



Bill Hosokawa

From the Frying Pan

Denver, Colo.
ON BOOKS AND SUCH—Somewhat more than a year ago a major American publisher issued a novel titled "American Scrapbook" by Jerome Charyn. From the Nisei viewpoint it was insulting and bordered on the scurrilous. It was hardly more than a sex novel whose characters just happened to be Japanese Americans. The setting, only incidental to the story, was a war relocation center. There really wasn't much point to the story and the reading public in its infinite wisdom seems to have relegated the book to the obscurity which it deserves.

So far as I am aware, no Nisei voice was raised to protest this book, at least no voice was raised loud enough to make an impression. This is only proper for there are ways other than public protest to express displeasure about a commercial product. If a published work lacks merit, the reading public will withhold its support from the book counters. If the work is libelous, one can seek redress in the courts.

Since publication of "American Scrapbook" however, one Nisei-authored book has been published and a second is about to be published. Both have been the targets of immoderate criticism. In the first instance, the protest was directed almost entirely at one word in the title, the word "Quiet", although the text itself ran some 160,000 words and none of the protesters had seen any portion of the manuscript. In the second case, leaders of the Buddhist Churches of America after carefully examining "Japanese Americans: The Untold Story," have filed a vigorous public protest.

The second book was written by a group of Nisei educators for use by fourth and fifth grade pupils. Noting the absence of suitable material about Americans of Japanese origins for grade schoolers, these teachers cooperated to produce a book aimed at bringing about greater understanding and appreciation of the cultural contributions of a little-known minority.

According to published reports the official Buddhist protest says in part: "...we find the overtones of the text to be racial, consistently anti-Buddhist and pro-Christian biased, and a gross misrepresentation of the true picture of the lives of Japanese Americans."

This is a serious indictment indeed, coming as it does from the lay and spiritual leaders of a religious sect claiming 100,000 members. Certainly the authors will deny it, although they have not been heard from at this writing. But regardless of whether the charges are justified the tragedy is that the Buddhist leadership feels so strongly that it has grievances and has chosen to voice them in the manner that it has.

At this juncture it is difficult to wonder about the characteristic that Dr. Harry Kitano has described as the "Enryo syndrome"—in its essence, one feels no constraints about giving members of the family hell about any matter, but one uses restraint and deference in relationships with an outside. "Enryo" may have been cast off to some extent, but its influence would appear to exert itself still if the man's name is Charyn or Smith or Jones, for that matter.

The Japanese American Curriculum Project which produced "Japanese Americans: The Untold Story," was supported by the national JACL with a \$4,000 grant. This is no way makes JACL responsible for the contents of the book. But there would seem to be an implied obligation for the JACL leadership to step in and seek to heal a breach that could well become a serious one. A project as well-intentioned as this effort to provide school children with instructive reading matter deserves better than to be made the undefended victim of a public controversy. It is unfortunate the issue was made a controversy at all. Such problems are not resolved by fencing in the public prints, which results only in a hardening of positions. As any peace-maker will tell you, a accord can be reached only by hard and careful work behind the scenes. Trial by press release smacks only of politics.

KRON-TV REGRETS SHOWING OF 1944 ANTI-NISEI FILM

'Purple Heart' and Similar Movies Will Not Be Shown

SAN FRANCISCO — KRON-TV, Channel 4, San Francisco, apologized for the showing of 1944 movie "Purple Heart" and promised that it will not be shown again.

Aldo H. Constant, Vice-President and General Manager of KRON-TV, stated, "I regret that this particular film was broadcast and offer you and all other citizens of Japanese ancestry my apologies."

Constant further gave his "assurances that the film 'Purple Heart' or any similar films will not be shown on KRON-TV in the future."

Constant made his statement in response to a protest lodged by Raymond Okamura, Secretary of the JACL Northern California-Western Nevada District Council.

Text of Letter

Full text of letter follows: October 19, 1970

Dear Mr. Okamura: This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of October 11, 1970 in which you protest the showing of the World War II movie "Purple Heart" on KRON-TV, Saturday, October 10, 1970. Please forgive my delay in replying, but I wanted to check our Program Department and see the film "Purple Heart" myself before I replied.

I regret that you found the film distasteful and certainly understand your reasons.

KRON-TV has for 30 years been extremely careful in the presentation of film material that would be derogatory to any ethnic group. We eliminated from our broadcast schedule over the years many films which we felt would cause American citizens of various nationalities distress. Quite often it is possible for us to edit out portions of feature films or other films which we felt were unacceptable. The person who previewed the feature film "Purple Heart" advised me that they looked at several sequences in the film two or three times in order to properly evaluate it and that it was their honest opinion that the film would not offend American citizens of Japanese ancestry.

When I viewed the film, after receipt of your letter, I agreed with certain of your objections and we have, therefore, withdrawn that feature film from any future scheduling on KRON-TV.

I certainly believe that this station has been more concerned with these problems and more responsible in our selection of material and deletion of material than many other broadcast stations.

I regret that this particular film was broadcast and offer you and all other citizens of Japanese ancestry my apologies.

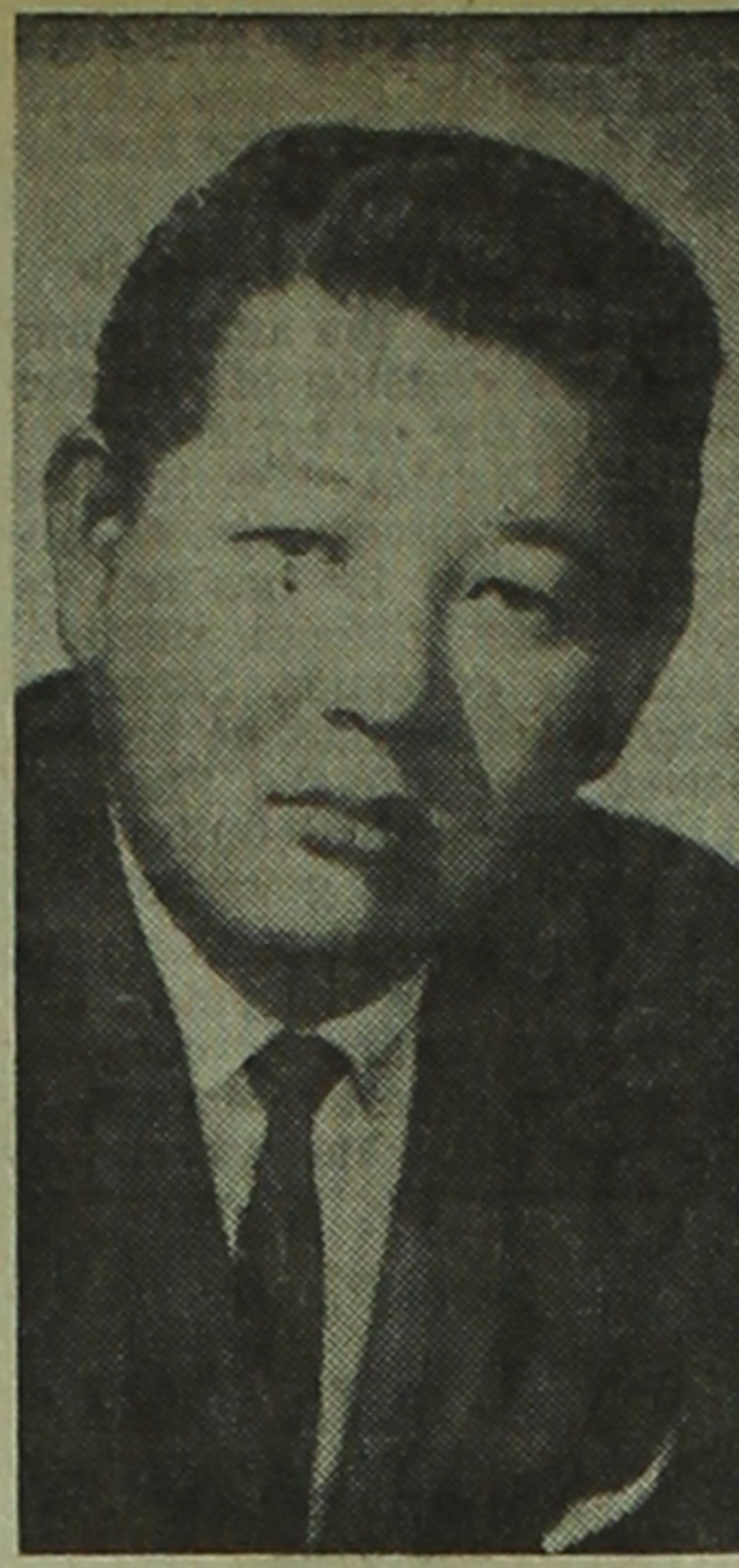
Our Program Department has been directed to review films in our library in order to make sure that we have not overlooked a segment that would offend any person in our viewing audience.

You may be sure that KRON-TV does not concern itself with "canon" which would engage in any activity derogatory to any group because of alleged economic competition.

All of us at KRON-TV are proud of our service to the minority communities of the San Francisco Bay Area and point with pride to our long-standing concern for the improvement of racial relations.

Again, my apologies and assurances that the film "Purple Heart" or any similar films will not be shown on KRON-TV.

ALDO H. CONSTANT
Vice President and General Manager



GOODWILL DINNER — Mike Suzuki of Sacramento, national JACL president for general operations, will address the 30th annual Placer County JACL goodwill dinner Nov. 7 at Auburn District Fairground. Chief, social services division, with the State Dept. of Social Welfare, Suzuki holds from Oakland, graduated in psychology and social welfare from UC Berkeley, was employed by the Jewish Family Service, New York, 1952-55, and Japanese Children's Home, Los Angeles, 1955-63. He joined the state social welfare department in 1963 and became division chief in 1968.

Marysville JACL to celebrate 35th

MARYSVILLE — Denver Post associate editor Bill Hosokawa will address the 35th anniversary dinner of the Marysville JACL at the Peace Tree Country Club here Nov. 7.

The chapter was founded in 1935 as the Yuba-Sutter-Butte-Colusa JACL, comprising a four county area.

Chapter president Tosh Sano, in preparing for this gala event, has been assisted by:

Frank Okimoto, George H. Inouye, co-chmn.; Akiyo Yoshimura, secretary; Bill Tsuji, Shirei Kasumoto, gen. arr.; Iris Hatanaka, decorations; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Okimoto, inc.; Tai Sano (743-8043); reservations; Nobu Tokunaga, telephone; Helen Manji, cor. sec.; Sud Hamura, fin.; Liness Okimoto, Susan Komatsubara, Mizie Inouye, hostesses; George Yoshimoto, photographer; Anne Kodama, pub.; Frank Nakamura, adv.; Mizu Kishida, corsages.

Chapter records show the following persons as charter members, with present place of residence:

Yuba City—Harry Fukushima, Robert Inouye; Sacramento—Charlotte Maruyama, Kie Maruyama; Marysville—Samuel I. Kurihara, James Nakagawa, Frank Nakamura, Sally Oshita Nakatsu; Placer—Anthony Tokuno; Oroville—Mossie Uchida; Dixon—Kie Saito; San Jose—Helen Nakamura Iwasaki; Oakland—Dr. Charles Yonezumi; Monterey—Paul Tekawa; Chicago—Noboru Honda; Parma, O.—Harvey Ohmura, Mitsuko Miyasako Ohmura.

Other charter members, whose whereabouts are unknown, are:

Kiyono Matsumura, Frank Murata, Hazel Iseri Tagawa and Tom Tsuruda. (Chapter would appreciate any information on these four persons. Please notify Mrs. Frank Okimoto, 248 S. Lawrence Ave., Yuba City, Calif. 95991, phone 673-7148.)

Furutani addresses
New York peace rally
NEW YORK — Local Asian American groups participated with other Puerto Rican and Black groups in a march and rally to protest U.S. involvement in Southeast Asia this past Sunday, Nov. 1, at "The Site", 125th St. and Seventh Ave.

Among spokesmen from each group, the Asian group had Warren Furutani of Los Angeles appear at the Third World joint demonstration.

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CENTRAL CAL APPREHENSIVE OVER RECENT TRENDS IN JACL PROGRAMS

FRESNO — In conjunction with its annual convention, the Central California District Council is sponsoring a meeting of all interested JACL members who view with apprehension recent trends in JACL policies and activities.

The meeting will be held at the Del Webb TowneHouse in Fresno on Saturday, Nov. 21, from 1 to 5 p.m. It will be an open meeting devoted to a frank discussion, pro and con, under the general heading, "With-er JACL?" It is intended to be a constructive meeting in the interests of the general membership of the National JACL.

Some of the topics to be discussed are the following:
1—The purpose of an ethnic organization such as the JACL.
2—The desirable extent of JACL participation in the general field of civil rights.
3—The desirable extent of JACL participation in international relations as it relates to politics, social philosophies and economics.
4—The desirable extent of JACL participation in the field of partisan domestic politics.

The limits of authority granted or assumed by the National Board, the Executive Committee, national officers and staff members.

6—The authority to expend the principal of the National Endowment Fund.
7—A change in the method of electing national officers and selecting committee chairmen.
8—Official JACL policy in the matter of radical, militant organizations engaging in unlawful activities.
9—The reduction of convention expenses to encourage attendance.

Ray Uno to address West L.A. installation
Maj. George Kanegai, U.S. Army (ret.), will head the West Los Angeles JACL for the coming year. He and his board members will be installed Nov. 7, 7:30 p.m., at the Lobster House in Marina del Rey.

Raymond Uno, national president, will deliver the principal address. Dr. Roy Nishikawa, past national president and recently acclaimed JACL-er of the Biennium, will swear in the officers. Dr. Toru Iura will emcee the dinner.

Leo Fenster, chairman of the dinner-dance, is being assisted by:
George Nakao, tickets; Ruth Miyada, program cover; Roy Takeda, fin.; Tanny Sakaniwa, door; Virginia Tomimaga, printing; Auxiliary, hostesses.

The incoming president served in the South Pacific during WW2 and stationed in Japan during the Occupation. He also served in the Korean conflict. He is married to the former Toyoko Kataoka and resides in West Los Angeles with their three children.

The dinner program will be preceded by a get-acquainted social hour starting from 6:30 p.m., with chairman Dick Na-gaoka in charge.

Calif. Masonic grand lodge installs Nisei

FRESNO—On Oct. 16 during the closing ceremonies of the 121st Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of California, Harry E. Hiraoka, past master of Selma Lodge No. 277 was installed as senior grand steward for the year 1971.

He has the original honor of being the first Mason of Japanese ancestry to serve in a Grand Lodge office in the history of the Grand Lodge of California.

Hiraoka was appointed by the newly elected Grand Master Herbert A. Huebner of Los Angeles.

'EVACUATION' POSTERS GROSS OVER \$1,000

SAN FRANCISCO—The Center for Japanese American Study conducted a summertime mail auction of 1942 Evacuation posters acquired from an Army warehouse and reported 36 different people bought 74 items out of the 141 items offered. Many bids came from out-of-state.

The high bids totaled \$1,122.99, according to Richard Kenmotsu, who noted there were only 27 non-winning bids out of the grand total of 101 bids.

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST TO OPEN UP SESSION TO COMPLAINTS, CRITICISM

LOS ANGELES—To ascertain thinking of individual chapters as to the direction JACL is committed, the Pacific Southwest District Council has replaced its traditional chapter clinic for a "rap" session with delegates and local chapter officers.

Mrs. Sumi Ujimori, PSWDC executive board member, in a letter outlining some questions to provoke discussion at the Nov. 13 district meeting at the City of Commerce Hyatt House, explained the purpose of the discussion is to seek current solutions, develop communication among various segments within the organization and not necessarily justify present programs.

"Many members have been expressing dissatisfaction with the direction of National and District programs," she revealed, and the rap session will provide an opportunity to express feelings and concerns.

Perhaps the most interested observer, if not a participant, will be Raymond Uno, national president.

The questions:
1—Do you have any specific criticisms about the present direction, both at the national and local levels, of the JACL?
2—Do you think the chapters have enough of a voice in the formulations of policies in the national and local levels?
3—Are there any areas in which you feel the JACL should be involved?
4—Do you feel the young people have enough voice in the JACL?
5—Do you feel the older people have enough voice in the JACL?

Contra Costa Nisei meet Congressman Waldie

EL CENTRO—A tea reception was held Oct. 25 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Heizo Oshima here to present the incumbent Rep. Jerome Waldie from Contra Costa County to the Japanese American community.

Waldie spoke about the issues of the campaign. He dwelt at length about the importance of reorganizing the Congressional seniority system to reflect the urgency of the problems of the cities, his views against the Vietnam War, his concern for civil liberties, his support of the JACL organized campaign for the repeal of Title 2, and his fight against the Peripheral Canal which would be disastrous for the ecology of the San Francisco Bay area.

The affair was sponsored by the Japanese Americans for Waldie Committee headed by: David Ninomiya, Heizo Oshima, Jerry Irei, and Bill Hirose.

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RESPECTIVELY YOURS

Legal Services

Drop-in Center

By SHOSHANA ARAI

By KAZ MANIWA

Up until a year ago few people saw the need for Asian Legal Services...

In San Francisco, the Asian Legal Services was formed in January of 1970...

The key to understanding Asian Legal Services lies in the word "services"...

In the area of preventive legal education we are writing and distributing a series of bilingual handcards...

Ultimately, the office is working to promote a concept of "shared" or "common" legal defense...

With this concept of "shared" or "common" legal defense it is our hope that closer relationships will be established...

Asian Legal Service now has offices in San Francisco at 842 Kearny...

Flower View Gardens set for Christmas open house

LOS ANGELES — Alice and Art Ito of Flower View Gardens, longtime Hollywood JACLers...

CALENDAR

Nov. 6 (Friday) West Valley-Elect dinner mtg. Grace Methodist Church, 6 p.m. West Los Angeles-Earth Sci Mtg. Stoner Playground, 7:30 p.m.

Ray Uno, Nisei politicians, district election controversy top agenda

By SHOSHANA ARAI

By KAZ MANIWA

BERKELEY — A principal address by National President Raymond S. Uno, a special panel discussion on "Japanese Americans in Public Life"...

Although the Buddhist Churches of America has asked to be placed on the agenda to present their protest...

Following the business session, the district election promises to be the most competitive in recent years...

In addition, it is expected that there will be two or more "surprise" nominations made from the floor...

Resolutions concerning Elks Club discrimination will be presented by two chapters. The Fremont chapter will offer a basic resolution...

The five Northern California FOXes (field staffers for JACL) will be present to report on their activities.

A report on the Price Cobb Sensitivity Training Institute will be given by Mrs. Chizu Iiyama of Contra Costa chapter...

CHAPTER PULSE

On Nov. 7 the West Valley JACL slates a dinner meeting at the Grace Methodist Church...

November program

Assemblyman Eugene Chappie (R) reported on the proposal to erect a historical monument at the former Manzanar WRA camp...

National Director Mas Satow of San Francisco was announced as guest speaker for the 19th annual Sequoia JACL installation dinner-dance...

Dr. Ken Kato, chapter president, is being assisted by Lilly Kato, dinner chairman, and Yasuko Kariya, decorations.

Barbara Yoshida, JAL-JACL summer fellowship recipient, spoke at the September meeting. The Sansei social worker, unable to speak Japanese fluently in Japan...

Sacramento JACL reported its annual benefit movie held on two nights, Sept. 11-12, netted over \$1,000.

In 1971 Veterans Day will be celebrated on the fourth Monday in October.

Veterans Day In 1971 Veterans Day will be celebrated on the fourth Monday in October. It was originally known as Armistice Day, commemorating the end of the first World War Nov. 11, 1918.

Registration begins at 11:30 a.m.; the business at 12:30 p.m.; the district elections at 3; the panel discussion at 4; and the banquet at 6 p.m.

Also, the San Jose chapter is expected to further elaborate on their proposal to institute JACL voting in proportion to chapter membership.

Wesley Doi (San Francisco), Mrs. Chizu Iiyama (Contra Costa), Ted Inouye (Fremont), Phil Nakamura (San Francisco, Tom T. Okubo (Sacramento), Seiichi Otow (Placer County), Grant Shimizu (San Jose), George Uyeda (Monterey Peninsula), and Dr. Raymond S. Uchiyama (West Valley), Tony Boch (San Benito) has filed for re-election as 1000 Club Chairman.

Resolutions concerning Elks Club discrimination will be presented by two chapters. The Fremont chapter will offer a basic resolution...

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Although the Buddhist Churches of America has asked to be placed on the agenda to present their protest to the San Mateo Project book, "Japanese Americans: The Untold Story," it is not certain if there will be enough time if there will be enough time...

Following the business session, the district election promises to be the most competitive in recent years. Ten candidates have already filed for election to five Executive Board openings, plus the 1000 Club Chairman.

Wesley Doi (San Francisco), Mrs. Chizu Iiyama (Contra Costa), Ted Inouye (Fremont), Phil Nakamura (San Francisco, Tom T. Okubo (Sacramento), Seiichi Otow (Placer County), Grant Shimizu (San Jose), George Uyeda (Monterey Peninsula), and Dr. Raymond S. Uchiyama (West Valley), Tony Boch (San Benito) has filed for re-election as 1000 Club Chairman.

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that three chapter presidents must endorse a board candidate before he can be nominated from the floor.

Two Seek Governorship Because of the uncertainty about the election of the governor by the delegates or the board, District Nominations Chairman James Kimoto announced that he has not received any official nominations for governor. However, Kimoto added that he has received unofficial "feelings" that at least two individuals are seeking the governorship.

Immediately following the district elections, a special panel discussion on "Japanese Americans in Public Life" will continue the politically inclined afternoon. Speakers are:

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Executive Board, is eligible. However, if the governor is to be elected by the Executive Board, as in the past, only the continuing Board members, plus incumbents re-elected to the Board are eligible.

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San Jose Municipal Court Judge Wayne Kanemoto, Union City Former Mayor Tom Kitayama, Merced County Board Candidate Bob Morimoto, San Jose Vice-Mayor Norman Mineta, Oakland City Councilman Frank Ogasawara.

Continued on Next Page

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Except for JACL staff writers, news and opinions expressed by columnists do not necessarily reflect JACL policy

RAYMOND UNO, President; KAY NAKAGIRI, Board Chairman; HARRY K. HONDA, Editor

Friday, Nov. 6, 1970

Ye Editor's Desk

'ONE MAN, ONE VOTE' IN JACL

Though San Jose JACL's incoming chapter president Richard Tanaka has replied in the Letterbox to Ray Okamura's analytic piece on "One Man, One Vote in JACL" (PC, Oct. 23), we have extended an offer to the San Jose chapter to spell out what it means by "one man, one vote". Let's hear their ideas.

The principle of "one man, one vote" as it affects the internal affairs of a state, county or municipality has been spelled out in the U.S. Supreme Court—but it stays clear when it involves the sovereign states that comprise the Republic. If "one man, one vote" is ever to apply to the U.S. Senate, it shall require legislative action—and that's hardly expected when only 20% of the 50 states are considered populous enough to rate more than a pair of senators.

So the question of proportional representation in National JACL—no matter how intriguing a subject—will remain academic, we feel. Can the proponents of this idea secure the necessary votes—we estimate at least 70 chapters of the 93 now on the rolls must be in favor. Since the JACL constitution only requires "three-fourths of the chapters present", that number of 70 can be reduced for the rule says "chapters present and voting" in National Council. If only 50 chapters are present (as was the case in Chicago), 39 chapters can carry the action — if proxy votes are not involved.

(The practical considerations over the elimination of proxies in a voluntary organization, such as JACL, have been repeated by Central California chapters, which is that national conventions are held in the summer when their leaders are unable to get away from their farms. How many city chapter prefer to spend time at a convention during January or February when it's not busy on the farm?)

There are 18 chapters today with memberships in excess of 400, about 40 with membership in excess of 200. This means over half of the chapters have less than 200 members each. These chapters are not about to surrender whatever rights and privileges now enjoyed.

But nothing prevents a single district council (or all, for that matter) to institute proportional representation on whatever terms at the district level. This is where it can be practiced best.

TO CATCH A SECOND WIND

National JACL marked its 40th year as an organization this past summer—though marred by the Okubo tragedy. And it wasn't "sweet as roses" either when the organization was launched for the Issei leadership of the 1930s was not exactly enthusiastic. JACL weathered the storm of the 1940s and managed to attain self-respect after its impressive legislative victories in the 1950s.

This past decade, when it might be expected JACL would fulfill its potentialities, JACL with the rest of society reaped its share of frustrations and disappointment. While JACL membership continued to climb in the 1960s, so did the problems confronting the community. The generation which has its future ahead of them is not resigned to the contemporary scene but seek to liberate society from its past failures without fear of the future.

Perhaps what's needed for the middle-aged generation is a chance to catch a second wind—and help work out the challenges of the coming decade, which for JACL stands as the road to a glorious golden jubilee.

The raps sessions currently being staged by JACL district councils appear to be one moment to catch a second wind, remembering the Nisei record has shown they are not one to escape what looms as an impossible task.

The JACL commitment of 1930 to promote the Japanese American Cause is still operative. JACL can still deal effectively against issues which threaten the Cause. And as a mature organization, it must stay in shape to do battle against the more complex problems that now undercut the Cause.

HOLLOW CRY FOR 'LAW & ORDER'

Amid campaign cries for more law and order, a jail riot over intolerable overcrowding and some attempts to improve conditions in the prisons, the discussion will eventually shift to the problem of securing a speedy trial as granted by the Constitution.

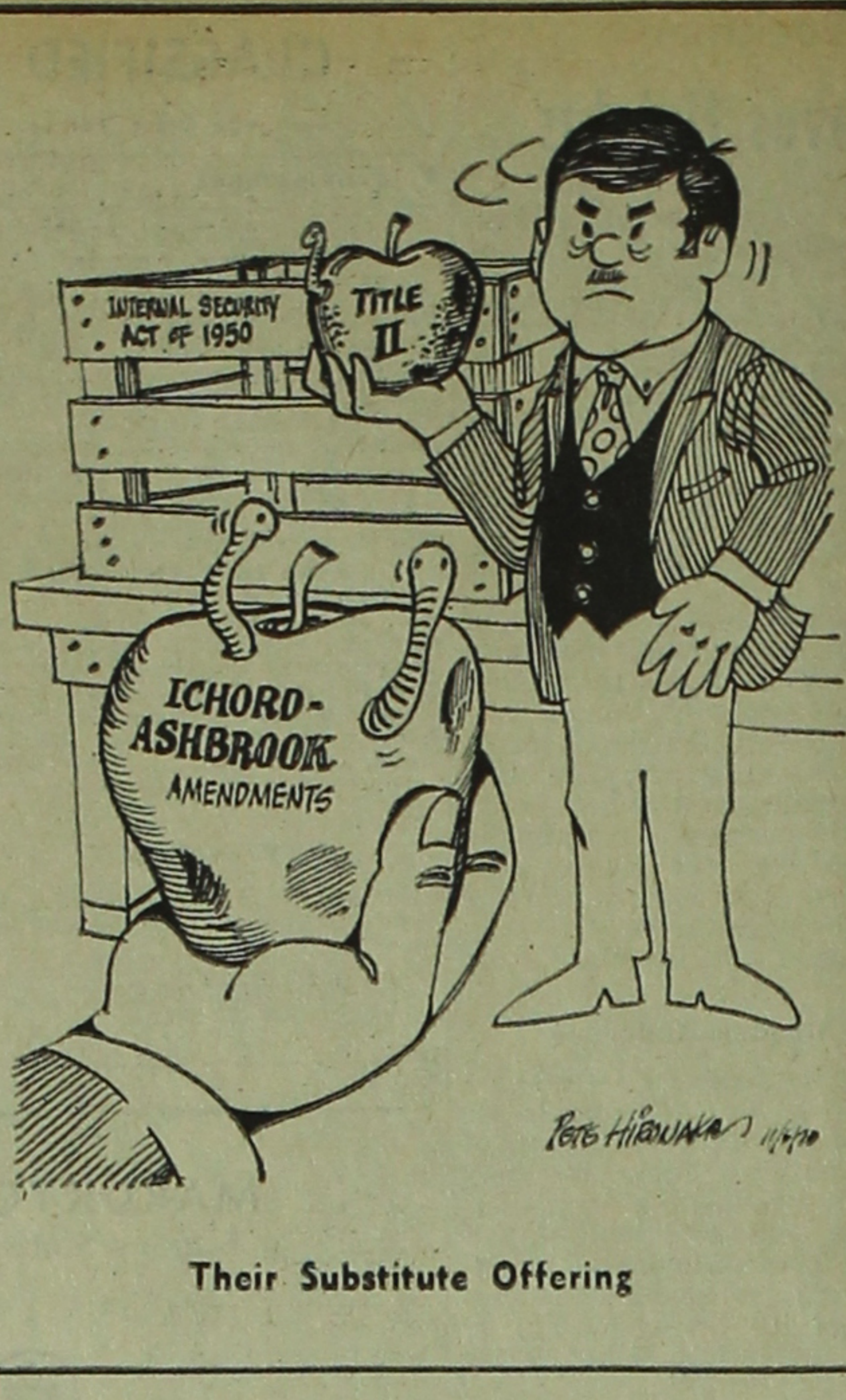
Yet procedural safeguards and technicalities step in the way. Time is needed to prepare an adequate defense and it appears delay more often helps than hurts a defendant, especially in a criminal case.

We are of the opinion jails are overcrowded because Americans are unwilling to spend the money to provide decent jails for the people they want to keep in jail. Prison conditions thus show Americans are unwilling to pay the high cost of criminal laws. (And our past president Jerry Enomoto can come up with the latest figures to substantiate that.) Which all makes the campaign cries for law and order so hollow.

People cannot call for law and order and refuse to spend what it takes to restore law and order. Criminals have to pay the price for breaking the law; the rest of us must pay the price for making it.

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LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

Letters to the Editor are subject to condensation. Each must be signed and addressed, though withheld from print upon request.

One Man, One Vote

Certainly, we of the San Jose JACL Chapter must take exception to the incongruous article (PC, Oct. 23), "One Man, One Vote in JACL. It seems to me that its author speaks of the individual decision-making process, yet objects to this very principle of the rights of the individual because he may be from a large chapter and not a small one.

I am sure in reading his article, he would be content to "allow" individual votes per chapter if we in San Jose were 16 chapters, not one.

The author also theorizes that persons joining JACL for insurance, etc., are not active members, therefore, we should disregard these individuals in the total scope of JACL. I do not know through what divine providence the author has come to rule on this matter but I happen to believe in each individual contributing to our society and weaving the fabric of life that makes this a better place to live.

Further let the author be informed that even in our Union called the United States of America we have the Rhode Islands and the populous California living side by side under the same rules of "One Man, One Vote." I am surprised the author is not subscribing to the formation of a North, South, East and West California so that somehow this will create a better society of individuals. If the author had not realized this possibility, this might be a very interesting proposition to him.

The author, I believe, misses one vital point in the "One Man, One Vote" thesis. First of all, this system is the only fair and equitable method of governing. In the decision-making policies by the National of the District JACL, our members are saying isn't it only fair that each member has the right to vote rather than talk about Chapter votes, which is meaningless. Isn't the smaller unit the individual vote that makes up the Chapter vote?

Under our system today, the financial and philosophical decisions are made by a majority of chapters, which does not necessarily represent the majority of the individuals, and must be borne by each member no matter if they conflict with his philosophy, since, today, he doesn't have the right to vote for these measures.

Our present system, therefore, is lacking in the very essence of individual's right and the basic principle of democracy. We are saying that each individual, whether he comes from a large or small chapter, should have the right of voting. Yes, Power to the People. PEACE.

RICHARD K. TANAKA, AIA President (1971) San Jose Chapter 565 N. 5th St. San Jose

In search of writers

This is an SOS appeal from Mr. David Lambert, instructor of English at Dillard University, who is working out a course on Nisei literary writers and poets, including also Issei early writers in the U.S.

Will any PC readers having information on, or knowing the present whereabouts, and addresses of the following: Bunichi Kagawa, Kenneth Yasuda, Chiyo Mori, Shiro Matsumoto, Hiroshi Kashiwaga, Frances Ogiso, and Toyo Suyemoto, contact Mr. David Lambert, 3320 Republic St., New Orleans, La. 70122. Also, will any of the aforementioned people please write directly to Mr. Lambert?

MARY OYAMA MITTWER 1056 N. DeGarmo Dr. Los Angeles 90063

A first step

I was gratified to read (PC Oct. 16) about the appointment of Warren Furutani as National JACL Coordinator, Community Involvement. The appointment is an indication that the JACL has become aware of the many issues which must be addressed. Resolutions and stands must be taken by JACL. More important, action relative to the amelioration of existing negative conditions (pollution, crime, civil unrest, war) must be developed.

The only effective way to address these issues is to develop social action committees in each chapter of the JACL. Some of the chapters have Human Relations Committees but am not aware of any effective committees. These committees must be rejuvenated or new ones set up to research pertinent issues and make recommendations for action by the various boards of JACL.

The appointment is the first step but unless there are additional steps, the effort will only be another concession to those forward thinking individuals who have worked to have Warren Furutani appointed. People must get involved.

YOJI OZAKI 4954 N. Monticello Chicago 60625

25 Years Ago

In the Pacific Citizen, Nov. 10, 1945

Soldier Son Writes to His Dad

(Next week the Nation observes Veterans Day — an appropriate time to reflect on the meaning and the price of peace and freedom. Earlier this year, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer published for the first time an unforgettable war letter captured from the pride, the will, the devotion and the heartbreak involved in a single soldier's personal letter. The letter was from George Sawada, graduate of Franklin High School, Seattle, and written to his father, Shinsaku, now deceased. The younger Sawada became a sergeant in the 42nd Regt. Combat Team. He died in action in Italy — something his letter appeared to foresee.)

En route to Camp Shelby April 30, 1943

Dear Dad: I hope you don't mind my calling you that. I haven't called you Dad before, but tonight for some reason or the other, I find Father such a cold, formal word, especially in Japanese, and Dad conveys just the meaning I want. It is as if you are just a name, but it expresses also the closeness of our relation and the deep mutual love and understanding which must exist between the two before a Japanese son can call his father Dad. I know that this is true of us so I have addressed you as such.

You are probably wondering why I have written you this letter so soon when we had just said goodbye only a few hours ago, but I felt that I owned it to myself and you to tell you some of the things I should have said and didn't when the time came for us to part. I don't know why I didn't. Perhaps, it was because I was overly reticent; perhaps, it was because we are Japanese, but mainly because, I think, I was a little bit selfish.

When Mother Died

You are old now — aged since Mother passed away many years ago and left you three little children to raise, but once you were not so old. You were young when she was alive and I can still remember what a happy family we were then.

Do you remember when we all went crab-fishing to West Seattle—that time when I was taken by a crab and howed so lustily? How you gently pried it from my fingers and then kissed them, which was such a strange thing for a Japanese to do, and when you saw Mother looking, you acted sort of gruff and turned sheepishly away? But Mother knew and loved you more.

Do you remember the day when we went fishing on Snoqualmie River and caught all those little trout, and when we were approached by the same warden, the difficulty you had explaining to him that we wanted to put them into the pool in our garden? The time we went hunting in

Seward Park with a b.b. gun and were almost arrested, and the scolding we received from Mother when we came home? Do you remember how happy we were when Mother was alive and you were young?

Then tragedy struck our home. I do not like to remember the months after she passed away. How lonely we children were and how more lonely you must have been. I know now how much you loved her, more than any or all of us. She was not a picture bride. You had met her when both of you were students in Hawaii, and you two had fallen in love. How happy you must have been together in your early days of marriage. I can only imagine from the happiness I knew.

Then that awful night when she died, you came home and told us as gently as only you knew how that she had gone away, that we mustn't cry because Mother wouldn't want us to. Hiro and I were Japanese boys so we didn't cry, at that time at least. But our little sister, she was such a little thing, cried into the night and, tired as you were from sleepless nights of vigil, you walked her to sleep.

You aged overnight. You would smile at us, but it was not from the heart. How sad you looked when you thought we were safely tucked in bed, and your pretenses dropped like a heavy load. Once I saw you weep, and I didn't know what to do.

Healing Balm

It is said that time is a healing balm, but I know that it was not time which awakened you from the numbness of this loss. You loved Mother more than you loved us too. We were her heritage to you, born of her in her love of you and now left in your care. The love you had for her now you gave to us. You were a father. Now you also became a mother and a little something more, and thinking of our welfare, you never married.

This was all very difficult for you at first for we were such thoughtful little ruffians. How trying we must have been to a lonely Father, I can only imagine. But the thought that we were without love of a mother constantly tempered your anger and impatience, and you loved us a little more for our weaknesses. Thus, in your love for us, you found surcease from sorrow and loneliness. And so the years passed.

I was now in grammar school. How proud you were of me when I made the school's indoor ball team. You looked so pleased when I showed you the letter I had won. But also how sad you could appear when you saw

my report card, but remembering your boyhood, you understood.

As we grew older, you became more our companion than a father, and business was better so that you could devote more of your time to our leisure. Do you remember the vacation we four spent in Idaho in the summer of 1927, the beauty of the places and the lakes which were teaming with bass which struck your bait with savage viciousness and fought to the bitter end? And the biggest fish that always got away? We four were almost as happy as when we were five.

Then came the Depression and overnight we were poor. Your business and even the college fund you had saved for me were lost in the debacle. I wanted to leave school and go to work, but you were vehemently against it. How well I remember that evening when I found you were so haggard and careworn, I hope, fully suggested this possibility.

Tired Shoulders

You slowly straightened your tired shoulders, and some of the haggardness slipped from your face as a smile of determination broke its bleakness.

"No," you said with quiet doggedness. "You shall continue your education." It was a promise. I do not know even to this day how such a dogged courage could stem from so tired and frail a body, but it did. You worked harder; your hair became a little more gray; your face, a little more careworn, but we weathered the debacle. That I was able to graduate from high school near the top of my class, I owe to this selfless love.

Seven more years passed, and I was graduated from college. You were proud of me then. After the graduation ceremony when I gave you the diploma you held it close to your heart and there were tears of joy in your eyes. I saw you weep again for the second time.

The same year, Hiro was inducted into the Army, and we four were three. We held a farewell dinner in his honor, and do you remember the prayer you gave then: "God keep us and grant us peace?" But God in his mysterious way did not heed our plea.

One December morn. out of the friendly sky, treachery struck with appalling devastation. You turned pale when you heard the news. For days after, you were silent in your misery. Japan was the country of your birth, but America was the country of your choice. From that day you ceased speaking of Japan. Out of this treachery grew our misery.

In the spring of the following year, we were forced to evacuate to the relocation centers. It was a bitter blow to me, I, a citizen, with a brother already serving in the Army, must evacuate, and I could not understand why the German and the Italian aliens were not included. I had had an unbounding faith in the justice of this nation, but she in return had placed me behind barbed wires like any enemy alien. I was stricken with bitterness, and bitter was my denunciation of the government for this apparent discrimination.

Sing of Bitterness

Then you comforted me and slowly withdrew the sting of bitterness as you did many years ago when Mother passed away. I could not understand at the time why you should attempt to restore my faith in the government which had never given you the right of citizenship and now by evacuation had made you again penniless. But I did not realize the love you bore for this country, made more dear because here it was that Mother had died and had been laid to rest: "Where your treasure is there will your heart be also."

How clearly I remember your words of consolation now, even as I write this letter. Wisely you said: "It is for the best. For the good of many a few must suffer. This is your sacrifice, accept it as such, and you will not longer be bitter." I listened to your words and the bitterness left me. A despised alien without citizenship, you showed me that it means to be a citizen. That I have retained my faith through this trying period and emerged what I am, a loyal American citizen, I owe to your understanding.

When the time came for enlistment, I was ready, my faith and loyalty restored, stronger, firmer, unwavering; I volunteered. And tonight as the train carries me farther and farther from you, it also seemed to carry me back over the years of our happy life, recalling to me those days when we were five, then four, then three, and now you are only two. I have written this letter for the victors that let them see the man behind the uniform.

There is an old Japanese or is it a Chinese saying that a man must weep three times his span of life is done, or words to this effect. I do not know whether this is true or not, but I have already seen you weep twice, once in sorrow and once in joy, and if this be true and it is predestined that you must weep again, then let me have written this glow for the victors that you shall surely be mine. God bless you, Dad, and keep you until this happy day.

Your son, George

A Rare Nisei-Sansei Dialogue

New York responded that he had earlier generated an interest in his personal experience which was of never being aware of being treated differently for being a Japanese American. He said that he was on the other hand prepared to protest any instances of discrimination or demonstrations of prejudice as a general policy.

Communication Gap

A New York Nisei noted the difficulty of communicating "with the younger people." During the period of his youth, he pointed out, conditions in this country were such that "we had to prove ourselves." Youth nowadays, he declared, don't want to study, saying "what's the use because-of-the-war, they don't do anything, they smoke pot... they seem engaged in useless things." The result, he said, is that "we can't communicate with them."

Moderator Takagi put to the audience the question, "It is felt that the JACL has been a racist organization in the past, and is it now? Have we been functioning at the sufferance of the white majority?"

A member of the audience said that some chapters could be condemned for an attitude of "Uncle Tomism" in their presentation of awards to "hakujin" for one reason or another, and the selection of white judges to select awards for Asians.

A Philadelphia Nisei said that she sees racism implicit in the JACL's past reluctance to align itself with other minorities and their causes. "We were afraid to take the risk," she charged. Having "made it" in the white society, she said, the JACL was unwilling "to make waves."

"Wait a minute," said Mike Masaoka. "let's not have yellow racism!"

Things Not Equal

Chris argued that such unwillingness to "make waves" indicated that "the question of 'making it' has been a very, very tenuous one." He said that "all things being equal," there ought not to be any objections to having white judges on a panel, for example, but that as the scale now stands, "all things are not equal."

Another Sansei cited the Japanese American role in society as that of the "super-qualified house nigger" simply because they do not "rock the boat."

Chris related a relevant incident which occurred at the Chicago JACL convention after the murder of young delegate Evelyn Okubo. Police who were called into the case told some young delegates, "You Japs, you're okay; not like the niggers!"

Mary Kochiyama, from the audience, returned to the question of whether or not Nisei had "made it" by pointing out that however successful the Japanese American may have become, "the ladder of success is leaning the wrong way because it has taken us away from our own heritage."

Mrs. Kochiyama criticized the JACL of past years for, (1) its "elitism" in attracting as members primarily professionals and others on a similar economic par, and (2) because during and after the crucial war years, "the JACL did not evaluate America."

She added that she found the afternoon's session a rewarding one, saying, "I hope that each of us will find in ourselves a little bit of each other" as a result of the open exchange of feelings and ideas.

—New York Nichibel



Sakura Script

Goldfish in the Subway

Tokyo We are living in a day of many strange things. For example, stations in Tokyo having tropical fish or birds are not rare.

Station personnel at a subway station on the No. 1 Metropolitan Subway Line are keeping goldfish. But the way they are kept is somewhat different.

The ticket gate is at the foot of a 60-step stairway after one enters the street level entrance. Passengers then descend to the platform from the ticket gate on a steep escalator. The platform is deep underground. The goldfish are in the drain beside the railway tracks below the platform. In order to see the goldfish, one must stand on the edge of the platform and peer down.

Subterranean waters gushing into the drain make a refreshing sound. The goldfish have been released in the clear, flowing water. The air is cool and fresh with a slight breeze. Water is always sprinkled on the platform and the loudspeakers are silent except during the commuting rush hours.

The station personnel obviously like living things. For a while, a baby monkey was tied by a chain to the ticket gate. This was not so pleasant and some passengers may have complained as the monkey disappeared shortly afterward.

When a passenger enters the station, the middle-aged where he is a welfare worker.

QUESTION BOX

A Zen Teacher

Where can I contact a Zen teacher? —L.L., Los Angeles. The Rev. K. Sayama of the Zen Buddhist Temple may be reached at the So. Calif. Japanese Chamber of Commerce, 125 Weller St., MA 6-5189, where he is a welfare worker.