

Vice President George Bush
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Vice President Bush,

Congratulations on receiving the Republican Party nomination for the office of President, and thank you for your public comments earlier this year supporting passage of HR 442, the Japanese American and Aleut reparations bill that President Reagan signed into law on August 10, 1988. This long-overdue, bipartisan measure helps to reaffirm the principle that the Constitution applies to all Americans, regardless of race, creed or color.

I hope that you will find time in your busy campaign schedule to issue a statement supporting efforts to secure maximum appropriations for this bill so that the surviving former internees can be paid as quickly as possible. As you may know, although the bill allows for up to a ten-year period for appropriations, that period can also be as short as three years, depending on the amount of appropriations.

I'm sure you share with us the sadness we feel as we see our family members and friends who were in the camps pass away before they are able to benefit from this long delayed measure of justice. The average age of the former internees is 65 years, and some estimate that up to 80,000, or two-thirds of the former internees, have already passed away. As the saying goes, "Justice delayed is justice denied." After waiting 46 years, it would not be right for former internees to have to wait another ten years to receive their symbolic compensation.

I hope that I can count on your active support on this vital matter.

Sincerely,

(print name)

(address)

Additional comments:

House Majority Leader Thomas Foley
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Rep. Foley,

We owe you an enormous debt of gratitude for your central role in securing the enactment into law of the Japanese American and Aleut reparations bill. This bill helps to establish that Japanese Americans and other minority groups have rights that the government is bound to respect. It will also go a long ways toward preventing a reoccurrence of such a grave and massive injustice.

Neither we nor history will forget what you have done. Without your support, it would have been virtually impossible to get the bill passed and signed.

Now that the bill is law, I hope you will work hard to ensure that the appropriations for the bill are made as quickly as possible. As you know, although the bill allows for up to a ten-year period for appropriations, that period can also be as short as three years, depending on the level of appropriations.

Therefore, I urge you to fully support efforts toward securing the maximum amount of \$500 million in each of the first two years of appropriations, and the rest in the third year.

I'm sure you share with us the sadness we feel as we see our family members and friends who were in the camps pass away before they are able to benefit from this long-overdue measure of justice. Some estimate that up to 80,000, or two-thirds of the former internees, have already passed away. As the saying goes, "Justice delayed is justice denied." After waiting 46 years, it would not be right for former internees to have to wait another ten years to receive their symbolic compensation.

I'm sure we can count on your support, and please let me know if there's any way I can support your efforts on this matter.

Yours very truly,

(print name)

(address)

Representative _____
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

As a constituent of yours, I strongly urge you to support appropriations of \$500 million each in both the 1989 fiscal year Supplemental Appropriations and the 1990 fiscal year budget for the compensatory payments to Americans of Japanese ancestry who were unjustly interned by the U.S. government in 1942. The payments were authorized on August 10, 1988 when former President Ronald Reagan signed into law the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. The bill passed in both the House and the Senate by large, bi-partisan majorities (67-27 in the Senate, 243-141 in the House).

It is estimated that over half, or 60,000, of the 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry who were put into internment camps have already passed away. We are losing hundreds more each month. The Office of Redress Administration has identified the oldest recipients: two 104-year old gentlemen, one in Seattle and one in Los Angeles. They cannot wait much longer. I'm sure you share in my desire to see that these elders and the many others who suffered are able to receive their long-overdue partial restitution before they are gone forever.

The enactment of this bill has been hailed as a ringing affirmation of our rights under the Constitution. Many also saw it as vindication of the 33,000 Japanese Americans who served with such distinction in the U.S. armed forces during World War II, sustaining casualties at over five times the average rate for U.S. forces. I thank you for supporting the bill, and I trust you will now support maximum appropriations to carry out the bill. 47 long years have already passed. How much longer do the former internees have to wait?

Yours truly,

Additional comments:

Signature

Print name

Title (Optional)

Address

Richard Darman
Office of Management and Budget
Executive Office Building
Washington, D.C., 20503

RE: Funding for the Civil Liberties Act of 1988

Dear Mr. Darman,

As you know, on August 10, 1988, President Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 which provides that a \$20,000 token payment be made to approximately 60,000 surviving Americans of Japanese ancestry of the 120,000 who were sent to internment camps during World War II by the United States government.

Unless the Fiscal Year 1990 budget provides for the full funding of \$500 million, many of the eligible recipients will die before receiving their token payment.

I'm sure you share with us the sadness we feel as we see our family members and friends who were in the camps pass away before they are able to benefit from this long delayed measure of justice. More than half of the 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry who were sent to internment camps have already passed away. A majority of the former internees are elderly, with many in their 80's and 90's. Their average age is 65 years. After waiting 47 years, it would not be right for former internees to have to wait another 10 years to receive their symbolic payment.

I hope you will work toward including full funding of \$500 million for the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 in both the Fiscal Year 1990 and Fiscal Year 1991 budgets with the balance to be funded in the Fiscal Year 1992 budget.

Sincerely,

(print name)

(address)

Additional comments: