE, LIKE THOSE WHO REFUSED THE LOYALTY OATH, RESISTED THE DRAFT, RENOUNCED THEIR CITIZENSHIP, AND EXPATRIATED TO JAPAN? WHY SHOULD THEY RECEIVE REDRESS?

There were very good legal, moral, and psychological reasons for resisting the government. Each act of resistance was a protest against injustice. The loyalty oath was imposed after they had been imprisoned for nearly a year; the draft was instituted while they and their families were still incarcerated; and American citizenship proved to be worthless. Without detracting from the magnificent war record of Japanese Americans in WWII, in the long-run, those who resisted may also have been the true American patriots because they took their constitutional rights seriously and fought to uphold the Constitution. The government later recognized the mitigating circumstances surrounding these cases, and granted full pardons to the draft resisters and restored citizenship to the renunciants. People responded to the injustices in different ways, and it would be inappropriate to pass judgement on loyalty.

35. WON'T YOUR CAMPAIGN CAUSE A WHITE BACKLASH AND ERODE THE GAINS YOU HAVE ALREADY MADE? WON'T YOU PROVOKE RESENTMENT AND REKINDLE RACISM THAT NO LONGER EXISTS?

If racism no longer exists, we have nothing to worry about. But if racism is merely comparatively dormant or can be rekindled, we need to work for redress. It is our duty, as first-class citizens, to fight for our just due. If we make the historical facts widely known, we are confident that the general public will be

supportive. But if there is a backlash, it is better to confront the problem directly and deal with it forthwith.

36. HOW MUCH SUPPORT DO YOU THINK YOU'LL GET FROM THE AMERICAN PUBLIC?

We fully expect some bitter opposition. We believe, however, that there will be much more support than many Japanese Americans now believe. Americans are not afraid to admit to the mistakes of their country.

37. IS THE REDRESS MOVEMENT BEING LED BY YOUNG RADICALS WHO WERE NOT EVEN BORN AT THE TIME?

Nearly all of the people active in the campaign are middle-aged or older persons who experienced the eviction and incarceration in 1942-46.

38. WHO DO YOU REPRESENT? AREN'T THERE MANY JAPANESE AMERICANS WHO OPPOSE REDRESS?

Based on five separate community surveys conducted in Northern California, Southern California, Pacific Northwest, Midwest, and East Coast areas, we probably represent the views of the vast majority of Japanese Americans. Some form of redress was favored by 94% of the respondents; and direct payment to individuals was desired by 83%. The opinion of the majority who disagree with redress are to be respected. We do not seek to impose redress on those who do not wish payment; such persons may decline payment.

39. IF YOU FAIL TO OBTAIN REDRESS, WILL THIS CAMPAIGN HAVE BEEN A TOTAL FAILURE?

No, because the ultimate principle of the redress campaign is to help insure that what we experienced in 1942 does not ever again happen to any other group of people in this country. Consequently, one of the real objectives of the campaign is to educate the American public of our experiences and thereby fortify the principles of the Bill of Rights and the Constitution.