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May 24, 1985

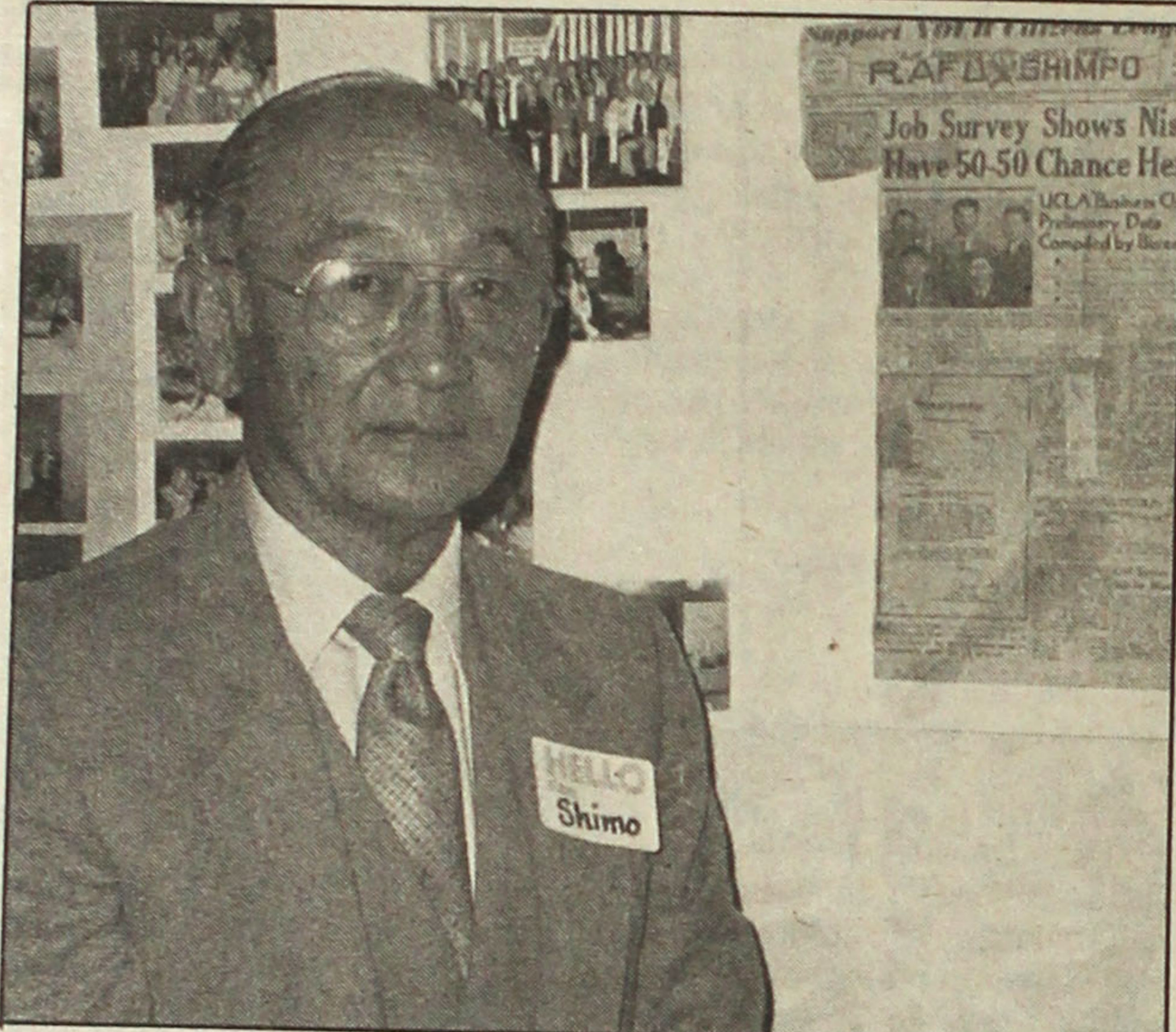


photo by Bob Shimabukuro

BURDEN LIFTED—Cedrick Shimo poses before display at the 1800 Army Engineer General Service Battalion reunion. Attorney Hyman Bravin was honored for helping 1800 members clear their military records.

Lawyer honored at Nisei servicemen's reunion

by Robert Shimabukuro

LOS ANGELES — The WW2 1800th Army Engineer General Service Battalion honored their longtime friend, retired Major Hyman Bravin, at their 6th and final "official" reunion at Akasaka Hanten Restaurant on May 11.

Receiving a plaque recognizing his contributions in helping members of the 1800 change their discharge status from "blue" to honorable, civil rights attorney Bravin spoke of the courage, industriousness, loyalty and commitment to democratic principles exhibited by the oft-maligned battalion.

Clean Records

"These men had absolutely clean records. They were considered suspect only because they could not speak English very well. It was a terrible form of discrimination."

In reference to the concentration camp experience, Bravin said that Japanese Americans were the ones who could and should lead the country in getting all the minority groups together and seeing to it that a constitutional ban on any president or congress putting minorities into camps be instituted.

He also reminded those in attendance that an "attack against one minority is an attack against all minorities" and that each group must make it their busi-

ness to know what is happening in other minority communities.

Burden Lifted

Cedrick Shimo, one of the organizers of the event, opened the evening with a tribute to Bravin and those 1800 members who have passed on. "This affair tonight... is so special, special because tonight we honor Mr. Hyman Bravin who was instrumental in helping us right a wrong, and helping lift a burden that so many of our members have been carrying for almost 40 years. The majority of the members in attendance tonight are those that were directly helped by him, and we are here to say 'thank you.'"

"During those dark days of 1942, little could we imagine or even hope that we would ever be accepted into the American society. However, we now know that American democracy does work; for here we are today almost fully accepted and able to live in dignity to enjoy the fruits of freedom and democracy. But may I remind everyone not to become complacent, for there are signs that something similar could happen again..."

History of the 1800

After dinner, Shimo gave a brief history of the 1800. The original 525 Quartermaster Corps was formed in early 1942, made up of men who had volunteered for the Army prior to December, 1941. Included were those of Ger-

man, Italian and Japanese/Kibei ancestry who were considered potential "trouble-makers." The 525 was the forerunner of the 1800 formed in 1944.

The 1800 was basically a "pick and shovel" brigade, used to repair roads, bridges and fences damaged by training maneuvers of regular combat units. Many of the members said that they were treated much like prisoners of war. Kiyoshi Kawashima, who in Dec. 1981 had his "blue" discharge changed to honorable with the help of Bravin, said, "Every member in this organization lived under a depressing atmosphere similar to that of a prison camp."

Protested Internment

What was the reason for their treatment? The fact that they were of Japanese ancestry didn't help. That most of these men were Kibei and had a little difficulty with the English language contributed somewhat to their problems also.

But most of their difficulties stemmed from the fact that they protested the incarceration of their friends and relatives. In addition, the infamous questions 27 and 28 of the "Statement of U.S. Citizenship of Japanese Ancestry" (loyalty questionnaire) caused many of these men needless suffering.

Continued on Back Page

News in Brief

Liu killer now says murder was not ordered

TAIPEI—Bamboo Gang leader Chen Chi-li, convicted in April of killing Chinese American journalist Henry Liu in Daly City, Calif., last year, recanted earlier testimony May 10 by saying that he had not been ordered to kill Liu by Vice Adm. Wang Hsi-ling of Taiwan's military intelligence agency. Chen's new story supports Wang's testimony that he had told Chen to "teach Liu a lesson"—but not to kill him—for criticizing Taiwan's government. Jerome Garchik, an attorney for Liu's widow Helen, still believes high government officials were involved. "We feel that there's a cover-up," he said.

Navajos resist government relocation orders

BIG MOUNTAIN, Ariz.—In what the New York Times calls "the largest mandatory relocation of civilians since the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II," the government plans to redistribute 1.8 million acres of mineral-rich land by requiring 10,000 Navajos to move from their ancestral land. The move was a victory for the Hopi tribe, which claims the Navajos took their land a century ago. But 7,000 Navajos have not left despite the July deadline. "No matter what they do, we are going to stay," said Roberta Blackfoot, a Navajo who has lived on Big Mountain all her life.

Noguchi Garden Museum opens in New York

LONG ISLAND CITY, N.Y.—The Isamu Noguchi Garden Museum, with 24,000 square feet of exhibition space and an outdoor sculpture garden, opened May 11. It features over 500 sculptures, models and photos spanning the 80-year-old Noguchi's 60-year career as an artist. Located at 32-37 Vernon Blvd. (corner of 10th St.), it is open Wednesday and Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. Call (718) 204-7088 for appointments.

Board tackles redress, other issues

SAN FRANCISCO—Highlights of the National JACL board meeting held May 18-19 include the following decisions:

—Redress lobbying duties will be officially transferred to the Legislative Education Committee (LEC) effective June 1.

—There is a need for chapter redress pledges to come in on a more consistent basis.

—Delegations to Japan, such as the recent Sansei delegation invited by the Liberal Democratic

Party, have been sanctioned as formal delegations of JACL. The U.S.-Japan Relations Committee, in consultation with the national director and the chair of the governors' caucus, will work on a selection process for future trips.

—Chapters will receive a 20% rebate on annual earnings from \$500 life membership dues.

Guest speakers included Rep. Norman Mineta (D-Calif.). See next week's PC for a more detailed report on the board meeting.



MEETING — During a Southern California visit, House Majority Leader Jim Wright (D-Texas), sponsor of redress bill HR 442, met with representatives of the Asian American and other minority communities. Pictured above, at a fundraiser held at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel on May 3, are (from left): Rep. Mervyn Dymally (D-Calif.), who sponsored the visit; Min Yasui, LEC chair; JACL national director Ron Wakabayashi; Miya Iwataki, field deputy for Dymally; Rep. Wright; Bert Nakano, spokesman for National Coalition for Redress/Reparations (NCRP); and James Fukumoto, legislative aide for Dymally.

Support for exhibit of JA story planned

WASHINGTON—Japanese American war veterans and others concerned with remembering the exploits of volunteer Nisei servicemen of WW2 are invited to a special organizational meeting of Go For Broke, Inc., Thursday, June 6, 7 p.m. in Room 119 of the Veterans Administration headquarters building.

The purpose of the meeting is to organize an area support group for the 1987 national exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution featuring the Japanese American experience in the United States from the times of the earliest Issei pioneers, through the evacuation and relocation of WW2 and including the postwar legislative and litigative achievements of this nationality minority. Special emphasis will be given to the volunteers who served in the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Central Postal Directory as well as Military Intelligence Service specialists who served in the Pacific.

Other possible projects, such as a commemorative stamp, a memorial monument on the Avenue of Heroes leading to Arlington National Cemetery, and special ceremonies in 1993 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 442nd's activation, will be considered.

A special attraction will be a videotape presentation of the 100th anniversary commemoration of authorized emigration from Japan to the Republic of Hawaii and to the Mainland, held on Angel Island in San Francisco Bay on April 20.

The Veterans Administration building is on Vermont Avenue between H and I Streets and 14th and 15th Streets Northwest. Since federal regulations require ad-

vance information on those attending evening events in government buildings, all interested individuals are urged to telephone any of the following before June 3:

In Virginia: Key Kobayashi, 455-2097; Ben Obata, 941-7467; Harry Takagi, 451-9487.

In Maryland: Toru Hirose, 773-6694; Mike Masaoka, 656-4739.

Nikkei educators honored by A/P group

NEW YORK—The National Assn. for Asian and Pacific American Education announced May 13 that Dr. Nobuya Tsuchida of Univ. of Minnesota and UCLA professor Don Nakanishi were awarded the organization's highest national honors at its recent conference here.

Tsuchida, director of Univ. of Minnesota's Asian-Pacific American Learning Resources Center, was presented with the Distinguished Service Award for his accomplishments in assisting both American-born and immigrant Asian students at the university. He received his Ph.D. in history from UCLA and teaches courses in Asian American Studies along with his other duties.

Nakanishi, professor at UCLA's Graduate School of Education and the Asian American Studies Center, was presented with the National Scholars Award for his article "Japanese Americans and the Internment: The Enduring Impact of the Past on the Present," which was judged as the best paper on Asian American educational research this year. An expert in Asian American politics and education, he is a co-founder of Amerasia Journal and a leading scholar in Asian American Studies. He received his undergraduate educa-

Media conference at UCLA set for July

LOS ANGELES—The National Asian American Telecommunications Assn. (NAATA) will convene the National Asian American Media Arts Conference, 1985 on July 26-28 at UCLA. The registration deadline is June 1st.

The theme of this national forum will be: The Growth and Future of Asian American Media—Aesthetics, Forms, Issues and the Community. Topics include: Adaptations of Forms: Performing & Media Arts; Asian American Aesthetics; The Community and the Public; Images: Portrayal and Response; and Mainstream and Independent Media and Survival Strategies.

Participants will meet in panel sessions, workshops and screenings. Workshops include: radio and audio production techniques;

working with actors and actresses; contract negotiations and marketing and distribution. Individuals will also be able to meet with funding sources on an appointment basis.

Conference organizers plan to strengthen the national Asian American media network; solidify the relationship between the Asian media and community; encourage support for Asian American media and to facilitate networking among minority and non-minority media makers, artists, civic leaders, funders and mainstream media institutions.

NAATA is a nationwide organization of professional and community media persons and groups who are committed to advancing the presence and involvement of Asian Americans in media.

Legislative aide picked as staff director

WASHINGTON — Rep. Mervyn Dymally (D-Calif.) has appointed his aide, James Fukumoto, as staff director of the Subcommittee on Postal Personnel and Modernization. In naming Fukumoto to one of the highest staff positions created by congressional statute, Dymally said, "I am most gratified to have obtained Mr. Fukumoto's expertise...in the federal administration of civilian personnel mat-

ters. He brings to the Congress over 22 years of federal and local government experience."

Fukumoto graduated from Long Beach Polytechnic High School in 1956 with honors; he received his M.A. from Johns Hopkins University in 1962 and his PhD from the London School of Economics and Political Science in 1967.

Prior to coming to Dymally's office, Fukumoto was Director of Policy and Special Projects of the Dept. of Health and Human Services' Office for Civil Rights.

Commenting on his selection to the staff directorship, Dymally observed: "I believe that Jim Fukumoto has demonstrated excellent leadership last year on the crucial Simpson-Mazzoli Immigration bill; on the Japanese American Redress and Reparations bill, and most importantly,

on the Civil Rights Act of 1984, which passed [in the House]. We will be protecting the hard-earned rights and benefits for all federal employees through the hard work ahead of the entire Committee this year."

No. 2,340

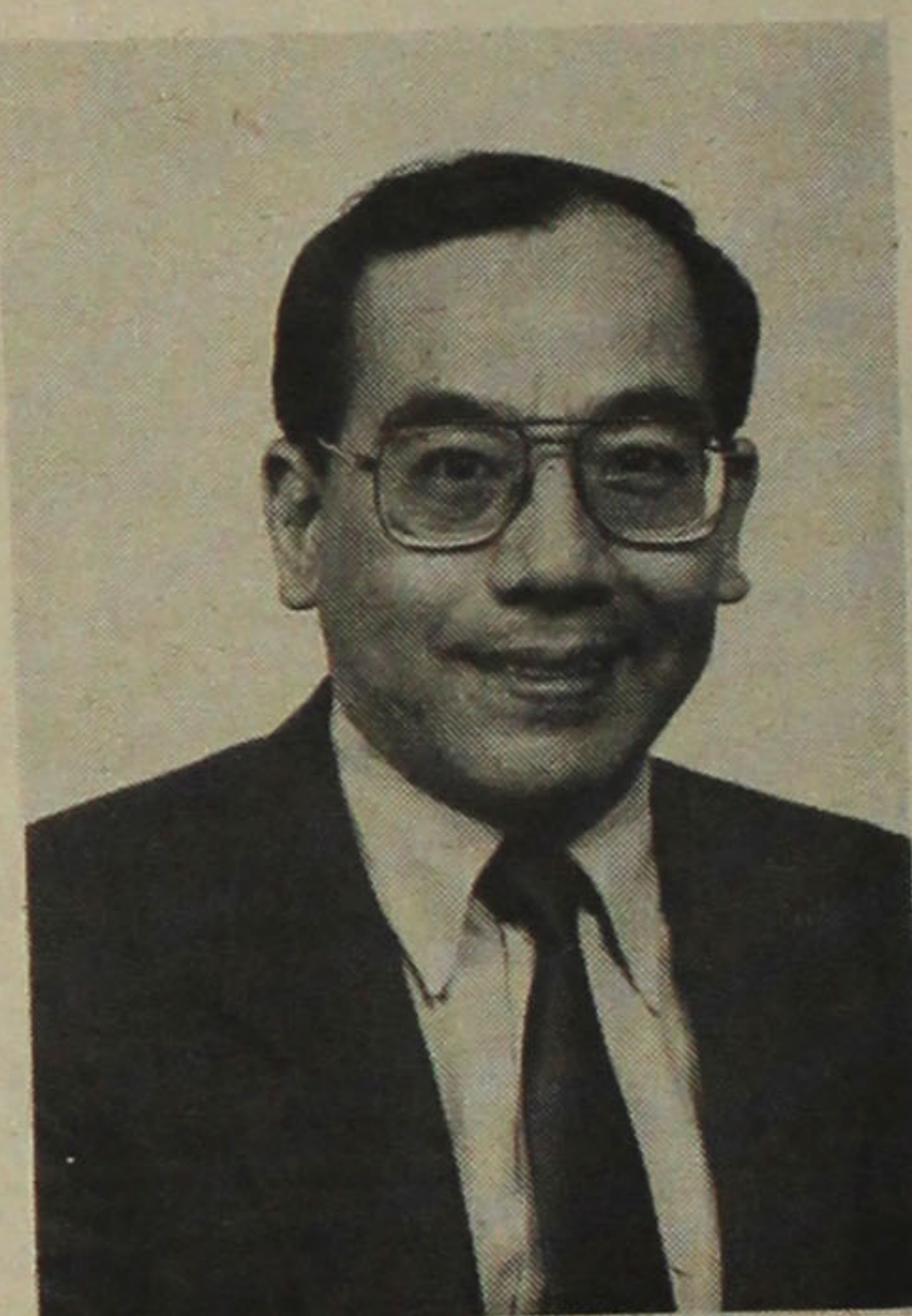
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Community Affairs

WEST COVINA, Calif.—East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center holds its 37th annual family picnic at Prado Regional Park, 16700 Euclid Ave. in Chino, Sunday, June 9, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Drawings for prizes will take place throughout the afternoon. Prizes include \$500 cash, an electric typewriter and a Sony Watchman. For more information, call the center at (818) 960-2566 or 337-9123 on Tue.-Fri. mornings.

HUNTINGTON BEACH, Calif.—The Sister City Assn. of Huntington Beach holds its first annual Japanese cultural festival Sunday, June 2, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., at Huntington Beach Civic Cen-

Pan Asian group to honor professor, Kiku Gardens board chair

SAN DIEGO—The Union of Pan-Asian Communities awards banquet and fundraiser will honor 12 individuals who have contributed to the welfare of the community on Thursday, May 30, 6 p.m., at Hotel Del Coronado, 1500 Orange Ave.

Among the honorees are Dr. Peter Irons, UCSD professor, coram nobis attorney and author of *Justice At War: The Story of the Japanese American Internment Cases*; and Moto Asakawa, board chairman of Kiku Gardens Senior Housing, Inc.

Tickets, which are \$75 each, can be reserved through Vernon Yoshioka (461-2010) and UPAC (232-6454, day). Proceeds go to UPAC's social service programs.

ter's outdoor amphitheater, 2000 Main St. (corner of Yorktown). Performances of taiko, koto, classical dancing, folk singing, flower arranging, and aikido will be featured along with art exhibits and Japanese food. Funds will go to the city's student exchange program with Anjo, Japan. Contact: Mary Ann Tamura, (714) 536-0034.

LOS ANGELES—Roosevelt High School's 50th Anniversary Reunion will be held Saturday, July 27, at the Marriott Hotel, 5855 W. Century Blvd. (near LAX). All 1934, '35 and '36 graduates (and their friends) are invited. No host cocktail hour starts at 6:30 p.m., with dinner at 8. Music for the dance is by Bernie Menaker. Admission is \$35 each and reservations are taken on a first come, first served basis. Contact: Toy Kataoka Kanegai, (213) 820-3592.

SACRAMENTO—San Jose Taiko Group performs at American River College, 4700 College Oak Dr., on Saturday, June 1, 7:30-9 p.m. For tickets, call the college business office (484-8481), Student Activities (484-8471), The Yorozu (442-8631), Sakura Gifts (443-8380) or Asian Legal Services Outreach (447-7971). Admission is \$7.

MARYSVILLE, Calif.—The Yuba, Sutter, Butte and Colusa county reunion will be held Sept. 27-29. The schedule is: Fri.—registration all day, golf and fishing in the afternoon, potluck mixer in the evening; Sat.—golf and fishing in the morning, registration, luncheon and local tours in the afternoon, luau and dance in the evening; Sun.—brunch and fishing, Reno trip for those interested. Past residents wishing to attend should contact Mazie Sasaki, 938 Chestnut St., Yuba City, CA 95991. Deadline for registration is June 15. Registration fee of \$20 in-

cludes luau, dance, mixer, Sat. luncheon, and Sun. brunch. A fundraiser night of bingo and udon sales is set for Friday, June 7 at Marysville Buddhist Church.

SEATTLE—Hunt High School Reunion '85 will be held July 26-28 at the Westin Hotel. The schedule is: Fri.—registration, socializing; Sat.—dinner, reunion time with old friends, dance; Sun.—Japanese picnic lunch at Marymoor Park in Redmond. Golf will be arranged for Saturday morning for those interested. Hosted by the classes of '45 and '46, the reunion is open to anyone who attended Hunt as well as their friends. Cost is \$75 each and deadline is June 15. Send registration fee and personal information to: Hunt High Reunion '85, Tak (Yokoyama) Todo, PO Box 27395, Seattle, WA 98125.

Seattle Nisei Veterans Committee holds its annual Memorial Day services Monday, May 27, 10 a.m. Services will be held at the Nisei War Memorial Monument at Lake View Cemetery, 1554-15th East on Capitol Hill.

The Linyen softball team sponsors a "Grand Slam for Keiro" dance May 26, 8:30 p.m.-2 a.m., at Seattle Trade Center to raise funds for Seattle Keiro Nursing Home. Highlights include comedian Arnold Mukai, the Deems Tsutakawa Trio, a lip sync contest and a break dance exhibition. Music and lighting will be provided by Ed Locke Promotions.

SAN FRANCISCO—Nisei Widowed Group holds its monthly meeting at the home of Claire Haratani in Tracy on June 2 from 2 p.m. All members are invited to attend. Contact: Yuri Moriwaki, Oakland (432-3280); Elsie Chung, San Francisco (221-0268); Mary Matsumoto, Oakland (893-9094); May Miyamoto, San Francisco (386-0721).



ANGEL ISLAND—Rep. Norm Mineta addresses visitors at "East to America" photo exhibit dedication ceremonies, April 20. photo by Norman Abe

Freeze campaign elects AA as co-chair

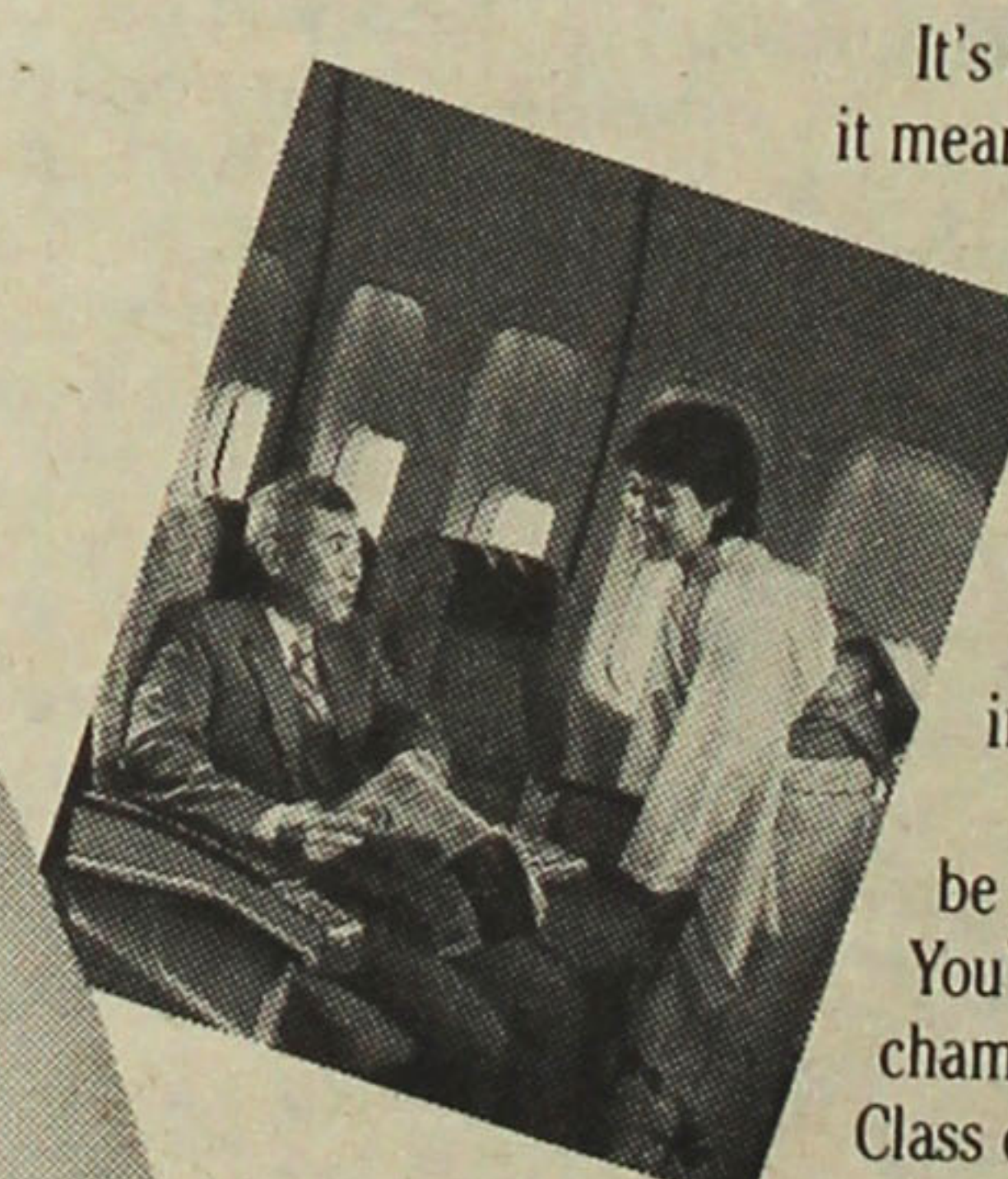
BERKELEY, Calif.—Local Asian American peace activist Lyle Butch Wing was recently elected co-chair of the National Bilateral Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign. The Freeze Campaign is the largest peace organization in the U.S. which focuses on ending the nuclear arms race through a U.S.-Soviet halt on the testing, deployment and production of all nuclear weapons.

Today the organization has over 20 chapters in Northern California and affiliates in all 50 states. It is currently focusing attention on the U.S.-Soviet arms talks in Geneva

and building for the 40th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Wing has been active in the peace issue since 1971 during the anti-Vietnam War movement. He is one of the founding members of Bay Area Asians for Nuclear Disarmament (BAAND) and is currently coordinator for the 40th anniversary Hiroshima/Nagasaki Commemoration Committee. He also worked in the 1984 Jesse Jackson campaign as its Northern California Peace Activists Coordinator and currently serves on the Rainbow Coalition's Commission on International Affairs.

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EAST WIND

Bill Marutani



tributed to my election campaign when I ran for office some eight years ago. But this was now to be the first opportunity that I had to hear him speak, something to which I had been looking forward for some time.

Any Asian American who can do what he did, against the odds that he faced, had my profound respect and admiration.

THE OTHER EVENING Frau Vicki and I attended a fund-raising dinner of the Pan Asian Association in this region. Among the groups represented were Cambodian, Chinese, East Indian, Fiji Island, Filipino, Indonesian and Japanese. It was to be one of those ten-course dinners, but what with this "Asian Time" delay, it was some time before that first course made its appearance. In fact, since I kept checking my watch, I knew precisely when that first tray of fare landed on our table: it was after eight o'clock.

I was famished.

THE MAIN SPEAKER for the evening was Dr. S.B. Woo, the recently elected Lt. Governor of the State of Delaware. A few months ago, our paths had briefly crossed and we paused to chat. It turned out that he and his wife had con-

A COLLEGE PROFESSOR by vocation, the Lt. Governor is a delightful personality. Born overseas and coming to the U.S. at age 19 years, he speaks English with a charming accent—generously sprinkled with mischievous humor. As Inspector Anthony Wong at our table commented, "He's a master at one-liners." In a light vein Dr. Woo referred to the unbelieving comments of others when he announced he would seek office—no less as a Democrat in a Republican state: "Woo Who?" Then with a twinkle in his eye, he reported that after he had won the election, the comments shifted to "Wow, Woo won!"

THE HIGHEST OFFICE-HOLDER of Asian ancestry on the mainland, Dr. Woo urged all Asians to dare to run for political office, to get into the mainstream

of our society—including, he added, the women. Referring to the condescending term "Chinaman's Chance," he suggested it had a new meaning. He was, of course, the living proof.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE that evening was another public official of Asian background, Commissioner Bhargva, who was elected as a commissioner in one of the suburban, silk-stocking communities. His key to attainment of his goal: work, hard work—going from door to door, steadily and unrelentingly. Dr. Woo referred to this same formu-

la, urging that there was nothing that one could not achieve with desire and work.

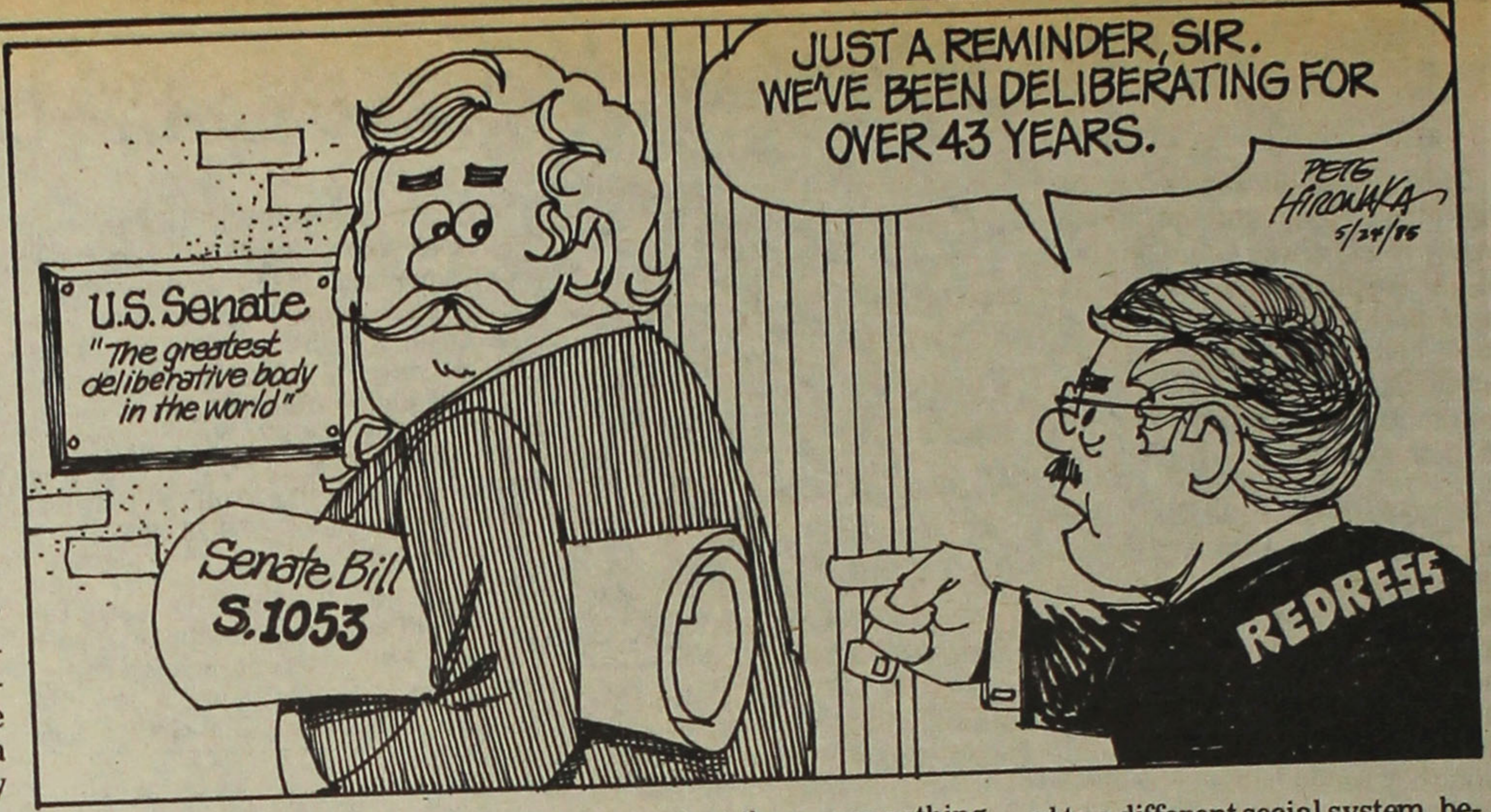
Many of us Nisei have heard the same message from our parents. Apparently it works: witness Lt. Governor Woo and Commissioner Bhargva.

SOMETHING STRUCK ME, not for the first time. The phenomenon of individuals born abroad, growing up in their formative years in a milieu wherein their self-worth was not challenged by reason of their ethnicity (because others were of the same race), and upon being transplant-

ed to a different social system, being unaware (subconsciously) of (false) obstacles that are supposed to hold them down. And so they dare to challenge where others of us, "knowing better," decline to enter the fray. If one will but pause to look about, you'll see manifestations of this phenomenon in various spheres of our society, including business.

And therein is a lesson for all of us.

BY THE TIME the seventh course came around, Vicki and I were stuffed. We passed the next three courses.



Heroes and the Trade Deficit

As you are probably aware, not all the items printed in this column are to be taken seriously. But there are certainly some requests that are made that are indeed honest appeals for information. For example, a few weeks back I asked if any of you out there had any heroes, Asian American or otherwise. So far the response has been underwhelming. Two responses. Come on, folks. Just jot down the names and mail them to me. If you don't have any, write anyway and let us know that too.

One of the responses, from Kathy Aoki in San Francisco, listed journalists Bill Hosokawa, Ben Fong-Torres and Wendy Tokuda, Giant pitcher Atlee Hamaker, and actors Mark Hayashi and Pat Morita.

Another response from one who wanted to remain anonymous said that she didn't have any Asian American heroes but liked black writers Maya Ange-

ONE THING LEADS TO ANOTHER

Bob Shimabukuro



lou, Alice Walker, and Louis Farrakhan.

So that gives us quite a range — from Bill Hosokawa to Louis Farrakhan. About as incongruous as "the Pope and Michael Jackson tied for 10th." I guess nobody can say that this is a homogeneous group of readers. And from only two responses!

Another request: Please fill out the Recruitment and Leadership Survey which we printed a few weeks ago. It's information that the Recruitment and Leadership Committee must have if it

is to proceed in an organized fashion.

And now it's time for the Bob and Mike view of U.S.—Japan trade relations and how the deficit came to be. As we all know Japan was devastated after WW2 and occupied by the United States. During that time, the Japanese, seeking to please their occupiers, asked, "Well, what do we do now?"

U.S.: Get your steel industry going.

Japan: What for?

U.S.: You need ships. To build ships, you need steel.

Japan: We don't know how to build ships.

U.S.: Here's a book. Here's a ship. Copy it. Send your kids to college.

A few years down the road, Japan asks, "Well, what do we do with the steel and the ships?"

U.S.: Build cars. Ship 'em out.

Japan: We don't know how to build cars.

U.S.: Here's a book. Here's some cars. Figure it out.

Japan: What do we do with them?

U.S.: Sell them to us. If you can build cheap ones, we'll buy them.

Japan: What else?

U.S.: Go build some cameras. Electronic goods. Telecommunications.

Japan: Got a book? Got some cameras? Got some telecommunication products?

U.S.: Yup. Take them. Use them.

Japan: What do we do with the finished products?

U.S.: Sell them to us. If you can build them cheap enough, we'll buy them.

Japan: Okay.

And so on, and so on until the 1980s.

U.S.: You can't sell us any more cars. You can't sell us any

Chapter Pulse

Riverside

RIVERSIDE, Calif.—Recipients of 1985 scholarships are: Oda Award, Dennis Lewis, San Gorgonio H.S.; Inaba Award, Helen Sanematsu, North H.S.; Mado-koro Award, Keiko Owada, Redlands H.S., and Sandra Nadeau, San Gorgonio H.S.; JAACL Award, Allen Barrett, San Gorgonio H.S.; Betty Rekosiewicz, Corona H.S.; and James de Coninck, North H.S.

West Valley

SAN JOSE—High school graduates will be honored at the annual chapter picnic, June 9 at the Vasona Lake Park (Lakeview Group Area) from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Menu includes teriyaki meat/chicken, hot dogs, salad, rice, chips and cookies. Punch, iced tea and cold pop will be supplied.

more steel. You can't sell us any more electronics.

Japan: Why not?

U.S.: Because you don't let us sell our stuff in your country.

Japan: What have you got to sell?

U.S.: Well, one of our leading export industries is armaments. We sell arms all over the world. Want to buy some?

Japan: We can't. We cannot arm ourselves. You put that in our constitution.

So that, my friends, is why there's a trade deficit. Japan cannot buy what our country manufactures best. Enough food for thought for the week.

Salinas Valley

SALINAS, Calif.—Memorial Day Services will be held on May 27 at the Garden of Memories, 10 a.m. and at the Yamato Cemetery, 11 a.m.

Seabrook

CENTERTON, N.J.—President Frank Sato is the featured speaker at this year's Graduation Banquet to be held at the Centerton Golf Club on June 15. Also scheduled at this banquet is the installation of officers.

Lake Washington

MERCER IS., Wash.—"Yankee Samurai," a film produced in Japan about the experiences of Nisei soldiers who served as interpreters during WW2, will be shown at the June 15 chapter meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the John Matsumoto home, 3744 80th Ave. SE, Mercer Island. Those attending are asked to bring hors d'oeuvres, dessert or beverages. Call Tets Yasuda, 747-2589, or Susie Aoyama, 885-9654 if attending.

Gilroy

GILROY, Calif.—The annual chapter Red Cross Blood Bank Drive held at the Community Center netted 84 pints of blood from 101 donors. Thanks go out to Atsuko Obata who headed the various committees.

The annual community picnic at Christmas Hill Park on June 23 at 10 a.m. will honor graduating seniors. Erik Nagareda chairs this event.

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pacific citizen

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Intelligence, Round Eyes and Perfect Teeth

Back a few decades when assignments took me to Japan every two or three years, a night of bar-hopping—that great Japanese business tradition—was almost obligatory. My friends and contacts knew that I was a teetotaler, but they insisted I submit to their hospitality.

It would have been discourteous to decline. So we would visit three or four of their favorite haunts, places where they were greeted by the management and the hostesses like old pals, which they were. While the hostesses clustered around and made small talk, they would hoist a few bourbon-and-water highballs while I became bloated on ginger ale, and then off we would wander to the next place.

FROM THE
FRYING PAN:

Bill
Hosokawa



The last few times in Japan we didn't go bar-hopping. We'd have a very pleasant and leisurely dinner together in which we did more talking than drinking. Then they'd go home and I would return to the hotel. That was just dandy with me.

We never discussed the reasons for the difference in behavior but I knew. And they knew that I knew.

For one thing, they were older. Their livers weren't in good shape any more, and besides it was prudent to get to bed with a fairly clear head at a relatively moderate hour.

But the real reason was that many of them were retired or semi-retired and no longer on the virtually unlimited expense accounts that are the perks of Japanese executives. If there was a big bar bill, and there always is a staggering one after touring the kinds of bars we used to, it would have to be paid out of their own pockets. That isn't the way the game is played.

What recalled all this was a story by Yasuji Okada published in the magazine "Shukan Daiyomondo," translated and released recently to the U.S. press by the

Translation Service Center. It said that there are some 160,000 nightspots in Japan, 3,000 on the Ginza alone, and they grossed about \$8 billion last year. Some bars, of course, take in more money than others. The secrets of success are not so much the quality of the booze but a good location and beautiful hostesses.

Some hostesses are hired by the bars but, says Okada, many on the Ginza are independent entrepreneurs. They "rent" space like a concessionaire in a department store, paying from 40 to 50 percent of the gross to the boss-san, male or female.

"Popular free-lance hostesses earn more than \$4,000 a month," Okada reports, "and a handful of superstars make \$16,000 to \$20,000." Needless to say, many

have a higher income than the customers who come to enjoy their company.

Okada writes: "Bar owners compete fiercely to get women who can attract well-heeled customers. Outstanding hostesses are recruited the same way corporate headhunters entice executives to another firm. What assets are needed for success? A chief hostess is quoted:

"Good looks, especially large round eyes and perfect teeth. Cosmetic surgery can correct defects." Further, she says, perfect grooming and charm are important. Sexiness does not last long. Most important is intelligence. A hostess must be able to converse with her customers on a variety of subjects.

So now you know.

Group Decision-making: 'Subarctic Survival Situation'

The second part of our Tri-District workshop was led by Byron Kunisawa, management consultant with the San Francisco Multicultural Prevention Resource Center. Byron explained the "Subarctic Survival Situation," which gave participants an opportunity to exercise their decision-making and leadership abilities within a team setting.

Participants broke up into small groups of 10 or 12 and imagined themselves to be survivors of a plane which crashed over the Arctic. Their task was to rank in order fifteen miscellaneous items which were salvaged from the plane according to how important each item was to their survival.

Each person ranked the items first individually and then as part of their group. Groups were advised to come up with their ranking on a consensus basis, and to try to avoid voting, which reduces discussion and interaction and splits the team into "winners" or "losers".

THE RECRUITMENT & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

—by B.J. Watanabe

The group ranking process was the most fascinating part of the exercise. Mei Nakano, Pat Ogawa, Alan Kumamoto and I served as observers and circulated from group to group watching the interaction and decision-making process.

Generally speaking, the interaction within the eight groups was calm, rational and civilized. People patiently listened to each other's ideas and disagreed politely. One group resorted to the democratic method of voting, which they eventually abandoned as being ineffective and unsatisfactory.

One individual didn't agree with the decision that his team

had made regarding whether to stay at the campsite or to try and hike to the nearest town. This determined soul insisted on action, and decided to move out on his own in spite of the freezing Arctic temperatures. Interestingly, he was the only person out of 90 participants who felt so strongly that he opted to leave his group and go it alone. There may have been others who felt equally strongly but decided that there was, after all, safety in numbers.

The point that struck me was that no one aggressively tried to grab power or overly exert influence within their group. No leaders were designated for any of the teams and part of the exercise sees whether leaders emerge out of the chaos that usually results from this ranking process.

Harry Kajihara, who has done this exercise at work with white colleagues, remarked that in white groups, someone invariably tries to grab power and steer the group in a certain direction.

I've also done this exercise with Asian women, and had expected the JA session to be equally as feisty and chaotic as that one.

Why wasn't it? Why was this JA session so calm, so democratic compared with those of other ethnic groups? Part of the reason, I think, was environmental: the workshop was large, with each group consisting of 10-12 team members. (The workshop manual recommends 6-8 persons.) People were tired after a long day of back-to-back workshops and energy levels at 9 p.m. were low.

Another reason, of course, is cultural: that we Nikkei tend to be more patient, more willing to work out a consensus, and value group harmony more highly than other groups. Also, within the JA culture, the democratic process is highly valued, and we go to great lengths to make sure that each district, chapter, board member, committee member, etc. has input into the process.

And if we don't, we'll certainly hear about it!

One point that was not mentioned that evening was that the group ranking score is usually better than most individuals' scores. That is, groups generally make better judgements and produce better products than individuals can on their own. This notion contrasts with the old joke that claims that a camel is a horse designed by a committee. So, when your frustration level rises when working with committees, boards, coalitions, and other groups, remember that it's generally worth the aggravation.

Despite the fact that this workshop was a large session held after dinner, participants stayed awake (an accomplishment!), had a good time, and hopefully went away with some food for thought on various aspects of leadership and a better insight into their own roles in a group interaction and decision-making process.



Photo by Homer Yasui

PORTLAND — JA CLers join the 5th annual Black United Front "March Against Racial Violence," April 6. Pictured above (in the foreground with the dark glasses) are: Roberta Wong, Connie Masuoka, and Mickey Yasui. Mira Shimabukuro, Sharon Hashimoto and Homer Yasui also participated in the march and rally.

Portland TV show focuses on redress

PORTLAND, Ore.—Joyce Cawthorne reads Janice Mirikitani's poem, "Breaking Silence," and Min Yasui talks about the legislative and judicial history of redress on "Northwest Faces," a program for and about the minority communities on May 26, at 8:30 a.m., Channel 8, KGW-TV.

Cawthorne said that photo-

graphs from the California Historical Assn. publication, "Executive Order 9066," are used as a visual backdrop for the poetry reading.

Yasui traces the history of the internment cases and the on-going legislative attempt to attain redress for those Nikkei who were incarcerated during WW2.

'Model Minority' Idea Unhealthy

by J.K. Yamamoto

The term "model minority" has been with us since the late 60s. It suggests that Japanese Americans have "made it" by any standard of success—social, political, or economic—and that we serve as an example for other minorities to emulate.

Reaction to this label has been divided. Some reject it absolutely, saying that it ignores poverty, discrimination, and other problems that still exist. Others embrace it with an attitude of, "Let's face it—we have made it. That's something to be proud of, not to be ashamed of."

I bring up this well-worn debate because of a recent letter to the PC which stated that "we do not share many of the same concerns of many other ethnic groups," that our goals "often are not the same as other minority groups," and that our success "can be attributed to the nature of the group."

I was reminded of a statement

made at a gathering of Asian American Republicans during last year's Dallas convention. A local JA who was there told me that one speaker said, "Maybe we're a model minority because we're not afraid of hard work!"

The inescapable message is that we are better than other minorities, that it is part of our nature to succeed and overcome barriers, just as it is natural for the others not to. Therein lies the danger of the "model minority" idea.

For the sake of argument, let's say that all JAs are successful and none of us suffers from prejudice of any kind. Are we then justified in claiming superiority to other groups? Can we then ignore—or even oppose—programs that may benefit others, such as affirmative action, bilingual education, immigration reform? Is the attitude of "Well, that's your problem" to be the basis of our relations with others?

If that is the consensus, then we

are little better than the people who put us in camps 40 years ago.

No one is denying that progress has been made. Some of us occupy positions in government and business that would have been unimaginable 40 or even 20 years ago. But the "model minority" mentality corrals us into thinking, "We have progressed, so there are no problems" instead of the more realistic view that "we have progressed, but there are still problems."

It is impossible to read a Nikkei newspaper without being aware of such issues as employment discrimination, media stereotyping, and racial violence, all of which are concerns we share with other minorities. And if the redress movement has accomplished nothing else, it has shown that the racist attitudes that led to internment are still with us today.

One may argue that the "model minority" concept promotes a positive self-image. But if it is based on a false sense of security for oneself and feelings of contempt for others, how healthy can it be?

People

● Awards

May Doi and Frances Kaji were given Women's Achievement Awards by Soroptomists International of Gardena, Calif. on May 21. Doi received her award in the government category, while Kaji was selected in the school/community involvement category.

Doi is Gardena city clerk, YMCA board chair and a member of the Gardena JACL and Red Cross boards, the Government Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Commerce

and the United Way Planning Commission.

Kaji has been membership co-chair, recording secretary finance committee member of the YWCA, secretary and newsletter editor of 153rd St. Elementary School PTA, fundraiser for YMCA, YWCA and South Bay Keiro Nursing Home, and a member of Gardena JACL.

Charleen Doi was named outstanding blind person of the year by the Lions Club of Honolulu on April 23. An account technician at Pearl Harbor Naval Base, Doi uses a closed circuit TV and

a hand-held magnifier to enlarge print. She has been promoted to a higher pay level and is no longer classified as handicapped. She is a Univ. of Hawaii graduate.

Bryan Mayeda, D.V.M., director of the State Regional Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in Petaluma, was awarded a plaque at the 34th annual Western (North American) Poultry Disease Conference held at UC Davis March 3-6. He is a charter member of the conference and has attended all 32 annual conferences held at UC Davis.

Redress Pledges

Actual amounts acknowledged by JACL Headquarters for the period of:
#16: Mar. 16/Apr. 30, 1985
1985 Total: \$ 24,005.25
Previous Total: \$164,830.64
This Report: (7) \$ 5,015.00
Grand Total: \$169,935.64

Watsonville JACL, \$1,710; Milwaukee JACL \$510; Tulare County JACL \$10; Diablo Valley JACL \$565; Lodi JACL \$1,500; Lake Washington JACL \$220; Florin JACL \$500.

1985 DIST. BREAKDOWN (Actual: Jan.—Dec. 1985)
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NC-WN-Pac 7,094.00
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Total: \$ 24,005.25

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Membership in the Masaoka Fellows is achieved by individual or corporate contributions to the Mike M. Masaoka Fund, a perpetual fund from which proceeds would annually support the general operations of the JACL, to which Mike has devoted over 40 years. Contributions to the fund, c/o JACL HQ, are graded as follows:

Fellow—\$1,000-\$2,500; Emeritus—\$2,500 minimum; Sustaining—\$200 for 5 yrs; Amicus—Less than \$1,000.
Jan./April 1985
Mrs. Martha Inouye, \$200 (3rd yr).
Previous Total \$16,980
Fund Total \$17,180
Above total based upon 9 fellows, 17 sustaining and 4 amicus members.

Donations to JACL-Pacific Citizen

For Typesetting Fund

As of May 18, 1985: \$28,423.03 (731)
This week's total: \$ 200.00 (2)
Last week's total: \$28,223.03 (729)
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BRAVIN

Continued from Front Page

Shimo, describing the conditions in 1942 and relating it to present Sansei interest in Nisei resistance to camps, said, "Back in 1942, when life was at its lowest ebb, and when all the Nisei/Kibei soldiers were stripped of their rifles and replaced with mops and brooms, I know that all of us, whether in the camps or in the army, were fuming mad. Some kept their rage to themselves; most vented their frustrations to each other; countless numbers did speak out in varying degrees.

"I understand that many Sanseis are asking and questioning why the Niseis didn't stand up for their rights. Well I can assure them that especially back in 1942, most of them did. But for those in the army, our destiny depended upon when, where, how and to whom our protests were made."

While most of the Niseis eventually ended up in the 442 and the MIS, about 120 wound up in the 525 and 1800. "If those questioning Sanseis were with us back in 1942, I'm sure most of them would have stood up in protest. But here again, depending upon when, where, how and to whom they raised their voices, they too would have been scattered into various units like the Niseis. I'm sure quite a few would have ended up wielding a pick and shovel in the 525 or perhaps driving a bulldozer in the 1800. And if they protested too loudly in camp they would have been languishing in Tule Lake."

Personal Story

In talking about his personal "when, where, how and to whom," Shimo related how his unit was continually asked its opinion of the "loyalty questionnaire." While some commanders of other units simply disregarded the questionnaire, Shimo said

that since "they kept asking us for an opinion, we kept giving a straight answer."

Question 27 asked if the men would be willing to serve on combat duty wherever ordered. Said Shimo, "Now tell me, have you heard of any army of any country asking their soldiers for an opinion?" He added that many would have gone, but still would have been "unwilling"

Shimo also was interrogated by the FBI. He was asked what he would do if the Japanese army invaded the United States. "If the American guards pointed their guns at the attackers whether they be the local populace or the Japanese army, I would stand side by side with those American guards.

"On the other hand, if it were the Japanese army that was defending the camps, I would stand shoulder to shoulder with them. My reasoning was that everything I had left worth living for was in Manzanar, and that I would be willing to fight and die with any defenders of that camp whether they be cowboys, Indians, Japanese or American."

For that statement, Shimo was demoted to buck private again. He was discharged as a buck private after close to 4 years of service.

Discharge From Camp Shelby

The 1800 was stationed at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. When the war came to an end, many of the 1800 were called before a Special Hearing Board to determine their discharge orders: a dishonorable discharge in which one's civil rights are taken away, a "blue" discharge in which a soldier loses everything except his civil rights, or an honorable discharge.

Then-captain Bravin served as

defense counsel to 71 of those who were asked to appear before the board. Shimo was the interpreter for the Kibei soldiers. Bravin said that at the end of the hearings, he felt that all 71 would receive honorable discharges. There weren't any good arguments against any of the men, he said, and he left the army feeling pretty good about the whole affair.

It was only in 1981 when Kawashima called him for some help in getting an honorable discharge that Bravin realized that many had received less than honorable discharges.

At considerable expense to himself, Bravin made the Kawashima case a successful test case whereby over 30 1800 members had their discharges reversed to honorable discharges.

In 1981, after the case was reviewed, Bravin told the New York Post that the case will permit up to 300 other Nisei ex-GIs to simply apply to get their "less than honorable discharges made whole."

Present at the dinner as a guest of the 1800 was Masao Kataoka, a member of the Fort McClellan, Ala., resisters. Kataoka was court-martialed and sentenced to 30 years in the federal penitentiary for "willful disobedience of an order of their superior officer."

The men at McClellan refused to continue combat training until they had assurances as to the safety of their family and friends in camp. "They kept telling us that we were fighting for freedom," said Kataoka, "but whose freedom? All we wanted was security for our families before continuing training. We feared we would all go before a firing squad, but we wanted to bring attention to the matter.

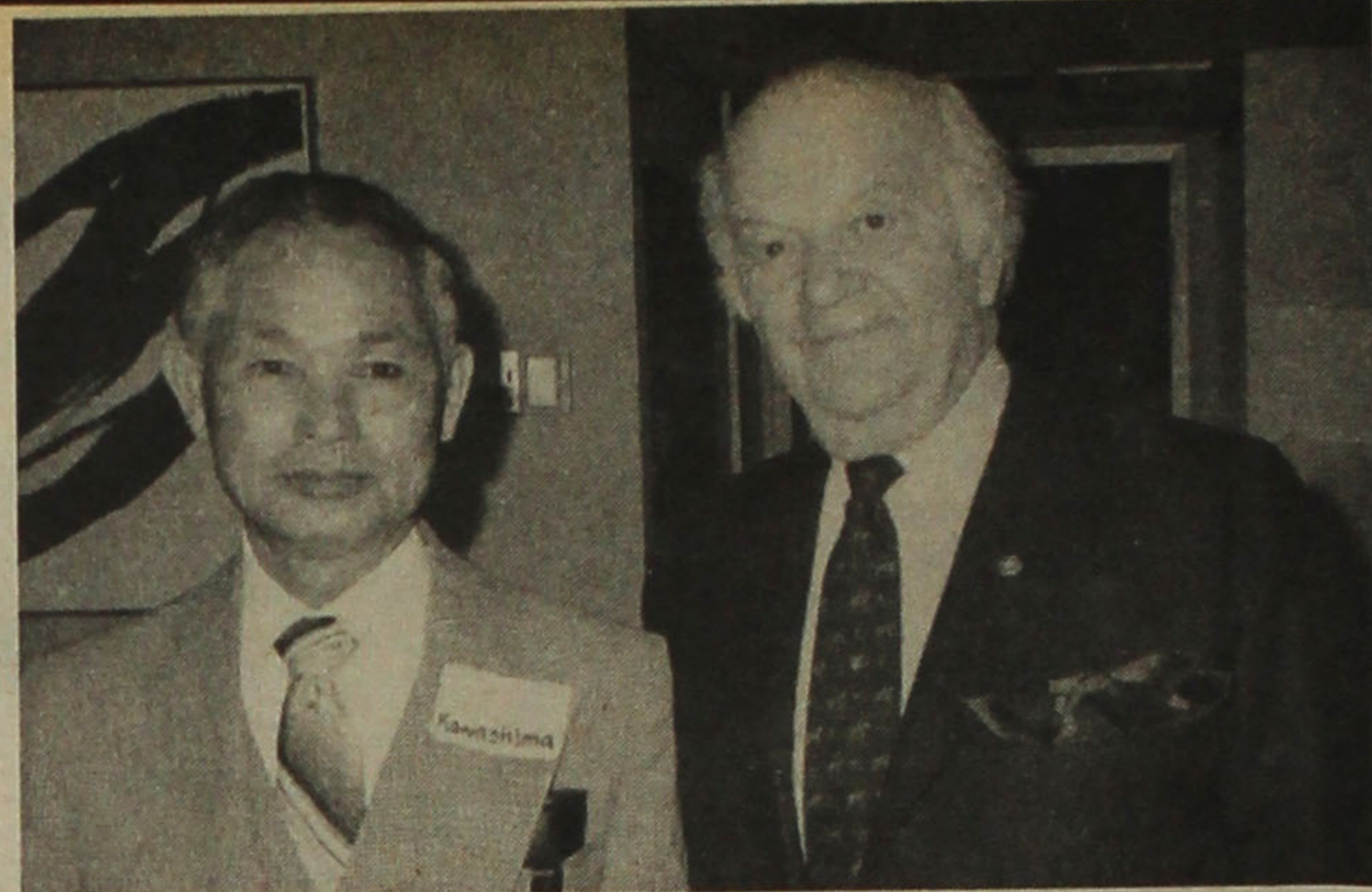


photo by Bob Shimabukuro

TEST CASE—Kiyoshi Kawashima (left) and Hyman Bravin renew acquaintance. Bravin helped Kawashima receive honorable discharge and set up procedures for others to clear their records.

"We were before the Korematsu case. We feel happy for Korematsu," he added. Korematsu in 1983 had his conviction for defying internment orders vacated.

Steven Okazaki's "Unfinished Business," a film about Gordon Hirabayashi, Min Yasui and Fred Korematsu and their fight

to clear their names, was shown as part of the evening's program.

Also on the program was a surprise birthday cake for Bravin, who turned 72 on May 14. Shimo also noted that since most of their "unfinished business" was about done, their group was disbanding and any left-over funds would be contributed to the Gordon Hirabayashi case.

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