

PUBLISHED WEEKLY by the Japanese American Citizens League... OFFICE at 125 Weller St., Room 307, Los Angeles, Calif. 90012.

RAYMOND UNO, President KAY NAKAGIRI, Board Chairman

HARRY K. HONDA, Editor

THE JACL BELIEVES in promoting active participation by the individual in civic and national life, securing justice and equal opportunities for persons of Japanese ancestry in America...

Friday, April 16, 1971

Harry K. Honda

Ye Editor's Desk

'WHO'S WHO IN THE WORLD' A New Yorker found spare time over a recent weekend to share some rare information. He went through the new "Who's Who in the World" (Marquis), published for the first time and containing 25,000 names...

While the editors of "Who's Who" have their own criteria for selecting the names, it is interesting to note who they are and many probably will wonder why others who are equally deserving were excluded.

NISEI—Edward Takashi Arakawa, physicist; Samuel Ichiye Hayakawa, educator; Nobutaka Ike, educator; Daniel Ken Inouye, U.S. senator; Ben Kamihara, artist; Isamu Noguchi, sculptor; Gyo Obata, architect; Arthur Okamura, artist; Tadashi Sato, painter; Pat Suzuki, singer; George Yamaoka, lawyer; and Minoru Yamasaki, architect.

JAPANESE-BORN—Sessue Hayakawa, actor (erroneously listed in U.S. as he lives in Japan); Shinya Inoue, educator; Shizuo Kakutani, educator; Joseph Mitsuo Kitagawa, educator; Kunihiko Kodaira, mathematician; Teruhisa Matsushita, educator; Itsuo Matsushita, business; Seiji Ozawa, musical director; Goro Shimura, educator.

Though a newspaperman of several decades, I must admit some of the Japanese-born "Who's Who" personalities are altogether unknown to me.

This much of "Who's Who" we know... you can't pressure your way into the read book, not even with money. Being in the blue book of high society is no guarantee, either.

The publishers in Chicago have explained that a person must have "reference interest" and have achieved his prominence by meritorious activity. Which explains why a well-known criminal who would have "reference interest" is disqualified because of coming up short on "meritorious activity."

There is a full-time staff of name-gatherers who scan the medias, books, catalogs and official lists, programs from art shows, etc., and an editorial board meets biennially to review the nominees from the name-gathering force. Those selected are then mailed biographical forms, which eventually appear as a capsule autobiography. Some also ignore the request, in which the case, if the editors feel these holdouts are too prominent to skip, an "unapproved" biography is gathered.

Of course, letting the people write their own biographies is no guarantee of 100 per cent accuracy and the publishers are aware of it. It tends to include only the good things about everyone. It's very "antiseptic," as one critic remarked, and "showing off". But it's still fascinating reading. Herbert Hoover used to take "Who's Who" to bed with him for the information and entertainment.

And the amount of space bears no relation to one's prominence. In the 1969 edition, Richard Buckminster Fuller, the engineer who designed the geodesic dome, has the longest biography, 135 lines, while former President Johnson's life is wrapped up in 30 lines.

San Francisco's Lincoln University started gathering data for its Directory of Distinguished Asians in 1969 but to date we have seen no mention of it being published. Some in JACL have toyed with the idea of coming up with a Nisei Who's Who but after seeing the enormity of the task at the voluntary level, it was shelved. As an editor, a Nisei Who's Who would come in handy.

'THE IDES OF APRIL'

As long as we had nothing coming back, we waited till this past week to fulfill our annual chores with Internal Revenue Service. The instructions that came with the forms in the mail are really too brief because in the expanded discussion on "Contributions" in the 75-cents IRS publication No. 17 was information we felt of interest to JACLers—and we quote.

"Out-of-pocket expenses that you pay in rendering services without compensation to a charitable organization are deductible as contributions. (And JACL is among the qualified organizations.) These include amounts you pay for transportation from your home to the place where you serve. Reasonable payments for necessary meals and lodging while you are away from home rendering donated services to a qualified organization are deductible (like being an official delegate to a JACL meeting or convention). However, you may not deduct expenses incurred to attend a (JACL) convention solely as a member of (JACL) rather than as a duly chosen representative. Unreimbursed expenses directly connected with and solely attributed to gratuitous service you may perform for (JACL) during the meeting are deductible. . . . However, you may not deduct personal expenses, such as expenses for sightseeing, fishing parties, theater tickets, night clubs, etc. The travel, meals and lodging (and any other) expenses for your wife, children, etc., are also nondeductible personal expenses."

There is a 6-cent per-mile standard rate allowed also to determine automobile expenses with parking fees and tolls deductible in addition. . . . If you pay more than fair market value, say for a box lunch at a social, the excess can be considered a contribution if the proceeds go exclusively to charity.

There are other possibilities—but perhaps it will require a tax expert to prepare something relevant to JACL members. Maybe with blank pages and columns appropriately headed to assist the active JACLer for record keeping is most important when itemizing deductions. The IRS publication says if you made numerous cash contributions to the same organization during the tax year, you may state the total cash payments made to it rather than listing each separately.



LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

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

Colley conviction Editor: Lt. William Colley has been convicted by a jury of his peers of murdering Vietnamese civilians, old people, women and children. Yet in the past week the "silent majority" of America has overwhelmingly voiced their support of Lt. Colley's action and their condemnation of the verdict.

LAWSON FUSAO INADA Southern Oregon College Ashland 97520 (For the record, Bill Hosokawa's "Fryer" column of Feb. 5 has a buoyant review which tries to initiate the average layman to the realm of poetry, especially a la Professor Inada.—Ed.)

Minnesota sounds off! Editor: I would like to thank Ray Uno for the nice things he said about me (Mar. 5 PC). I hope some of them are true.

Now, with my knowledge of international relations and politics, I would like to make a few observations. I am glad that there are so many nice white people or everyone would still be in the camps or on the way back. Why? Because I think the Japanese American not only has been stereotyped, but enjoys living his stereotype. The J-A has been brainwashed by society. It's a good thing that we were not stereotyped as drunks or we'd all be drunk. As it is we are only quiet Americans. I think it may be a gift that my contact with much of the Japanese community was small for no one told me to be quiet.

What are we quiet about? We are quiet about discrimination for one. The Japanese Americans have the best average education in the U.S., but are seldom found in leadership positions and have a lower average income. But why not how much does a bowl of rice cost? We never have much furniture. We still feel that we should portray our culture as dancing, flower arrangements, sukiyaki dinners. I wonder how the world's third largest, industrial giant likes this as her major contact with the minds of American school children.

It is interesting how people (white) will ask Blacks to describe the Black experience, but ask a J-A about flower arrangement. For some reason society feels the J-A has nothing to say about his unique experience in America. Perhaps we are ashamed of the camps or perhaps we lack pride. The lack of pride does not fit the Japanese stereotype, by the way.

No Guts Now It seems to me that one of the most educated, visible, minorities in the U.S. lacks the pride and the guts to stand up and be heard. It's easy to sit back and be manipulated. However, I don't believe in talk for talk's sake. In a country such as the United States there is little need for another "sacred wind society."

Press club award NEW YORK—Kyoichi Sawada, Pulitzer Prize-winning UPI photographer who was killed in Cambodia while on assignment, will be posthumously honored with the top photographic Capa award from the Overseas Press Club at its annual dinner April 23.

'JAPANESE AMERICANS: THE UNTOLD STORY' Riverside Rebut

I. Preface

This publication is the product of the Riverside Chapter JACL Civil Rights Committee, a voluntary, non-profit, "over 30" adult organization dedicated to serving the interests and rights of all individuals including those of a group of Japanese American authors to write a book relating the experiences of Japanese Americans in the United States without having to be subjected to the unreasonable demands of a group of critics who, for some reason, feel they are better qualified to judge how this experience should be told than the authors who have researched this subject.

These critics also presumed to represent the views of the over 100,000 Japanese Americans in the United States and were able to convince the California State Curriculum Commission to reject the book for consideration as a supplementary text in the California school system.

The Riverside JACL Civil Rights Committee has undertaken a public service this compilation of rebuttals to the Critical Reviews edited and published by the Ethnic Studies Committee of the Asian-American Student Alliance of Stanford University. (Apr. 2 and 9, PC).

Since, as stated in the Preface of their Critical Reviews, "as part of its overall goal of community service, AASA has always been alert to the potentials of ethnic studies curriculum in the public schools," we hope that the guiding principles they have used to attack the book, JAPANESE AMERICANS: THE UNTOLD STORY, will be used on all books that come before the California State Curriculum Commission dealing with the history of Japanese Americans.

The critiques noted in their pamphlet must be used to weigh and measure any book dealing with the subject of ethnic studies as they relate to Japanese Americans. They have assumed the awesome task of seeing to it that any book that does not measure up to these standards will not make its way into our school system no matter whether the authors are Japanese Americans or Caucasian Americans. If they fail in this course of action, if they fail to review and attack those books by Caucasian authors which do not meet these standards, then we must ask, "why do you only cut the throats of Japanese American authors?"

II. Critical Reviews

There are some points in the AASA Critical Reviews that we would like to clear up.

(1) On page 3 is a paragraph that needs clarification: "The conditional 'acceptance' of the book by the Executive Board of the National JACL Education Committee from the chairman of the newly-formed National JACL Education Publications Review Committee, which supported the earlier recommendation of the Southern California JACL Education Committee to the Executive Board, seemed to be a vote of 'no confidence' in the new Committee."

We would like to point out that the new chairman of the National JACL Education and Publications Review Committee was a member of the Southern California JACL Education Committee before this new appointment, and one of its principle spokesmen in opposition to the book. "The decision to support the Southern California Education Committee" was not an independently arrived at conclusion by the new Chairman but merely the same position he had held while on the Southern California Education Committee. To imply that these were two independent actions taken by two independent groups appears to us to be rather misleading.

(2) An apparently misleading omission was also noted in the letter dated July 13, 1970, from the Berkeley Unified School District, Asian American Task Force which is included in the Documentary Appendices of the AASA pamphlet, (page 28). This letter was included with the first two paragraphs omitted.

During the course of the Berkeley Unified School District Asian American Curriculum Development Workshop last week, we had occasion to review a new book for elementary school readers by the San Mateo Japanese American Curriculum Project: JAPANESE AMERICANS: THE UNTOLD STORY.

25 Years Ago In the Pacific Citizen, April 20, 1946 Seek test on 1943 California alien fishing ban. . . Return of Nisei stranded in Japan during war may be permitted. . . Report 79 Japanese Americans killed or missing in wake of April 1 Hiro tidal wave.

Indochina War

Philadelphia LAWYERS AS JURORS—Last fall I was privileged to address members of my own Philadelphia Bar on the legal issues that are inextricably involved in our participation in the Indo-China conflagration. As a sequel to the previous "East Wind" column and with your patience, I would like to share with you the message which was presented to the lawyers in Philadelphia.

Having been designated by the chairman of the International Law Committee to be one of the two proponent-speakers on the Resolution, I shall address myself to the question: "Should the Bar Association take a public position on this issue" of our American military involvement in Indo-China?

We are being called upon as members of the legal profession to express ourselves on the legal issues that are inescapably interlaced in this present resolution. Limitations of time will permit me only to touch upon but a few of these legal issues.

First, there is the Constitution of the United States, Article I, Section 8 involving no less than nine separate clauses of the war powers of Congress, including Congress' power "to declare war." That these powers reside in Congress, there is no doubt; the framers of our Constitution expressly rejected proposals to grant the war powers solely to the President, or even to the President and the Senate. And yet without observance of these constitutional provisions, we find our Nation embroiled in a prolonged conflagration that, aside from the Civil War and the two World Wars, has cost us more in casualties than any other war. Let none dismiss military involvement of this magnitude with the euphemistic label of "police action."

Moreover, the Tonkin Resolution fails to meet the constitutional requirements: the Constitution requires action by both Houses of Congress in the exercise of the war powers, whereas the Tonkin Resolution involved only the Senate acting in concert with the President. Nor does the designation of the President as "Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy" translate into the awesome power to declare war; this provision in the Constitution was set forth to assert civilian control over the military.

Another sphere of legal issues involves the question of our Government's observance of provisions of the United Nations Charter, to which our Nation was not only a signatory but also one of the principal architects. What of those provisions of the Charter obligating signatories to outlaw war, to refrain from unilateral use of force against other nations, to abide by the peacekeeping procedures for the settlement of differences between states? See: Chapter I, Article II(4) and Chapter VII, Section 39 of the U.N. Charter.

There is yet a third sphere of legal issues confronting us as lawyers: the common law of mankind which our Nation recognized and implemented by our participation in the Nuremberg Trials. See: 6 Federal Rules Decision 89 where the following are set forth as part of this common law of mankind. And I quote:

ARE YOU A SUBSCRIBER? Pacific Citizen, 125 Weller St., L.A., Calif. 90012 Rates: \$6 a year, \$11.50 for 2 years, \$17 for 3 years.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

THE LAWYERS' VERDICT —After much heated debate the vote to consider the Indo-China resolution favorably prevailed by a small majority at which point all two vocal members of the Philadelphia Bar Association resigned on the spot. Thereafter, a motion to place the question by mail ballot was plebiscited of the full Bar was adopted. Final result: the full membership declined to consider the legal issues of the Indo-China war.