



Photo by Dr. Tokio Ishikawa

**RENOVATION PLANNED**—The Japanese Community Building in San Jose, which houses such groups as the San Jose JACL Chapter and the Yu-Ai Kai senior service, will soon undergo renovation as plans are currently being formulated by various community organizations.

## San Jose Nikkei bldg. to undergo renovation

By PHIL MATSUMURA

**SAN JOSE, Ca.**—The Japanese Community Building will soon undergo renovation as plans are being made by a community-at-large committee composed of representatives of many organizations, leaders and churches.

Designated as a historic landmark by the City of San Jose, the 71-year-old Issei Memorial Building, which was so named as a fitting tribute to honor the pioneers, will continue to function as a home for many community services. It will provide administrative facilities for Nikkei organizations, with a large conference room and a library exhibiting historic memorabilia as part of the structure.

During its illustrious existence,

the structure has served as the very first Japanese hospital named after Dr. Taisuke Kuwabara, the first Japan-born physician to practice in San Jose.

In more recent years, it has been the home for the San Jose JACL chapter and the Yu-Ai Kai Community Senior Service and many other groups.

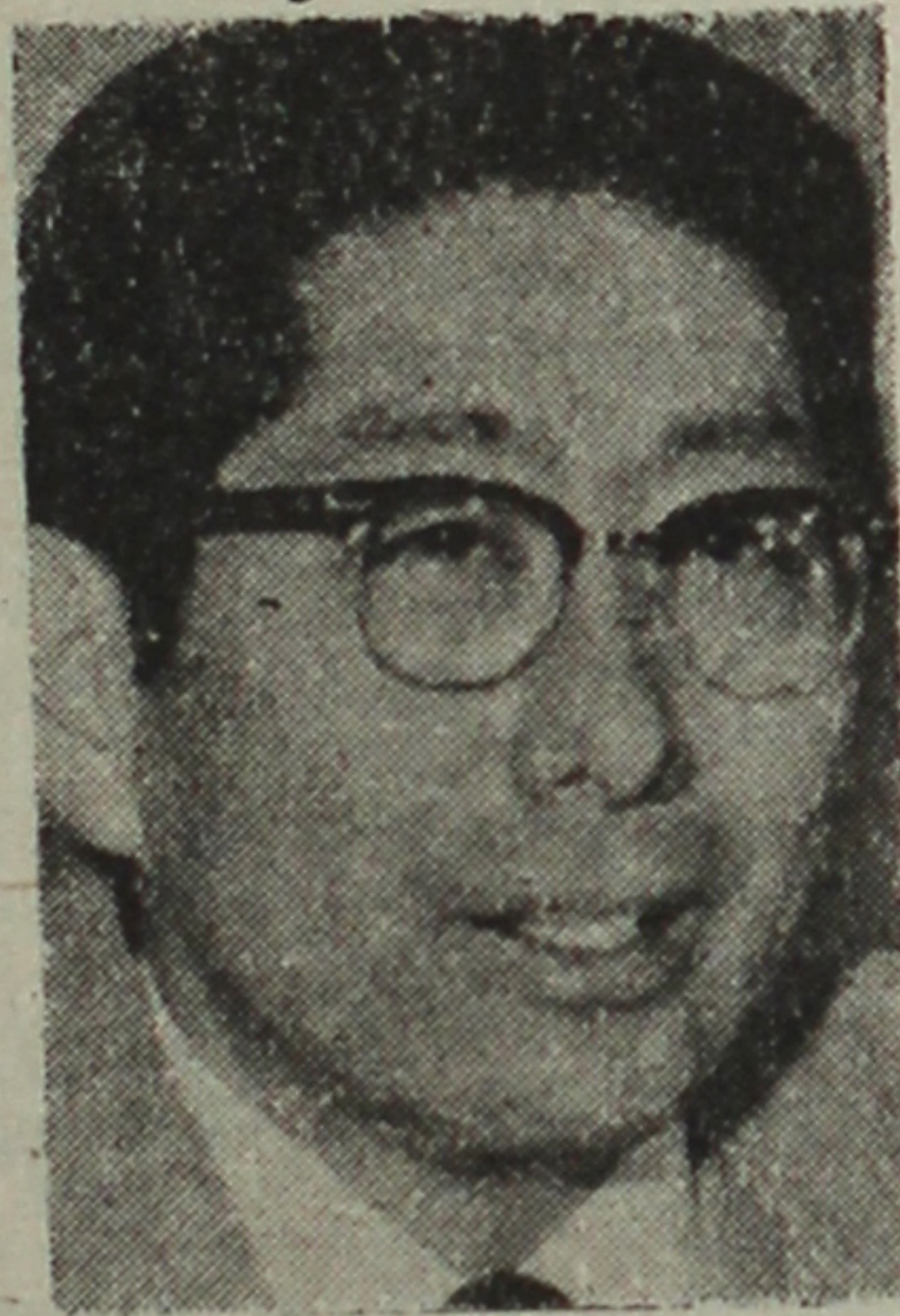
The anticipated cost of the renovation is approximately \$300,000. The Issei Memorial Building committee has established fund raising drives during the month of October and November to provide for the restoration project.

Drawings of the renovation plans can be seen at 565 North Fifth St. For info call (408) 295-1250 or 259-3656.

## Nisei named to Commission of Salt Lake County

**SALT LAKE CITY**—M. Tom Shimizu, a construction engineer specializing in housing for the elderly, was selected to the Salt Lake County Commission and sworn in Oct. 5. The 48-year-old Nisei Republican replaces William E. Dunn, who left his post Sept. 30 to take a job in the private sector.

Shimizu, who had never held any previous political office, will be supervisor of the county's Human Services Department. In addition to his experience as a builder and manager of senior citizen housing, Shimizu served as a youth counselor for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints from 1959 to 1963 and as President for the Japan Kobe Mission in 1971. He also served as Field and Design Engineer for the Utah State Road Commission from 1963-1964 and as a Building and Safety Inspector for the city of El Segundo, Ca from 1967 to 1971.



Tom Shimizu

Born in Los Angeles, Shimizu's family moved to Utah in 1942. He now resides in Salt Lake City with his wife Junko and four children.

## Bendetsen's view of evacuee property losses and WRA director Myer's at odds

By PETER IMAMURA  
(Second in a Series)

Karl R. Bendetsen, former Assistant Chief of Staff of the Fourth Army and Western Defense Command, did not appear before the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians during any of the hearings, but he did submit a written statement on July 9 which is expected to draw careful scrutiny by the CWRIC. Prospect of his appearance at a "wrap-up" session in Washington sometime in November has not been ruled out, the Pacific Citizen learned this past week.

There are many points in his statement that are indeed debatable—one in particular concerns his comments on the property losses suffered by Japanese Americans. In his 17-page brief (Aug. 14 PC), Bendetsen said:

"...Unscrupulous persons imposed on the Japanese residents in southern California. This led to reports that all had lost their properties. This was not so. A few of them were exploited. During the evacuation, extraordinary measures were taken to preserve their properties."

He further summarized his recollections of how Nikkei property was handled:

"... about their assets, their lands (Nisei could own land), their possessions, their bank accounts and other assets, their household goods, their growing crops—nothing was confiscated. Their household goods were inventoried and stored. Warehouse receipts were issued to the owners. Much of it was later shipped to them at



Circa 1971

Karl R. Bendetsen

### PC FOCUS

government expense, particularly in the cases of those families who relocated themselves in the interior, accepted employment and established new homes.

"Lands were farmed, crops harvested, accounts kept of sales at market and proceeds deposited to the respective accounts of the owners."

### Dillon Myer's Account

In contrast to Bendetsen's statement, former WRA Director Dillon S. Myer painted a different picture in his book, *Uprooted Americans*, and said:

"The loss of hundreds of property leases and the disappearance of a number of equities in land and buildings which had been built up over the major portion of a lifetime were among the most regrettable and least justifiable of all the many costs of the wartime evacuation."

Myer noted that the WRA "inherited" many property problems due to several factors, and he listed them as such:

- "1. The absence of any property safeguards whatever for several weeks after evacuation was a foregone conclusion.
- "2. Delay by the West Coast military authorities in providing property protection, after an order from Assistant Secretary of War [John J.] McCloy had made such protection a definite responsibility of the Western Defense Command.
- "3. Property protection measures were inadequate to counteract initial losses or halt those which mounted throughout the period of exile.
- "4. Division of responsibility existed in the initial stages among the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, the Office of Alien Property Custodian, and the Farm Security Administration, each with differing policies and none of them strong enough to prevent initial hardship.
- "5. Wartime hate, prejudice, and greed opposed the recogni-

tion of rights and privileges of the minority and created interference on the part of many West Coast law enforcement authorities to destruction and pilferage of evacuees' property."

### Government Assistance Much Too Late

In other words, by the time the government stepped in to provide any protective measures for the evacuees' property, it was too late—many Japanese Americans had to either sell their wares to "unscrupulous persons" or make their own arrangements for storage (which, in some cases, resulted in losses due to fire, theft, vandalism or decay).

Myer pointed out that both the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco and the Farm Security Administration "encouraged evacuees to make their own arrangements, wherever possible, for disposition of their property." He added that both "stressed rapid liquidation of assets, since there were no facilities for storage of movable property or disposition of automobiles during 'voluntary' evacuation."

Myer also said that in April of 1942, the military instructed the

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## Supreme Court to decide on illegal alien 'rights'

**WASHINGTON**—The "first Monday in October (5th)", designated in the Constitution as the first day of a new Supreme Court term, for 1981 was historic with the seating of its first woman jurist, Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor of Arizona, President Reagan's first appointee to the high court.

Equally significant was the list of cases, which have piled up high this past summer, the justices agreed to decide between now and next July the constitutionality of some of these issues:

1—"Legislative veto": whether a single house or committee of Congress can overrule action by an executive agency—touted as a major tool by some who want to cut through bureaucratic redtape. The U.S. Solicitor General's office has argued legislative veto violates the constitutional separation of powers doctrine. Case centers around a Kenyan national who is fighting deportation, the Immigration and Naturalization Service acting in his favor while a House resolution overruled the I&NS.

2—"Aliens": (a) a 1975 Texas law denying state funds for education of children who are illegal aliens was held by the lower courts to be violation of illegal aliens' rights to the equal protection of the laws; (b) a 1961 California law that says all "peace officers" in the state must be citizens, which was challenged by three aliens who were turned down for jobs as deputy probation officers in Los Angeles because they had no proof of citizenship. Some feel this ruling may determine eligibility of aliens for thousands of state jobs.

3—"Universities": (a) Cornerstone, a student group on the Univ. of Missouri campus at Kansas City, was denied use of a campus building to "promote a knowledge of Jesus Christ among students", UM claiming the First Amendment ban against any state support of religion prevented their use of a public-funded facility. The appellate court, however, held the university was not only allowed to permit use of the building but was obligated to do so under the same First Amendment's guarantee of religious freedom; (b) in another First Amendment dispute, Princeton University, a private college, and state officials sought to prevent an individual not enrolled at Princeton from passing out political materials on campus.

4—"Elections": (a) A rural Georgia county (Burke) discriminates against black voters by requiring all county commissioners to run for election on a county-wide basis. Although more than half of the voting-age residents are black, the county has not elected a black official since the Reconstruction Era; (b) Common Cause and Federal Election Commission are contesting the right of three independent committees to raise and spend millions of dollars in behalf of President Reagan in the 1980 elections, the lower court ruling independent committees had a First Amendment right to spend money as they say fit; (c) a 1974 Berkeley (Ca.) ordinance bars individuals from donating more than \$250 to committees working for or against local ballot measures, which is being opposed by realtors and property owners against a rent control measure.

### Voting Rights bill passes in House

**WASHINGTON**—Looming as the major civil rights action in the current Congress, the House voted 389-24 on Oct. 5 to extend the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Efforts to eliminate the bilingual voting provisions failed, but a tougher battle is expected in the Senate, where it may be bottled up in committee till other key provisions of the law expire next August.

The 1965 act outlawed literacy tests and other schemes to discourage minorities from registering to vote. JACL had joined with 90 other member organizations of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights led by NAACP director Roy Wilkins, to push for passage.

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## FY'81 Nat'l JACL finances ends in the black \$18,500

By HARRY HONDA

**SAN FRANCISCO**—Austerity reigned during the past six months in JACL spending habit, according to the financial statement presented by Headquarters to the National JACL Board in session over the Oct. 9-11 weekend, as it indicated an excess of \$18,549—first plus-figure since FY1977. And to help build up JACL reserves for the coming FY'82 biennium, the \$919,670 budget adopted by the National Council at San Francisco in 1980

was trimmed 7% by the Board to \$851,000.

The holding pattern of JACL spending and appointment of Ron Wakabayashi as national director last February also coincided time-wise. The plus-figure showing at the bottom line of the JACL financial statement was due to Wakabayashi freezing unfilled personnel positions, such as youth director and program/legal director, and holding to severe restrictions on spending.

When Wakabayashi as-

sumed the directorship, the projection then appeared the organization would face a \$70,000 deficit by the end of the year. "Cashflow situation and tenuous outlook on income projection for FY1981-82 still leave JACL in an adverse position," he added.

National Treasurer Henry Sakai of Orange County, looking to other means to raise funds "since we can't keep going back to membership", said the \$3.50 "mid-biennium" dues increase as mandated by

the 1980 National Council remains. Basic national dues, thus, rise from \$22.25 to \$25.75 single, \$46.50 family starting in January 1982. District per capita assessment and local chapter dues, if any, are in addition.

To those who can contribute a lump sum to "beat continuing rises in dues", Contra Costa JACler Tom Arima, representing National 1000 Club chair Dr. Frank Sakamoto of Chicago, suggested members













