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CWRIC BACKLASH ADDS FUEL . . .

Recession, media blamed for resurgence of anti-Asian bigotry

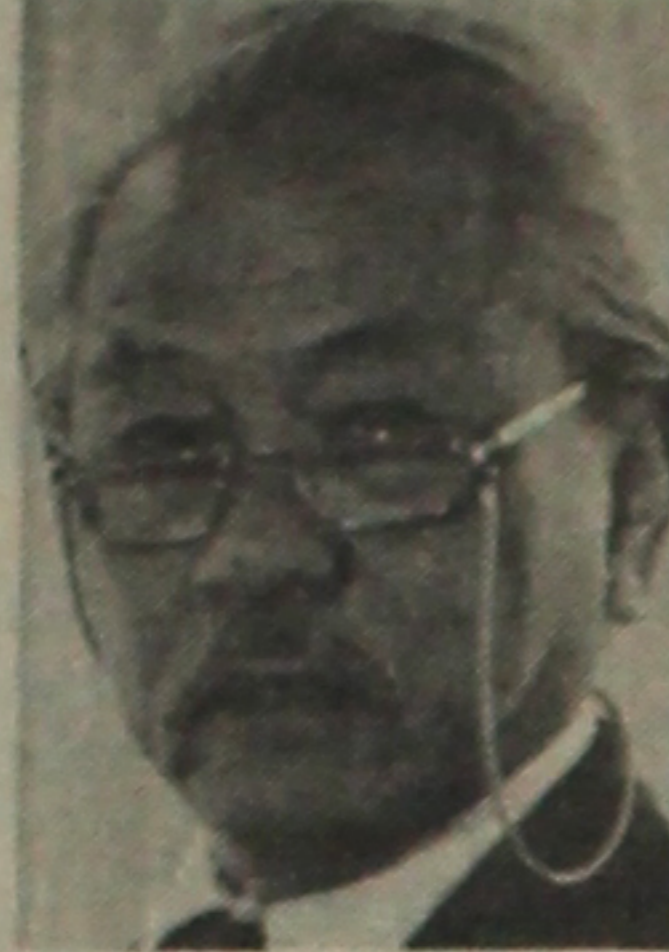
By ROBERTA WESTERFIELD
Special to the Pacific Citizen

LOS ANGELES—Increasing incidents of anti-Asian bigotry were addressed by members of the Asian Pacific community during a hearing Wednesday, Nov. 9, at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center. The hearing, set up by Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations, was designed to identify and explore manifestations of anti-Asian racism. Such racism has a long history—and is now causing alarm by its renewed intensity.

Commission consultant Paul Louie, who was instrumental in organizing the hearing, told the Pacific Citizen there are four mainstreams of anti-Asian sentiment.

First is the negative response to the recommendations of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians. Opposition to those recommendations rests largely on the economic recession, Louie said. And other minority groups have protested that Japanese are being singled out for preferential treatment.

Hitoshi H. Kajihara, Pacific Southwest JACL redress chair, was asked after his testimony on the CWRIC findings to re-



David Hyun

spond to the Bataan Death March and the sinking of the U.S.S. Arizona. Kajihara replied that he was a U.S. citizen at the time. Later, he said he feels "angry and sad" when such topics are brought up. "There is a segment [of society] who have their minds set on the fact to blame American citizens for what an enemy nation did," he observed.

Animosity against Asians is heightened, secondly, by foreign imports, the trade imbalance and "cheap" labor in areas of Asia that draw American manufacturers.

David Hyun, chair of the Korean American Coalition; Alvin Lew, president of the Asian Business Assn.; and Mark Masaoka, worker at the General Motors plant in Van Nuys, presented diverse views of such business activities.

Hyun said that a new Era of the Pacific is being ushered in. No longer, he said, can the West consider itself superior to the East. He equated bigotry with a "blindness of the future, a fixation to the past." The issue is not one of superiority versus inferiority or of winners and losers, but one of co-creation, Hyun said.

Racist headlines appearing in current articles were recited by Lew. She said that the American consumer has developed a taste for Japanese cars, but auto workers are told that foreign imports take away their jobs. And many perceive that the

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White Memorial M



Photo By Jon Takasugi

HOSPITAL THANKED—Linda Morimoto, M.D., praises the non-racist policies of White Memorial Medical Center during the 'evacuation'. (Story on Page 3)

South Vietnamese refugees protest PBS portrayal of Communists

SAN DIEGO—Vietnamese refugees here are criticizing the highly touted Public Broadcasting Series on the Vietnam War for its flattering portrayal of the Communist victors, according to a Nov. 7 report by Greg Gross of the San Diego Union.

"The war was our first loss. This is our second loss," said former South Vietnamese journalist Luu Van Tran. "It insults the refugees. It insults the American and Vietnamese veterans who sacrificed for freedom."

Ray Smith, a San Diego State Univ. history professor, is inclined to agree. Smith prepared a three-page survey asking refugees what they thought of the series. Results are not yet in, but Smith expects the responses to be largely negative.

"The South Vietnamese side of things is being left rather murky," Smith said.

Refugee Claims

Politically active anti-Communist Vietnamese have begun a letter-writing campaign against the 13-part series, now entering its last weeks.

Among their claims are:

—Most Vietnamese are said in the series to have supported the Ho-led Viet Minh against the colonial French. While it is true that most Vietnamese opposed the French return after WW2, "there were other major anti-colonialist parties in Vietnam at the time. But the series mentions only the Viet Minh," Luu said.

—The English translations of interviews with major Vietnamese Communist leaders are heavily sanitized. "When they mention the U.S., some of them say 'the imperialistic U.S.' and other insulting things," said Duong Phuc, a former army officer. "But in the English translation, this is not said."

—Ho Chi Minh is portrayed in the series as a nationalist

at heart who wanted an independent Vietnam and put communism second. Luu says that "Ho Chi Minh was a Communist first, nationalist second. He had been a Communist since 1920."

"If these things we say about the Communists in our country were not true, why have so many of us risked our lives in the sea to leave Vietnam?" said Loc Nguyen, local leader of the National United Front for the Liberation of Vietnam.

"In 1945, we had no food in Vietnam. Almost 2 million people died, but no one left the country. But under the Communists, people are willing to die in the ocean rather than live under communism."

Particularly humiliating to the Vietnamese refugees is the series' implication that the U.S. troops carried the war while South Vietnamese forces did little. Said former naval officer Ha Thuc Sinh, "South Vietnamese deaths were 10 times that of American soldiers, but they never mention this."

Series 'Balanced'

Dick Ellison, the series' executive producer, told the Union that he felt the documentary is balanced overall. "We did a lot of interviews with South Vietnamese. A lot of people didn't want to be interviewed or interviewed on camera, some because they still have family in Vietnam." Additionally, the refugees comprise "a fragmented group" of diverse viewpoints. American scholars who have studied the war "are more detached," Ellison said.

On the question of South Vietnamese troops, he said: "It is a fact that [South Vietnamese] casualties were higher than American casualties and the series says so. But there was a period from 1965 to 1967... when Americans were doing the bulk of the heavy fighting." #

Judge finds racism, gov't misconduct in Korematsu case

SAN FRANCISCO—Federal district court judge Marilyn Hall Patel on Nov. 10 granted the petition of Fred T. Korematsu for a writ of error coram nobis, saying that the government relied on unsubstantiated charges and the racist views of Gen. John DeWitt to justify the internment.

Korematsu alleged in his petition that the government altered, suppressed, and destroyed key evidence that showed Japanese Americans posed no military threat to the United States.

The government evaded the allegations in its Oct. 4 motion to vacate Korematsu's conviction, suggesting, in effect, that the nation should forget the whole episode.

Patel called the government's "meek" response tantamount to an admission of error. Her job, she said, became one of making an independent evaluation of the record without benefit of government input. After reviewing "Personal Justice Denied" and other documents, Patel stated it was her

responsibility to grant the petition and to clear court records of a 40-year-old "taint."

According to Lorraine Bannai, member of the Korematsu legal team, Patel showed unusual courage. "She could have signed a one-line order [to vacate Korematsu's conviction]," Bannai said.

Patel will also issue a written opinion on the case, giving the books two opinions in *Korematsu v. U.S.*

In Washington, Rep. Norman Mineta (D-Calif.) took time from his duties on the

House floor to issue the following statement:

"I am pleased and relieved by Judge Patel's decision. . . . Judge Patel has affirmed the principle that war shall not be used as a rationale for the abuse of our citizens, and her decision stands as a clear victory for justice."

"This is truly an important step, but there is much yet to be done in order to secure redress for the thousands who were unjustly incarcerated in the United States during the Second World War." #

JACL Board takes up redress, membership, convention issues

By KAREN SERIGUCHI

SAN FRANCISCO — Most of the hours spent by the JACL National Board during its meeting Nov. 4-6 were devoted to membership concerns, redress, convention matters, and Floyd Shimomura's report on his and Ron Wakabayashi's trip to Japan.

Friday evening, Rose Ochi, newly appointed vice president for membership, introduced consultant Ken Gilman of Public Management Services, who outlined the advantages and disadvantages of centralizing membership procedures.

At present, JACL has a "very successful" renewal rate of 95-96%. Gilman stated there would always be some drop in membership renewals, and it was therefore important to make up the numbers by recruiting new members. At this, JACL is less successful: new members comprise only 1% of the membership every year.

Time for a Change?

Centralizing membership renewals would help by (1) reducing time spent in processing forms and checks, thus also

Results mixed for Asian issues, candidates.

SEATTLE—The Nov. 8 elections brought good news and bad:

—Rep. Mike Lowry lost his bid for the U.S. Senate, polling 496,393 votes to 617,699 for former Washington state governor Dan Evans.

—Lloyd Hara won another four years as City Treasurer by receiving 83,496 votes to Dolores Sibonga kept her City Council seat by defeating Frank Doolittle 90,590 to 49,621.

Meanwhile: —Vernon Yoshioka lost to incumbent Gene French in his bid for a seat on the San Diego Community College Board of Trustees, by a vote of 89,588 to 41,842.

—And in San Francisco, voters overwhelmingly supported Proposition O, by 98,255 to 59,274. The measure urges Congress to amend the

Voting Rights Act so that municipalities will no longer have to print ballots and election materials in languages other than English (see PC, 8-26). #

Midwest Asians get governor's attention

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Gov. James Thompson, in a meeting with the state's Asian American Advisory Council, stated he would move forward with plans to create a position of special assistant to the governor for Asian American affairs.

The Nov. 2 meeting at the executive mansion was convened to discuss various proposals to meet the concerns of Illinois Asian Americans. Three individuals, including JACL Midwest Director Bill

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YOUTH SUPPORT—NCWNP District Governor Yosh Nakashima (third from left) presents a \$500 check to t-shirt model and National JACL Redress Chair Minoru Yasui at the national board meeting. Flanking them are Paul Nakasone, youth representative (left), and Alysa Watanabe, national youth council chair. NCWNP youth raised the funds in their recent Dance-A-Thon. #

Three No. Calif. journalists get Japanese government medals

SAN FRANCISCO—In ceremonies to be conducted Nov. 21 by Japan's Consul General Takehiko Nishiyama at his official residence, the Japanese government will recognize three Nikkei journalists for their many years of community service, mainly in the media.

Howard Matsui Imazeki, 76, senior advisor and former president/English editor, and John Kubota, both of Hokubei Mainichi, will receive the Fifth Class, Order of the Sacred Treasure.

The third recipient of the coveted medal is Duncan Kazuma Ikezoe, 72, board chairman and past president of Nichi Bei Times which he joined in 1931 and worked for until WW2. He resumed his newspaper career at Nichi Bei in 1947.

Imazeki was born in Ibaraki prefecture, Japan, and came to the United States in 1918. He worked for San Francisco Nichi Bei Shimbun, and later joined Hokubei Asahi. After his graduation from the Univ. of Missouri in journalism in 1934, the medalist became English editor of the New World Sun.

During World War II, he edited a camp newspaper in Tule Lake, later taught at the Navy language school in Denver, and did overseas broadcast for the U.S. Office of War Information. He went to Japan in 1946 as a civilian with the Occupation Forces.

Hokubei's other awardee is John Minoru Kubota, 72, who served as correspondent and Fresno branch manager. He was associated with the Nihongo Rajio Hoso since 1947 and the Voice of America. Active in the Fresno-Kochi Sister City program, Kubota was instrumental in creating the Woodward Park Friendship project, and worked closely with student agricultural and sports exchange with Japan.

Other Nikkei decorated

The highest decoration conferred on Japanese Americans this fall was Third Class, Order of the Sacred Treasure, to George Katsutoshi Nakamura, 76, a furniture designer; and John M. Maki, 73, a University of Washington professor of East Asian Studies.

Receiving Fourth Class, Order of the Rising Sun medal was William Yoshiya Mambu, 71, past president of Japan America Society of Washington state.

George Kiyoshi Hasegawa, 63, was awarded a Fifth Class, Order of the Sacred Treasure. He is secretary-treasurer of the Japan America Society in St. Louis, Mo., while George Katsumi Yuzawa, 68, president of the Japanese American Assn. of New York, also was given the Fifth Class ranking.

Mambu, Hasegawa and Yuzawa are also active in the JACL affairs.

The 11 Nikkei recipients, decorated by the Japanese government, were honored on Nov. 3, in observance of Culture Day.

Former Nanka Kenjinkai Kyogikai president George Akemi Miyake, 64, was awarded a Fifth Class, Order of the Rising Sun, while Nanka Gardeners Federation founder Seikuro Kurihara, 83, was presented a Sixth Class, Order of the Rising Sun.

WLA JACler named 'Woman of Year'

LOS ANGELES—"Woman of the Year" awards were presented by the Nisei Veterans Coordinating Council to two outstanding community leaders during its annual installation dinner Oct. 20 at Hacienda Hotel.

The recipients are Toy Kanegai of West Los Angeles

JACL, sponsored by the Military Intelligence Service Club of So. Calif., and Chieko Takaki, endorsed by the Disabled American Veterans, Nisei Chapter 100.

Kanegai was also recognized by the Los Angeles City and the MIS. Her activities include veterans affairs and community/benefit projects in addition to JACL. Takaki, active in NVCC, is noted for her "behind the scenes" volunteer work.

Yosh Nakayama, MIS chair, and Hideo Okanishi, DAV adjutant, provided biographical background on both titlists.

deaths

Osako, Minoru John, 61, Southfield, Mich., died of a heart attack at his home Nov. 3. A 7th-dan Kodokan judoist who was national U.S. champion three times and team captain of U.S. teams which toured Europe and Japan, he was born in Stockton, Ca., educated in Japan, returning in 1940. He founded the Chicago Judo Black Belt Federation, the Pan-American judo union and was referee at the Olympic Games in Munich and Montreal. He worked for American Motors Corp. as a draftsman-designer and came to Detroit in 1963. Surviving are w Evelyn, s Frank, stepson David Atchison, d Kathleen, 2 br, 3 gc.

JACler cited Ft. Lupton outstanding citizen of year

FORT LUPTON, Colo.—Approximately 110 persons attended the seventh annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast held Saturday, Oct. 29, at the High School Commons, to honor lifelong resident Sam Koshio, selected by the City Council as the 1983 Outstanding Fort Lupton Citizen.

A celebrated guest list included past mayors, government officials, clergy, family and distinguished citizens who were on hand to witness Donald R. Cummins, selection committee chair, make the presentation to 66-year-old Koshio, who had farmed in the area for 37 years.

"I'm really at a loss for words because what I'm feeling in my heart for all of you and for all the people of Fort Lupton can't be put into words," Koshio said in accepting the award.

Also in attendance were Colorado Sen. Wayne Allard, Justice Laurence Ashlock, and mayors of four surrounding communities.

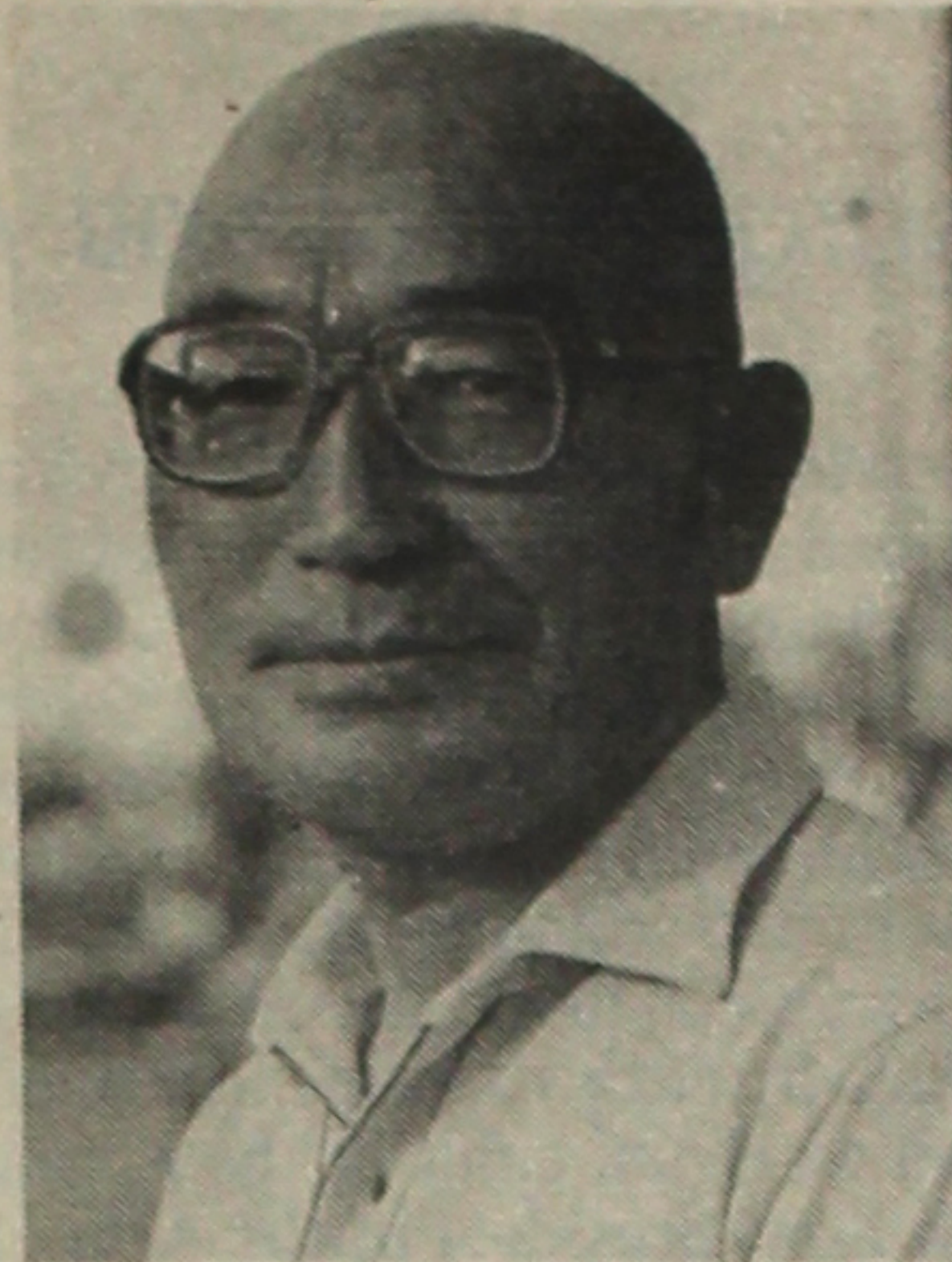
When Koshio first learned of the honor bestowed upon him on Oct. 19, he said, "You've got to be kidding. I didn't know a thing about it." Cummins, who is mayor pro tem, said, "His

contributions to the quality of life in Fort Lupton have been many and varied. Sam and his family represent those characteristics that make for outstanding citizenship."


Sam and his wife, Katy, married 42 years ago, have two sons, Melvin and Gordon, and two daughters, Lorraine and Dawn.

After farming, Koshio worked for Public Service Company for 12 years before retiring. He is past school board member, and currently a member of the Public/School library board, the Rotary Club, Fort Lupton Buddhist Church, the JACL and the Chamber of Commerce.

Koshio even worked as a reporter for the Fort Lupton Press back in the 1940s. "The people in this community have been really good to our family and to my parents. I am forever grateful."



Sam Koshio



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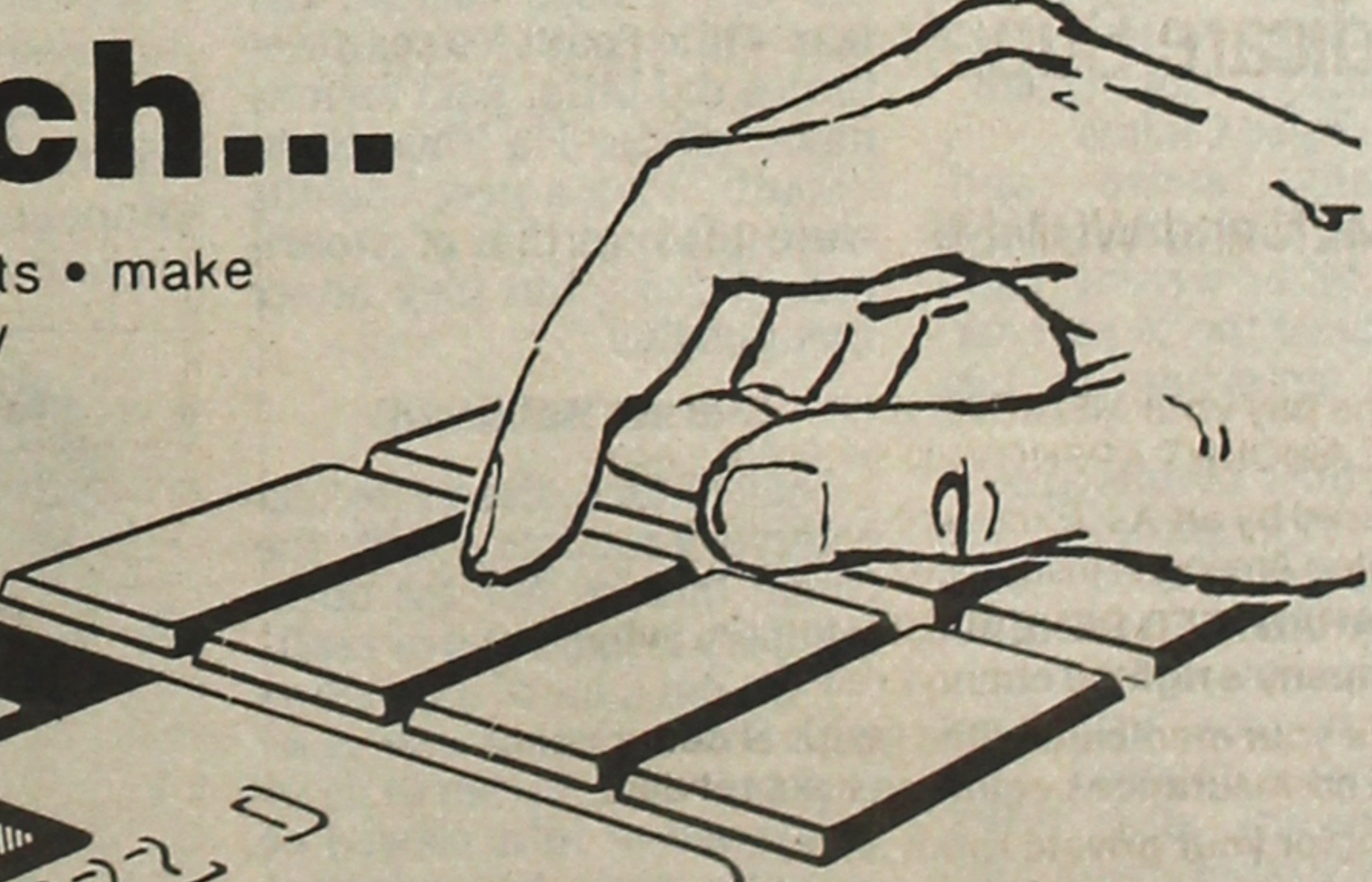
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White Memorial Hospital's stand for Nikkei Americans during '42 recalled

By JON TAKASUGI
LOS ANGELES—Forty-two years ago when all persons of Japanese ancestry were being evacuated, White Memorial Hospital (now known as White Memorial Medical Center, which is celebrating its 70th anniversary this month) was the lone private medical facility in Los Angeles where Japanese and Japanese American women were received, it was recalled by Linda Morimoto, M.D., this past week.

An obstetrician-gynecologist for over 30 years and currently on staff at White Memorial, Dr. Morimoto made her remarks during the Nov. 11 celebration while presenting a plaque of appreciation and gratitude on behalf of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Southern California. The problems

which faced expectant mothers during the early days of WW2 were "terrible," she said.

"Forty-two years ago, ... all people of Japanese ancestry were excluded from California and incarcerated," Morimoto said. "Among its victims were pregnant women who were too close [to giving birth] to be evacuated at that time."

She said some of their doctors told them, "don't come back to my office, my other patients will be offended," or "we have no hospitals to deliver them so please don't come back."

"Compounded by this terrible incident," Morimoto continued, "was the fact that these pregnant mothers were separated from their husbands and also their children because they were evacuated

earlier. Some mothers never saw their husbands for four years," she added.

"To the rescue came the White Memorial Hospital and its staff," the doctor said. "They announce they will be happy to deliver these patients. They were the only private hospital that said 'we will take care of you, we will have our staff doctors take care of you.'"

"I am proud to be a member of this team and together I know we will be successful," Morimoto said.

In conclusion she read the inscription on the plaque:

"In grateful appreciation and recognition to White Memorial Medical Center for extraordinary medical service given with kindness and compassion of Japanese and Japanese Americans of Southern California during the mass evacuation of our people in 1942."

White Memorial Medical Center was founded in 1913 in

a one-room rented storefront on East First Street.

The clinic was formed by the College of Medical Evangelists, a Seventh Day Adventist Church-operated institution dedicated to healthful living, preventive medicine and rational therapeutics. The clinic often treated up to 25 patients a day, most of whom could not pay.

During the Depression, doctors began accepting eggs, flour and other items for payment, while nurses volunteered their services in exchange for meals at the hospital and county transportation.

Now it is a 377-bed acute care facility offering state-of-the-art health care in Boyle Heights. #

Newsman stabbed in home by assailant

STOCKTON, Ca.—Alfredo E. Velez, 23, was under arrest after stabbing Kiyoshi Hirano, 63, repeatedly at his home Nov. 4, the police said.

Hirano, Hokubei Mainichi branch manager and correspondent, was home watching TV with his wife when they heard noises in the backyard. He pulled the curtains to look outside and the assailant was standing in front of the window. Startled by Hirano, he broke the window, then smashed through a nearby door and entered the house, attacking Hirano with a screwdriver. Wife Sukino ran outside for help. Police came as the attacker was struggling with Hirano. Velez was under the influence of drugs, police noted. #

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Noguchi cleared on book issue

LOS ANGELES—Suspensions of a conflict of interest and misuse of administrative records by Dr. Thomas Noguchi in writing his book, "Coroner" (Simon & Schuster), with co-author Joseph DiMona were tentatively cleared this past week.

A confidential report obtained by and published in the Daily News Nov. 9 virtually cleared the demoted county coroner of any wrongdoing. However, the question must still clear the scrutiny of the district attorney's office.

Inquiry was instituted in mid-October after book industry sources reported Noguchi has profited by more than a quarter-million dollars, citing a \$40,000 serialization contract with the National Enquirer, foreign

rights and a two-part spread in Good Housekeeping.

County officials had wanted to know whether Noguchi, who earns \$73,128 a year, used any county time, personnel or unauthorized materials in preparing the manuscript.

The county chief administrative officer's investigation found no evidence of violation of conflict-of-interest codes and was supported by an opinion of the county counsel. The opinion said the county has no cause for action for "any costs incurred from copying documents on county-owned reproduction machines."

There is "no evidence" that Dr. Noguchi used the time of any current employee in preparing his book, the report noted. #

One wins, one misses in school board races

LOS ANGELES—In the Nov. 8 general elections, Willard G. Yamaguchi won a seat on the Montebello Unified School District's Board of Education by garnering 2,803 votes or 30.7 percent.

The Sansei teacher's total placed him in second place behind incumbent Arthur M. Chavez who collected 3,062 votes or 33.5 percent.

Two seats were open on the board, assuring Yamaguchi of a position.

In another race, in the Garvey School District, onetime Seabrook JACler Richard Kunishima failed in his bid for a seat on the Board of Education when he received 464 votes to finish behind James Smith (620) and Robert Miranda (540).

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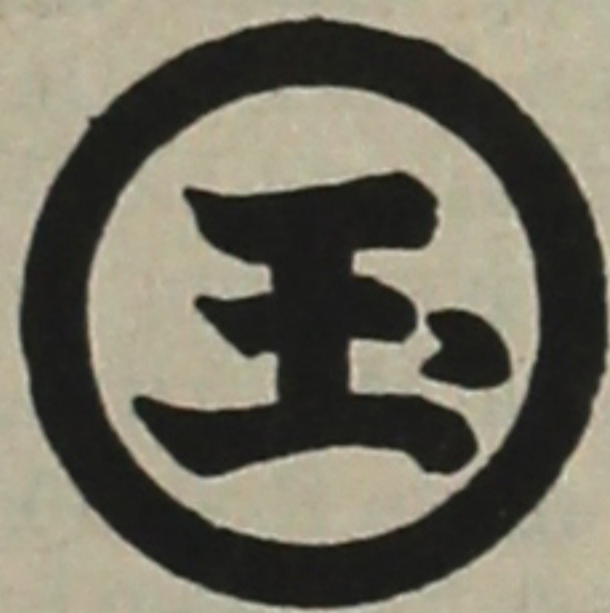
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World Can Learn



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There was once a League of Nations with sublime ideals and high hopes. WW2 struck home the final nail in its coffin. In its place the United Nations was born. It is powerless today as armed conflicts erupt at regular intervals throughout the world.

The Navajo-Hopi dispute is a microcosm of the world in turmoil. The difference is the simultaneous presence of two unique and brave individuals—Chairman Peterson Zah of the Navajo nation and Chairman Ivan Sidney of the Hopi nation. Their goal is to end the historical conflict between their people. They sit down together to negotiate by talking and understanding each other. It is a gem in a gravel pit. The world leaders of today are attempting negotiations through the use of the media. Actual conferences are mere formalities for further media exposures.

All is still not calm, however, on the Arizona Indian reservations. Political turmoils broil, as in the past, with deposed leaders seeking to regain their former power and influence, and outside interests in distant lands seeking to retain their lucrative fees by keeping the disputes alive and active.

As is the world today, for the past hundred years confrontation was the policy of both the Hopi and the Navajo nations. They were led by brilliant charismatic politicians. The age old war continued under clever slogans and astute political alignments with the power in Washington.

The present Navajo and Hopi chairmen realize that they will always be neighbors, that their wounds must be healed, and above all possess the faith that their "people are competent and can settle their own problems because they understand what it means to have harmony." The true enemy is also exposed: "We are constantly being threatened by those who benefit by creating turmoil" amongst us. The world can learn a valuable lesson by observing these two tribal chairmen at work.

The four abandoned uranium tailings sites will finally get cleaned up. These are at Shiprock, Tuba City, Monument Valley and Mexican Hat (northeast of Monument Valley). Near Shiprock the lack of fencing lets neighborhood children play at the site.

The clean up project is scheduled over the next six years. The first site to be cleaned up is at Shiprock where work is expected to begin in 1985.

* * *

More than 75% of the 25,000 sq. miles (16 million acres) of Navajoland is classed as rangeland. A report by the energy firm of Dine Bei Resource Development, Inc. points to an alarming increase in the number of sand dunes developing.

The Navajo people have an instinct for conservation, and if the land use is intense they move around. But while the herds have increased in number the available land base for grazing has been reduced.

Land reform is receiving increasing attention in Navajoland, and it is to be noted that wildlife is always included in any

Continued on Page 7

Letter

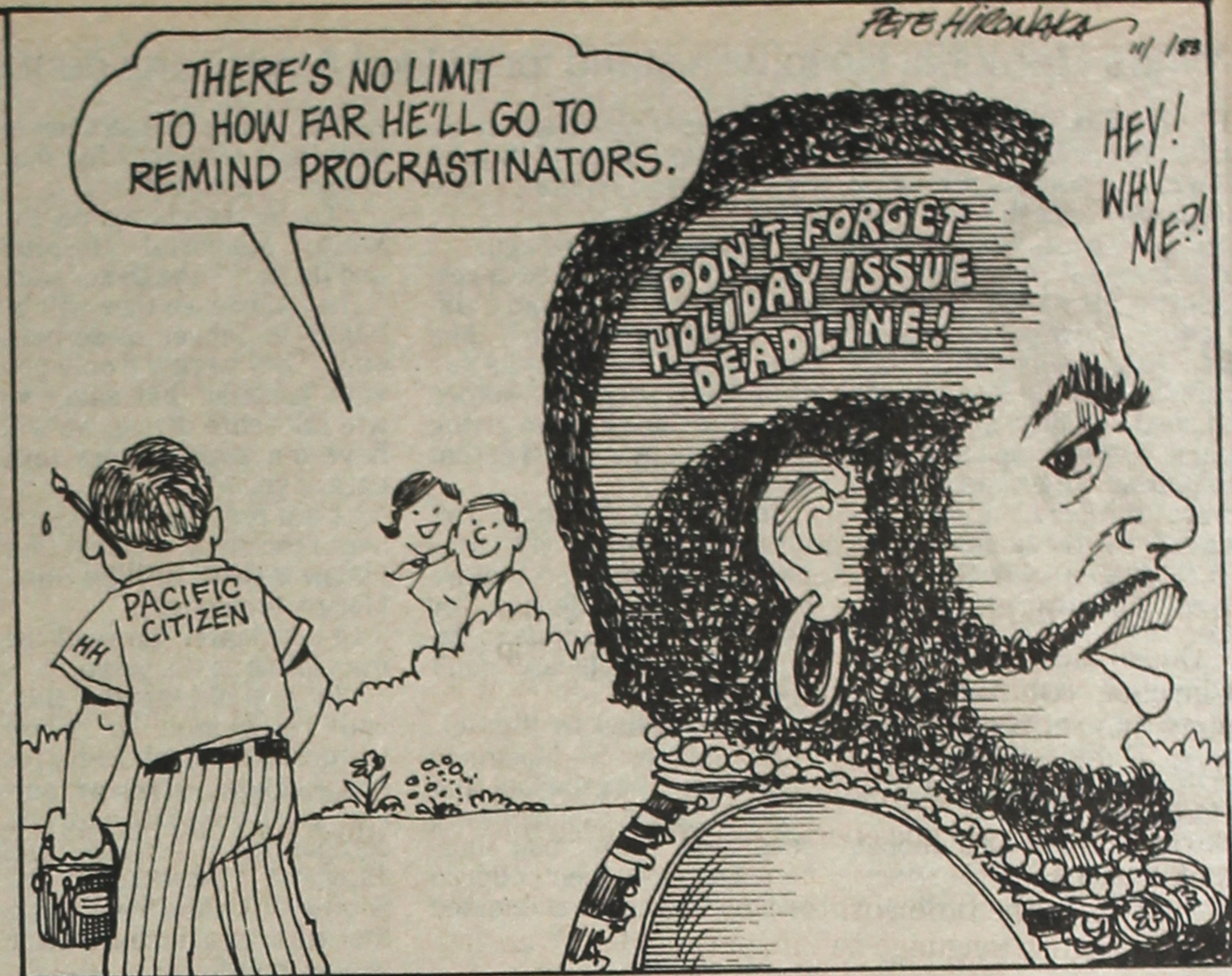
• Tanaka's tango

Have you heard about the naughty naughty Prime Minister of Japan Kakuei Tanaka? According to reports this gent accepted some money for promoting aircraft sales in his country. Well they run things there as they see fit but as the old cliché goes, "it takes two to tango" and I don't see where Lockheed aircraft has to dance. It's still a case of East is East and West is West but as far as I'm concerned it's—Banzai Tanaka-san! Make it 3.

CHIYEKO HEDANI
Costa Mesa, Ca.

The Holiday Issue Deadlines

SPACE DEADLINE—Nov. 15
All Copy Deadline—Nov. 30
Absolute Deadline—Dec. 7



PRESIDENT'S CORNER: by Floyd Shimomura

Deep Pockets and Sharp Elbows

Sacramento, Ca.



With the recent introduction of redress legislation in Congress, JACL's redress campaign has reached the end of one phase and the beginning of another.

The bill's introduction marks the end of a long process that was designed to (1) revive the redress issue as a legitimate political issue in the 1980s, (2) educate the American public about the World War II mistreatment of Japanese Americans, and (3) unite the various proponents of redress behind one basic approach.

JACL's decision to back the creation of the redress commission (CWRIC) was not without risk. There was concern that good people would not be appointed as commissioners, that the Commission would not write a forthright and accurate report, and that the Commission would "waffle" on its recommendations. While the Commission's work is not free from criticism, I think the general acceptance of the Commission's report and recommendations by the Japanese American community justifies the approach taken. Without the Commission, it is difficult to imagine that a \$1.5 billion redress bill providing \$20,000 for each surviving internee would have been introduced by House Majority Leader Jim Wright and co-sponsored by more than 70 House members. Certainly, great progress has been made.

However, now we are beginning a new phase of the campaign—lobbying a \$1.5 billion bill through Congress. This takes us squarely into the political arena. Given the current status of the economy and political composition of Washington, D.C., this would be a formidable task for even the most influential, sophisticated and well-heeled lobbyist. Before, the task was merely to prove the merits of our cause. Now, we are competing against others who also have "good causes" for a limited piece of the pie. Success at this struggle requires a deep pocket, sharp elbows, and experience in how to use them.

Historically, JACL has been a non-political, volunteer, grassroots civil rights organization which operates on a shoe-string budget. The present legislative campaign forces us to ask ourselves some tough questions. Can JACL continue to refuse to activate a political action committee to help our friends in Congress? Can JACL continue to rely primarily on volunteer effort rather than retaining highly experienced, professional Washington lobbyists to organize and run a sophisticated lobbying campaign? Can JACL continue to hold its endowment fund for a yet undetermined "emergency" and let redress limp along underfunded?

The time has come to confront these hard questions. We have run the redress campaign to date on heart and heart alone. Now it will take more. #

EAST WIND: by Bill Marutani



Philadelphia

THERE ARE SOME Nikkei who suggest that having had Congress establish the Commission on War-time Relocation and Internment of Civilians, followed by Commission hearings and its report, was quite an accomplishment toward alleviating, if not remedying, the wrongs inflicted upon the Nisei and their parents in being summarily uprooted and incarcerated in 1942. Those who espouse such anesthetizing rationalizing, then suggest that even if nothing more is realized... well, perhaps it was enough that we had the Commission's report.

SUCH FAINT-HEARTED evasion reflects a second-class citizenship perspective. No self-respecting, red-blooded American would settle for such "half-a-loaf." After all that was so shamelessly and ignominiously heaped upon our Issei parents and their offsprings, the taint of which continues to plague all of us in various insidious ways—including even those who were born after the event—having a report with recommendations restores justice?

INDEED, COUNTING ALL the pluses thus far, we do not even have that half-a-loaf. At best, the most we have is a "recipe" for some kind of a loaf. Yes, it is a start, but that's all it is—a start. The tough, meaningful work

is yet ahead; this is no time to delude ourselves into thinking that a suggested recipe will serve to slake the hunger for dignity, long overdue to Americans of Japanese ancestry and their parents. We need some first-class, proud American thinking and heart—not some demeaning, second-class mentality.

BUT THE EVASIVE mentality is not easily discouraged; it is ready with another illusory placebo at the second phase. In terms of our metaphor, it would fulfill the recipe with an apology. Only. For the summary uprooting, for the grossly unconstitutional incarceration, the losses of life's works, the indignities and the taint—all experienced by some 115,000 god-fearing, law-abiding, decent Americans and their parents. Just "sorry;" no loaf, no half-a-loaf, not even a crumb; just air, an apology. (Indeed, there are some dinosaurs loose who wouldn't even proffer an apology.)

IT IS NOT the "bread" that is important; it is what it signifies, the role it plays in the scheme of our American cultural values. Whenever a wrong is committed in our society, whether intentionally, such as a crime, or unintentionally, such as injuring another in an auto accident, it is not enough to make amends by merely saying "sorry." Inevitably, there is involved the common medium of the "coin of the realm," either in terms of a fine or damages. This is true in many, many other facets of our society: libel, breach of contract, traffic

offense, price-fixing, wrongful arrest or detention, taking of another's property, and on and on.

BUT WHEN IT comes to the Nikkei and their parents, suddenly the "coin of the realm" becomes a metal slug, the "rules" change. Everyone else receives the long-established standard treatment that we've practiced in this society since its establishment three centuries ago. Now, some would seek to follow up on the ignominy of the uprooting-incarceration with another ignominy: respond with air. It means nothing.

NO DECENT AMERICAN with any pride in being an American, would accept such a sop. #

'Let Them Eat Cake'

pacific citizen

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FROM THE FRYING PAN: by Bill Hosokawa

Family Names in Japanese— Over 130,000 of Them



Tokyo
There are so many Japanese Americans visiting Japan these days that waiting in the lobby of the New Otani or Imperial is almost like standing at the corner of First and San Pedro in Los Angeles used to be.

Before long you're going to run into someone you know. One of the first Nisei we encountered on this trip was Clarence Nishizu of Los Angeles and way points who, since his retirement, has been visiting some distant part of the world each year. He said he had been in southern Japan in search of his roots, and he had discovered his family goes back many centuries into the samurai era.

Just about the time Nishizu was in Japan one of the Tokyo English language newspapers published an article about Japanese names. It said that until 1875 only 10 percent of Japanese, the privileged and elite, had family names. There were about 30,000 different names.

The new government formed after the Meiji Restoration then ordered everyone to get himself a family name and use it as an administrative necessity. Imagine the confusion that would ensue if there were millions of men known only as Taro.

It now is clear that the commoners were both imaginative and unimaginative in choosing family names. Today, the article says, more than 130,000 family names are used in Japan and some experts seem to think there are many more. That compares to about 250 family names in use in Korea, 500 in China and maybe 50,000 in the United States and Europe combined.

Where he got these figures isn't explained, but I recall reading somewhere that about 40 percent of Koreans are named Kim.

The article quotes Motoji Niwa, a Tokyo researcher, as saying that despite the great abundance of names, two million of the 118 million Japanese are named Sato, another two million are Suzuki, and 1.3 million are called Takahashi.

Takahashi means high bridge, Suzuki is bell tree, but I don't know enough Japanese to be able to translate Sato. Most of the new names refer to places. Yamada, for instance, means mountain paddy.

According to the article, the others on the list of the 10 most common names are Ito, Watanabe, Saito, Tanaka, Kobayashi, Sasaki and Yamamoto.

That leaves room for quite a few uncommon names. On this trip I ran into several that a name-collector doesn't encounter every day. One was Akio Ijuin who is director of the Overseas Public Relations Division of the Foreign Ministry. Without the first name it would be difficult to identify Ijuin as every-day Japanese.

Then there was a delightful young lady named Yuri Momomoto who works in the public relations department of Fujitsu, the computer people. By some Oriental magic, Momomoto is written in the characters for 100, so her full name comes out as One Hundred Lilies (which is the translation for Yuri). Nice.

Considering the confusion over names, Clarence Nishizu was fortunate to be able to trace his family back so far. Obviously his ancestors were important enough to have a last name long before the Meiji folks decreed that everyone ought to have one. #

NAT'L BOARD

Continued from Front Page

reducing member complaints about interrupted services; (2) freeing volunteer time spent on administrative work so that chapter members could concentrate on recruiting new members; (3) keeping National Headquarters informed of member interests—assuming that the membership forms would list areas of interest—so that JACL could draw segments of the organization together on different issues.

Change to a centralized system may also mean (1) loss of chapter control over money collected, (2) potential loss of chapter control over membership rates, (3) abandonment of a system that works, (4) loss of personal contacts within a chapter.

Gilman recommended that the board initiate a centralized system, primarily because the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. "If there are reasons to change," he said, "delaying the changes is not going to make the system better."

And, he added, there is a need to change. One person at Headquarters now files more than 25,000 pieces of paper by hand.

Costs of computerization would be reasonable because software is already available.

Board action: A membership task force is to be appointed by Ochi to study the consultant's recommendations and other membership and planning concerns.

The board also authorized Ochi to organize a contest to stimulate chapters to increase their membership.

Redress: 'Little Movement' Seen

John Tateishi and Min Yasui reviewed progress of the redress campaign to date. For the next year, they said, there will probably be little action taken by the Congress. For the rest of this year, time must be spent in lobbying members of the House subcommittee on administrative law and governmental relations, and other key House members.

The Senate bill, not yet prepared as of the board meeting, is expected to be introduced this month, but "it will not see a lot of movement before the House bill starts moving," Tateishi said.

JACL's hardest push thus will begin in January 1985.

Tateishi stressed that grassroots efforts were crucial, both

Continued on Page 7

After 40 Years . . .

By JON J. KAWAMOTO
East/West

SAN LEANDRO—He is gaunt, shy, friendly, hesitant in answering questions, and, as it turns out, very much a family man ensconced in middle-class suburbia: Boy Scout leader, Lions Club president and elder of the Oakland First Presbyterian Church.

"I read recently that I was a 'loner,'" said Korematsu, a 64-year-old draftsman who lives here. "I've been involved with the Boy Scouts for 18 years, the Lions Club for 28 years and with the church for 30 years. I like getting involved with people. I stay busy. You wouldn't call someone like that a loner, would you?"



Korematsu

Breaking Silence

Every law student and legal scholar know about Fred Korematsu and how his refusal to honor a federal government order to relocate to a concentration camp in 1942 ultimately led to a controversial and questionable U.S. Supreme Court ruling.

Until recently, however, little was known about the man behind the court case. For more than four decades, Korematsu remained very much an enigma. And he seemed to prefer it that way. Requests for interviews were routinely rejected, and offers to appear before Asian American organizations were turned down.

Korematsu broke his self-imposed silence on his court case last January 19, when he filed in federal court in San Francisco a writ of error coram nobis, a little-used legal procedure.

The petition contended that his conviction be reversed based on information in recently discovered documents that showed that several government agencies knowingly falsified, suppressed and withheld evidence from the high court. The evidence, the petition alleged, concluded that there was no "military necessity" to forcibly remove Japanese Americans.

On Oct. 4, Korematsu appeared in the public spotlight again when the government, in an unexpected move, offered to vacate its decision against him.

'It Had To Be Now'

"I was surprised," he said. "The government doesn't work like that all the time. I haven't heard of a case where the government vacates a decision it made more than 40 years ago, have you?"

Why did he—after all this time—break his silence about the case?

"I figured it was time," Korematsu explained. "I'm getting

Korematsu: 'I figured it was time'

older, and I wanted to see something done. The ruling was wrong. I figured that if I was going to do anything, it had to be now. And Peter Irons just fell into place. He was the man I was looking for all these years to fight my case, to say that it was unconstitutional to convict me, an American citizen, and to intern 120,000 people."

Irons and Korematsu met nearly two years ago. At that time Irons, now a political science professor at the University of California at San Diego, was teaching at Boston College Law School and doing research on a book (the recently released Justice at War) on the Japanese American wartime cases of Korematsu, Gordon Hirabayashi and Minoru Yasui.

Irons wrote Korematsu about his research work, flew out from Boston to meet him and raised the idea of trying to reverse the conviction based on the information he had uncovered. Korematsu gave the go-ahead.

"You can't beat his background (Harvard Law School graduate, author, professor, specialist in legal history and constitutional law) and his enthusiasm," Korematsu said. "He struck me as a man who, if he wanted to get something done, would get it done."

Petition and Response

Soon thereafter, Irons contacted Oakland attorney Dale Minami about working on the three cases. Minami agreed, and eventually 13 attorneys, most of whom are Sansei whose parents were interned, began laying the legal groundwork to challenge the cases.

Similar petitions seeking reversal of the convictions were filed this year for Yasui and Hirabayashi. The U.S. Attorney's office has also requested that the cases against these two men be revoked.

A Nov. 10 hearing has been scheduled before federal court Judge Marilyn H. Patel. At that time, the U.S. Attorney's office is expected to make a formal motion to vacate the decision against Korematsu, thereby clearing his name from the record.

Korematsu's attorneys are expected to ask the judge to rule on some findings in the petition regarding the government's alleged misconduct in the case and on the unconstitutionality of the internment, said Don Tamaki, an attorney on the "Committee to Reverse the Japanese American Wartime Cases."

Korematsu said he's still waiting for the final decision before celebrating.

"It's not over yet," he said.

As a result of the publicity and renewed interest in the case, Korematsu's life has been changed—but only slightly, he said. There are a few appearances to make at fund-raisers to help pay legal fees incurred by the committee and some requests for media interviews. That's about it.

Not surprisingly, he has become more than just a casual observer of the campaign to redress Japanese Americans.

"I hope my case will help (the campaign)," he said. "You figure that the people who were sent to concentration camps lost a lot, either in their businesses or personal belongings, and they suffered a lot. Paying \$20,000 (to each internee, as has been proposed under a Congressional bill) isn't very much. It's a start."

His future plans are modest. He's considering the possibility of beginning his own business as a draftsman.

Korematsu said his wife, Kathryn, 62, and children, Karen, 31, and Ken, 29, have been supportive.

"My family, my friends, everyone tells me, 'Go for it,'" he said. "They think it's wrong, too."

Reprinted by permission of East/West. Jon Kawamoto is also a reporter for the San Francisco Examiner.

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NAT'L BOARD

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in letting the whole Nikkei community know how much support is needed, and in the congressional elections. Candidates at fund-raising events or in town meetings should be asked if they will support the redress bill. "Get them on record," Tateishi advised.

JACL has 10 to 18 months to make its maximum effort, Tateishi said. A detailed game plan will be sent to all chapters soon.

'Get Redress Pledges In'

At the previous board meeting, the FY1983-84 redress budget was set at \$194,324, primarily to allow the hiring of two additional staff members in the Washington, D.C., office.

Board action: The redress program budget was reduced to \$164,230 to bring expenses under \$300,000 for the biennium. To give flexibility to the redress staff, however, \$30,000 in the general operations budget was earmarked as a contingency fund for redress. The finance committee will determine when the contingency funds are to be used. No area in the general operations budget was specifically targeted for reduction.

Treasurer Frank Sato urged that all chapters send in their second year's redress pledges, due Oct. 1. The chapter membership total as of Dec. 31, 1981, should be used to determine the annual pledge for three years.

Brought out in the discussion was the feeling of some members that a portion of the Mike M. Masaoka Fund should be used for redress. The Fund stipulates that its interest alone shall be used for operating expenses.

Board action: The Ways and Means committee is to supply written definitions of the purpose and limitations of the Mike M. Masaoka Fund by the next board meeting.

Plans for Aloha '84

Board action: Gelco was approved as agent to handle the convention package containing air travel, housing and registration. Convention rates for hotel and registration will be available only through Gelco. Members can ask for any or all of the three parts of the package.

Workshops approved by the board were: U.S.-Japan, ethnic concerns, women's concerns, and aging and retirement. Expenses are to be determined later.

Mollie Fujioka, chair of national nominations committee, asked the district governors to appoint representatives to that committee. Representatives must intend to be in Honolulu for the convention. Guidelines for the nominating process will be in place by early 1984.

The board asked that the credentials chair be informed of

chapter certification so as to make sure that all district and national fees are paid 60 days prior to the convention, as required by JACL bylaws.

National Appointments

The board ratified the appointments of Rose Ochi to the position of vice president for membership and of Irene Hirano to the chair of the women's concerns committee.

Ochi is executive assistant to Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley. A member of the bar, she served on the U.S. Select Commission on Immigration and ran for Congress in 1982.

Hirano is director of T.H.E. Clinic, a women's health clinic in Los Angeles. She helped found, among other organizations, the Asian Pacific Legal Defense and Education Fund, and sits on the California Commission on the Status of Women, which she chaired last year.

Other Actions

Shimomura's report to the board will be covered in his PC column in following weeks. In other actions, the board

—thanked the Japan Chapter for their hospitality and coordination of the JACL Japan trip.

—agreed to a request by Don Kazama to send a letter to the U.S. Bureau of the Census, asking them to publish census data by county on persons 65 years of age or older who can speak only limited English.

—heard a report from veterans committee chair Marshall Sumida on the Go For Broke traveling exhibit and endorsed corporate membership in GFB, with the \$1,000 dues to be raised through private solicitation.

—voted to send a letter of inquiry to the Nikkei Basketball Assn. regarding their rules restricting the ethnic composition of their teams.

—approved \$150 in PANA expenses.

—heard recommendations from youth representatives Alysya Watanabe and Paul Nakasone and asked David Nakayama to draft proposed bylaw changes affecting youth representation on the board.

—referred an article/comic strip entitled "How to Spot a Jap"—run in the October issue of Oui—to the ethnic concerns committee.

—passed a resolution submitted by the EDC/MDC that asks JACLers to work cooperatively and openly in grassroots lobbying and that requests funds from the redress budget. No specific amount was authorized by the board.

—passed a resolution submitted by PNW to commend Reps. Mike Lowry and Norman Mineta, Lowry aide Ruthann Kurose, and Seattle chapter for their redress efforts.

—went into closed executive session for several hours to

discuss matters pertaining to the conduct of the Washington, D.C., office.

All members of the national board attended the meeting: President Floyd Shimomura; vice presidents Ben Takeshita, Chuck Kubokawa, Miki Himeno, Rose Ochi; secretary-treasurer Frank Sato; legal counsel Frank Iwama; governors Yosh Nakashima, Mike Suzuki, George Sakaguchi, Hid Hasegawa, Denny Yasuhara, Maude Ishida, Cary Nishimoto, Ron Shibata; youth reps. Paul Nakasone and Alysya Watanabe; and PC board chair Hank Sakai.

The next meeting was tentatively set for Feb. 24-26, 1984. #

UYEDA

Continued from Page 4

management plan because it is a natural part of the rangeland environment.

* * *

The JACL Committee for Big Mountain People has forwarded several shipments of clothing to the Navajo reservation. They are appreciated. We thank the contributors. #

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ASIAN AMERICANS

Continued from Front Page

all-time high deficits in trade are the fault of imports from Japan, Taiwan, Korea and the Philippines.

Masaoka noted shifts in the position of American business. He said that the U.S. has enjoyed almost unrestricted access to world resources in the past 30 years—now, there's some stiff competition. It will be difficult for corporations to maintain the high profit ratios they are used to, and, he added, they may be able to do that only through greater exploitation of their workers.

Masaoka posited that management tries to get workers to accept wage concessions by blaming the "Japanese menace." Thus, workers are inculcated with a belief that plant shut-downs and layoffs should be attributed, not to management, but to Japanese imports and low Japanese wages.

In his conclusion Masaoka called for solidarity among the Asian communities and the working class. Only then, he feels, can positive steps be taken to dissociate larger issues from racism.

Refugees and Immigrants

Southeast Asian refugees are the third focus of anti-Asian discrimination. Tim Dong, assistant director of the Asian American studies center at UCLA, noted, however, that the number of Southeast Asian immigrants is miniscule when compared to the number of European immigrants at the turn

of the century.

Yet the rise in immigration, Dong said, generates a fear of "The Yellow Horde" and their eternal foreign-ness, even though no ethnic group undergoes instant acculturation.

To combat the climate of prejudice, Dong called for the revitalization of affirmative action. But, he said, "The most direct response is education."

Asians: Highly Concentrated and Visible

The fourth stimulus for renewed bigotry is simply the general increase in the Asian population. Asians are more highly concentrated and visible than they were 20 years ago. Louie noted, "For instance, before 1967, you didn't even have a Koreatown."

Tong Soo Chung, president of the Korean American Coalition, attested to his community's rapid growth and accused the media of painting highly unrealistic pictures. Time Magazine's cover story of June 13 and a series in the L.A. Sentinel, a Black community newspaper, have caused greatest concern. Chung cited three sources of media attacks on Asians: cultural misperceptions, the recession and journalistic sensationalism.

Sumi Haru of the Assn. of Asian/Pacific American Artists also criticized the media, especially television, for its isolation from the APA community. The average American, who watches several hours of TV daily, sees distorted, mostly negative portrayals of Asians. In what Haru called an "electronic genocide of Pacific Asians," TV rarely shows Asians in

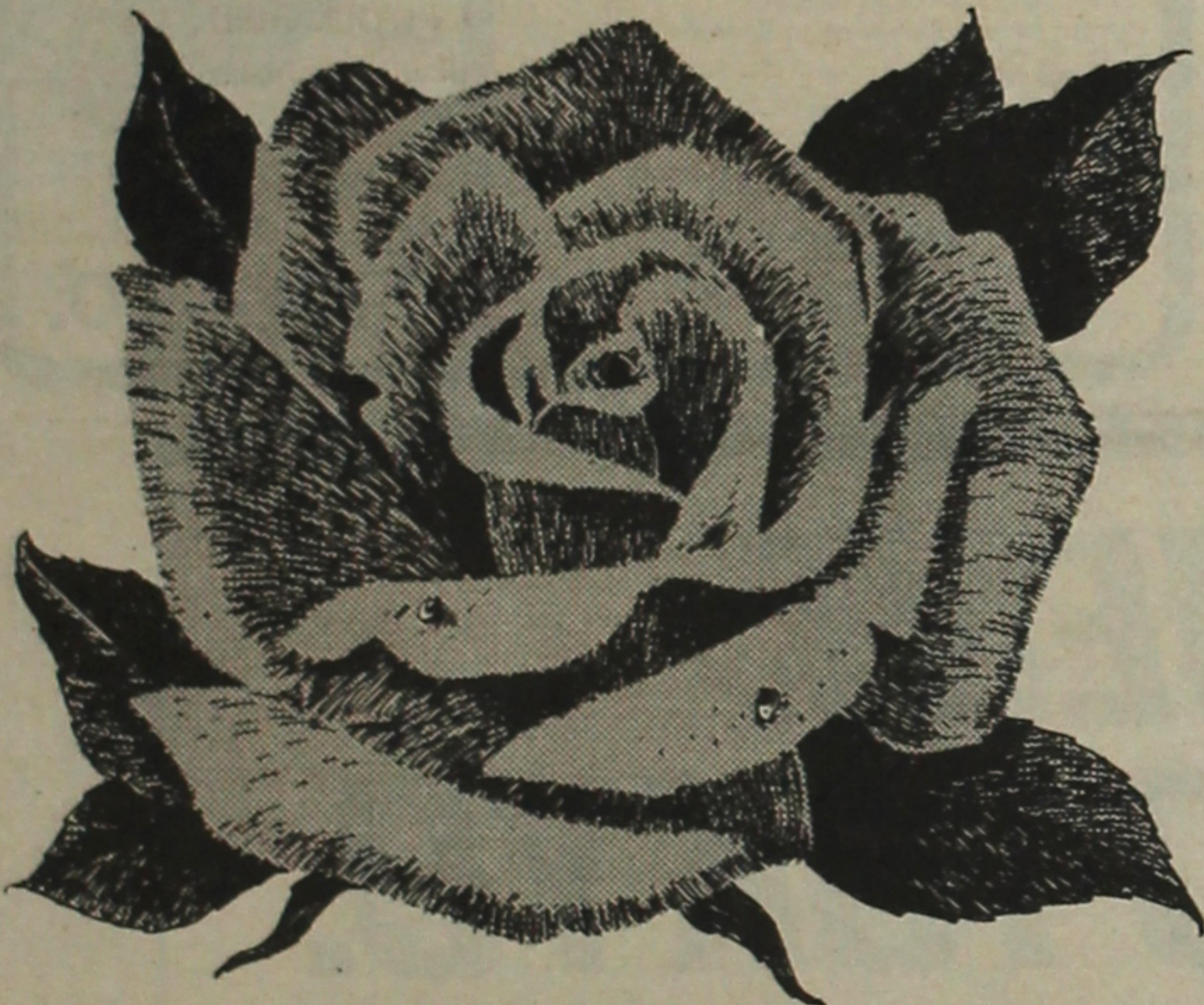
the mainstream of American life. The most important way to rectify the problem is to demand that studios hire Asian writers, network executives and producers who have decision-making responsibilities.

On another front, police chief Jon D. Elder of Monterey Park proposed a number of approaches to heighten awareness in law enforcement. Elder said that affirmative action is implemented in many ways in Monterey Park, a community with a 47% minority population.

For Monterey Park's "Little Taipei," there is, for example, bi-lingual telephone assistance, an Asian victims detail, bi-lingual testing preference for police candidates, training in Asian cultures for police personnel, and a Chinese committee that meets with the Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Lily Chen is the only Chinese American woman mayor in the U.S.

Other testimonies during the day were submitted by: Dr. Alan Seid, president of the Asian Pacific American Advocates of California, who traced the history of anti-Asian animosity; Mike Woo, former president of the Asian Pacific American Round Table; David Bow Woo of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance; Miya Iwataki from the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations, Los Angeles Chapter; Patricia Lin of California State University at Long Beach; Linda Wong from Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund; John Stoddard, dean of Mark Keppel High School in Alhambra; Antonio San Jose, representing a Pilipino CPA coalition; Stewart Kwoh, director of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center; and Susie Ling, Rick Oishi and Derrick Lim, graduate students from UCLA.

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"The Selling of the Blacklimozine" will combine live film footage of the series of rock concert/party happenings with media and press coverage of these events in a multi-faceted presentation of original music and video which will simultaneously introduce and promote all of the separate elements of the multi-media production of The Blacklimozine Group. The musical director and co-producer of The Blacklimozine Group has previously received numerous gold and platinum album awards, one of which was for "Fame," and has conducted "The David Letterman Show" and the "Saturday Night Live" orchestras.

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Ron Takaki's uncle inspires the Berkeley professor to write book

BERKELEY, Ca.—Drinking beer on the front porch, chatting idly with neighbors, and spending hours doing mostly nothing may not be conducive to putting together a thought-provoking book.

However, for UC-Berkeley professor Ron Takaki, that was exactly what he was doing when he ignited the literary spark to pen his new book "Pau Hana: Plantation Life and Labor in Hawaii" (Honolulu: Univ. of Hawaii Press, \$14.95).

In 1977 when Takaki was on sabbatical, he would visit his uncle Richard Okawa, sit on the front porch, and trade stories and have discussions on any subject, better known to the Hawaiians as "talk story."

At the time, Takaki was telling his uncle about the book he was writing, entitled "Iron Cages: Race and Culture in 19th Century America."

Okawa, a former sugar plantation worker, whom Takaki describes as having "a great deal of intellectual curiosity," was proud that his nephew was writing a book. Okawa, in his late 70s at the time, like many of his generation, had not had the opportunity to attend college.

The Berkeley ethnic studies professor said he remembered how his uncle's eyes lit up when "I told him about my plans for the 'Iron Cages' book." In lilting pidgin English, Okawa said, "Hey, why you no go write a book about us?"

There were few general histories of Hawaii besides James Michener's series of novels, "which can't be taken too seriously," cautioned Takaki. He made his decision then to write a book on the islands.

"Pau Hana" is the first study of plantation life and labor in the islands from a multi-ethnic perspective. It describes the

plight of all plantation laborers—Hawaiians, Chinese, Norwegians, Germans, Portuguese, Japanese, Koreans, Filipinos and others.

"We need to remember that not all immigrants came from Europe," stressed the author, "and that Asians constituted an indispensable element of the industrial workforce of the Western United States and Hawaii."

Unlike his book "Iron Cages," which studied the elite in power who made the decisions that affected the masses, "this book gave me a chance at history from the workers' point of view," explained Takaki. He also said he wanted to find out about his family roots.

The writer, 44, was born and raised in Hawaii. His maternal grandfather and grandmother came to Hawaii as contract laborers in 1886 and 1896, respectively. His father, an Issei from Japan, died when Takaki was still young. His mother subsequently remarried and her second spouse helped raise Ron.

"It seems as though the timing was perfect for me to write," reflected Takaki, "for suddenly we had these records of plantation workers, the songs and the oral history project going on at the same time."

In Hawaiian, the phrase "Pau Hana" literally means "finished working." Takaki felt it was an appropriate title. "For the old workers, it is a time for retirement, rest, and reflection."

"Pau Hana," unlike Takaki's previous works, was not specifically written for the academic world. Since he was "writing this for his uncle and the working people," Takaki wanted to write something they would want to read.

About writing another book, Takaki says he is not planning anything. "Maybe I should get together with my uncle," he joked.—Robert Tokunaga, in East/West, Sept. 7. #

Library of Congress scholar cited APALA

LOS ANGELES—Dr. Warren Tsuneishi, author of several publications including "Japanese Political Style" and "In Library Administration," while at the Library of Congress, was the recipient

of this summer's Asian/Pacific American Librarians Assn. Distinguished Service Award.

The Monrovia-born Nisei was presented with the honor during the third joint program of APALA and the Chinese American Librarians Assn., held in June.

Tsuneishi received his undergraduate degrees from Syracuse and Columbia; and earned his doctorate in political science from Yale in 1960. He joined the Library of Congress in 1966 as its chief of Orientalia Division. Today, he is an assistant in research services.

During World War II, the third son of Satoru Tsuneishi was awarded the Bronze Star for his stint in the Pacific Theater. #

Toll-free information

LOS ANGELES — County residents not familiar with the English language, seeking information or referral, may avail themselves with CALL service—the Community Access Library Line—funded by the county public library, Supervisor Ed Edelman said. Those living in the 213, 714, 619 and 805 area codes may dial 1-800-372-6641 for such assistance, provided in English, Spanish, Chinese and Japanese. #

Aging and emotions to be explored

SAN FRANCISCO—Nisei and Retirement sponsors a workshop entitled "Retirement, Aging and Mental Health: The Nisei Experience" on Saturday, Nov. 19, 1-4 p.m., at JACL headquarters, 1765 Sutter Street.

Speaking are Dr. Kenji Murase, who reports on the Univ. of Hawaii conference on Japanese culture and mental health; Edith Tanaka who gives practical information on senior citizen benefits; and Dr. Michael Ego, JACL Aging and Retirement chair, who reports on Nisei attitudes toward retirement.

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State economy body
SACRAMENTO, Ca.—The Pacific tilt became a reality last year when the U.S. conducted more trade across the Pacific than the Atlantic, indicated Sen. Ralph C. Dills,

chairman of Joint Committee on the State's Economy. "The shift is having a profound influence on the culture of the U.S. The big ques-

tion of which state benefits most, New York or California, depends on who will make it more attractive for companies to do business there," Dills added. #

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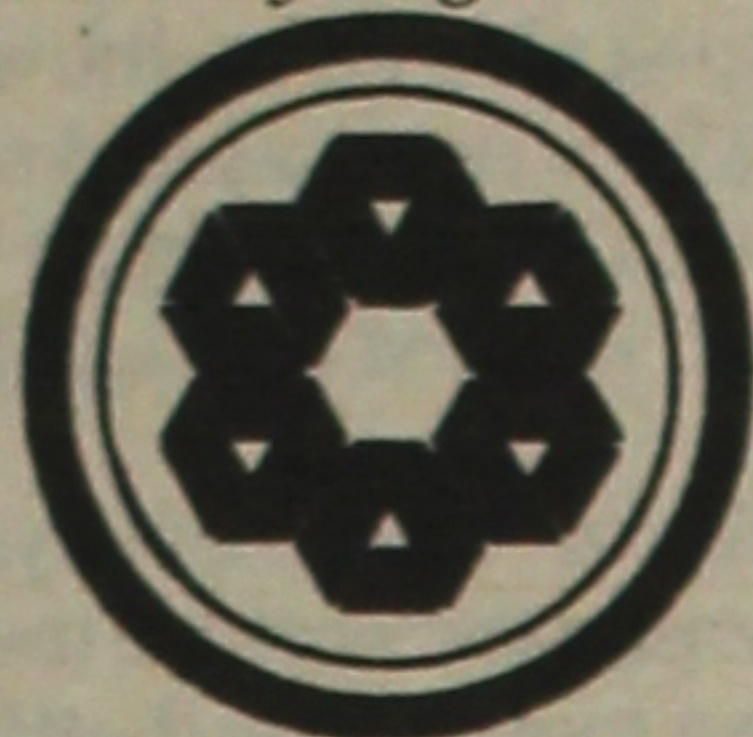
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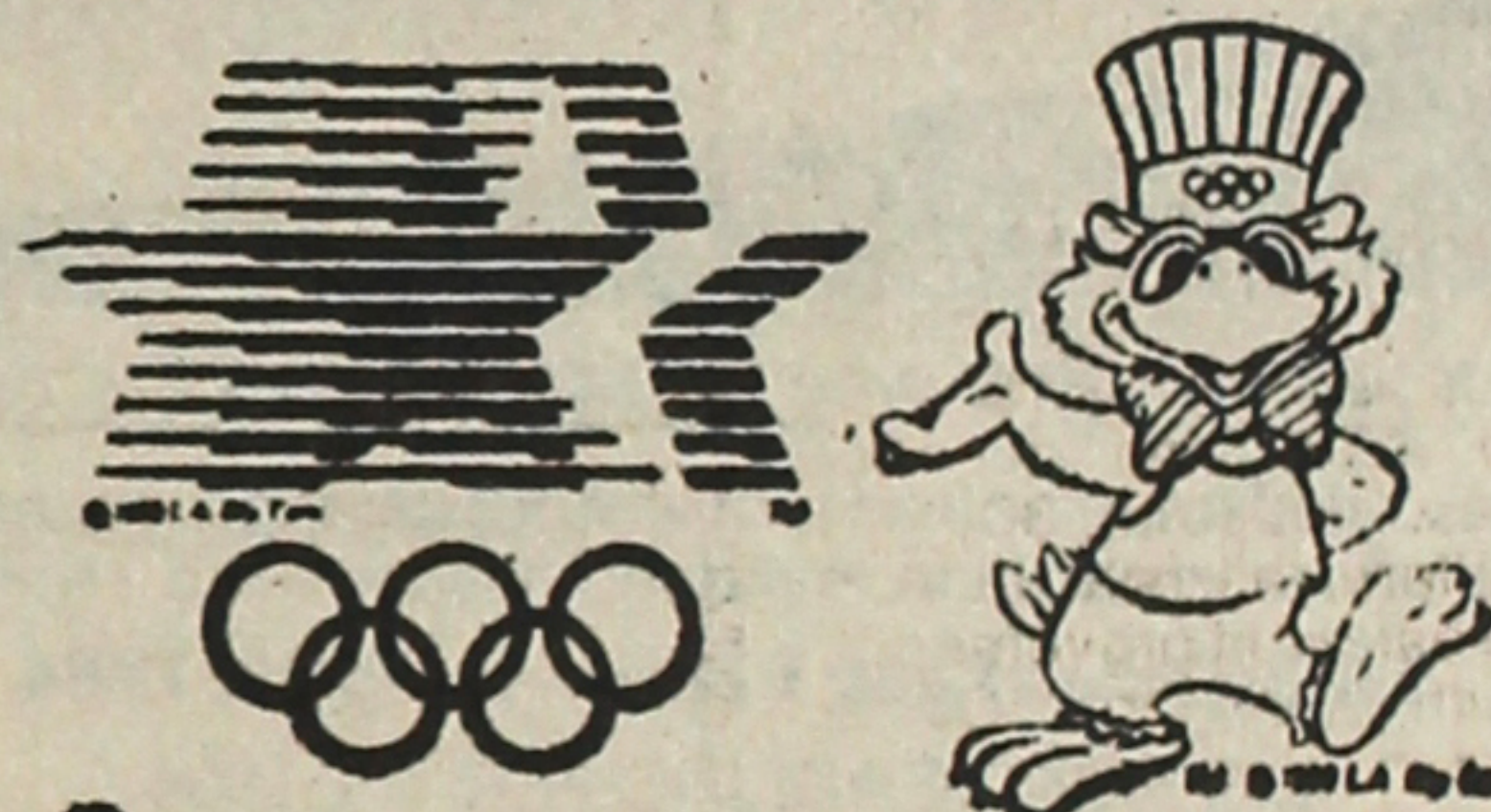
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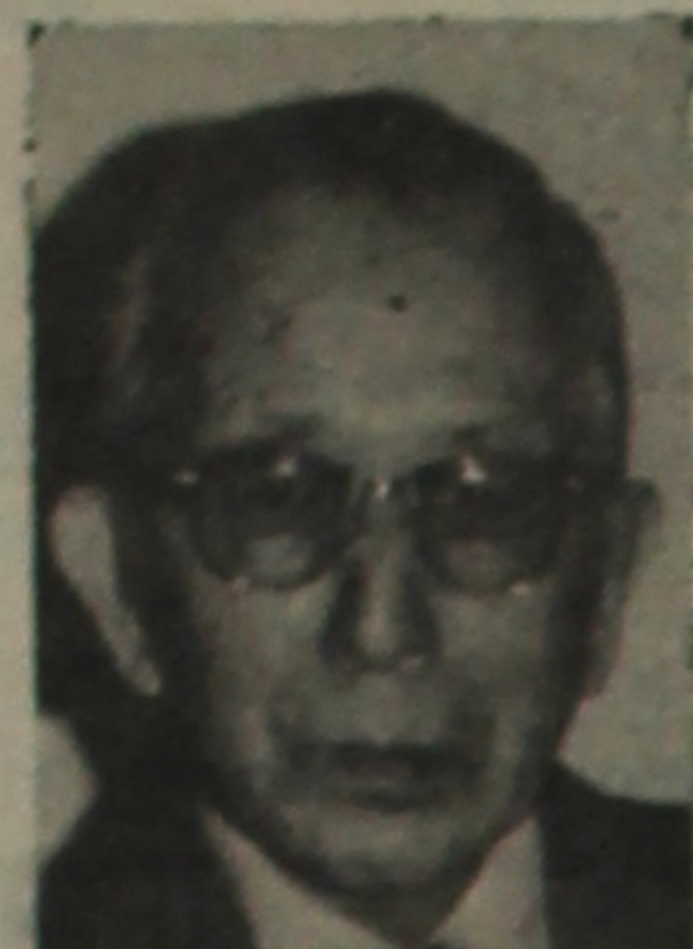
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MOSHI-MOSHI: by Jin Konomi



The development of diet patterns originally was no doubt an opportunistic process dictated mainly by the availability of materials. As man cultivated taste discrimination, delectability became another factor in determining the final pattern. Over long periods of more or less stable economic and social conditions certain traditions developed as to choice of materials and manner of preparing the foods. These were often fortified and sometimes enforced by taboos and physiological and hygienic rationales which were not always rational or scientifically valid.

The Nikkei cuisine has developed roughly along such a line. The triple principle of availability, delectability, and tradition operated alternately or accommodated one another. So in the primitive conditions before and around the turn of the century, the railroad gangs and mine workers were fed daily the infamous *dangojiru*. Dumplings cooked in a broth of sow belly or bacon rind, or whatever, it had no nutritional value to speak of, and the workers often developed night blindness. The surest cure was a can of Carnation milk taken straight, which they had to buy out of their own pocket.

Dangojiru was a testimony to the hardihood of the early immigrants, I have been told. I am more inclined to think, a testimony to the greed of the labor contractors.

Where they were ruled by tradition, the early immigrants

The Nikkei Cuisine and Tsukemono

missed most of the endless possibilities offered by the abundance and variety of this rich land. Many families had never known anything but the crudest *okazu* of rural Japan until they went to the evacuation camps and learned cooking. Here allow me to indulge in a personal note.

In my student days I batched with four or five other boys in a big house near the campus. One evening the cook of the day prepared a mutton chop suey, because mutton was the cheapest meat that day, and chop suey was the only mode of cooking he knew—no doubt learned by watching his mother cook. It was the god-awfullest dish I had ever had to eat, and the memory of it still makes me gag.

Ultimately delectability prevails. The Nikkei cuisine which is a happy eclecticism of American, Chinese, and Japanese

cuisines, with added smatterings from other cookings, gleaned from books and magazines, or learned in restaurants, is probably the most satisfying cooking—at least to me. Its greatest triumph is the fried rice, developed in agricultural camp kitchens rather than copied from the Chinese. No doubt I will get some flak for this, and I will try to be open minded.

Traditions have a way of outliving the reasons for their being. In America where fresh vegetables are available in abundance twelve months of the year, there is no justification for *tsukemono*—smelly, indigestible and altogether too salty. Yet there are Nisei and Sansei who cannot get along without it. To them—and to me, also—a Japanese meal is unthinkable without it. So with your indulgence I would like to expatiate on the subject a little further in the next column. #

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