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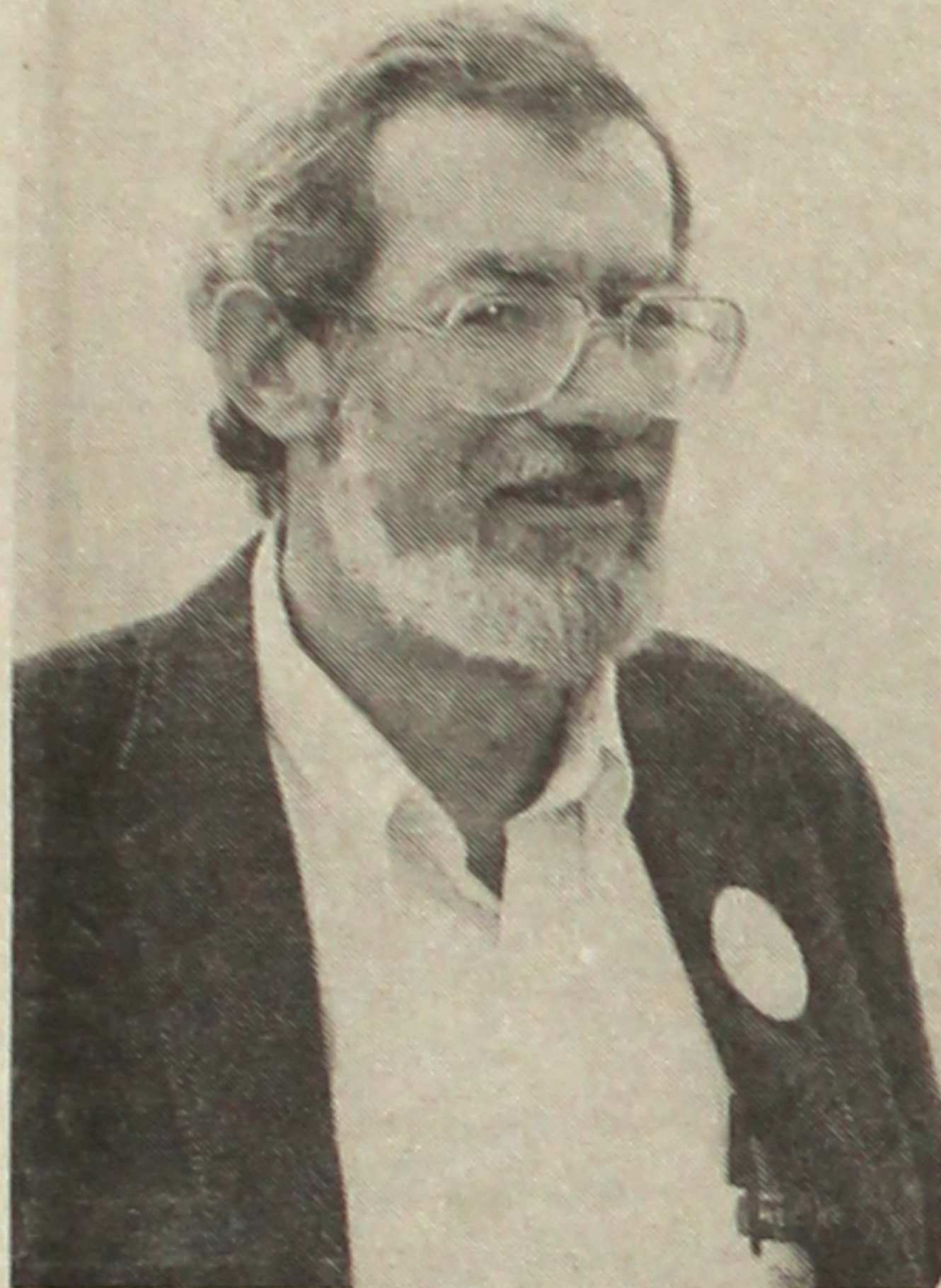


Photo by Sachi Yamamoto
Peter Irons

Sex harassment claims dismissed

HONOLULU— On Oct. 4, the eve of his recall election, former Honolulu city councilman Toraki Matsumoto won a dismissal of the sexual harassment claim in a circuit court lawsuit filed against him by his former aide Lisa Conant.

Matsumoto said he didn't receive word about Judge Edwin Honda's ruling until Oct. 7, two days after voters turned him out of office by a 8,854-7,896 margin for switching political parties in mid-term (see Oct. 18 PC), but he was not upset that he had not received word before the election. "Even if I had known by Friday, it was too late to counter the allegations," he said. If the court had ruled earlier in the week, he felt he could have had time to let the voters know about the dismissal.

Conant's attorney, Judith Pavey, said dismissal won't affect the case. She said that Conant can still pursue her sexual harassment allegations and recover the same damages through other pending claims in the suit. Those include claims that Matsumoto violated Conant's right to privacy, inflicted emotional distress and wrongfully discharged her from her job.

Matsumoto's attorney, Boyce Brown, sought to dismiss four of the various claims in the suit. Honda threw out two—the one on sexual harassment and one seeking recovery for "outrage."

On Oct. 9, Matsumoto offered Conant \$15,000 to settle out of court the remaining claims in her suit. Conant has 10 days to accept the offer, but Pavey has said that she will reject the offer because it is "too low."

—from reports by Honolulu Advertiser

Redress groups urge cooperation

by J.K. Yamamoto

LOS ANGELES—Representatives of organizations seeking redress through Congress and the courts gave progress reports on their respective efforts Oct. 5 at a program jointly sponsored by JACL and National Coalition for Redress/Reparations (NCCR).

Bert Nakano, national spokesman for NCCR, told the audience at Venice Japanese Community Center that the joint program "signals a community united and committed on all fronts to win redress... We can be proud that as a

community, diverse as it is in our approaches, we have all come together in the interests of and for the good of all Japanese Americans."

Stressing that other minorities are also combating racism, Nakano said, "Our movement cannot and must not be separated from this broader movement for justice for all people, for to do so would be narrow and hypocritical."

NCCR has "participated in various issues concerning the pan-Asian, Black, Latino and other communities... in mutual support

and understanding of their struggles," said Nakano, giving as an example his participation in an upcoming anti-apartheid rally. This in turn leads to support for redress from other communities, he said.

Concerns About Bill

Nakano also raised NCCR's concerns about provisions not covered in the redress bills introduced to Congress earlier this year. He recommended that:

- (1) Reparations be tax-exempt and not jeopardize eligibility for other forms of government aid;
- (2) Application procedures be revised and clarified;
- (3) The definition of eligibility include anyone forced to leave the West Coast, whether interned or not;
- (4) The allocation board be comprised at least in part of former evacuees or their descendants, with money earmarked in advance by guidelines specifying how it is to be spent; and
- (5) All government announcements outlining eligibility, payment procedures, etc. be bilingual.

Class Action Suit

Joyce Okinaka, speaking for National Council on Japanese American Redress (NCJAR), which filed a multi-billion dollar suit against the government in 1983, emphasized that NCJAR's legal action "is not inconsistent or mutually exclusive from the decision of NCCR and JACL to go to Congress for redress.

"So long as there are different

avenues of redress that are given to the people of the U.S. by the Constitution... it's absolutely critical that every avenue be explored and exhausted."

The suit was dismissed in May 1984 by U.S. District Judge Louis Oberdorfer, who ruled that the statute of limitations had already expired. NCJAR's appeal was not heard until last month in Washington, D.C.

While she did not predict the outcome of the appeal, she said she would "like to see it appealed to the Supreme Court... It's a matter of poetic justice for the Supreme Court to have to hear this class action suit, because it was through the Supreme Court that the government lied when they talked about Japanese Americans having committed acts of treason and sabotage."

If the appeal fails, "one of the possibilities is trying to obtain enabling legislation through the Congress. That would get over certain procedural obstacles, including the statute of limitations."

Attorney Peter Irons briefly commented on NCJAR's suit. Of Skelly Wright and Ruth Ginsburg, two of the three judges who heard the appeal in September, he said, "you can't get two better judges for concern about civil rights and justice."

Wright "played an enormous role in protecting the rights of Black Americans during the '50s, '60s and '70s" and Ginsburg

Continued on Page 9

Meeting held to avoid violence

SAN FRANCISCO—Fishermen and police have agreed to cooperate more closely in an effort to avoid further conflict between Vietnamese and others who compete for fish on the bay.

Twenty-four people, including an FBI agent, local police and both Vietnamese and non-Vietnamese fishers, attended a conference Oct. 8 at the State Building. It was organized by Assemblyman Art Agnos (D-San Francisco) in hopes of defusing the tension that has already led to violence.

The Vietnamese often use different methods of fishing and doing business from white fishers, who have complained of competition from recent immigrants. Violence has erupted in Texas and Monterey, and on Sept. 16 a fishing boat carrying three Oakland Vietnamese was hit by bullets from another craft off Marin (see Oct. 18 PC).

"We are all immigrants in this

country. The difference is that you were here before us," said Chieu Pham of the Vietnamese Fishermen's Assn. of Oakland.

Language barriers have complicated the problem; Vietnamese often have trouble understanding the regulations of the industry.

Pham showed court documents recording heavy fines against Vietnamese fishers to prove to Pat Flanagan of Standard Fisheries that the immigrants had not been given preferential treatment by law enforcement officials.

After the shooting incident, the victims complained that police were slow to respond. There was a dispute between the Sheriff's Dept. and the Coast Guard over legal jurisdiction in the case.

In the future the Coast Guard will "respond as quickly as humanly possible" to such attacks, Commander Bill Clark said.

—from a report by Oakland Tribune

Study examines Black-Asian tensions

PHILADELPHIA — The Philadelphia Human Relations Commission has concluded its study of the tensions between Asians and Blacks in Philadelphia, as well as San Francisco, New York and Los Angeles. It focuses on Philadelphia due to the documenting of 38 confrontations between the two racial groups between January of 1984 and last July.

"Of the complaints involving commercial establishments, the conflicts ranged from a fire-bombing and beatings to vandalism and ethnic intimidation," the commission report says. "Residential cases included assaults, beatings, vandalism, and ethnic intimidation."

"Many Asians fear any contact with Blacks," said the Rev. James

S. Allen Sr., the commission chair, "and believe all Americans are a threat to them—even those who seek to help them."

Citing bitterness over the Vietnam War as a factor in the tension, the report states that government agencies handling resettlement of the immigrants failed to inform both sides of the cultural differences.

The report concludes that urban areas need to establish education and anti-crime programs to ease tensions.

The commission also concluded that while Philadelphia has more than 100,000 Asian residents, racial tensions centered primarily on the 20,000 recent immigrants from Southeast Asia.

—New York Nichibei

Release of refugee funds ordered

WASHINGTON — U.S. District Judge Robert Aguilar denied the federal government's appeal of a temporary restraining order and demanded that the Office of Management and Budget release \$11.5 million in refugee-targeted assistance funds immediately, Rep. Robert Matsui (D-Calif.) announced Oct. 8.

The funds, to be released to 21 states, include \$4.7 million to be awarded to California to provide refugee employment and employment-related services.

Matsui, along with five fellow California Democrats, refugee groups and California counties, filed a lawsuit prohibiting the Reagan Administration from withholding funds for refugee job training.

The suit was filed in response to OMB's impoundment of the refugee funds, action that was taken despite a report by the comptroller general of the General Accounting Office concluding that such impoundment was illegal.

"The U.S. Attorney's attempt to appeal this decision is using the same delaying tactics that Attorney General [Edwin] Meese so often decries as being an obstacle to justice and costs the U.S. taxpayer thousands of dollars," Matsui said.

"The appeal process is an obvious attempt by the Administration to circumvent its lawful obligation to release these funds. Judge Aguilar's decision clearly indicates that the judicial branch will not stand for any further dilatory action by the Administration."

The injunction granted last month recommended a preliminary hearing on the issue to be held in late October. Aguilar decided that the matter would be resolved and the decision made permanent on Oct. 31.

"If the funds are not released immediately as ordered by Judge Aguilar, our last resort will be to file a contempt of court charge," Matsui said. "I sincerely hope that the Administration will comply with the law."



Ryo Torliatt (left) and Fern Harger, members of Friends of Kagoshima Assn., with the bronze bust of Kanaye Nagasawa of Fountaingrove to be displayed at Sonoma County Museum.

Issei 'Grape King' to be remembered

SANTA ROSA, Calif.—A Japanese Culture Day, jointly sponsored by the Sonoma County Museum and Friends of Kagoshima Assn., will be held Nov. 3, 1-4 p.m. at the museum, 425 7th St.

The focus will be a bronze bust of Kanaye Nagasawa of Fountaingrove, presented to Friends of Kagoshima by Friends of Santa Rosa in Kagoshima, and exhibits about Nagasawa and his Fountaingrove Round Barn and Winery.

The bust was presented as thanks for President Reagan's words before the Japanese Diet on Nov. 11, 1983:

"In 1865, a young samurai student, Kanaye Nagasawa, left Japan to learn what made the West economically strong and technologically advanced. Ten years later he founded a small winery at Santa Rosa...called Fountaingrove Round Barn and Winery. Soon he became known as the Grape King of California. Nagasawa came to California to learn,

and stayed to enrich our lives. Both of our countries owe much to this Japanese warrior-turned-businessman."

A delegation from Kagoshima, as well as members of Kagoshima Kenjinkai throughout California, will attend. Demonstrations of Japanese arts will be provided by musician Kimie Gutzman, dancers from Hanayagi School, flower arrangers from Sogetsu and Ikebano schools, origami by Ryo Torliatt and Holly Ryall, martial arts groups led by Walt Peterson and Manuel Abuda, Jr., and tea ceremonies by Urasenke, Kagetsu-an and Omote Tesenke schools.

Info: Fern Harger, Friends of Kagoshima, (707) 539-8030; Dayton Lummis, museum director, 579-1500.

Publisher allowed to leave Taiwan

MONTEREY PARK, Calif.—Lee Ya-ping, who was arrested by Taiwan authorities last month for allegedly publishing Communist Chinese propaganda in her Monterey Park-based newspaper, has received permission to leave Taiwan, according to the editor of her newspaper.

Anthony Yuen, editor of the Chinese-language International Daily News, said Oct. 18 that Lee plans return to Los Angeles, but he was not sure whether she would be allowed to return to Taiwan in the future. Lee is a Taiwan citizen with immigrant

status in the U.S.

The arrest of Lee, who was charged with printing an interview with China's ambassador to the U.S. and other items deemed favorable to the Communists, was assailed by the State Dept. and members of Congress as an infringement of her right to free speech in the U.S. Taiwan authorities later stressed that she had distributed her publication in Taiwan, where it is banned.

She was subsequently released with a two-year term of "protective guidance."

—from a report by Los Angeles Times

Asian American literary scholar dies

LANSING, Mich.—Dorothy Yoshimori, a champion of Asian Pacific American causes at Michigan State University, died Oct. 6 from a series of cardiac arrests after being admitted to Lansing General Hospital for a liver disorder. She was 54.

An associate professor of American thought and language, the Maui-born Yoshimori joined the department as an assistant professor in 1975. Department chair Henry Silverman said she underestimated the seriousness of the illness she had had for about two weeks.

"We tried to take her to the hospital last week and she didn't want to go," he said. "She wanted to teach her classes. She was that kind of teacher. She was very anxious to fulfill her responsibilities."

Yoshimori, a graduate of Univ. of Chicago, Univ. of Hawaii, and UC Berkeley, was a scholar of 19th century American literature, especially the works of Herman Melville, but she was even more well known as an advocate of Asian Pacific American awareness at MSU.

She was a founding member of the Asian Pacific American Women's Assn. in East Lansing in 1981, serving as chair until

1983. She was also instrumental in creating an Asian Pacific American student liaison at MSU.

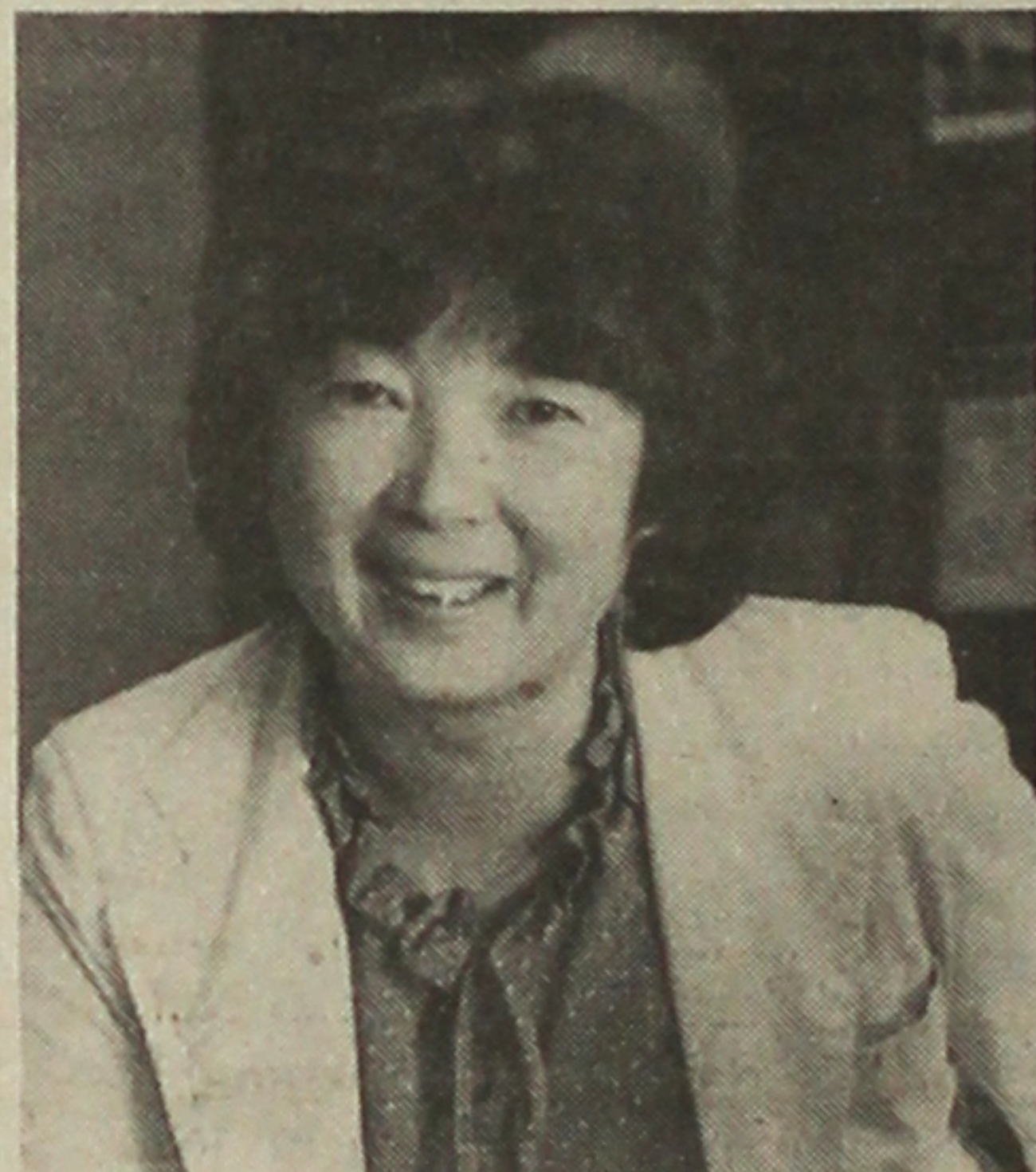
She worked to dispel myths about Asian Pacifics, meeting with university and government leaders and responding by letter to news reports she considered inaccurate. She was also involved in the Modern Language Assn., chairing a number of sessions on Asian American literature.

Articles by Yoshimori appeared in MELUS, the journal of the Society for the Study of Multi-Ethnic Literature in the U.S. Subjects of her studies include writers John Okada, Hisaye Yamamoto, Wakako Yamauchi, and (in papers yet to be published) Toshio Mori. She edited and wrote the introduction to two plays by Frank Chin, *The Chickencoop Chinaman* and *Year of the Dragon*, for University of Washington Press.

She is survived by her son, five sisters, two brothers, and her mother. A memorial service was held Oct. 11 at the MSU Alumni Chapel.

Contributions can be made to the Dorothy Yoshimori Scholarship Fund, MSU Development, 1407 S. Harrison, East Lansing, MI 48824.

—from a report by Lansing State Journal



Nancy Araki

Coordinator hired for JA Nat'l Museum

LOS ANGELES—The Japanese American National Museum's board of directors has announced the hiring of Nancy Araki as the museum's project coordinator.

A native of San Francisco, Araki was executive director of Visual Communications, the L.A.-based Asian American media resource and production group, before accepting the JANM position.

Board president Bruce Kaji said, "Many people have given of their time and efforts to bringing this dream this far... In bringing Nancy on board, we initiate the next phase of going from concept to reality."

Araki will undertake the task of overseeing the future development of the museum, presently at 941 E. 3rd St., eventually to be housed in the old Nishi Honganji in Little Tokyo.

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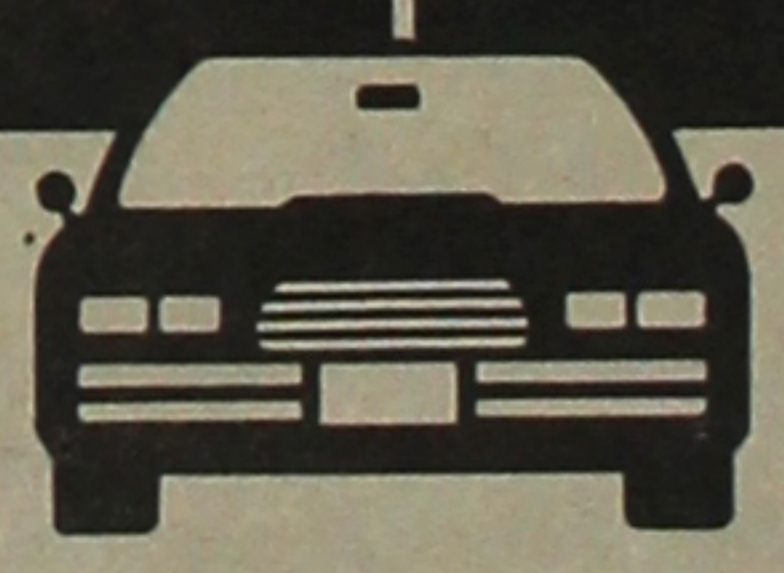
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Community Affairs

New 'Silk Screen' series to air on PBS

LOS ANGELES—Little Tokyo Community Health Fair offers free flu shots Oct. 26, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., at Japanese American Cultural & Community Center, 244 S. San Pedro St. Info: 680-3729.

Philip Kan Gotanda's play "The Wash," directed by Barbara Damashek, is part of Mark Taper Forum's "New Theatre for Now," a series of works in progress. This story of an elderly Japanese American couple's divorce will be performed Nov. 20 and 22 at 8 p.m. and Nov. 24 at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. Call (213) 972-7373 for subscription info.

SAN FRANCISCO—Sachiko and Dom Magwili and Glen Chinn present "On the Orient Express," a potpourri of dramatic pieces, songs, comedy and poetry celebrating the Asian American experience, as a benefit for Japanese Cultural & Community Center of No. Calif. at Christ United Presbyterian Church, 1700 Sutter, Dec. 7 at 8:30 p.m. and Dec. 8 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets, \$10 general, \$8 for students, can be obtained at Paper Tree in the Buchanan Mall or by calling JCCNC at (415) 567-5505.

A black tie fundraiser for Asian American Theater Company will be held Nov. 16, 6:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m., at Asian Art Museum in Golden Gate Park, with live entertainment, dancing, and a retrospective of AATC productions. Co-hosts: Jan Yanehiro and David Louie. Info: David Fong, (415) 928-8922.

Asian Pacific Personnel Assn. celebrates its fifth anniversary with a program Nov. 16 at Neptune's Palace, Pier 39. No-host cocktails start at 6 p.m., with dinner at 6:30. There will be a drawing for two round-trip passes from World Airways. Tickets: \$25. Info: Joyce Satow, (415) 952-2856, or Terryanne Poon, 566-0932.

CHICAGO—Japanese American Children's Program holds its first annual Asian folk art sale and children's fair

Nov. 2, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., at 4427 N. Clark. Proceeds go to the program, which provides toddlers and preschoolers of all ethnic backgrounds with activities that emphasize Japanese language and culture. Crafts include textiles, wickerware, ink paintings, origami, and Hmong tapestries. Children will be entertained by a puppeteer, a storyteller, and a variety of activities. Admission: \$2 for adults. Children accompanied by adults get in free. Info: 864-9193.

SEATTLE—Northwest Asian American Theatre sponsors an acting workshop by playwright Frank Chin, founder of Asian American Theatre Workshop in San Francisco, Nov. 2-3, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Chin will show students how to create their own material from games and improvisation and rework these scenes into a dramatic piece. Info: 329-6847.

MONTEBELLO, Calif. — Laguna and Montebello High School alumni of the 1930s are planning a "Reunion of Friends" Nov. 30 at Holiday Inn, 7709 Telegraph Rd. Send reservations (\$20 each) to Tei Tsuji Hoshi, 1135 N. Pollock St., South San Gabriel, CA 91770. Deadline: Nov. 1.

MONTEREY PARK, Calif.—The founding and installation of Asian American Republican Women takes place Nov. 2, 6 p.m., at Champagne Restaurant. Speakers include Assemblywoman Cathie Wright, L.A. County Supervisor Mike Antonovich, Reps. Bob Dornan and Carlos Moorhead, and Dr. Haing Ngor. Info: (213) 466-8952, (818) 572-5958.

PALO ALTO, Calif.—Stanford University Nikkei alumni hold a reunion Nov. 23 at Peng's Restaurant in Los Altos. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. Coordinator is Buddy Iwata of Modesto. For reservation forms, write to: Stanford Reunion Committee, 512 Phoenix Ave., Modesto, CA 95354.

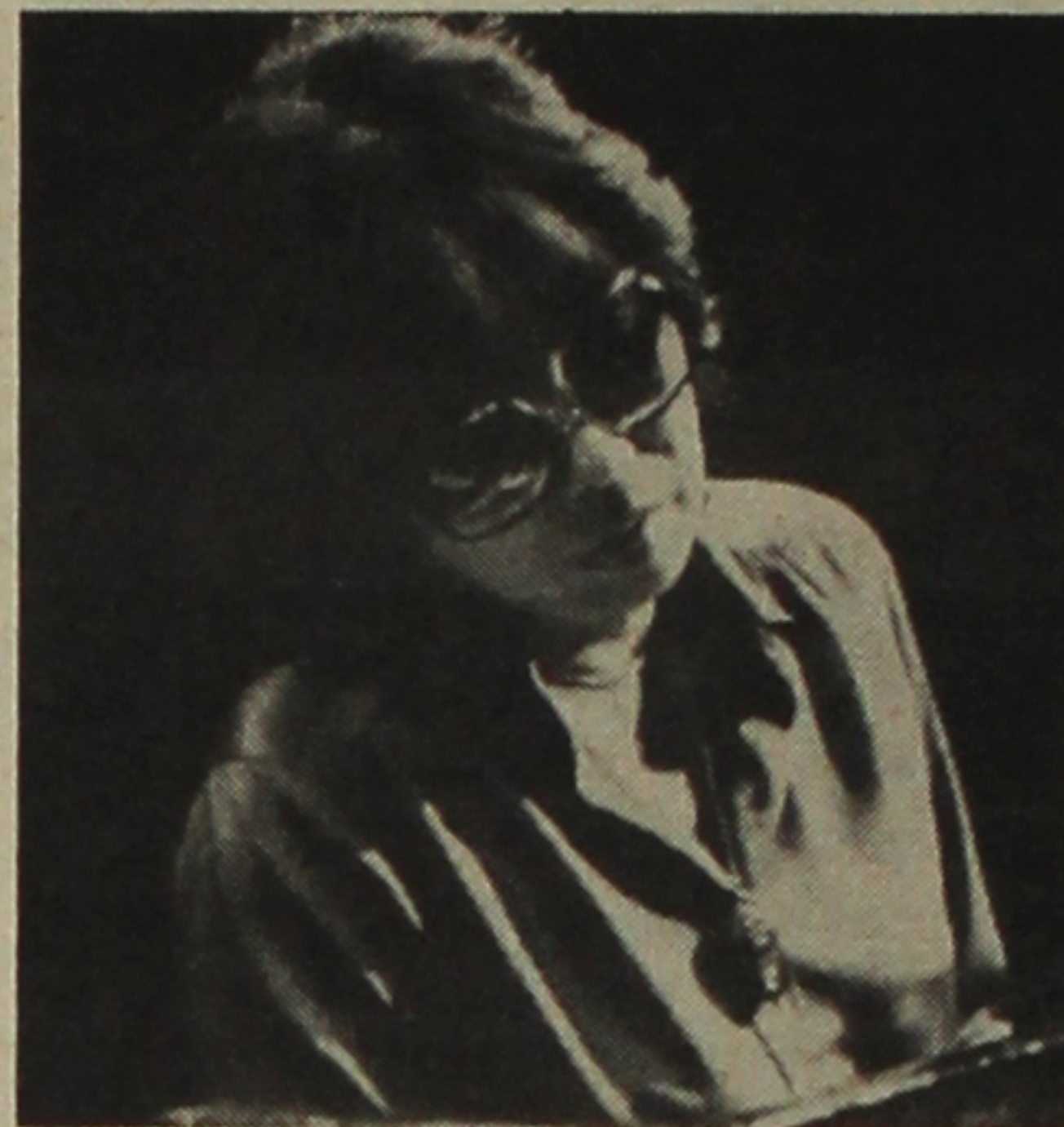
"Silk Screen," an Asian American series that first aired in 1983, will again be seen on PBS with three new hour-long segments. Most PBS stations will carry the show Nov. 10, 17 and 24 at 10 p.m. Check local listings for exact date and time.

Program 1 is Renee Cho's "Jazz Is My Native Language," a documentary profile of jazz artist Toshiko Akiyoshi, leader, composer and arranger (with husband Lew Tabackin) of the Akiyoshi-Tabackin Big Band. A native of Japan, she describes the difficulty she had succeeding in a male-dominated field. Since it was founded 10 years ago, the band has been nominated for six Grammys and won Downbeat Magazine's Number One Big Band Ensemble Award five times.

Producer/director Cho was associate producer of WGBH-TV's "Rebop" and has since written and directed "The New Wife," a half-hour dramatic film about recent Chinese immigrants.

NEW YORK—A program at the Japan Society, 333 E. 47th St., features New York's Soh Daiko with guest artist Seichi Tanaka of San Francisco on Nov. 8-9, 8 p.m. Also performing are singer/poet "Charlie" Chin, martial arts master Yip Wing Hong and the Tachibana Dance Co. Info: 752-3015.

Women's Arts & Crafts Show sponsored by Women's Club of the Japanese American Assn., 7 W. 44th St., showcases the works of Taka Ayabe, Sanko Kajihara, Haru Kishi, Yasuko Nakanishi, Moto Saito, Sanae Sakuma, Kikue Sato and Mieko Takeuchi. Free. Ends Nov. 1. Call 840-6942 for hours.



Jazz musician Toshiko Akiyoshi is profiled in "Jazz Is My Native Language," the first of three new segments of "Silk Screen" on PBS.

Program 2 consists of two films. One is Stephen Ning's "Freckled Rice," a drama about a 13-year-old boy's conflict between traditional Chinese culture and the outside world. During a visit with his grandfather, he comes to understand his family's heritage and how it fits into his own life.

Filmmaker Ning, who has won numerous awards for "Freckled Rice," is working on "From Toisan to Cambridge," a documentary, and "Spirit of the Laundry," a dramatic ghost story.

The other is Emiko Omori's "The Departure," the story of a Nisei girl growing up in California's Central Valley in the 1930s. Her father decides to sell her prized set of Girls' Day dolls in order to make ends meet.

Omori's previous films include the documentary "Tattoo City,"

which was seen on the first "Silk Screen." "The Departure" was funded in part by a JACL Henry and Chiyo Kuwahara Arts Scholarship.

Program 3 is Kidlat Tahimik's "Turumba," a drama which examines the effects of Western values and commercialism on traditional Pilipino culture. Told through the eyes of a young boy, the story centers on his family's activities during the religious festival of Turumba. His village begins to mass-produce traditional animal figures for a European exporter.

Tahimik's first film was the award-winning "Perfumed Nightmares." His next film, "Megellan," is about a Pilipino slave who accompanied the Portuguese explorer in the 16th century.

"Silk Screen" is a presentation of the San Francisco-based National Asian American Telecommunications Assn. (NAATA) with major funding from the Corp. for Public Broadcasting. For more information, call (415) 863-0814.



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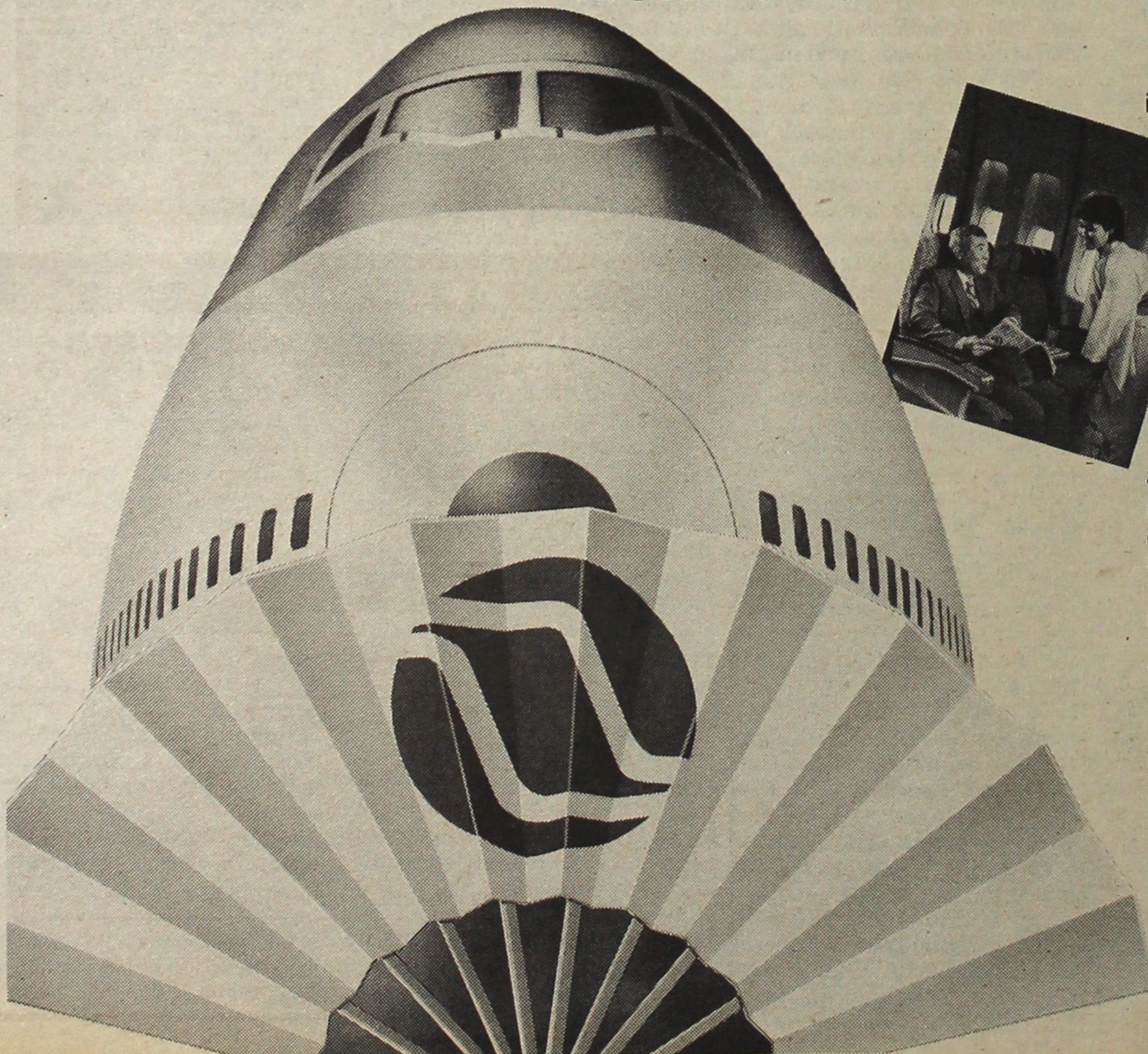
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we go along and adopt such terms? Hardly.

VARIOUS GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, at various times, referred to these camps as "concentration camps." In one of his early communications, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt referred to them as such. In 1944, Justice Owen Roberts of the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Korematsu v. United States*, wrote:

[I]t is a case of convicting a citizen as a punishment for not submitting to imprisonment in a concentration camp, based on his ancestry, without evidence or inquiry concerning his loyalty and good disposition towards the United States.

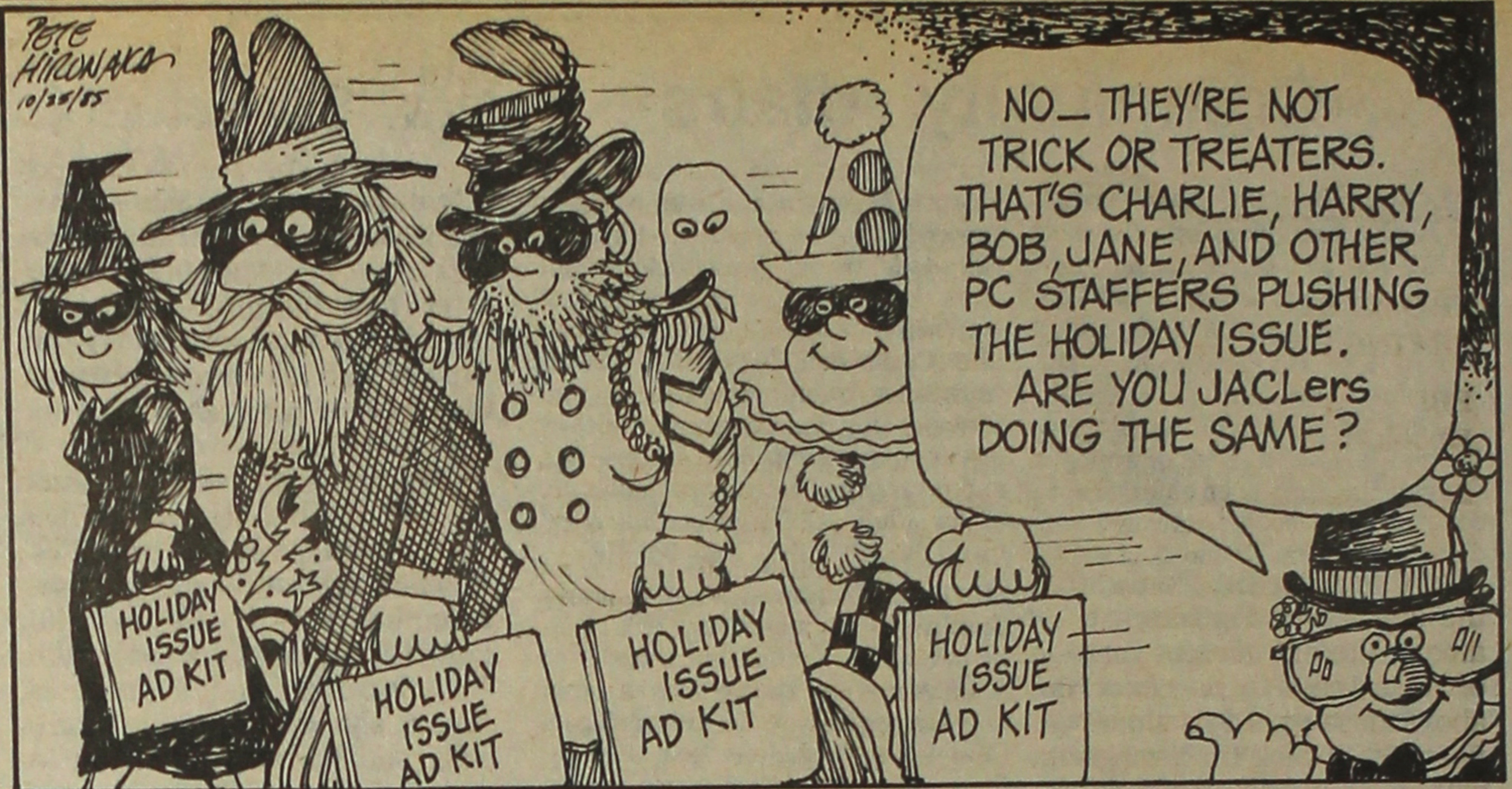
We further know that...the President had promulgated Executive Order 9102 establishing the War Relocation Authority under which the so-called Relocation Centers, a euphemism for concentration camps, were established pursuant to cooperation between the military authorities of the Western Defense Command and the Relocation Authority....[emphasis added.]

And there are comments and observations by others.

IN HIS OPINION issued on August 26, 1949, in describing the Tule Lake camp, Federal Chief Judge William Denman observed:

The barbed-wire stockade surrounding the 18,000 people there was

I HAVE A photograph of the camp in which I spent a few months in 1942 after we had been transferred from Pinedale, California. It is of the camp in Tule Lake. In planning to have it framed and hung up on my office walls—as a constant reminder how fragile the protection of the U.S. Constitution can be when our leaders lose faith in its meaning and strength—I groped for a title for the photograph. "Tule Lake Relocation Center"? Looking at the photograph and remembering what it was that forcibly sent me there and all that it stood for, I could not, in honesty, adopt such a title. For it was a label, a euphemism, that was selected by those who participated in my uprooting and incarceration. For example, if they had taken it one step further and called these camps "retreats" or "rest camps," should



like that of the prison camps of the Germans. There were the same turrets for the soldiers and the same machine guns for those who might attempt to climb the high wiring...

The buildings were covered with tarred paper over green and shrinking shiplap—for the low winter temperatures of the high elevation of Tule Lake...No federal penitentiary so treats its adult prisoners. Here were the children and babies as well. To reach the unheated latrines, which were the center of the blocks of fourteen buildings, meant leaving the residential shacks and walking through the rain and snow—again lower than penitentiary treatment, even disregarding the sick and the children. So also was the crowding of 18,000 people in the one-story shacks.... In the cells of a federal penitentiary there is no such crowding.

THEN IN 1966, former Associate Justice Tom Clark of the Supreme Court was quoted as follows:

I made a lot of mistakes in my life...One is my part in the evacuation of the Japanese from California in 1942.... I don't think that served any purpose at all.... We picked them up and put them in concentration camps. That's the truth of the matter. And as I look back on it—although at the time I argued the case—I am amazed that the Supreme Court ever approved it. (Emphasis added.)

And most recently, on April 12, 1982, when President Ronald Reagan issued Proclamation 4927, he declared:

In spite of years of struggle and toil, in spite of exclusion and incarceration, peoples whose roots lie in Asia and the Pacific Islands have brought forth myriad contributions to this country—in the arts and literature, science, industry, commerce, government, and agriculture. (Emphasis added.)

AND SO, IF there be any who would deny the label "concentration camps" or our then-situation as anything other than "incarceration," various people in government—from President Roosevelt to President Reagan and a number of people in between—openly and honestly called a "spade" a "spade."

And having been there, we know.

You Can't Win

ONE THING LEADS TO ANOTHER

Bob Shimabukuro



First things first: for the better part of the week the temperature outside has been in the low 90s. One day, feeling hot and tired and very irritable over what I considered to be underserved criticism and expressions of no-confidence in yours truly, I walked into the office and lo and behold, there was a 20+ degree drop in temperature.

"Could it really be?" I asked myself. Yes, the air conditioning was finally in place. Almost changed my whole attitude toward this job. Almost.

I get a lot of comments. By phone, especially when people are irate. Compliments come in the mail. But phone calls are almost always bad news. Someone wants to yell at me for not printing their news release, and wants to know WHY, and don't you know that the PC is a JAACL paper and I pay my dues and you're just as bad as all the rest of those board members who sit around and don't give a damn about the local chapters and what the hell are you guys doing with all the redress money anyway? In almost those exact words.

Sometimes I'll follow the advice of Miss Manners who said that it is rude to hang up on someone but it is not rude to hang up on yourself, so I'll be in the middle of a sentence and hang up the phone. Problem is sometimes they call back to continue the conversation. I must be real pleasant to talk to.

When I answer (very politely, of course) that the release came in too late, or I didn't have time to correct the poor grammar and my 13-year-old daughter writes better, I have found that that response usually invites more verbal abuse, so I have taken to saying, "Well, maybe it'll be in the next issue."

Sometimes I'll just pass it on. "Look, if you've got problems with the organization, call up Ron at Headquarters and talk to him." I even give them Ron's phone number. And to think, I never get a word of thanks from our national director for directing calls from interested members his way. Life isn't fair.

But even compliments are strange. Recently, PC's reduction to 8 pages has made space a valuable item. So, in case you haven't noticed, I haven't been writing a column every week. The response has been flattering and uncomplimentary.

"Missed your column, Bob. Run out of things to say?" Or, "How come you don't write your serious columns any more?" Along with, "How come you don't write your funny columns any more?" And even better, "Don't you have anything more interesting to write about than air conditioning?"

Well, I did start a couple of columns on how the contributors could make my life easier. Now that's pretty serious, isn't it? I thought J.K. and I could start writing columns on how to write a good, tight press release, followed by one on how to write a good, concise article. But I decided it was a little too insulting and condescending, not to mention space-consuming. And when Bill Marutani wrote about the

lack of writing skills among today's college graduates (Sept. 27 PC), I decided 2 articles on this topic would not be conducive to contributions.

I do want to comment on the Judge's column, however. I think he should be editor of the PC for a week. Then he would see that subject-verb agreement (or lack thereof) is not a problem peculiar to the younger generation. Believe me, subject-verb agreement (along with parallel structure) is an intergenerational problem.

I started another column after I returned from S.F. I wanted to write about the players at the board meetings (JAACL and LEC). Now that could be a funny piece. Critical. Humorous. But constructively so (aren't I always constructive?).

A board member, who wishes to remain anonymous, wandered into the office at the time I was working on it, and commented, "Bob, you're asking for trouble. You should do the piece from the angle of the different types—the *monku* artist, the pushy one with the loud voice, the con artist who likes to button-hole you privately. It could be funny, everyone could laugh at themselves, your point would be made, all would benefit. A lot safer."

"Yeah," I thought aloud, "it could be fun. There are the silent ones who don't say anything and then write what they really think later (who, me?), the ones who wish to avoid substantive discussion and embarrassing questions by deftly changing subjects. And these types exist throughout the organization, not only on the National Board."

So I was feeling pretty good about this approach. After all, if

Letters

Salinas Symposium

The symposium on the Japanese American internment at Hartnell College on Sept. 27 was truly an educational and inspiring occurrence.

The afternoon program began with a showing of the film "Unfinished Business," hosted by Minoru Yasui, LEC chair. The account of the incarceration by the three men convicted and imprisoned for defying Executive Order 9066, and Yasui's clear and concise answers to the many questions evoked by the film, was reason enough to travel to Salinas for the event.

But the symposium itself, following an excellent Japanese dinner prepared by Mrs. Margaret Tada, was really one of the most educational events presented by an institution of higher learning.

Continued on Next Page

anybody complained, I'd just say, "Hey, if the shoe fits, put it on. I'm only writing about types, if you're not in any category, forget it."

After discussing this approach with J.K., he said in his usual deadpan manner, "Sure Bob, you're going to make it easier for yourself by ridiculing people rather than criticizing them. Good luck."

Another friend commented, "Bob, in this organization, you gotta hit 'em over the head directly. Oblique references won't have any effect. No one will recognize their shoe. Everyone will think that the shoes fit someone else."

Well, so much for the idea. You can't win. Maybe you readers haven't heard the last of the air conditioning after all.

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Getting On In Years

FROM THE
FRYING PAN:

Bill
Hosokawa



As the saying goes, considering the alternative I'm happy to be among the old geezers that lots of folks seem to be concerned about these days. It is almost impossible to pick up a magazine without finding an article about aging and the aged—how to avoid getting old, what to do if you do, the bad things an aging population is doing to the Social Sec-

urity system, how to pick a delightful retirement home, the importance of writing a will, *ad infinitum*.

Prime time television is flooded with programs on the same subjects packed in between the shoot-em-up thrillers. In view of the high mortality rate among the no-goodniks, it would seem the cop shows are doing their bit to eliminate people before they become a geriatric problem.

Even our governor, a spry, white-haired, 50-year-old jogger named Dick Lamm, told us it was the duty of hopelessly ill ancients to get their creaky bones out of the way and make room for youngsters.

JACL is taking an active in-

terest in the problems of elderly Japanese Americans. It is a worthy and soon-to-be critically important project. The bulk of the Nisei generation was born within a relatively short time bracket. Those who have escaped the inevitable so far are growing old together. Listen to a bunch of Nisei talking. The conversation is less about business, politics, sex, football, bowling and TV—all formerly perennial topics of interest—than it is of arthritis, heart by-pass operations, high blood pressure, cholesterol, strokes, cataracts, prostate problems, dieting and the Big C. We talk a lot about Alzheimer's as if it were a joke, but the jokes have a strong tinge of gallows humor. We know too many friends who have been afflicted.

Aging is a universal problem, particularly in Japan, which has the world's highest life expectancy rate. Recent figures from the Ministry of Health and Welfare say Japanese life expectancy in 1984 was 74.54 years for men and 80.18 for women. Comparable figures for American whites are 71.6 for men and 78.8 for women. The lifespan for all Americans presumably would be shorter if blacks and other minorities were included.

What accounts for the fact that Japanese are living longer than any other nationality? The Japanese say improvements in the diet, a rise in health awareness, and a drastic drop for whatever reason in the number of strokes. However, I've seen other reports indicating that the Japanese are

eating more animal fats than they used to, resulting in problems like those Americans are facing.

People aged 65 years and older make up 9.9% of Japan's population compared with 12% in the U.S. By the year 2000, only a decade and a half away, the percentage of over-65s in Japan is expected to be between 15 and 16.

The Japanese government recently established a special committee to study problems related to an aging population. Like other things Japanese these days, it is likely to be a thoroughly competent job. We hope they share their findings with the rest of us. That's one export that should be welcomed by Congress and our government.

LETTERS

Continued from Previous Page

No one could have made the point better than the keynote speaker, Yasui, when referring to the injustice of locking up American citizens who had committed no crimes. He told the audience that "A wrong is a wrong, and until it is rectified it is still a wrong."

Among the other interesting speakers was Salinas Mayor James Barnes, who said, "I can't believe we took citizens of our country and put them in internment camps," adding that he was at the symposium to say, "How wrong I was at the time in supporting the internment, and how wrong our government was!"

A number of JACL chapters are located near institutions of higher learning and they can easily organize forums, symposiums and other educational events to inform the public about the tragedy of the internment. I earnestly hope they will do so.

And to Minoru Yasui I say, thank you for showing us the way, Min. *Gambare*, and continue to lead us to success!

SEAN KIENZ
Santa Rosa, Calif.

Half-Truths and Fictions

What gods and furies goad Mr. Ken Masugi so (Sept. 20 PC)? Is his secret burden the fact he is Japanese and 101% American and laden with the hubris of an academician, a guardian of truths? By Zeus, he flings thunderbolts of extravagant half-truths and fictions at the Abyssinian Jesse Jackson with rhetoric awful enough to make Aristotle wince.

A radical because he opposes closed institutions and minds? Perhaps Mr. Jackson is saying truths Mr. Masugi and others don't want to hear. For a most radical manifesto, I would suggest Mr. Masugi, chairman of Claremont College's U.S. Constitution Bicentennial Committee, reread the Declaration of Independence, which legalizes the overthrow of the Government—pretty strong stuff.

Like the Jew, Mr. Jackson has racial burdens—the memory of the African Holocaust, slavery—justified by this nation and the "law" (Constitution) until 1864

and deferment of full civil rights until 1964.

This letter is not an apology for Mr. Jackson but to remind ourselves that "Everyone is a prisoner of his own experience. No one can eliminate prejudices—just recognize them" (E.R. Murrow).

EJI SUYAMA
Ellsworth, Maine

Ready to Help Out

Thank you for your excellent coverage of redress events/activities/progress in general. I look forward each week to receiving my copy of the Pacific Citizen for the latest update. I doubt any other source could keep me so well informed.

I'm a Sansei. While growing up, I heard the story of being sent off to camp in Arkansas from my parents, but I never really realized what an injustice had been carried out. In making the best of a bad situation, they never really stressed what a terrible time it was. Having read the articles in the PC and recently seeing "Unfinished Business" on public television has made me realize the pain and suffering they and everyone else endured. It is ironic how a country founded on the principles of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" could take away those very rights from a group of its own citizens.

I am writing to find out where and to whom to send redress contributions. I have pledged a yearly amount through the Venice-Culver JACL, but do not have one of their pre-addressed envelopes handy. My parents and relatives do not know where to mail their contributions—to my JACL chapter, to LEC in Washington D.C.—where? Are contributions tax deductible? Maybe a little notice in the PC every now and then would be helpful.

Keep up the good work.

SHARON TANIHARA
Garden Grove, Calif.

Donations to LEC, which are not tax-deductible, can be sent to the nearest district office. In Southern California, that would be c/o JACL, Pacific Southwest District Regional Office, 244 S. San Pedro St., Rm. 507, Los Angeles 90012. Donations to JACL Redress, which are tax-deductible, can be sent to your local chapter or district; you must specify whether it is for LEC or JACL Redress. —Ed.

An Open Letter to National Program Chairs

The National Board, at its September quarterly meeting, was forced to make some devastating decisions to reduce budget expenditures affecting personnel, regional offices and the endowment fund, among other things. The crux of the matter is the implementation of the Legislative Education Committee program at this time.

The LEC requested \$150,000 in order to set up the machinery that would administer the political arm of JACL. In the proposal drawn by the LEC, meeting in tandem with the National Board, were budget items for an executive director and an associate director for 6 months. No rent or secretarial help was included, on the assumption that these costs would be absorbed by JACL's general budget.

At the same time, the National Board was hearing reports of the shortage of redress pledges and membership income, the Endowment Fund loan repayment demands, and the PC's financial woes. Of special interest was tax consultant Ward Pynn's suggestion that JACL elect to use 501(h) and save on administrative overhead of a separate LEC administration.

BY
THE
BOARD:
by
Miki Himeno



To implement the LEC request for set-up funds, a "laundry list" of budgetary cuts was painfully wrung out by a committee working with the President and the National Director. The potential list included \$42,000 in general fund cuts, and \$63,700 in personnel costs reductions. Originally the list included proposed reductions of \$25,000 in program expenditures also, but this was disallowed.

Commentary

Political Action Committees (PACs) are generally set up to be providers. Strangely, we are seeing a role reversal in which the LEC seeks funding from JACL, a non-profit organization.

Budget-wise, the personnel category will be bearing the brunt of reductions. The implication is that there will be less time and help

available from staff.

Alternatives to the JACL grant to LEC seem to be: "alter the picture of the income," use 501 (h) without separate staffing, or delay set-up procedures. Income might be improved if pledges would be doubled, or sent in quarterly, or increased by other means, voluntarily, but in large enough numbers. Donations should be made unrestricted to remain tax deductible.

Looking ahead

In the year ahead to the Chicago national convention in July 1986, chairpersons can look forward to an austere budget. Convention budget was affected by a \$6,000 reduction and convention workshop budget requests must be submitted by chairpersons immediately to Yosh Nakashima, Vice President of Operations, at National Headquarters.

The next National Board meeting is expected to be held in the Los Angeles area Jan. 17-19, 1986, to coincide with an LEC fundraiser. Reports, questions, comments and input may be possible in person, particularly for L.A. chairpersons, by requesting time on the agenda.

Touchdown For Redress

At the 1978 National Council meeting in Salt Lake City, JACL made a decision to seek redress for the exclusion, removal and detention of Japanese Americans. Since that time the redress program was an acknowledged priority among JACL's programs. We subsequently committed close to \$8 million to pursue the mandate.

Redress managed to move steadily forward with the formation of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians. The hearings held throughout the country involved many people and the media kept redress before the public.

Today there is concern about what is happening with redress within JACL.

On May 17-18, through National Board action, the decision was made to turn over the redress lob-

LEC
UPDATE:

Grayce
Uyehara



bying activities to the JACL Legislative Education Committee. This action was taken to follow up on National Council action of 1982. The organization realized that the redress action would soon have to focus on extensive lobbying of the redress bills. Heretofore, the major redress program centered on educating the American public, including the Japanese American community.

For the purpose of political lob-

bying, JACL set up the lobbying mechanism by establishing LEC under 501(c)(4). LEC is the lobbying affiliate of JACL.

With the activation of LEC, a major fund drive was initiated under Harry Kajihara, PSW Governor, in June of this year. Kajihara designed a fund appeal plan, and as often happens with JACL assignments, he contributed hours of work to get his drive moving forward. The LEC Board had approved a budget to mount the lobbying program in Washington with a staff.

For Kajihara, the results have been disappointing. The targeted timeline was to have sufficient funds to have a full program started in September.

The prognosis for JACL-LEC to get H.R. 442 and S. 1053 through the 99th Congress is poor unless JACL and LEC can resuscitate the LEC fund appeal to the level of

Continued on Page 8

Chapter Pulse

San Mateo

SAN MATEO, Calif.—Monte Carlo Night will be held on Nov. 2, 8 p.m. to midnight at the Buddhist Temple Hall, 2 S. Claremont St. The \$7 charge pays for a buffet and door prize ticket. Friends and relations are welcome.

Greater L.A. Singles

HAWTHORNE, Calif.—Greater L.A. Singles Chapter will hold its first Scholarship Benefit Dance at the Hawthorne Memorial Hall, corner of El Segundo Blvd. and Prairie, Nov. 9, 8 p.m. Proceeds will go to the chapter scholarship fund, which will award a \$250 scholarship annually to two high school graduates. The scholarships are designated for children of single parents from the Southern California area.

Music will be provided by "The Stonebridge Productions." Admission: \$10. Info: Ada, (213) 539-7882; Taii, (818) 704-0997; Terry, (714) 775-0543.

Marina

LOS ANGELES—Marina chapter and the Asian Management Students Assn. of UCLA's Graduate School of Management are sponsoring the 1st Annual Asian Leadership Conference at UCLA on Nov. 9, 12:15 - 7 p.m.

Keynote speaker will be L.A. City Councilman Mike Woo. Panel discussions on Women in Business, Community Leadership, Asians in Corporate Culture, and Entrepreneurs will be led by Asian community and business leaders including Tritia Toyota, news anchor at KCBS-TV; Lilly Lee, president of Lilly Enterprises; Irene Hirano, executive director of T.H.E. Clinic for Women, Inc. and president of Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics; Rose Ochi, executive director, Criminal Justice Dept., Mayor's Office

and National JAACL v.p.; Leslie Furukawa, attorney at law; and Tom Iino, partner, Deloitte Haskins & Sells. Professor William Ouchi, author of *Theory Z* and *The M-Form Society*, will give the closing address.

There is no charge. Info: Larry Takahashi, (213) 479-8479.

Portland

PORTLAND, Ore.—The Portland chapter has produced a 4-page, color calendar for 1986 featuring 4 Asian artists of Oregon. Represented in the calendar are watercolorist Robert Dozono, sculptor Michihiro Kosuge, textile artist Barbara Setsu Pickett, and ceramist Stan Beppu.

The calendar is a fund-raising project for the PNW District and the Portland chapter and will be distributed by PNWD chapters. Portland JAACL members will receive a complimentary copy by mail.

Those interested in purchasing a calendar are asked to send a \$5 contribution to: Calendar, c/o Portland JAACL, 327 NW Couch St., Portland, Ore. 97209.

Wasatch Front North

OGDEN, Utah—The winners of the two-man Best Ball Tournament held on Aug. 25 at the Davis County Golf Course were announced by co-chairs Art Suekawa and Arthur Kano: Men's group, 1st Flight—Stephen Oda/Koji Inouye tied with Dick Hirabayashi/Harry Suekawa; 2nd Flight—Jerry Miya/Wayne Sugimoto; 3rd Flight—Paul Oto/Lloyd Ryujin tied with Phil Nakamura/Wade Doi. Women's Group, 1st Flight—Cynthia Hirabayashi/Susan Yoshimura; 2nd Flight—Judy Kawabata/Fudge Kunimoto.

Milwaukee

MILWAUKEE—The annual Holi-

day Folk Fair will be held Nov. 22-24 at Milwaukee Exposition & Convention Center & Arena. Chapter members plan a food booth, handicrafts, a Japanese screen display and a children's dance group. Call sales chair Helen Inai at 332-1696 to set up days and hours when you can help. Call Ed Jonokuchi at 672-5544 for advance tickets (\$4) or contact any board member.

The JAACL Christmas party will be held Dec. 8, 1 p.m., at Mitchell Park Pavilion. Make reservations by Nov. 24 by calling Linda Pfalter (774-5687), Betty Fujihira (282-9796) or Lynn Lueck (421-0992).

West Valley

SAN JOSE—West Valley chapter holds a general membership meeting followed by a potluck dinner at the clubhouse Saturday, Nov. 16, 6 p.m. A slate of 1986 candidates for chapter offices will be presented for approval by members present. Guest speaker is Dr. Chao Te Lin, professor of Japanese language at San Jose State University, who has been teaching members conversational Japanese for the past year. Contact: May Yanagita, (408) 996-9133.

Stockton

STOCKTON, Calif.—Russ Kamiyashi won the 14th annual Stockton JAACL Golf Tournament Sept. 29 at Van Buskirk Golf Course. Field low net winner was Tok Ito, who shot a score of 78 and with a handicap of 14 and a low net of 64. There were 65 players in this year's tournament. Starter was Don Inamasu with Grace Nagata and Mitzi Hatanaka as scorers. Jim Morita was handicapper. Tournament chair was Richard Yoshikawa. Sponsors included California 1st Bank, Sumitomo Bank, Southside Pharmacy and Trophy Plus.

PSWDC

LAS VEGAS—JAACL's Pacific Southwest District Council will hold its election of 1985-87 officers and 8th quarterly meeting of the biennium at the Tropicana on Nov. 16.

Slated to run for offices are Ken Inouye (Selanoco) for governor, Linda Hara (Pan Asian) for vice governor, Kathy Higashioka (Torrance) for secretary and Arthur Nishioka (San Diego) for treasurer.

Vying for the six board positions are George Kanegai (WLA), Meriko Mori (GLA Singles), Miyo Senzaki (Pasadena), Sam Sunada (Marina), Douglas Urata (Riverside), and Mable Yoshizaki (ELA).

According to committee members Miki Himeno, Linda Hara and Mable Yoshizaki, nominations of other candidates may be made from the floor, with the consent of nominees, at election time.

On Governor Harry Kajihara's agenda are final committee chair reports on Redress by George Ogawa, Trust Fund by Roy Nishikawa, Women's Concerns by Sandi Kawasaki and Marilyn Nakata, Ethnic Concerns by J.D. Hokoyama, and Liaison Activities by Ken Inouye.

Reporting on their Washington, D.C. leadership trip will be Mary Nishimoto, Kathy Higashioka, Gene Takamine and Art Nishioka.

Hosting the weekend event is Las Vegas JAACL, led by Lillian Morizono. L.A. travel arrangements are being made by George Kanegai. Interested persons are encouraged to call George, Lillian or the PSW office (626-4471) for details.

MDC

MINNEAPOLIS—Finances and declining membership were the main topics of concern at the Midwest District Council meet-

ing, chaired by recently-installed governor Tom Hara. An open forum was held to discuss the budgetary needs of the National office with regard to redress and LEC funding. Both existing circumstances and viable alternatives were discussed.

On the district and chapter levels, the need to set the books in order was emphasized. Because the district office is located in Chicago, the incorporation of the MDC within Illinois was set in motion. Each chapter was encouraged to investigate incorporation and its tax exempt status within their respective states. Simple accounting practices were reviewed to help chapters facilitate continuity of record keeping and presentation for audit.

The declining membership at the national and chapter level was also discussed. Each chapter was encouraged to assess its present and future needs and to actively recruit "new blood." The proposal of a forensic competition by National was discussed as a very positive vehicle to encourage participation by JAYs. The MDC is enthusiastically looking toward this competition and has proposed a competition on a local and district level. Parameters for this type of competition will be based on those set by National.

An invitation to host the spring meeting was graciously extended by the St. Louis chapter; the meeting was tentatively set for April 25-27. Primary event will be the proposed forensic competition.

—Betty Tamura-Breyer

For the Record

In an ad from Sacramento JAACL in the scholarship issue (Aug. 23), the name of one scholarship winner should have been Angela Yee rather than Lee.

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Nothing More to Dream

by David Mas Masumoto

I picture the haunting Depression photograph by Dorothea Lange—the Dust Bowl farmer slouched behind the wheel of his old car, leaving his home in a desperate search for work. His land is gone and his farm is lost, the devastation revealed in his face: Dark shadows frame his features, wrinkles cut deep into his weathered flesh. Behind his staring eyes I see the dreams of full harvests shattered; only a bleak hope of the promised land in the West remains alive, flickering within.

Welcome to California and farming, 1985.

We are deep into the summer harvest, the annual return of searing heat, labor and sweat. For small, family farmers like myself, a depression endures, a pain persists. The 1985 market for fruits and vegetables has collapsed. Nectarines are at an all-time low, peaches at a wrenching break-even point.

A general depression in agriculture holds fast, and, along with thousands of other farmers in the Central Valley of California, I'm filled with deep, searching questions. But we aren't just scratching our heads, wondering what went wrong and hoping that next year will be better; like the Dust Bowl farmer, we stare out at our fields, exhausted and drained, and a chill sweeps across our backs: We are empty.

"What more can you do?" we ask ourselves. We have cut back, practiced efficiency, become business-oriented. In my peach orchard at thinning time I dropped a lot of the crop onto the ground in order to produce a larger, quality harvest. I've kept informed of the national outlook, and I anticipated a fair return this harvest—but only at the expense of other farmers and their winter freeze on the East Coast. Perhaps the freeze was an act of mercy; at least those farmers knew the fate of their harvest quickly and early.

I keep wondering what I did wrong. The answer is: nothing. I talk with other farmers, and they agree: There seems to be no good reason for this year's market to slip and collapse so badly. We shake our heads and stare at the juicy red fruit hanging on our trees—one of the better crops that we've raised in years, and the results are the same. I now know how that Dust Bowl farmer must have felt with hard times a familiar companion, a haunting shadow.

An alien feeling lies deep within me, a gnawing thought that grows and spreads: Like many small, family farmers, we have become obsolete. Certainly, in the future, researchers will study this crop year and determine what political and economic forces acted on us, and journalists will report in shorthand terms to explain our

plight: overextended, highly leveraged, foreign competition. But, in a word, we're obsolete.

Many believe that those of us who are failing are dumb, inefficient farmers, simple-minded folk who would have failed in any venture. But if you look around, especially at the young farmers in trouble, you may be shocked to find the high percentage with college degrees and training. I graduated from UC Berkeley with honors, have a master's degree from UC Davis, and was a Regent's Fellow. If anything, though, I am dumb in one way: I still believed.

I believe in an obsolete work ethic—the simple idea that with hard work you will be rewarded. Yet I thought that I had learned a lesson from the last few years: You have to mix a good helping of

cold, rational business thinking with that hard work. I, like many farmers, did that this past season, and the results remain the same: collapsed fruit prices.

The work ethic no longer functions as it once did. The powerful myth that so many of us believed in, the legacy of a family farm that I inherited, the dreams that drove a Dust Bowl farmer West—all have collapsed, and our spiritual fiber has been left in shreds.

A vacuum now drains us, and an empty harvest fills the summer. No matter how deeply rooted our dreams may lie, not all of us can farm. But I won't cry at the funeral; rather, I fear what might replace my aging dreams: Will I slip into a Yuppie mentality based on status and material accumulation?

A fundamental change is un-

folding in the Central Valley of California. Some farms will survive, but a different sort of agribusiness industry will emerge. I am just a casualty of this current battle, but, unlike the Dust Bowl farmer, I don't even have the hope of promised lands to dream of. That's the underlying meaning of obsolescence: nothing more to dream.

In the summer of '85 a belief in work and spiritual justice has been rendered useless. And, as we go under, it is more than farmers that will be bankrupt.

Masumoto farms 80 acres of peaches and grapes with his father in Del Rey, outside Fresno. He is a winner of the Clavell National Japanese American Literature Contest and author of *Silent Strength*, a collection of short stories on the JA farm community. This article originally appeared in the *L.A. Times*.

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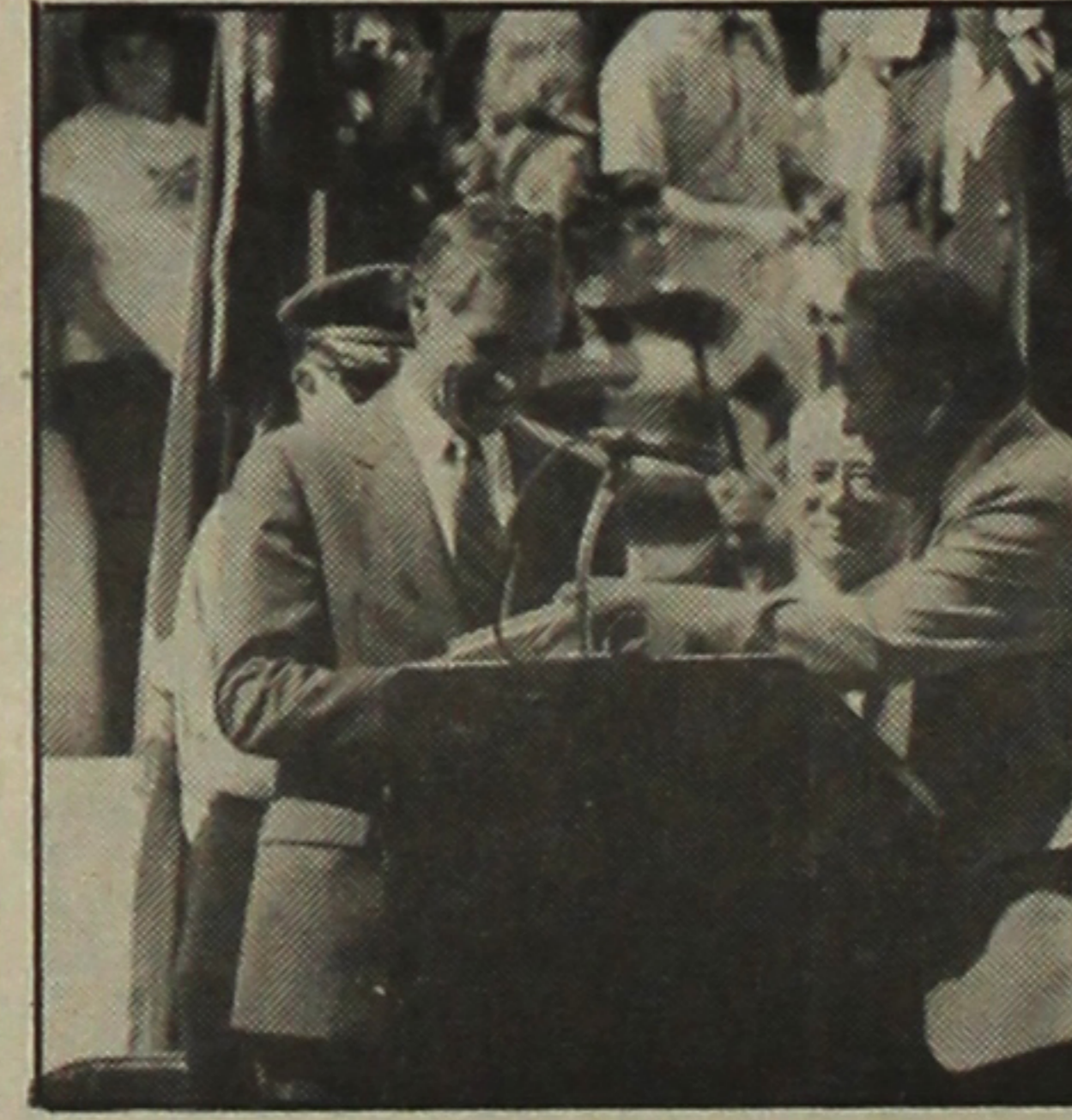
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LEC

Continued from Page 5

original projection. To have our goal elude us at this time is indeed sad. Many, many people have given time and money to redress but we are not able to say that we have given the program the best try. It is sad because we have a stronger base of support and there is momentum in Congress. But without a truly committed JACL pulling together we may drop the ball we have been carrying to a hopeful touchdown.

I did not seek the position of Legislative Executive Director for LEC, but neither could I see us dropping the ball after overseeing the volunteer work on the East Coast and having invested personal time and money for over three years. I answered the call to get the redress lobbying program on track now that LEC has a strategy plan for the 99th Congress.

I know that time is running out for JACL to make the goal. The window of opportunity will begin to close because as each year passes, the report and recommendations of the CWRIC will begin to fade from people's minds.

The wavering of commitment and the reluctance to respond to the LEC fund drive must be replaced by unified support and clear setting of organizational priorities.

JACL National Board may have to go through organizational self-examination in which negative matters are discussed. Otherwise we are bogged down in our unfinished business. The organization pays a price. The pile-up of unresolved issues uses up our psychic energy so we are not free to move on with our business—that is, to accomplish those things we set out to do and which are our reason to be.

I would like to take this opportunity to discuss the collective defenses of "groupthink."

Irving L. Janis, a psychologist at Yale University, wrote, "Es-

entially, when groupthink is at work, group members hobble their seeking of information in order to preserve a cozy unanimity. Loyalty to the group requires that no one raise embarrassing questions, nor attack weak arguments, nor counter soft-headed thinking with hard facts." He observes there is danger that independent critical thinking will be replaced by groupthink.

As a longtime JACLer, let me remind ourselves that less than seven years after the last camp was closed, the JACL Anti-Discrimination Committee established Mike Masaoka in Washington with directions to lobby for American citizenship for the Issei.

In 1952, passage of the Walter-McCarran Immigration and Naturalization Act was JACL's major legislative success which benefited all Asians. The funding goal

was \$100,000 and about a quarter million dollars were raised, mainly by the Issei. Remember, the Japanese American community was still struggling to get back on its feet after those camp years. Most of us did not have cars nor the homes we have today. Masaoka had no office nor a plan on how to lobby; it was all shoe leather, guts and imagination. I grant he had a special talent and ability to make his oral presentations as no other Nisei could.

This one instance of history is cited to show JACL has had legislative victories, so we know it can be done.

Grant Ujifusa, LEC Legislative Strategy Chair, submitted his plan to the LEC Board on September 20; the plan has been approved.

The first priority is for JACL and LEC boards to raise the funds as planned. There has been talk

about professional lobbying. If the membership wants professional lobbying there must first be adequate funds to pay for such services. Until such time we must make do the old-fashioned way. It will also not be acceptable to leave the redress program and the lobbying on an indecisive course, for we will lose more time and momentum.

So in the meantime, the LEC staff in Washington will consist of myself as the Legislative Executive Director and Colleen Darling, Associate Director. We will need all those who will put their shoulders to the harness. We do not need coaches on the sidelines—there are too few players.

We will work with the advice of the four Nikkei Members of Congress, Sens. Dan Inouye and Spark Matsunaga and Reps. Bob Matsui and Norm Mineta and their staff,

a small advisory team of Washington, D.C. people. We will work with all aspects of JACL whose goal is to lobby S. 1053 and H.R. 442. We will seek active support from the human and civil rights organizations, church groups, veterans' organizations and all others who have passed resolutions to support the redress issue. We will coordinate the redress volunteers who will lobby as grassroots in the communities.

All of the foregoing activities will be done within the constraints of present funding and within the approved LEC strategy paper.

Frederick Douglass said, "power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will..." We are in this struggle together. Will JACL respond to the challenge to complete the unfinished business? The answer is yours.

LEC CONTRIBUTORS

No. 3—Oct. 7, 1985
 Targeted Donation: \$117,333.00 by Oct. 7, 1985;
 Donations Received: \$61,129.24
 Pac Northwest \$13,732.34
 No. Cal-WN-P 4,860.00
 Central Cal 5,773.40
 Pac Southwest 10,093.50
 Intermtn 1,000.00
 Mtn-Plain 11,420.00
 Midwest 14,250.00
 Eastern * \$4,500 in Nat'l Hq LEC acct.
 ** \$500 in Nat'l Hq LEC acct.

Prev. Bal.: \$34,911.34
Donors (Aug 16-Oct 7, 1985) \$1,000 and over
 Eddie Jonikuchi, Robert Matsui, Kaz/Betty Mayeda, Charles Nagao, Tom/Rose Ochi, Frank/June Sato, James Taguchi, Shig Wakamatsu, Robert/Phyllis Yasui.
\$500—\$999
 Fred/Setsu Hirasuna, Tad Hirota, Chihoro Kikuchi, Thomas/Janet Kometsani, Jack Nakagawa, Saburo Tomihoro, Yoshihiro Uchida.
\$100-499
 Min Amimoto, A Anonymous, B Anonymous, George Araki, Atsuko Amicar, Delano Chapter JACL, Masuji Fujii, James Fujimoto, Richard Fujita, Karen Hayashi, Hayashi Realty, George/Peggy Heyamoto, Hide Hida, Kazuo Hirabayashi, Pete Hironaka, Noboru Honda, Dale Ikeda, Fumio/Mine Ikeda, Hifumi/Kiku-ye Ikeda, Takashi/Betty Inouye, Mas Iiyama, Sachi Kanjiwara, Wayne Kanemoto, Mitsuo/Kazuo Kawachi, Peter Kawakami, Henry Kazato, Kaz Kimura, Wayne Kimura, Gary/Antoinette Kitazawa, John/Lily Kiyasu, Peggy Liggett, Ed/Kimiko Minami, Kazuo/Seiko Miyamoto, Noriyoshi/Mae Moriwaki, Robert/Violette Moteki, Harold/Nobu Murai, Sam/Mary Naito, Fred Nakagawa, Goro/Miyoko Nakagawa, Wilbur Nakamoto, Thomas Okabe, Jane Okada, Dave Okimoto, Hide Okubo, Betty Okura, Joseph/Asami Oyama, Hiroo Sakurada, Katherine Sasaki, Bob/Lucy Sato, John Sato, Tad/Kiyo Sekigahama, Murray/Mary Sprung, Roy Sugimoto, Kay/Fumi Takahashi, Yoshito/Yoshiye Takahashi, Yoshi Tani, Fred Taniguchi, Izumi/Barbara Taniguchi, Thomas Tokuhisa, Jim/Amy Tsugawa, Akemi Cynthia Tsukamoto, Jim/Laura Watanabe, Masao/Hisa Watanabe, Ben/Ruth Woo, Elaine Yamagata, Tokuo/Anna Yamamoto, Tom Yamayoshi, William/Sue Yamazaki, Kentaro/Jane Yasuda, Ted/Margaret Yasuda, George Yasukochi, Ken/Arline Yokota, Toshiko Yoneji, Art/Helene Yorozu.

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Ezaki, Mas/Kaoru Ezaki, Stephen/Karen Fugita, Tom/Toshiye Fugita, Shig/Kiyoko Fujimura, Peter/Doris Fujioaka, T J Fujita-Yamasaki, George/Fusako Fukushima, Yoshinori/Michiko Fukushima, Philip Guthrie, JVK/Fern Harger, Mitsuye Hasebe, Jiro/Dorothy Hasegawa, Ted/Dorothy Hasegawa, Hito/Yoshiko Hashimoto, S/Yoshiko Hatakeda, Mikiko Hayakawa, T/C Heyamoto, Shigeo/Katsuko Higaki, Micheal Higashi, Theodore/Lilly Hiramoto, Herb Hirasuna, Paulette Hirasuna, Jack/Mary Hisayasu, Asae Honda, Edward/Kimiko Horikiri, Shigeru/Ruby Igarashi, Irene Ikeda, Tim Ikeda, Misao Ikuta, Jerry/Grace Inouye, Yoshio/Chizuko Inouye, Yukio/Lorraine Inouye, T/Dorothy Ishizue, Joel/Joyce Ito, Hiroshi Iwamoto, Setsuko Iwamoto, Katherine/Cameron Jarrett, Kim Johnson, Betty Kadowaki, Yosh/June Kagawa, Frank/Miyoko Kami, Kenji Kanehara, Kiyo Katano, Okane Kawaguchi, George Kawano, Mark/Beverly Kezman, Hennesa Koch, Yae-yo Koja, Barry/Karen Kondo, Mark Kondo, Mike/Jackie Kondo, James/Rose Konishi, Arthur/Bette Kono, Roy/Edna Koyama, Frank/Kathleen Kubota, Takao/Yayoi Kunimoto, Kearney/Ruth Kunishige, Takashi/Sumiko Kuriyama, Paul Kusuda, Errol/Faye Lam, Hana Masuda, Ellen Tomoye Matsumoto, Toshio Matsumoto, James/Dassie Matsukata, Yas Mayeda, Ralph/Yoshie McGinnis, K/Joan Mimura, Shiro/Tomiye Minabe, Kay/Shizuko Mita, Lou/Marian Miyamoto, Mike/Emiko Miyamoto, Tomio Moriguchi, James/Nancy Morikawa, Harold Murai, Marian Nagano, Bob Nakagawa, Bob/Fujiko Nakagawa, May Nakagawa, Mitsuo/Satoko Nakanishi, Miko/Grace Nakano, Tom/Alice Nakao, Tom Narimatsu, Taka Narvo, Esther Nelson, Teri/Duane Nii, Roy/Maggie Nishimura, Shig/Yae Nishimura, Anita Nuibe, Nori Ogata, Etsuo Ogawa, Koshin Ogui, Ichiro Okada, Ayako Okubo, Masayoshi/Sugako Omura, Fred/Sharleen Ozawa, Dusan/Barbara Petrovic, Ernest/Ruby Reimer, Joyce Rosetta, K Saiki, Jack/Mary Sakai, Masako Sakow, Harold/Blanche Sasahara, Randy/Sue Sasaki, Chiyu Sashihara, Alice Scholz, Frank/Carolyn Shiba, William/Marie Shiba, Fusako Shijo, Toyo Shimizu, Alyce Shinmoto, HA/Kiyo Shintaku, Kiyo Shintaku, Shiro Shiraga, Tom/Hatsumi Shohara, Struve & Laporte, Inc., Mr. Laporte, Esther Sugai, Ken Sugawara, Roy/Caryl Suzuki, Larry Takahashi, Mae Takahashi, Mary Takahashi, Ted/Irene Takahashi, Masako Takayoshi, A S Takeuchi, Mary Takiguchi, Joe Tanabe, Henry/Janet Tanaka, Toshi Tanaka, Ryomi/Lilly Tanino, James Tankersley, Kenji/Ethel Tashiro, Shigeshi/Mary Tashiro, Elmer Tazuma, John/Keiko Toguchi, Takezo/May Toyoshima, Yoshio/Ida Toyota, Ben/Sally Tsutsumoto, Hiroshi Uota, Toshie Ueyehara, Tommy/Aiko Uyeoka, Kiyoshi/Jean

Waki, Sheryl Whipple, Margaret Wong, Frank Yada, Dennis/Rachel Yamada, Mack/Alice Yamaguchi, Masao/Yoshiko Yamamoto, Shigeto/RK Yamamoto, Yoshimi Yamamoto, Yutaka/Fumiko Yamamoto, Kazuo/Marian Yamanaka, Arthur/Sadie Yamane, Helen Yamashiro, Akira/Masako Yamachi, Takao/Sumiko Yasuda, Robert Yasuhira, Koro/Miyo Yatsu, Misaki Yemoto, Neal/Yumi Yoshida, Roy Yoshikawa, Frank/Fumiye Yoshimura, Roy/Namiye Yoshioka.
Total for Period \$28,898.90
New balance \$28,898.90

Donations to Date by PRIME SOLICITORS
 Target: 250
 Appointed to Date: 56
 KP: Key Person

Pac Northwest (13): Lloyd Hara, Ed Honma, Cherry Kinoshita (\$2,875; a-750, b-750), Kaz Kinoshita, Marsha Tadano Long, Michi Mae-bori, Tomio Moriguchi (\$550), Sam Nakagawa (\$1,952.34; a-1712, b-287), Bob Sato, (\$1,600.00) Jim Tsujimura (\$525), Terry Yamada, KP: Denny Yasuhara (\$2,175; a-665, b-305), Homer Yasui (\$3,225.00; a-1600, b-1600), Seattle Chap JACL (\$730; a-350, b-350), Unknown (\$100)

No Cal-WN-P (16): Kenichi Bunden, Violet de Christoforo (\$940), Jerry Enomoto, KP: (\$215; a-100) Molly Fujioka (\$100), Mike Hamachi, Tad Hirota, \$1,150; a-650), Frank Iwama, Kimiko Kientz (\$50), James Murakami, Judy Niizawa, (\$500) Harry Sakagawa, Ben Takeshita, Henry Tada (\$100), James Tada, Cliff Uyeda (\$955), Tony Yokomizo, Unknown (\$100).

Central Cal (3): Hiro Mayeda (\$633), KP: Peggy Sasashima Liggett, Tom Shimasaki (\$1,589), Clovis Chap JACL (\$1,845), Ben Nagalati (\$376.40), Fresno Chapter JACL (\$1,330.00)

Pac Southwest (8): Miki Himeno, Mas Hironaka (\$4,500), KP: Harry Kajihara (\$1,748.50), Junji Kumamoto (\$630), Rose Ochi (\$1,000), Willie Makano (\$200), Willie Takano (\$765), Frank Wata-tase (\$1,250).

Intermountain (1): KP: Hid Hasegawa.

Mtn-Plain (1): KP: Min Yasui (\$1,000).

Midwest (6): Roy Ebihara (\$100), Alan Hida (\$2,951; a-400, b-300), Tom Nakao (\$300), Frank Sakamoto, KP: George Sakaguchi, Henry Tanaka (\$2,255), Shig Wakamatsu (\$1,000), Kaz Mayeda (\$1,000), Unknown (\$2,089; a-633, b-633), Dr. James Taguchi (\$1,725; a-600, b-300).

Eastern (7): Tom Kometsani (\$1,075.00; a-50, b-25) Tak Moriuchi (\$1,000), Lily Okura (\$3,425; a-1550), Jack Ozawa (\$1,000), KP: Mike Suzuki (\$3,000), Grant Ujifusa, Grayce Ueyehara (\$3,750), Charles Nagao (\$1,000).

Staff (1): Ron Wakabayashi.
 * Funds raised. Donations acknowledged to date by Prime Solicitors shown.

LEC Financial Report

(The LEC Calendar year starts in June)

	Budget	Expenditures
	1985/1986	Jun/Aug 85
A. OFFICES / PERSONNEL		
1. Redress Chair — Denver Office	\$ 3,000	\$ 691
2. Washington, D.C. Office		
Rent	18,000	
Phone	2,400	
Office supplies	1,500	
Subscriptions to Fed Register, etc	750	
Postage, UPS, Express Mail	5,000	100
Insurance	1,000	
Office furniture	1,500	370
Electricity	1,200	
Equipment lease	3,600	
Petty Cash		300
	34,950	1,461
3. Personnel Salaries — D.C.		
Staff	111,000	
Fringe, Workmen's Comp, FICA	20,000	
	131,000	
4. Clearing House — Chicago		
Secretary/Operator	16,000	
Supplies, phone, postage	4,000	108
Fringe, Workmen's Comp, FICA	2,000	
	22,000	108
5. Contract Services — JACL HQ, San Francisco		
Minutes of LEC meetings	800	
Maintain financial records/reports	4,000	
Design/develop materials as required	2,000	
Coordinate contacts—Nat'l orgs w/LEC-DC	2,000	
Coordinate local Redress w/LEC-DC	2,000	
Coordinate hearing testimonies w/LEC-DC	2,000	
Maintain evaluated lists of materials, localities, costs	1,500	
Rental of facilities	500	
	14,800	
TOTAL OFFICES / PERSONNEL	\$ 205,750	1,569
B. MEETINGS / TRAVEL		
1. LEC Chair (average 2-yr. experience)	14,000	2,734
2. LEC Chair - 2 mtgs (15x2)	15,000	
3. LEC Exec. Comm. - 2 mtgs (9x2)	9,000	921
	38,000	3,655
C. FUNDRAISE EXPENSES		
Key persons (8)	5,000	
Prime solicitors (225, 250, 267, respectively)	11,250	50
Printing, ads	2,000	2,203
Phones, acknowledgments, communications	3,000	309
Clerical/records/reports	5,000	
Stamps, UPS mail		183
Miscellaneous		190
	26,250	2,935
D. MATERIAL PROCUREMENT		
Books - Justice for all - 535 @ \$10	5,350	
Justice at War - 535 @ \$8	4,280	
Bamboo People - 535 @ \$7	3,750	
Years of Infamy - 535 @ \$10		
Go for Broke		
Legislative handbooks, brochures, tapes, slides, films, media kits, pins	12,500	
	25,880	
E. LOBBY EXPENSES		
1. Washington, D.C. Staff/Office		
Appointments, business meals (180 for 2)	5,000	
Cabs, parking	2,000	
Pay phones, misc. kitty	500	
Volunteer lobbyists, office ass'ts	12,000	
Staff travel guideline - \$165/day (max. 10 dy)	1,650	
Fare	1,500	
LEC meetings (4 x 2)	4,000	
2. Grassroots Volunteers		
Area coordinators	5,000	137
Local congressional districts	25,000	
	56,650	137
F. SPECIAL EVENTS, CONFERENCES		
P.R. and presence at banquets, political, civil rights and government functions, media events, LEC receptions	15,000	
PSWD Redress dinner seed money		1,000
	15,000	1,000
G. MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES		
Finance Chair		90
Secretary/Treasurer		
Legislative Chair		
Consultants, Legal Counsel, Auditor	8,000	
BUDGET TOTAL	\$375,530	9,386

Redress Pledges

Actual amounts acknowledged by JACL Headquarters for the period of:
 #20: September, 1985

1985 Total: \$ 66,799.65
 Prev. Gr. Total: \$209,580.04
 This Report: (6) \$3,510.00
 Grand Total: \$213,090.04

Placer County JACL \$1,370; Fremont JACL \$200; Delano JACL \$180; Oakland JACL (for 1986 Pledge) \$35; Marin County JACL \$410; Gresham-Troutdale JACL \$1,315 (for 1983 & 1984 pledges).

1985 DISTRICT BREAKDOWN
 (Actual: Jan.—Sep. 1985)

NC-WN-Pac \$ 36,901.52
 Pac Southwest 13,696.88
 Central Cal 4,620.00
 Pac Northwest 4,235.25
 Midwest 2,765.00
 Intermountain 2,500.00
 Eastern 2,060.00
 Mtn-Plains 115.00
 Sep 30 Total: \$ 66,799.65

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March Fong Eu

Fundraiser for Sec'y of State Eu planned

FRESNO, Calif.—A fundraiser in honor of Secretary of State March Fong Eu is scheduled for Nov. 3 at Golden State Plaza, 2220 Tulare, with cocktails at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 7:30. Tickets: \$50.

First elected in 1974, Eu supervises the conduct and results of all state-level elections and voter registration, reviews funding statements from candidates and political committees, and sees that election laws are uniformly administered and enforced.

As chair of the California State World Trade Commission and the California Export Promotion Council, she has promoted the export of the state's agricultural and industrial products.

For ticket info, call Mae Takahashi, (209) 431-4142; other contacts are Lou Young, 224-5141, and Jeanette Ishii, 454-1771. Deadline for reservations is Oct. 30.

Miyata Memorial Fund established

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.—The Kenneth Ichiro Miyata Memorial Fund has been established at Harvard University, the income to be used for undergraduate and graduate field research in herpetology.

Miyata, who was raised in Covina, Calif., was a nature photographer, world class fly fisherman, well known herpetologist, and co-author (with Adrian Forsyth) of *Tropical Nature*. He died at age 32 in a Montana fishing accident in October 1983.

An archive of memorabilia, including Miyata's field notebook and herpetological slides, is being developed for Harvard's Museum of Comparative Zoology. Those who knew Miyata are invited to send slides, reminiscences or anecdotes.

Donations to the fund and contributions to the archives can be sent to: Dr. James J. McCarthy, Director, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138.

REDRESS

Continued from Front Page

"knows more about discrimination law than virtually anyone in the country," Irons said. "To the extent that judges make a difference, the class action suit certainly got a break."

Coram Nobis Cases

As for his own area of expertise—the *coram nobis* cases of Minoru Yasui, Fred Korematsu and Gordon Hirabayashi—Irons said that Hirabayashi's case "promises to be the most important in terms of its potential impact on the redress movement."

While all three plaintiffs charged that the government suppressed and falsified evidence in order to prove its case against JAs to the Supreme Court during WW2, Hirabayashi's case, which went to trial in Seattle in June, was the only one in which witnesses gave testimony.

"The government responded by dredging up the most incredible racism that you could imagine. The government put witnesses on the stand to defend the wartime

internment," said Irons. "The government has even argued... that there was evidence of espionage and sabotage by Japanese Americans... It appalls me that the government can put on this kind of defense with a straight face."

He expressed confidence that the presiding judge, Donald Voorhees, "will write an opinion which completely demolishes the government's claim, 40 years after the internment, that military necessity required the evacuation."

Like Okinaka and Nakano, Irons emphasized the need to "use every forum that we have access to" and to build "bridges and coalitions to other groups... churches, unions, all kinds of community organizations" in order to promote redress.

LEC Campaign

Yasui presented the legislative strategy being pursued by JACL-LEC (see last week's PC). Stressing the importance of reaching legislators on a personal level, he noted that Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), a co-sponsor of redress bill S 1053, had Nisei schoolmates while at UCLA—schoolmates who

suddenly disappeared in the spring of 1942; and that Rep. Dan Glickman (D-Kansas), who chairs the House subcommittee where HR 442 now sits, could understand the discrimination faced by JAs because of his own Jewish heritage.

He said it was vital to get more support from conservative Republican members of Congress, particularly from California. "When you talk about American principles, when you talk about equality before the law, you can persuade," declared Yasui. "Even the most conservative member of Congress can be a supporter."

Exhorting the audience to use their influence as constituents, he said, "It's the constituents who have the greatest effect upon politicians because all politicians want to be reelected."

Another area of concern was making contacts with legislators in areas where there are relatively few JAs, such as the Midwest and the East Coast, and possibly contacts with the White House.

Yasui also suggested that if there is a Democratic majority in the Senate after the next election, Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii), a redress co-sponsor, "will probably take a shot at the majority leadership... at worst, he will be the secretary."

"It's either in the 99th Congress or the 100th Congress that we're going to have a real shot... we've got to keep it up this year and next year."

The panel was followed by workshops on coalition building, legislative strategy, and overviews of the redress movement. Other speakers included Miya Iwataki, NCCR legislative co-chair; George Ogawa, PSW JACL Redress Committee chair; Harry

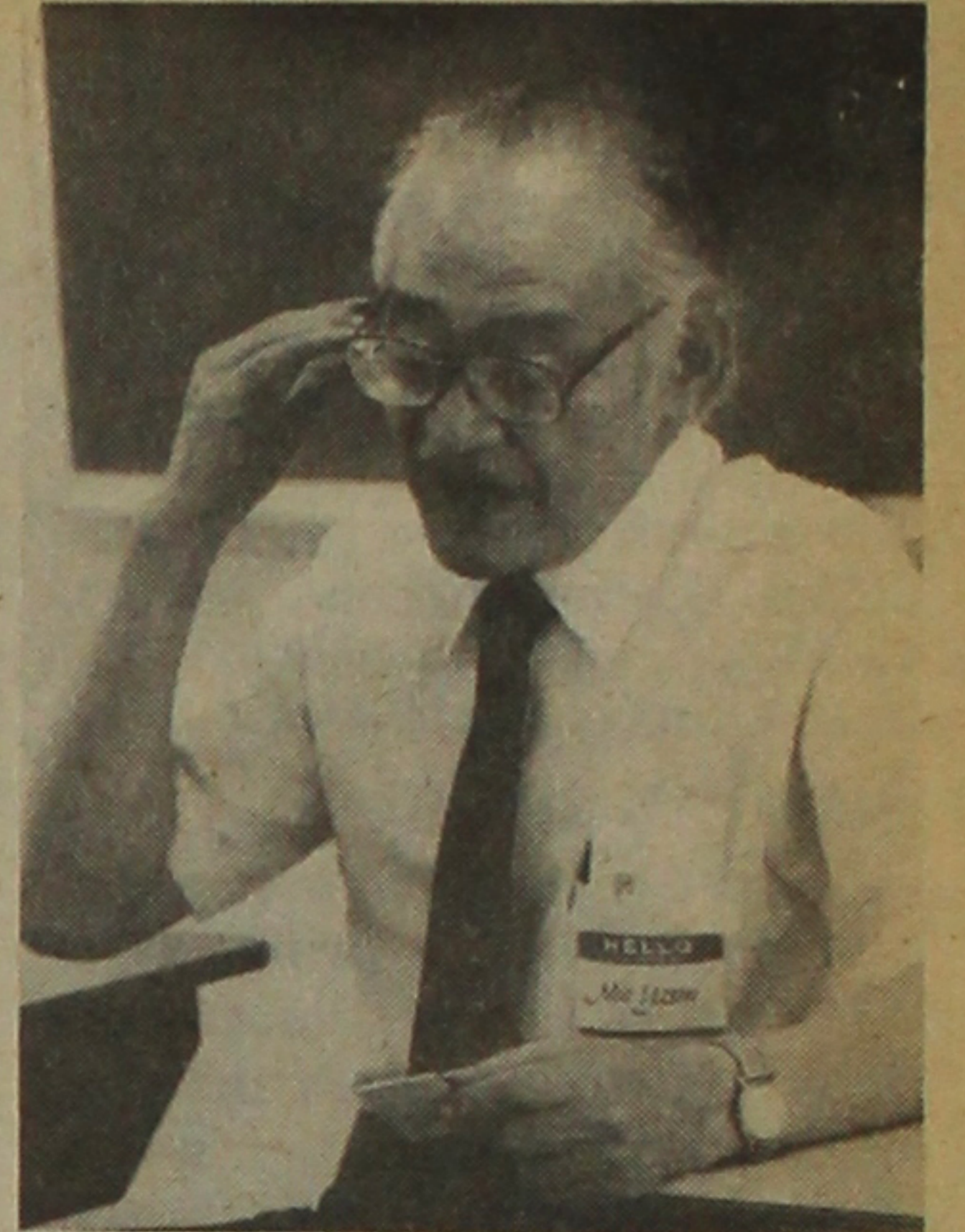


Photo by Sachi Yamamoto
Minoru Yasui

Kajihara, PSW JACL governor; Gregory Wood, Venice-Culver JACL president; Frank Chuman, *coram nobis* attorney; David Monkawa, Kay Ochi, and Gordon Nakagawa of NCCR; and Sue Embrey, Manzanar Committee.

AA leadership conference to be held

WASHINGTON—The National Asian American Leadership Conference, sponsored by Asian American Voters Coalition in cooperation with Asian American Fund, will be held Nov. 7-9 at the Hyatt Regency.

The conference objectives are to exchange experiences and ideas from 1984 voter registration and education activities; inform Asian Americans of how to participate in the national political parties; organize a workshop and training session for those interested in running for public office; and provide a communication network with regard to employment opportunities in the public and private sectors.

Activities include a White

House briefing and tour Nov. 7; a session with representatives of the Democratic and Republican national committees and a banquet honoring members of Congress who are honorary Asian American Fund board members on Nov. 8; and a national convention of Asian American Voters Coalition on Nov. 9.

Registration is \$60 in advance, \$70 on site, including two luncheons and the banquet; \$20 in advance, \$25 on site for conference only (\$10 for students).

Send checks payable to Asian American Voters Coalition to: Terri Schroeder, 1625 K St. N.W., Suite 1010, Washington, D.C. 20006. Info: (202) 638-1764.

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Native American Aliens by Donald E. Collins, Greenwood Press, Westport, CT, 218 pp., 1985. Available for \$29.95, plus \$1 shipping, from Pacific Citizen.

by **Harry Honda**

Native American Aliens is the first book devoted primarily to the story of the 5,500 Japanese American men, women and children who renounced their U.S. citizenship during WW2. The preface and introduction set up the drama of "one in every 14 American citizens of Japanese descent [who] gave up their citizenship in the land of their birth" and continues with a detailed legal history of what happened to them.

Author Donald E. Collins dedicates the book to the late attorney

Wayne Collins (no relation), who handled most of the renunciant cases. He notes that the renunciations were the result of

several factors, including the poorly-worded loyalty questionnaire, intimidation, coercion, and fear inside the concentra-

tion camps. Some rarely published photographs inside the Tule Lake Segregation Center are included.

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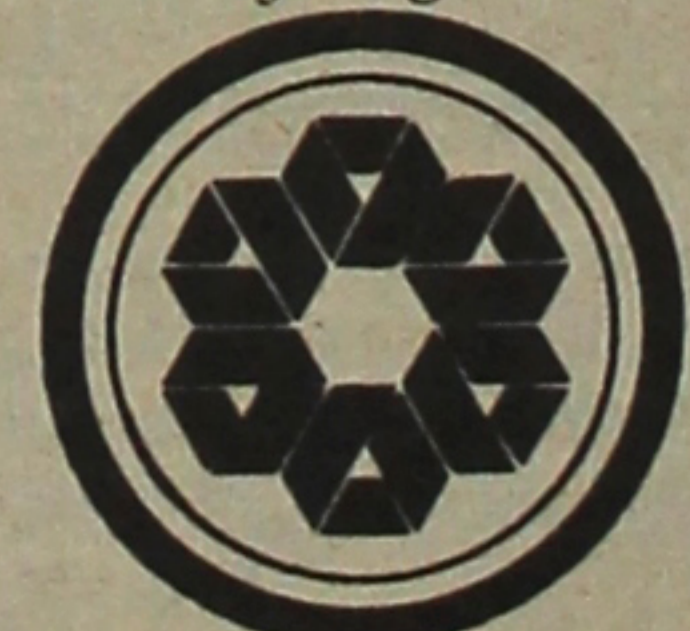
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Akune: The JA in 'E/R'

by J.K. Yamamoto

With the cancellation of the CBS comedy "E/R," actress Shuko Akune has parted company with Maria Amarda, the Pilipina hospital receptionist she played in the short-lived TV show and the long-running play of the same name.

Although Akune had long aspired to be a stage actress, she had never planned to work on network television. "It was a fluke," she says.

She describes herself as a "Nisei-han," born in Nebraska to a Kibei father and an Issei mother, both of whom were working as chick sexers at the time. When she was three, they moved to Chicago and opened a cleaners.

Because of her "very Issei, traditional" mother and her father, who was more sympathetic but wanted her to get an education, she did not pursue an acting career at first. But eventually she dropped out of college and entered the Chicago theater community, working as a waitress to support herself.

"It just tore them up," she says of her parents' reaction. But ironically, she thinks it was from her parents that she got the determination that enabled her to reach her goal.

Her stage credits include the role of Yoko Kuzukago in St. Nicholas Theatre Co.'s "Primary English Class" (in which all of the characters' last names meant "wastebasket" in different languages), and the title role in Pary

Productions' "Josephine the Mouse Singer," an avant garde play about "a mouse who wanted to sing and didn't want to work."

She joined Organic Theater Co., whose plays included the acclaimed "Bleacher Bums," partly because she was intrigued by the group's racially mixed casting. Her first play with them was "Dr. Rat," a musical about laboratory experiments. She jokes that she was being typecast—not as an Asian, but as a rodent.

She was first cast as Maria when Organic Theater did the play "E/R" (Emergency Room). "It wasn't intended to be a comedy," she recalls, but "the first week we filled the house with various hospital organizations, and they about died... laughing."

So "E/R" was developed into a comedy, becoming a phenomenal success that ran four years (with Akune as Maria for two and a half years). The play got a rave review from L.A. Times critic Dan Sullivan and was eventually developed into a series to be taped in Hollywood.

Although told that all of the parts would probably go to L.A. or New York actors, all of the original cast auditioned for the part. Akune, along with Bruce Young as Fred the Cop, were retained in the TV version. (The play continued to run until this past summer, with Cheryl Hama-da taking Akune's place.)

She remembers that Elliot Gould, star of the TV version, asked during rehearsal, "Have



Shuko Akune

you ever done this before?" When she replied in the negative, he said, "Yeah, me too." She was relieved to hear that Gould, despite his extensive movie experience, was also nervous about his first TV series.

In playing a Pilipino character, Akune felt "it's important to do your homework." In addition to drawing on her own experience—"I grew up with Filipino girls, Chinese, Japanese. We all ate at each other's homes"—she would also do "character studies" of people around her, learning their dialects and mannerisms.

"I have not heard any backlash... The Filipino community in Chicago loved it," she says. "They encouraged me, and they were happy to see an Asian actor working." She adds that her role carried a special responsibility "because there are so very few Filipinos portrayed" on TV.

The fan mail she gets from Asian American children shows her that she has been a role model of sorts, presenting "a new

type of field for them."

Her character took center stage in an episode where she meets her father, who had run off after she was born, for the first time. He turned out to be an Englishman, played by Christopher Hewitt. Akune says Maria was abruptly given mixed ancestry in that particular episode.

In terms of interracial relationships, Akune thinks "E/R" tried something new by pairing Maria with Fred the Cop, who is black.

The one time there was an Asian guest star—Keone Young as a computer technician—Akune suggested script changes that would make the character less stereotyped, such as eliminating a part where he yells "Banzai!"

Her concern about Asian American images has not been confined to her work on "E/R." With the help of Stuart and Carolyn Gordon of Organic Theater, she founded Mina Sama-No Theatre Co., Chicago's only Asian American theater group, in 1982. The name, Akune explains, means the company belongs to everyone. (The "No" is possessive and has nothing to do with Noh theater.)

Initially the group's president and business director, she has remained on the board of directors since moving to L.A. "Every time I go back home, I'm recruiting more people," she says, and while on the West Coast, she is "making contacts for the company through word of mouth."

Whenever she goes back to Chicago, "My pop and I take the karaoke and Mina Sama No and go to the Heiwa Terrace [a senior

citizens' housing project]. Dad is like the Mitch Miller of Japanese music. We take a mike around... the Isseis sing and they love it.

"They're just thrilled to have us come by... We're not professional, but we're community. That's what the difference is."

One of Mina Sama-No's biggest projects was a 1984 stage adaptation of the folk tale "Urashima Taro" produced by Akune, directed by Marc Rita and done largely in pantomime with music by Keith Uchima. "The Isseis loved it," as did many others, she says.

Akune credits such local community groups as Chicago JACL, which is a few doors down from her parents' cleaning business, for supporting Mina Sama-No.

One of their latest projects is "Autumn and Spring," a work written by Uchima, now the group's executive director.

Despite her fondness for Chicago, Akune has remained in L.A., appearing in "Brothers" on Showtime and "He's the Mayor" on ABC. She would someday like to see—and possibly be seen in—"Asian-oriented shows that can be done in a fashion like The Cosby Show."

Although TV networks still "don't like to see variety," she feels that Asian artists can and should "present an alternative... creating something different."

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