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Nisei recall auto insurance bias

By PAT TASHIMA

Los Angeles
There was a time when the burdensome cost of auto insurance fell most heavily on the shoulders of the Issei and Nisei in California.

Following the war, several insurance companies levied higher premiums on evacuees trying to resettle in the state and were still suffering from the discrimination which prompted Evacuation of Japanese from the West Coast.

In extreme instances, Japanese were required to buy shares of the company before acquiring their policies.

To combat the problem, the Japanese pooled their capital and formed the Western Pioneer Insurance Company, the first and only automobile company organized by Japanese in California. And the discriminatory practice of setting premiums was remedied.

That was in 1949. Today, the circumstances surrounding high car insurance may be different, but the dilemma still exists. Skyrocketing insurance premiums have reached far beyond the Japanese community — now a good number of people living in the state's urban areas bear the financial burden of high premiums.

The issue has become a rallying point for Los Angeles County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn and his deputy Mas Fukai, who claim inner-city drivers pay substantially higher insurance premiums than drivers in outlying, suburban areas.

Sparked by their arguments, the County and City of Los Angeles have filed a

law suit against the state's major insurance companies — specifically, it seeks to stop companies from figuring rates based on where a driver lives.

"There's no question about it, that people who live in inner-city and urban areas are being ripped off," Fukai said.

"An inner-city driver travels three or four miles to work and pays \$900 in insurance. Compare this to the driver from Orange or Ventura County, who only pays \$350, yet drives 40 miles to work. There has to be a complete overhaul of the system."

Fukai, who recently represented Hahn at an insurance hearing in Boston, said the problem has become nationwide and believes other cities will follow L.A.'s footsteps and begin filing suits against the larger companies.

Hahn goes so far to say automobile insurance has developed into "the biggest rip-off in the United States" and costs inner-city drivers about \$900 million annually in excess premiums.

Both men dispute the insurance companies' practices of considering a driver's age and occupation in figuring rates. They also believe the companies should make public statistics that support their contentions inner-city drivers have more accidents, higher litigation and poorer driving records.

"We've disproven everything they've (the insurance companies) have come up with," Fukai said. "They say inner-city drivers are worse drivers, but



Los Angeles County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn (center) goes over automobile insurance statistics with his deputy, Mas Fukai, who represented Hahn in Boston at a major hearing on automobile insurance practices.

the California Highway Patrol says this is not true. We are the better drivers.

"I really believe this could be aired out and cleaned up if the companies could come up with the right statistics to show inner-city drivers are the bad drivers," he continued, "but their figures are strictly confidential."

Minority interests are yet another matter in the tangled insurance web.

"We have a lot of Japanese and other minority groups in the inner-cities," Fukai said. "The companies have definitely stereotyped minority groups."

"In East Los Angeles, obviously, you have a lot of Chicanos who cannot purchase insurance because there is no one there to sell to them. In Watts, which is predominantly black, no insurance is available."

"The best minority dri-

ver in the inner-city will pay more than the driver who is caught drunk, has been in an accident, has received two or three tickets and who lives in San Diego County."

The higher risks of the inner-city driver are not so exaggerated however, according to Frank Iwama, a Sacramento attorney, formerly with the state attorney general's office working on consumer affairs.

"Insurance costs go up as everything else goes up," he said. "It costs a tremendous amount just to represent people in litigation."

"In the inner-city, you have a lot more vehicle damage, more theft, more crowded conditions. In San Francisco, you can't leave your car in the street without expecting damage. It's logical that when you have

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36 WEEKS TO GO

Salt Lake City site of 25th Biennial

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — The newly built Little America Hotel is the site of the 25th biennial National Convention of the Japanese American Citizens League to be held next year during the third week of July (July 17—22).

Convention co-chairman Shake Ushio noted the JACL gathering will coincide with the annual Utah Pioneer Day festivities being held the same week, including a huge parade, rodeo competition in the air-conditioned Salt Palace and many other special events.

Adding to the exciting convention week is the geographic factor making Salt Lake City the hub of gorgeously scenic vacationland of the Intermountain West as well as being within easy traveling distances to Topaz, Minidoka, Heart Mountain and Amache, the sites of "our despair and degradation some 35 years ago". Post-convention or pre-convention trips to these points of interest are being suggested for Nikkei families.

Booster delegates will be encouraged to participate in many of the official convention activities, such as the seminars and workshops now being planned, exploring areas of vital concerns for all Japanese in America.

"Successful businessmen, political leaders and eminent people from the field of arts and science and letters are being sought to share with us their views and expertise," Ushio explained. "The project under personal direction of Municipal Judge Raymond Uno will require the help and cooperation of JACL leaders from around the country."

The Convention Board, mindful that JACL is celebrating its golden jubilee, is aiming to involve all 30,000-plus members in the spirit and proceedings of the national convention.

To accomplish this concept of "total involvement", according to Ushio, the Board has proposed to print enough convention booklets

filled with pertinent facts, historical data of all the chapters, districts and the national organization, biographical sketches of all National JACL presidents, demographic insights of the Japanese in America, etc., for distribution free to each JACL household.

Copies will also be distributed to members of Congress, state officials, local leaders and to friends. "Most importantly for the membership," Ushio added, "the booklet will also contain the action minutes of the 1978 convention proceedings so that members will know immediately following the convention what the JACL is doing and is committed to do in the following biennium."

(The last time this occurred was when the first National JACL Convention booklet of 1930 had integrated convention resolutions and the new constitution. The booklet went to all delegates after the convention.—Ed.)

The National JACL Board and the District Governors Caucus have endorsed this attempt to extend convention activities to the entire membership. But this ambitious undertaking requires a great amount of preparation, adequate financing and cooperation, Ushio continued.

The booklet committee, under leadership of Ted Nagata, trusts that the cooperation will be forthcoming. "To help finance this project, we are asking each chapter to pledge at least \$1 per member on its roster," Ushio announced. The pledge can be met by an outright grant, selling advertising space in the booklet or contributing through other fund-raising activities sponsored by the Convention Board.

Action memos to the chapters are forthcoming, Ushio said, asking for a short sketch about the chapter and its unique accomplishments. To date, two district councils and several chapters have formally pledged to support this project. □

The curious marriage of Osaka and Arkansas

FORREST CITY, Ark. — In this pleasant country town about midway between Little Rock and Memphis, the Warwick Electronics Co. plant faced with falling sales and rising losses cut its work force from 1,400 to less than 400 last year.

Today, the same plant has 1,300 full time workers; productivity is at an all-time high and sales & profit growing monthly. The reason: Sanyo Denki Kabushiki Kaisha, the Osaka firm and its small managerial and technical team, which came earlier this year to set things straight.

In addition, the curious marriage of Osaka and Ar-

kansas seems to be a striking social success, notes Washington Post reporter T. R. Reid who said the newcomers have been overwhelmed by the local hospitality though not by its cuisine. Arkansas is known for its hogs and the local delicacy, pork barbecue, has found little favor with the Japanese palate. Neither has "kattofishu".

The language problem has been trying at times because of the particular brand and pronunciation in the Deep South. For instance, "we had a terrible time asking people how to get to 'Burokshi' (Biloxi)," Mrs. Kazuo Watanabe (wife

of a Sanyo vice president) recalled as the visitors study Southern culture and visit the leading tourist spots. We are having wonderful trips through Mississippi and Tennessee."

The Arkansans here seemed equally pleased with their new neighbors. "Even if they weren't giving us all jobs, I'd have to say they were real good people," a local union leader at the Sanyo plant said.

Although the Japanese takeover came as something of a thunderbolt here in the northeastern corner of Arkansas, the Forrest

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BEING MISQUOTED

Price of Being a Columnist

LOS ANGELES — An irate George Yoshinaga now knows the success and pitfalls of being a columnist — he's quotable and also misquotable.

Yoshinaga, a columnist for the Kashu Mainichi, confronted the Committee to Preserve Property Rights (CPPR) at a Gardena city council meeting last week, challenging the group's use of a quote he says was taken out of context.

The anti-redevelopment group made it appear he was opposed to redevelopment in its literature mailed to 15,768 registered

Gardena voters, Yoshinaga said.

In reality, he supports the formation of a community redevelopment agency, whose fate will be decided in a special election Nov. 15.

The CPPR used a statement from one of Yoshinaga's columns, "Horse's Mouth", published eight months ago. It read: "When the original idea of redevelopment was proposed, everyone was for it. It sounded great, but because of false promises from the CRA and those involved in it, people are becoming very leery about the whole

idea."

The statement, according to Yoshinaga, had nothing to do with redevelopment in Gardena, but represented his views toward redevelopment in Little Tokyo.

Yoshinaga said he was upset the statement wasn't attributed to his column of several months ago and said it "looked like an endorsement."

"They (CPPR) have enough solid arguments without stooping to this," he said. "I guess they needed a Japanese name and they used me."

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Chapter People Handling JACL Memberships

Membership fee shown after the name of the Chapter reflect the current rate for Single and Couple. Thousand Club members now contribute \$35 and up; their spouse (TC sp) may enroll at a special rate as shown, otherwise Report Late Changes to Pacific Citizen.

the Single rate applies. Student (s) dues do not include PC subscription but such members may subscribe at the JACL rate of \$5 per year. Membership checks are payable to the JACL chapter of the individual's choice.

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Moses Lake, Wash 98837
Gresham-Troutdale (\$15-27)
Ed Fujii
1516 NW Division
Gresham, Ore 97030
Mid-Columbia (\$15-26, TC)
George Watanabe sp\$13
Rt 2, Box 1603
Hood River, Ore 97031
Portland (\$15-27)
Nobi Azumano
2802 SE Moreland Lane
Portland, Ore 97202
Puallup Valley (\$15-25)
Hanna Yoshida
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Tacoma, Wash 98408
Seattle (\$15-28, s\$6)
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Seattle, Wash 98104
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Spokane, Wash 99202
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Hiro Nakai
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Auburn, Wash 98002

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chapter pulse

● Sacramento

Installation of Sacramento JACL chapter officers is slated for Saturday, Nov. 26 at the Red Lion Inn's Redwood Ballroom. Event begins with a no-host cocktail hour at 6 p.m., followed by a prime rib dinner at 7. Dancing to Joe Kline's orchestra will begin at 9:30.

The following officers were nominated for 1978:

Don Ito, pres; Stan Tanaka, vp-program; Sally Hitomi, vp-active; Pat Nishi, treas; Joey Ishihara, 1000 Club; Percy Masaki, memb; Rod Nishi, youth; Floyd Shimomura, Stan Tanaka, del.

Site of the Henry Taketa testimonial dinner this Sunday, Nov. 6, has been changed from Sacramento Inn to the Red Lion Inn, which is across the road. Price is \$12.50 per plate.

● San Gabriel Valley

Mrs. Toshi Ito of El Monte has been elected to the presidency of the San Gabriel Valley JACL. She and her cabinet officers will be installed at a combination Installation/Scholarship Banquet on Saturday, Nov. 12, at the Great Wall Chinese Restaurant, 232 S. Glendora Ave., West Covina. Cocktail hour will be from 6:30 and dinner at 7:30.

Dr. Ted Tsukahara, a chapter member who formerly was an associate professor of economics at Pomona College and presently with the Atlantic Richfield Co. as Products Division Manager, Operations Analysis, will be the main speaker. His timely message is entitled: "Where Have Our Heroes Gone: Vignettes from the Past and Visions of the Future".

Each year the chapter funnels part of the dinner fee to its Scholarship Fund. Dinner is \$8.50 per person, \$2 of which is being placed in the Fund. Dinner reservations may be made by calling Ted Hamachi, chairman (337-8436), or sending a contribution to the scholarship fund to him at 238 N. Walnuthaven Drive, West Covina, Ca. 91790.

At its last board meeting, \$300 was donated to the Japanese Community Center building fund in addition to the \$1,610 made previously in July. The chapter also donated the entire proceeds of the white elephant booth to the Center.

● Sonoma County

The Sonoma County JAYS will have its recognition dinner for all persons over age 65 on Saturday, Nov. 19, 5:30 p.m. at Enmanji Memorial Hall. Entertainment will follow. Tickets are \$4.50 per person, obtainable from any JAY member or from:

Margarette Murakami, George Okamoto, Martin Shimizu, Frank Oda, Hitoshi Kobayashi, Fumi Tajii.

Members of the chapter ballroom dance class continue to meet on the third Saturdays at Enmanji Hall.

Instructors Marv and Lorraine Storms are teaching both beginner and advanced students so that there is no catch-up involved.

● Tulare County

Tulare County JACL announced its next Las Vegas trip will be held over the Nov. 18-20 weekend—week-end after the CCDC convention.

Chapter membership hit an all-time high of 252 members this year.



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PACIFIC SQUARE INN — Hotel

WEST MALL

SAN RIO — Gift Gate
SUPER SHEARS — Hair Styling
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MASTERS GOLF & GIFTS — Sport Shop
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INSURANCE

Continued from Front Page

more people on the road at the same time, there are more possibilities of vandalism and theft. Then, once an accident does occur, there's the cost of litigation."

In spite of the added risks, Iwama said he doesn't believe the higher premiums are proportionate to the companies' claim costs and agrees with Hahn that insurance is presently a major "consumer rip-off."

From his work in consumer affairs, Iwama found a good number of letters were received from people complaining about companies trying to cancel or

hike rates after an accident occurred.

"I really think a lot can be done. Insurance companies are like any other business. They have to be regulated. The situation should be remedied."

But the cost of insurance isn't a "cut and dry" issue, according to Paul Tsuneishi, of Tsuneishi Insurance Co. in downtown Los Angeles. To him, insurance is simply "being priced out of the ability to pay."

"Even in affluent San Fernando Valley, there's going to be 20% who can't pay their premiums," he said.

"Insurance is the transfer of risk to an insurance company for consideration and that is called a premium. It's a system of

transfer of risk from an individual to a company and that system is in serious trouble, whether it's auto or health."

While admitting the industry's pricing strategy is debatable, Tsuneishi said an "open rating system" in use in California makes it possible for companies to file rates based on its own experiences in certain geographic areas without obtaining prior approval.

"If you have proportionately more accidents and claims in certain areas, you can file for higher rates in that area. Any company is free to do whatever it wants to within 'reasonable limits,'" he said.

Like others, Tsuneishi doesn't have a concrete answer to the insurance dilemma, but knows Hahn's proposal to eliminate geographical ratings is not the answer.

"I understand the proposal will set a flat rate for everybody. If you did like Hahn says, then rates of all good drivers in California would be substantially higher — you're spreading the risk across the total population. That means whether you're 19, 49, or 99,

you all have the same risk. The good drivers' risks would go up substantially and I don't think they'll stand for that in the San Fernando Valley and Orange County."

For both sides, answers are hard to find.

In 1949, the solution was proven workable by the Japanese. A new company was formed to serve the interests of the persecuted group.

Today's inner-city insurance struggle, however, involves several groups — one solution is not likely to serve the diversity in interests. Loopholes can be found in any plan suggested.

"If the government gets involved, you get added costs," Iwama said. "The industry has to police itself. If it doesn't, it will have to be regulated like telephone companies. The whole insurance industry has to be looked at — automobile, home, life, accident, hospital. It all adds up."

"If you look at the average annual household budget, I would imagine insurance premiums would take up a good part of it." □

WW2 PWs seek legal ground to sue for illegal treatment

SAVANNAH, Ga.—A group of U.S. veterans held prisoners of war during World War II has been formed to determine whether there are any legal grounds to sue the Japanese government and certain Japanese industries for alleged inhumane treatment and illegal use of prisoners as slave labor to aid the Japanese war effort.

An advisory council — American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor — was formed during a recent reunion here by members of the 27th Bomb Group who fought as infantrymen on Bataan and surrendered April 9, 1942.

John R. Wood, the group's attorney from Sarasota, Fla., and a former PW, said, "A fundamental question is whether international law will permit such an action as the suit we are proposing. We hope to establish tort liability on behalf of warring nations for inhumane treatment. Also we want to see if the companies the prisoners worked for can be held liable."

"We were the only POWs in history ever sold by a government as slaves to factor-

ies," said retired master sergeant Samuel D. Moody, a member of the advisory committee. "The Japanese used American workers in their factories so they could send their own workers to war."

"We believe there is a difference between treatment that takes place in an act of war and in treatment as a consequence of war," Wood said.

The group said it would bring suit either in Japanese courts or the World Court in Geneva.

All former prisoners of Japan, who served with the American troops on Wake Island, Guam, the Philippines or in China during World War II are being asked to file a claim, Wood said. □

Asian Caucus and Carter aide meet

LOS ANGELES — Director Joji Konoshima of the Asian-Pacific American Affairs unit of the national Democratic committee, in town from Washington, D.C. for a dinner honoring the President, was guest of honor at a luncheon Oct. 21 hosted by George Doizaki, president of the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, Inc. Attending were:

Asian Democratic Caucus members—David Woo, pres; Sue Embrey, Les Hamasaki, Kats Kunitugu, Chun Y. Lee, Lani Sakoda, Kaz Umemoto, France Yokoyama and Toshiko Yoshida.

The Caucus has endorsed the JACCC and supports its efforts to get funding from the Japan-U.S. Friendship Fund.

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Alcoholism Action Week

LOS ANGELES—Alcoholism Action Week, a statewide program of information and education on alcoholism and alcohol abuse, will be observed throughout the state of California Nov. 14-20. The announcement came from Dr. Jokichi Takamine, board chairman of the Alcoholism Council of Greater Los Angeles.

70th anniversary

MARYSVILLE, Calif.—The Marysville Buddhist Church marked its 70th anniversary Oct. 22. First services were held in 1908 at the home of Buntaro Nakamura on Oak St. Its present temple was dedicated on Oct. 23, 1938. The multi-purpose hall built in 1972 and a social hall completed in 1930 comprise the church complex.

Laguna school reunion

MONTEBELLO, Calif.—Nisei who attended Laguna School prewar will have their second reunion Nov. 5, 5:30 p.m., at Sportsman Restaurant, 1500 W. Washington, according to Rosie Kakuuchi (722-0566).

Central Cal chapters slate emergency life saving classes

FRESNO, Calif. — Tulare County JACL and Fresno JACL chapters are planning to sponsor classes in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), an emergency procedure whereby a properly trained person is able to assist someone whose heart-beat or breathing has stopped due to heart attack, fainting, drowning, suffocation, electrocution, choking or any similar emergency situation.

Mrs. Setsu Hirasuna (431-4348) has information on the

Fresno class.

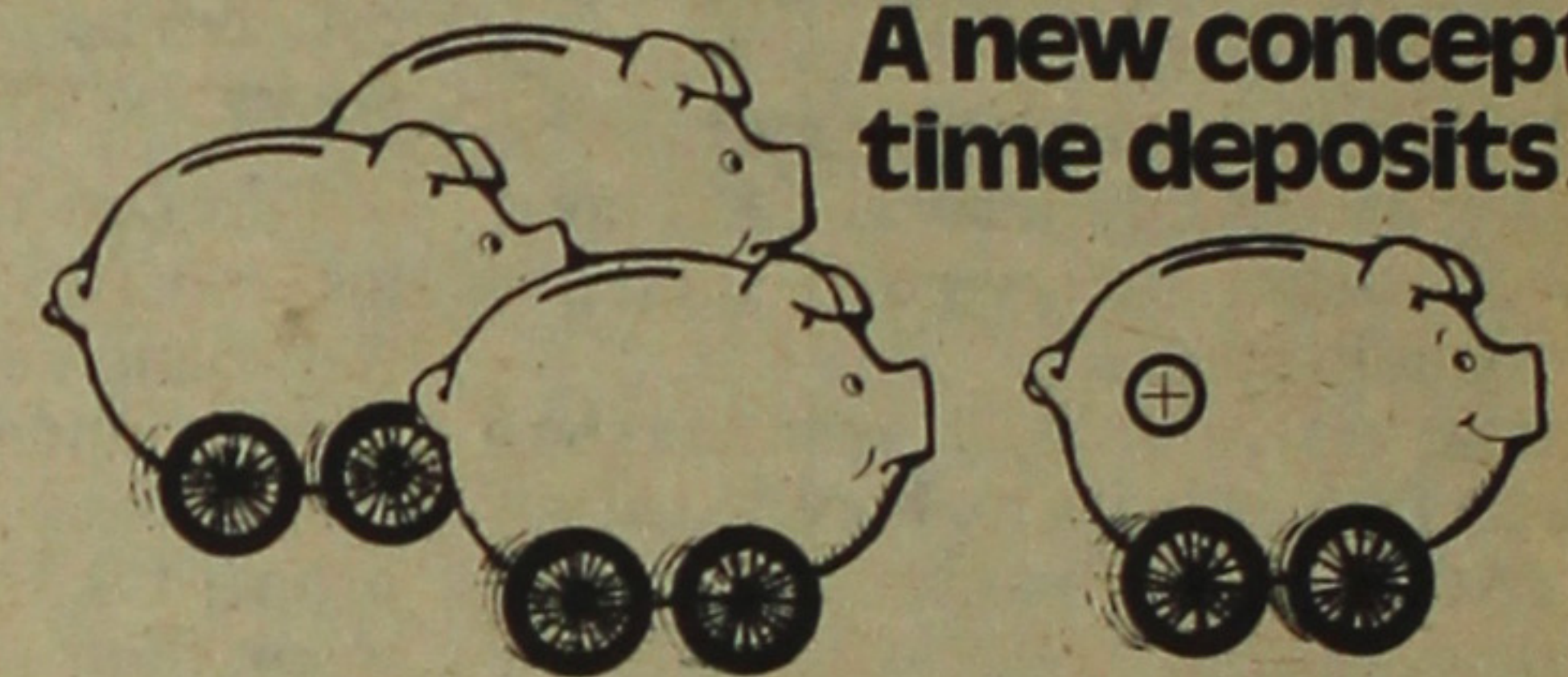
Norman Otani, Central California youth commissioner, who attended the course in early September, found the course was designed to allow anyone — student, parent or grandparent — to understand the information and be confident to provide emergency CPR.

Those wishing more information on CPR may call, in Fresno:

Ernest Kazato MD (264-2682); or Bruce Hasegawa (255-6166).

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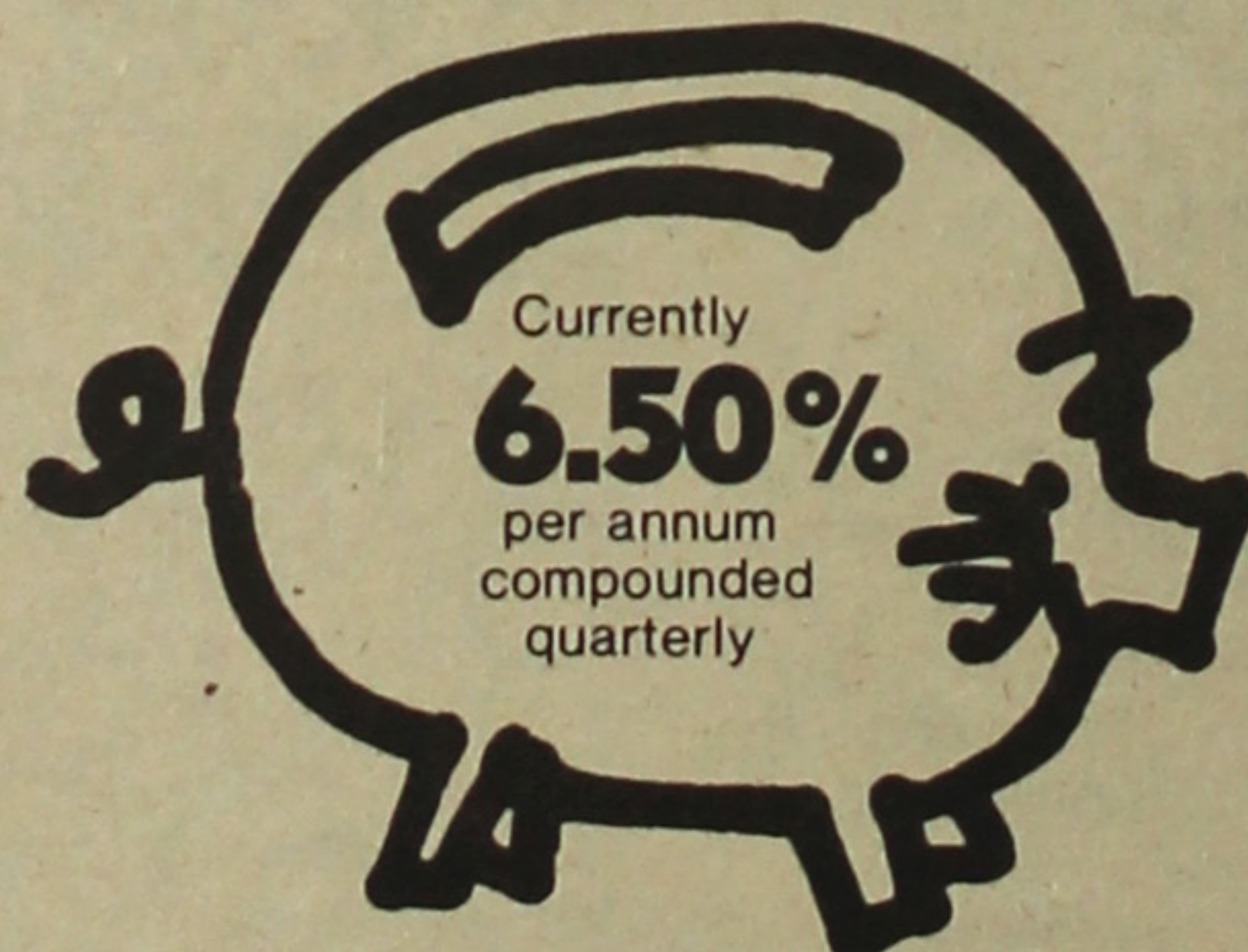
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Comments, letters & features

Renew JACL Membership

Because our PC subscriber's expiration (month/year) is being added to show on all address labels (over two-thirds of the 23,000 address cards now show them), members are urged to renew their JACL membership as early as possible to insure uninterrupted service.

Chapters should process all renewals on time—especially those whose subscriptions are about to expire in January or February, 1978.

Because the Cheshire-Xerox address lister in the PC office, where our address labels are now generated, can be programmed automatically "not to print" labels of those whose subscriptions have expired, any processing delay at the chapter level may mean a subscription cutoff and consequent ill-feelings.

Because all 1977 JACL memberships expire on Dec. 31, persons enrolled in any of the JACL health plans or those planning to participate in the 1978 JACL travel program should renew immediately—even though the address label indicates a later expiration. The Post Office says subscrib-

ers are entitled to a full 12 months. Hence, we always fear that some members may think their JACL status as being "current and active" because they continue to receive the Pacific Citizen. Put another way, a person who joined in September, 1977, will continue to receive the paper through August, 1978, even though membership will have expired on Dec. 31, 1977.

A directory of chapter people handling JACL memberships appears elsewhere in this issue (page 2). It is current through Oct. 1, 1977. Changes are expected as new officers take over, but the amount of dues should be stable through 1978.

This new method of processing renewals and subscriptions was prompted by the rising cost of our maintaining delinquent members and subscribers.

And we feel it is fair to cut off at the proper time now that subscribers can see when their expirations come—it appearing on the address label. But also remember the 1977 JACL membership expires on Dec. 31.

JACL Reparations Committee: Clifford Uyeda

Why Reparations?

Part One

During the dark days of early 1942, JACL leaders gathered to decide whether they should cooperate in their own evacuation or whether they should resist it.

If it was the will of the President that evacuation might be a necessary contribution to the national defense, they reasoned, as good Americans they felt that JACL ought to cooperate. However, they said that at some appropriate time, somewhere, somehow, the Japanese Americans would send a bill of particulars to the Congress of the United States and ask for redress for what they would suffer unjustly. (Mike Masaoka @ Sacramento Convention, 6/23/76.)

Thus, as far back as the spring of 1942, JACL is on record for calling for a reparation campaign when the time is right. Many JACLers think the time has come.

A report by the special State Dept. investigator Curtis B. Munson (Munson Report, Nov. 1941), certifying the extraordinary degree of loyalty to the United States among Japanese Americans, was known to the President, State, War and Navy departments. (Years of Infamy, Weglyn, p. 34.)

Executive Order 9066 of Feb. 19, 1942, approved by Congress in March, 1942, ordered the exclusion of all Nikkei residents from the three West Coast states and Alaska. Persons of Japanese ancestry were deemed national security risks although there was no evidence or record of treason, sabotage or espionage. Japanese in Hawaii were not evacuated, although located in a highly strategic area.

The government of the United States, therefore, without any evidence of misconduct or disloyalty, uprooted and imprisoned practically all Pacific Coast residents of Japanese ancestry (112,000).

Losses sustained by the evacuees were far reaching, not only in monetary value but the psychological and emotional damages from the Evacuation experiences that were to plague Japanese American communities well into the next generation.

Property losses alone sustained by the evacuees were estimated by the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco at \$400 million in 1942. The Evacuation Claim bill of 1948 paid only 8½% on each dollar lost.

By custom and tradition, any American who has been injured by false accusations is expected to bring those responsible into court and obtain a judgment clearing his name and awarding him monetary damages from the offending parties.

Although loss of freedom and injustice can never be equated monetarily, a mean-

ingful redress is a tangible expression of our government's acknowledgment of the injustice and wrong committed against persons of Japanese ancestry in this country. It serves to warn against future similar abuses.

The concept of federal monetary compensations for injustice and injury perpetrated upon Americans, by the U.S. government is an established fact.

Alaska natives (U.S. citizens with one-quarter Eskimo, Aleut or Indian blood can qualify) have been awarded a billion dollar settlement by Congress in 1971.

The mass arrest of 1,200 demonstrators on the steps of the U.S. Capitol in May, 1971, resulted in a jury verdict in 1975 of awarding \$10,000 per person for violation of their rights under the First and Eighth Amendments.

During the same World War II in Europe, Jews became victims of Nazi persecution. What the Federal Republic of Germany has done about this will be the subject of our next presentation.

A great deal of research and thoughts have already been expended by many concerning reparations for Japanese Americans incarcerated by their own government during World War II.

With much comprehensive studies available, especially by members of the Pacific Northwest District, we wish to present them to JACLers in a systematic review. We hope to review and clarify the pros and cons of the issues presented.

We are indebted to the many concerned JACLers who have spent enormous time and energy in the preparation of their particular views. They will be relied upon heavily in the preparation of our reviews.

We are looking forward to many comments from the readers. Please address them in care of the Pacific Citizen or the JACL National Headquarters. These will be reviewed for future presentations.

Bakke Case

Editor:

I vaguely recall a Pacific Citizen poll which indicated that Bill Hosokawa's column "From the Frying Pan" was the most widely read in the paper. With this in mind, I feel I have to respond to his Oct. 14 column on the Bakke case.

I agree totally with his statement that "there is great danger in trying to simplify the issues." Yet he very simply stated that the Univ. of California and JACL are "in favor of a racial quota to help disadvantaged minorities get into medical school in preference over whites considered to be better qualified." (italics mine).

A key issue in the Bakke case is: "What constitutes 'better qualified' in terms of medical school admissions?" Certainly, grades and standardized test scores are important criteria. Nonetheless, they have never been considered to be the only criteria. Other factors, including letters of reference and extracurricular activities, for example, which try to determine subjective qualifications such as character or dedication, have always been taken into account. Less publicized is the preference given to applicants whose father is a doctor, or an alumnus, or has given large amounts of money to the school.

In recent years medical schools, as well as the Supreme Court of California, have recognized that a diversified student body is a legitimate, and desired, goal for a school. Furthermore, they have determined that the need for more minority doctors to serve minority communities is a very relevant concern for medical schools. These factors lead to the development of minority admissions, not merely the recognition "that such

grievous wrong has been done to racial minorities in the past that it now is necessary to adopt exceptional measures to assist these minorities."

Thus, the special admissions program at Davis is a case of *expanding* the list of qualifications for medical school admission, rather than *lowering* the standards for minority applicants.

Finally, it is incorrect to conclude that, of the many forms, "disadvantage" might take, the Univ. of California only addresses itself to one, namely "race". In the particular school in question, it is not enough to simply be a member of a minority group to be eligible for the special admissions program. An applicant must also show evidence of *economic* disadvantage, a stipulation which resulted in many Sansei being referred to the regular admissions program instead.

I agree with him that the Bakke case "is so complex, and so fraught with emotion." I hope this letter helps to clarify, rather than to confuse, the many issues at hand.

TOM HIBINO

Chicago, Ill.

Reparations

Editor:

Having no sense of humor, I do not particularly feel flattered to be regarded as a postwar person, as was commented in reference to the remarks made by Mariko S. Koide in her "anti"-Reparations letter (PC, Oct. 10). It is irrelevant to the issue. However, I could have very well been a postwar Sansei or Yonsei who is still suffering indirectly from the trauma of Evacuation. Just like the descend-

ants of native American Indians or black slaves who are still traumatized by the brutal treatment accorded their ancestors by the government.

Ms. Koide states, "It is not today's government that made the mistake. Why should it pay?" My answer to that would be... there is no statute of limitations on correcting past injustices. Governing a nation is an ongoing function. Events that are finally recognized as unjust or illegal are certainly the responsibilities of the current government to correct and yes, indemnify. Especially so, in a democracy.

Using the vernacular of Ms. Koide, I would like to see her and other good and proud Nikkei like her work *issokenmei* for Reparations because it would be *majimena shigoto* and we have *gaman*'ed enough on too many issues that affect our welfare.

KEN HAYASHI

Anaheim, Calif.

For the record, Ken was 24-years-old and city editor of the Tulean Dispatch, when he left Tule Lake in April 1943 for points east. He was still single and not married as reported.—Ed.

Short Notes

Editor:

Thank you very much for your very generous coverage of the Japanese American Curriculum Project, Inc. (Oct. 21 PC) ... We hope to expand our services to the community. We are still struggling to make our operations financially self-sufficient. Your support of our services is most important and sincerely appreciated.

FLORENCE YOSHIWARA

San Mateo, Calif.

ARKANSAS

Continued from Front Page

City situation is hardly unusual. In the past five years, Japanese firms have taken over or built dozens of factories in the United States, producing everything from airplanes to zippers for American and foreign markets.

The new pressure for import quotas against foreign goods—as reflected in the "orderly marketing agreement" on Japanese color television sets that went into effect last month—may well lead more Japanese manufacturers to seek American plants.

The impending television quota largely prompted Sanyo to buy the Forrest City plant from Warwick, which was a subsidiary of Whirlpool.

Warwick for years had held a lucrative contract to produce private label sets for Sears, Roebuck & Co., the nation's largest television retailer. But in the early 1970s, Warwick ran into serious quality problems. Its rate of rejected sets went far over the industry average, and Sears asked Sanyo to provide technical help.

But Sanyo officials, guessing that a quota system was in the offing, offered instead to buy Whirlpool's interest in the Warwick plant—and its Sears contract. The sale was consummated in December, 1976.

Sanyo quickly dispatched a team of technical experts from its Osaka headquarters, and the Japanese set out to tighten work standards in Forrest City.

In addition to regular ob-

servation along the assembly line, Sanyo installed numerous inspection stations to check sets moving through the plant.

The factory boasts its own broadcasting booth, to send test signals, and a "tumbler" device that flips completed sets 360 degrees through the air. If a screw falls out, it is traced back to the worker who was supposed to install it.

In the Japanese corporate style, Sanyo set out to create a "big happy family" atmosphere to enhance morale at the plant.

Among other things, the management brought along a variation of the Japanese concept of lifetime employment. Unlike U.S. television firms, which lay off most of the work force when production for the Christmas rush is finished, Sanyo says it will not cut employment in slack seasons.

Sanyo is also struggling to institute another Japanese tradition—management by committee.

In Japan, where group consciousness is a transcendent social value, corporate decisions are normally made by a consensus among a team of top managers.

Sanyo has transferred that notion to Forrest City

by establishing a six-man "operating committee", half American and half Japanese, which is supposed to resolve business decisions ranging from where to buy millions of dollars worth of parts to the weekly salary of an interpreter to aid Japanese employees at the plant. "For some people, it's been a hard adjustment," said Tanemichi Sohma, an Osaka native who is one of three Japanese on the committee.

"These people in Arkansas are pretty independent. Some of them couldn't stand making decisions in the committee. Of course, they had to leave."

Although the six committee members are supposed to have equal authority, several observers have concluded that Sohma is more equal than the rest. Language is the secret; he is the only person who is fluent both in Japanese and English.

The amiable, energetic Sohma first came to the United States in 1951 to take a job in Hollywood as Hedda Hopper's butler.

As a result, he speaks a clear, if somewhat nondiplomatic, English ("If people mess up, I will tell them hell" he says).



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U-no Bar: Raymond S. Uno

An Uncut Diamond

Salt Lake City

It has often been said, it is not how long one lives, but the quality of the time involved in one's life. A week ago, our neighbor's son passed away at the age of 14, the same age as one of my sons. I don't think that I am too emotional or sensitive to death; however, when an outgoing, beautiful, intelligent human being dies, it makes one's heart ache in pain at the loss. We ask, why? Why so young? Why this boy? Why now?

Although he seemed to have struggled like other young boys through adolescence and youth, he exuded a warmth and love for life that glows and helps brighten others in quest for happiness. That warmth and love for life is no more. We who knew the boy feel this vacuum; it is this makes tears surface which we strain to hold back vainly.

Having five sons, all growing and facing an uncertain future, I especially find such tragedy a shocking and grim experience. It makes me realize that every moment of one's life is important. That although each passing day may not reveal the value of each hour that has transpired, those hours are but memories of what we have or have not done.

Some very fortunate people are able to fill each moment of each hour with an abundance of love for life—the quality mentioned above. We envy these people

for they are rare, indeed.

However, we all can strive to do the best we can for ourselves and our families and sometimes, this is all we can ask of anyone. This I strive for as I try to help my five sons grow to maturity.

My oldest boy has a poster taped to the wall of his room. On the bottom of a picture serenely depicting the passage, the poignant phrase from William Blake reads as follows:

*To see a world in a grain of sand
And a heaven in a wild flower,
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand
An eternity in an hour.*

Only a poet can put in a nutshell what for the rest of us will take pages. I hope all of us and our children have the opportunity to feel life as poetic as these words.

This is a long way to get to the 1978 National JACL Biennial Convention in Salt Lake City. Somehow, I wish to make this convention and the workshops bring out the best we have in JACL and all of the prospective participants in the workshops and other activities.

In our own way, we have been blessed with rich experiences and happenings. If we can somehow share these so we each can grow and mature to higher levels yet unknown, but waiting for our arrival.

We have tremendous opportunities to enrich our

lives and our children's lives with the resources we have available. We need but to marshal those resources and utilize them for the best good we know how.

At various places and times, I have talked to many people about workshops on politics, education, writers, and business/employment. They appeared enthusiastic and intrigued by the possibilities. Because we Salt Lakers are burdened with the success of such a venture, multitudes of thoughts constantly pass through my mind of what can be done. I get overwhelmed because I see the world in a grain of sand, heaven in a wild flower, infinity in the palm of my hand and eternity in an hour. Believe me, I get obsessed and shaken with the potential.

I hope there may be some or even more of you who feel the same way. Time is short, each moment is precious, each thought like an uncut diamond waiting for us to shape it to bring out its beauty and value for all to see.

I hope you will share the enthusiasm I feel and you will share it with me by writing to me and helping our formative committee develop these ideas into an exciting and memorable convention format.

Judge Raymond Uno would like readers and members to share ideas about the 1978 Convention. Write to him at 1135 Second Ave., Salt Lake City, Utah 84103.—Editor.

ments without first obtaining verification.

"I am hopeful that all citizens can have their privacy protected by giving individual cities the right to exercise control of the materials which appear on taxpayer paid-for brochures mailed to the voters of the respective cities.

"In my case," he continued in his column, "the damage has been done because the pamphlets have already gone into the mail and all the voters have them in their hands."



From the Frying Pan: Bill Hosokawa

The Bakke Case

Denver, Colo.

In the past few weeks it seems every newspaper pundit worthy of the name has commented on the Bakke case. Allan Bakke, you will recall, is a white man who filed suit against the University of California at Davis to require it to enroll him in its medical school. Bakke contends he was denied one of the 100 slots open at the school because 16 of them were reserved for racial minorities with lesser academic credentials than his. He charged this constituted reverse discrimination.

The Supreme Court of the United States has heard Bakke's plea. Now there will be weeks and probably months of waiting until the justices reach and announce a decision. Whichever way they rule, there will be a fresh outburst of newspaper comment for the Bakke case poses one of the knottiest dilemmas in the history of the civil rights movement.

I have read a substantial number of the commentaries and the preponderance seems to support the position of the University which is what the JACL's brief also does. In fact, many of the questions asked by the justices during oral argument indicate a tilt toward Bakke. The prevalent rationale seems to be that discrimination in favor of disadvantaged minorities is necessary in these times to help overcome past injustices. Many of the writers argue that society is race-conscious, and we must recognize this fact in promoting the efforts of racial minorities to improve themselves.

These commentators, unfortunately, do not concern themselves with the difficulty of determining race.

When, for example, is a black a black? Will his status be determined by his appearance? Would a relatively light-skinned person with a black great-grandmother be black or white under the rules? Would it come to minorities having to carry pedigree papers to establish their eligibility for special minority programs? These are not frivolous questions.

It can also be asked whether a student

with a Mexican-born father named Gonzales, and a tenth generation white American mother named Johnson, would be a Hispanic under the racial ground rules. And what if his parentage were the other way around, with his mother a Hispanic and his father an Anglo. Would that make a difference?

There is a disturbing similarity between the current preoccupation with race, and what happened to Japanese Americans in 1942. Back then the U.S. government decided all persons of Japanese ancestry living on the West Coast were automatically, by reason of race, a danger to the national security. (Oddly enough this doctrine did not hold true in Hawaii.) The evacuation was conducted on a racial basis, much to the distress of Japanese Americans, and even a fraction of Japanese blood was ruled to be reason enough for locking people up. In the present case it is argued we should assist a minority, again on a racial basis.

Back in 1942, it was reasoned that something bad (the suspension of civil rights and imprisonment on a racial basis) was acceptable because something very important (national security) was at stake.

Now it is being argued by some that something bad (discrimination against Bakke) must be accepted because something very important (affirmative action, helping the disadvantaged, etc.) is also at stake. If we condemn evacuation, can we accept discrimination against Bakke and still be consistent?

This, of course, is a simplistic argument and there probably are many holes that could be picked in it. But the parallel is close enough to be worrisome.

Special consideration for the aspirations of disadvantaged minorities is a desirable goal, but somehow the idea of declaring race to be the criteria for extraordinary treatment—either friendly or hostile—is disturbing, particularly in light of our experience as a discriminated-against minority. Discrimination on account of race should be recognized as a barrier to social and economic progress, but as only one of several.

Ye Editor's Desk: Harry K. Honda

Our New 'By-Liner'

A new by-line appears on our front page this week and we would like to welcome her to the Pacific Citizen staff. Patricia Hatsuye Tashima is a Cal State-Fullerton honor graduate in journalism, class of 1977, who has just finished an internship with our colleagues a few blocks west of us—the Los Angeles Times. She first came by the PC office (when it was on Weller St.) looking for leads on a Little Tokyo feature to which she had been assigned.

And during the course of conversation (we often try to "home in" or "get a handle" on visitors who stop by), it was found that we have mutual friends in her uncle, Mas Tashima of Cleveland JACL and other Tashimas who have been and are helping JACL here and there. So Pat will not be a complete stranger in the JACL family.

Since the PC ranges nationally, we rely on the telephone to dig the latest or to check out stories. The promptness of calls she had

made being returned from out-of-town or nearby has impressed her. In reality, she is starting a new trend: PC will be calling more frequently than in the past.

As we welcome Pat on staff, we regret the absence of circulation manager Yuki Kamayatsu, who is on sick leave after being hospitalized a week due to high blood pressure. Her assistant Tomi Hoshizaki has assumed the task of keeping track of some 20,000 subscribers and the renewal routine (which has been thoroughly revamped) as the 1978 JACL membership campaign commences.

While it's been a bit more hectic than usual inside the PC office, there were two happy Little Tokyo happenings providing us a change of pace: (1) the Little Tokyo Businessmen's Assn. luncheon with county supervisor Ed Edelman (college buddy of Contra Costa JACLer and attorney Joe Yasaki), who

was dubbed the "governor" of Little Tokyo. That's a spin-off from the esteem city councilman Gil Lindsay has as "mayor" of Little Tokyo. (2) And the salute to Assemblyman Paul Bannai before 300 friends at New Otani Hotel, including Lt. Gov. Mervyn Dymally, Supervisor Kenny Hahn and the mayors of four cities within Paul's assembly district: Sak Yamamoto (Carson JACLer), Ed Russ (Gardena Valley JACLer), Guy Hocker and Jim Ramsey.

While Bannai commended TV star Greg Morris of *Mission Impossible* for his community work in drug abuse, Paul explained his personal bias for the show stemmed from the fact that he, as a Republican running in a heavily registered Democratic district, had stepped into his own "mission impossible" and wanted to learn a few tricks from Greg Morris.

A final word for both events should be added: they started and ended on time!

YOSHINAGA

Continued from Front Page

Yoshinaga, in appearing before the council, said he was never notified about the quote being used.

"Opponents of the measure submitted their argument to city hall and the city printed it without verifying its contents," he wrote in his column last week.

He explained at the meeting that he "was talking about personalities

within the Little Tokyo redevelopment agency, people within the agency promised things they should not have promised.

"I wasn't knocking redevelopment (in Gardena), I was knocking individuals in the Little Tokyo CRA."

Yoshinaga charged the CPPR with trying to "deceive the voters by clever manipulation of words."

He has urged the Gardena city attorney to notify Sacramento legislators about groups using state-

calendar

Nov. 4 (Friday)
Salt Lake—Gen Mtg, Ramada Inn, 6 p.m.

Nov. 5 (Saturday)
West Valley—Box lunch sale.
Los Angeles—We Are One potluck-auction, Sumitomo Bank, Gardena, 7 p.m.
Los Angeles—SAAY plant sale, YB House, 1227 Crenshaw Blvd, 10 a.m.

Nov. 6 (Sunday)
NC-WNDC—Fall qtrly sess, San Jose JACL hosts: Hyatt House, 9:30 a.m.; Rep. Norman Mineta, lunch spkr.
Alameda—Fishing derby.
Sacramento—Henry Taketa testimonial dnr, Red Lion Inn.

Nov. 7 (Monday)
Fresno—Nikkei Sv Ctr mtg, 912 F St, 7 p.m.

Nov. 8 (Tuesday)
Alameda—Mtg, Buena Vista Methodist Church, 7:30 p.m.
Stockton—Bd Mtg, Calif. 1st Bank, 8 p.m.
Sequoia—Bd Mtg, Palo Alto Issei Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 9 (Wednesday)
Washington, D.C.—Bd Mtg, M. Yoshikami res, 7:30 p.m.
Orange County—Bd Mtg, Calif 1st Bank, 5th & Main, Santa Ana, 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 10 (Thursday)
Salt Lake—Bd Mtg, Jimi Mitsunaga res, 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 11—13
MPDC—Fall Mtg, Executive Tower, 14th & Curtis, Denver.

Nov. 12 (Saturday)
Riverside—Thanksgiving dnr, First Christian Church.
San Gabriel Valley—Inst Dnr, Great Wall Restaurant, West Covina.

• NISEI SKI CLUB, San Francisco
Annual Pre-Season Kickoff Dance, Sat., Nov. 12, 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., Stanford Holiday Inn, Palo Alto. Dance to the fantastic rock of "Hot Cider". Adm: \$4.50. (Members: \$2.50 if attending 8:30 meeting, \$3.50.)

Nov. 12—13
CCDC—Dist Convention, Sheraton Inn, Fresno; Sen S I Hayakawa, Sun banq spkr.

Nov. 13 (Sunday)
PSWDC—Fall qtrly sess, East Los Angeles JACL hosts: Little Tokyo Towers, Los Angeles, 9:30 a.m.
Pocatello—Chow mein dnr, JACL Hall, noon-6 p.m.

Nov. 14 (Monday)
Las Vegas—Mtg, Osaka Restaurant 8 p.m.

Nov. 18 (Friday)
El Cerrito—Eastbay Nisei retirement mtg, Sycamore Church, 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 18—20
Cincinnati—Internat'l Folk Festival.

Nov. 19 (Sunday)
West Los Angeles—Inst dnr, Airport Marina, Manchester & Lincoln Bl, 6:30 p.m.; George Knox Roth, spkr.
Chicago—Inst dnr-dance.

Nov. 25—26
IDC—Dist Conv, Wasatch Front North JACL hosts: Holiday Inn, Ogden; Sen Orrin Hatch, banq spkr.
Chicago—Asian American Art Fair, Midwest Buddhist Temple.

Japanese Americans rediscovering their roots

By MARITA HERNANDEZ
(San Jose Mercury)

San Jose, Calif.
Jan Kurahara, like most of his Japanese American contemporaries, grew up knowing little about his Japanese ancestry.

"Two years ago, I didn't give a damn about other Japanese Americans," he said candidly on a recent afternoon, sitting behind a neatly kept desk at his San Jose law office.

"And I don't speak Japanese," he would later interject.

This attitude, he explained, is a common one among Americans of Japanese ancestry. It's one that's taken several generations of hard times and prejudice to develop.

Today, Kurahara heads the San Jose chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, a national civil rights organization of about 30,000 that acts as an advocate for Japanese Americans and works to preserve the ethnic group's cultural heritage.

Along with his own recently sparked interest in learning about his cultural background, Kurahara has noticed a resurgence among other Japanese Americans in discovering their roots.

But, he added, "we're still in the minority among Japanese Americans."

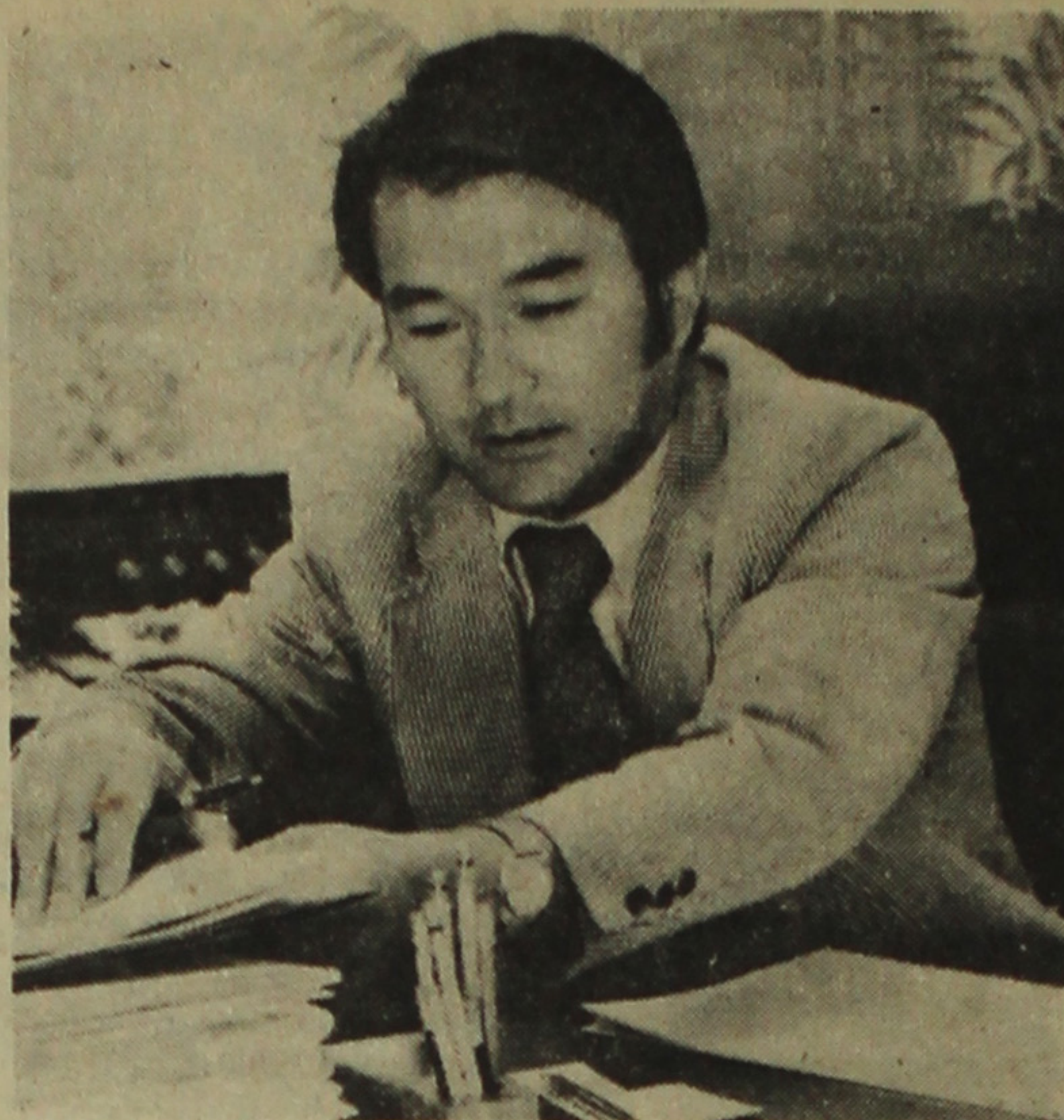
Kurahara traces the loss of cultural identity among Japanese Americans to a

Plant, yard sale

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — A fundraising plant and yard sale sponsored by the Service for Asian American Youth will be held Nov. 5 and 6 at the "YB" House, 1227 Crenshaw. Sale will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days.

We Are One

GARDENA, Calif. — We Are One club potluck and white elephant auction will be held Nov. 5, 7 p.m. at Gardena branch of Sumitomo Bank with Kei and Rosie Oshiro in charge. Coordinating the potluck are Annabelle Lee, Lorrie Inouye and Rosie Oshiro.



JAN KURAHARA

... San Jose JACL leader

struggle for survival.

"Because of the beating Japanese Americans took during World War II"—loss of their hard-earned property and confinement to relocation centers — they realized that in order to survive they would have to take one of two courses.

"They would have to bunch together or assimilate," Kurahara said. "And they chose to assimilate."

This meant turning their backs on their cultural heritage and—"forcing white values on themselves and working at not sticking together," Kurahara said.

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Although Kurahara considers it "a shame" that so little of the Japanese heritage has been preserved, he is not one to point a finger at those who choose to ignore their Japanese American ancestry.

For he, too, was raised in a white middle-class neighborhood, with no Japanese American friends nor a desire to identify with the Japanese culture.

There are three distinct categories of Japanese Americans, he explained.

He categorizes himself and his contemporaries as Sansei, third-generation Japanese Americans and beyond.

Assimilation to the American way of life has been almost total. "Very few of us speak Japanese," he said, adding that more than half

have married outside of their ethnic group.

"Other than the fact that we've had a lot of education stressed on us, our values are no different from the average middle-class American. We have the same likes and dislikes, the same taste in food and even the same prejudices," he said.

Continued on Page 8

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Oyako Donburi

Los Angeles
Recently, when a group of Sansei boys were over my house to visit one of my sons, the discussion got around to football so I casually mentioned that in pre-war days they had a number of club teams made up of Japanese American players.

They seemed amazed by the revelation. "Hey," said one, "that sounds like a keen idea. Maybe we should start one. There are enough guys playing high school football to form some teams."

What I would like to see is a team of Japanese American prep players who could challenge an all-star prep team from Japan.

American football is the fastest growing sport in Japan. It would grow even faster if the cost of fielding a team wasn't so high.

In 1967—ten years ago—there were only 40 high schools which fielded teams. Today there are over 100 teams. And, they play a national championship game at the end of the season, much like the national interscholastic baseball championships which are so popular in Japan.

In addition to the cost of fielding a football team (about \$150 per player for equipment), the other reason the sport hasn't taken off up to now is that in Japan they have a "club system" in high school.

If a player joins the high school baseball team, he becomes member of the "baseball club" at the school and is expected to devote all of his time to the sport. Even if he wanted to try out for football, he would not be allowed to do so by the baseball club.

This is the reason there are no "two letter", or "three letter" athletes in Japanese high schools as we find them in the U.S.

Most U.S. high schoolers take part in two sports and some as many as four (football,

basketball, baseball, track and field).

As far as the cost is concerned, there is no special revenue put up by the schools because they cannot charge admission to the football games.

Players who participate now are financed by their parents, donation from the school alumni and well-wishers.

In addition, since the only pro sport in Japan is baseball, those who want to struggle up the ladder in sports, prefer to take a crack at baseball before any other sport.

Regardless of the obstacles, American football is making big inroads and it is predicted that maybe as many as 500 high schools would be playing the sport.

One of the ways to inspire youths to turn to football, in the absence of a professional career in the sport, is to offer a chance to go abroad to play.

A series between the Japanese high school all-stars and the U.S. Japanese American all-stars might be one of the most attractive "bowl" games offered.

One reason that such a game would be feasible is that while there are a lot of big JAs, the size factor will not be that dominant.

It shouldn't be too tough to finance such a game.

In addition to ticket sales, some of the major Japanese firms might underwrite the program.

At last count, I found enough Japanese American players right here in Southern California to field a representative team.

We might call it the "Oya-ko Donburi". Which, roughly translated, means "Father and Son Bowl".

Since it involves Japanese from Japan, the homeland of the immigrants to America, what could be more appropriate than "Oya-ko Donburi".

Kashu Mainichi



DORIS MATSUI

Doris Matsui, wife of Sacramento city councilman Robert Matsui, was elected board of directors president of the KVIE (Ch 6), community-supported educational TV station covering Sacramento-Stockton. She has been a board member since 1975 and served as secretary. She also has served on the boards of the Sacramento Symphony Assn., Sacramento Science Center, Junior Museum, Junior League of Sacramento and active with the Children's Home Guild and Sacramento JACL.

Health

Daryl Kubotsu, formerly of Los Angeles, and a 1975 graduate of the Univ. of Nebraska College of Medicine, is president-elect of the Calif. Academy of Physicians' Assistants. He is currently at Travis AFB after completing his internship at the Air Force regional hospital at March AFB. Calif. Gov. Brown has appointed two Chinese Americans, San Francisco pharmacist Sam Ching and Dr. Ray Fay, practicing San Francisco physician and former UCLA assistant professor of urology and pediatrics, to the fourth district review committee of the State Board of Medical Quality Assurance. There are 14 review committees assisting what was formerly the board of medical examiners. District 4 covers San Francisco, Marin and San Mateo counties.

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Education

A total of 325 "gifted" seventh graders throughout Illinois was invited to take the Johns Hopkins SAT test (normally taken by 11th and 12th graders) in October at Niles West High, including Suzanne M. Oto, 12, of Fairview South School, Skokie.

Churches

His Eminence Kosho Ohtani of Nishi Hongwanji, who retired in April after 50 years as leader of the Jodo Shinshu (Buddhist) sect, and his wife were visiting

from Japan with the Buddhist Churches of America holding testimonial dinners at Los Angeles (Oct. 20) and San Francisco (Nov. 1 at Miyako Hotel).

Entertainment

Elaine Kashiki was named administrative director of the Inner City Cultural Center with activities in Los Angeles and Long Beach. A former theater arts student at UCLA and with the East West Players, she joined the ICC in 1967 as an assistant to C. Bernard Jackson, ICC executive director.



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SAN JOSE

Continued from Page 6

They've come a long way from their grandparents' way of life, the Issei, or first generation Japanese American.

This group, for the most part past their 60s today, suffered the brunt of racial discrimination.

Many of them still speak Japanese and have maintained their cultural values but at a high price.

"They took a really bad beating, they've seen it all," Kurahara said. After World War II they were forced to "start all over again."

Most became self-employed as farmers or merchants because they could find no one willing to employ them, he said. They emphasized education for their children, Kurahara said, noting that Japanese Americans are among the highest educated of any ethnic group.

Kurahara's parents belong to the Nisei group, or second generation Japanese Americans. They were the ones to bridge the gap in the process of assimilation.

In their teens or early 20s during World War II, they, too, were the victims of discrimination.

Although well educated and able to find employment, they were typically underemployed. It was not uncommon to find an engineer working as a grocery clerk, Kurahara said.

In the long process of assimilation, Kurahara said, "our cultural heritage fell by the wayside."

There is no Japanese American community in San Jose, per se, Kurahara said. "You'll find most Japanese Americans living in the suburbs. You'll not find them congregated in any one community."

In Santa Clara County, for instance, where Kurahara estimates there are some 17,000 Japanese American families, only 1,800 belong to the Japanese American Citizens League, the oldest and

Sumitomo receives final OK on merger

SAN FRANCISCO—The Sumitomo Bank of California received approval last week (Oct. 26) from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. to purchase 19 branches of the Bank of California. It was the final approval needed to complete the merger.

largest Japanese American organization. Even a small number live in the Jackson and Taylor streets district of San Jose, the most noticeable congregation of Japanese restaurants and businesses in the county.

"I'm sure that many Japanese Americans would rather stay assimilated and not be with other Japanese Americans or the community," Kurahara said. He does not fault them.

"It's not something that should be forced on people," Kurahara said. "But the opportunity should be there for those who want to learn about their cultural heritage and get involved."

The JACL sponsors a scholarship program for Japanese American youth as well as programs for senior citizens and youth.

One of its main functions, Kurahara said, is to safe-

guard against discrimination against Japanese Americans. Recently, the organization took a stand in eliciting action against a San Benito High School teacher who used defamatory terms in referring to Japanese people.

The national JACL also led a campaign that resulted in a presidential pardon for Iva Toguri, "Tokyo Rose" of World War II.

Kurahara said he intends to remain involved with his people.

"Knowing about one's cultural heritage gives a person an identity different from the masses. It also gives a sort of understanding of where your people come from, emotionally — how they feel about family life and why they take certain stands."

New hotel added

KYOTO, Japan — The Kyoto Hotel, a focal point of tourism in Japan, has been added to the Japan Air Lines Hotel System, bringing to 13 the total number of member hotels. Under the agreement, the hotel will be linked to the JAL's worldwide sales network and computerized reservations system. JAL passengers will be able to obtain confirmed bookings at the hotel when making flight reservations.

Chaplain Nagata

SAN DIEGO, Calif. — Col. Bill Nagata (Chaplain Corps) of the U.S. Army Ground Forces will be keynote at the 70th anniversary banquet of the Ocean View United Church of Christ Nov. 5, 6 p.m., at the U.S. Grant Hotel. He hails from Hawaii. The Rev. Kenji Kikuchi, pastor emeritus, and Dr. Yoshi Kaneda, pastor, will speak at the 10 a.m. worship at the church Nov. 6.

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- 2—April 3-24
- 3—April 10-24 (2 wks)
- ✓4—April 19-May 10
- ✓5—April 1-24
- 6—May 6-27
- ✓7—May 22-June 5
- ✓8—June 26-July 10
- 9—June 19-July 9
- 10—July 24-Aug. 22
- 11—July 24-Aug. 22
- ✓12—July 31-Aug. 31
- ✓14—Sept. 4-25
- ✓15—Sept. 25-Oct. 16
- 17—Oct. 3-26
- ✓18—Oct. 2-23
- 19—Oct. 2-23
- ✓21—Oct. 16-Nov. 6
- 22—Oct. 16-Nov. 6
- ✓23—Nov. 27-Dec. 18
- ✓24—Dec. 20-Jan. 9
- 25—June 25-26 (2 wks)

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