

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

PO Box 548
Cambridge, MA. 02138

Report of Business Meeting
August 12, 1980

Meeting held: 7:30 PM, August 12, 1980, at 85 Wendell Street, Cambridge, MA.
Members present: David Sakura (President, presiding); Evelyn Nakano Glenn,
Gary Glenn, Kei Kaneda, Mel Kawakami.

1980-81 Program

It was agreed that the 1980-81 NE-JACL program would be initiated with a kick-off meeting and social event in October, hopefully at the home of Emiko Nishino. The purpose of this meeting will be to acquaint members with the general guidelines for Chapter activities during 1980-81 (cf. Report of July 22, 1980), to update the status of the Redress Campaign, and to elicit the interests of members in additional activities.

The following activities for the forthcoming Fall and Winter were suggested: the scheduling of the play "Behind Enemy Lines" (which was presented in Boston on August 3, 1980, starring David Sakura and Evelyn Glenn as the issei parents of an interned family); the scheduling of a political discussion of the redress campaign, possibly involving one or more Congressmen; the holding of a panel on Asian women; and the organization of a meeting on the Pan Asian movement. Additional recommendations included a meeting focussing on Asians in the labor movement, and Asians in the entertainment industry.

Regularization of NE-JACL

Pursuant to efforts to change our status from that of a provisional chapter to that of a regular chapter, David Sakura has contacted JACL National Headquarters, and has determined that we need to 1) draft by-laws and have them approved by our members, and 2) elect officers, in order to become regularized. It was agreed that both tasks will be completed prior to the October full membership meeting.

The meeting was informed that Lon Hatayama represented NE-JACL at the National Convention in San Francisco, and that he will report to a future business meeting.

Redress Campaign

It was agreed that David Sakura should write National JACL requesting that Boston be recommended for inclusion among cities where the Presidential Commission will hold hearings.

Kei Kaneda agreed to prepare a listing of distinguished individuals in the New England area who would be willing to appear as witnesses before the Commission, and to transmit the list to John Tateishi at National Hdq.

It was agreed that a media effort in the New England area should be undertaken when the Commission is appointed so that the general public can be informed of the issues involved. If the Commission agrees to hold hearings in Boston, an intensified media campaign will be organized.

New Members

It was agreed that NE-JACL should endeavor to broaden its membership; in particular, Japanese American students who are new to the area should be invited to participate., especially those who have received JACL scholarships.

JACL Scholarship Program

It was suggested that the JACL scholarship program should be looked into to determine what criteria exist for selection of recipients. It was further suggested that the NE-JACL should take the position that JACL scholarships should serve a purpose beyond helping to fund individuals who already have substantial financial support.

Advocacy Function

A brief discussion was held concerning the desirability of NE-JACL serving an advocacy function on civil liberties and civil rights questions in the New England area, specifically including representation on local, state and regional boards and commissions concerned with ethnic and minority matters.