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Friday, April 25, 1986

## Governor praises efforts of Nikkei organizations

by J.K. Yamamoto

LOS ANGELES—Four community organizations honored—and were honored by—Gov. George Deukmejian during an Apr. 11 reception at the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center (JACCC).

The work of JACCC, Japanese Retirement Home, Japanese Chamber of Commerce of So. Calif., and Japanese American National Museum (JANM) "represent a commitment to service that truly sets an example for all the citizens of this state," Deukmejian said as he presented resolutions to representatives of the groups.

On hand for the presentations were JACCC board president Tosh Terasawa, retirement home board chair Fred Wada, Chamber of Commerce senior vice president Henry Onodera, and JANM board chair Bruce Kaji.

"The 290,000 Japanese Americans who are living in California," said Deukmejian, "have a very long and a very proud history of accomplishments and contributions to their fellow citizens. Here in the Cultural and Community Center, we see many examples of the broad spectrum of Japanese American talents,

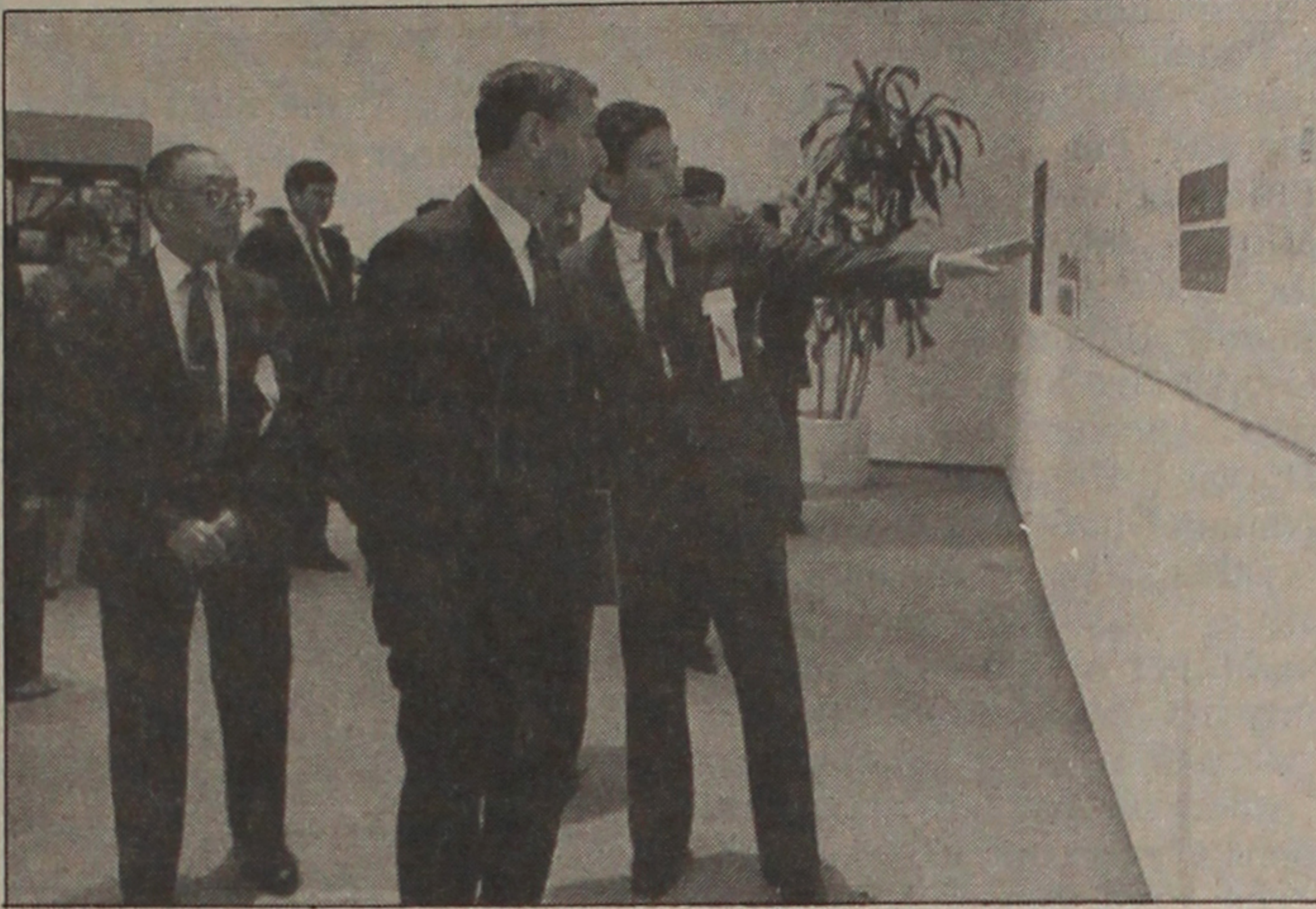


Photo by Abe Ferrer/Visual Communications

Jerry Yoshitomi, executive director of Japanese American Cultural & Community Center in Los Angeles, shows Gov. George Deukmejian a diagram of the Japanese American National Museum during a tour of Doizaki Gallery in Little Tokyo. At left is JACCC chairman Frank Kuwahara.

ranging from the arts to community activities."

Referring to legislation he signed last year to provide \$750,000 in funding for the museum, he continued, "This museum will teach us further about the experiences of individuals of Japanese ancestry and how Japanese Americans have helped to make California the world economic and cultural powerhouse that we are today."

He called the JAs he has appointed to courts, councils and commissions since 1982 "superbly qualified" people who "are doing a first-class job of bringing services and leadership to the people of our state."

The governor was introduced by two of the program's organizers, Ruth Watanabe and Kei Higashi.

Deukmejian and the other guests also viewed a JANM photographic exhibit on Nikkei history and an ikebana display by Nanka Ikebana Kyoju-kai in JACCC's Doizaki Gallery.

## Bay Area conference to examine ways to deal with rise in anti-Asian violence

BERKELEY, Calif.—The growth and nature of anti-Asian violence, along with possible solutions to the problem, will be examined at a conference held by the Bay Area Coalition on Anti-Asian Violence on May 10.

"Break the Silence: A Conference on Anti-Asian Violence" takes place 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at 110 Boalt Hall, UC Berkeley. Cost is \$15 general, \$8 for students.

Speakers include Ron Wakabayashi, JACL national director; Peggy Saika, Asian Law Caucus director; Bill Hing, Stanford Law School professor; Amado Cabezas and Chuong Chung, UCB Asian American studies professors; Henry Der, Chinese for Affirmative Action director; Allen Seid, Asian Americans for Community Involvement director; and Wilma Chan of Chinese Progressive Assn.

San Francisco Municipal Court Judge Lillian Sing will act as convener of the conference. Rep. Norman Mineta (D-Calif.) has been invited to be a guest

speaker.

Treating the increase in anti-Asian violence as a trend rather than as a series of isolated incidents, speakers will examine possible sources of anti-Asian sentiment, including economic competition with immigrants, the impact of the trade deficit, media stereotypes, and the "Official English" movement.

Also discussed will be practical measures by which community organizations and concerned individuals can respond to and prevent racially motivated attacks.

Sponsors include JACL, National Coalition for Redress/Reparations, Asian American Bar Assn., Episcopal Urban Caucus, Berkeley Asian Youth Center, No. Calif. Pacific Asian American Ministries—United Church of Christ, Asian American Federation of Union Members, Filipinos for Affirmative Action, National Federation of Asian American United Methodists, and Asian American Law Students Assn., Boalt Hall.

Info: Ron Wakabayashi, JACL, (415) 921-5225; Rachel Shigekane, Chinese for Affirmative Action, 982-0801; or Michael Wong, Asian Law Caucus, 835-1474.

## News in Brief

### Guilty verdict reached in anti-Asian attack case

BOSTON—Robert Lee Stevens, on trial for repeated harassment of Cambodian refugees in their Revere home, was found guilty as charged on Apr. 15. He faces seven to ten years in state prison for a felony civil rights charge, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, assault with a dangerous weapon, and misdemeanor charges. The attacks were carried out in June 1985 by Stevens, one other adult, and five juveniles. Civil orders were filed against all seven, but only Stevens stood trial.

### Arguments on Yasui appeal to be heard May 5

PORTLAND—A hearing to determine whether an appeal filed by the lawyers representing Min Yasui in his *coram nobis* case was filed within the necessary time restraints is set for May 5, 2 p.m., at the Federal Courthouse, 621 S.W. Main.

In January 1984, Judge Robert Belloni agreed to vacate Yasui's WW2 conviction, but refused to rule on whether the government was guilty of misconduct. After Yasui appealed the decision in March 1984, the government argued that the appeal was filed 26 days after the 10-day deadline for criminal appeals.

Belloni will determine whether Yasui's case qualifies for a 30-day extension given in some criminal cases. Attorney Peggy Nagae said that *coram nobis* cases are similar to "post conviction collateral cases" (such as *habeas corpus* cases) which have a 60-day period in which to file an appeal, the same period granted to civil cases.

### Calif. State Senate passes redress resolution

SACRAMENTO—A resolution urging congressional action on redress was approved by the State Senate on Apr. 17 by a 29-1 vote. SJR 45, authored by State Sens. Milton Marks (D-San Francisco/Marin) and Ralph Dills (D-Gardena), expresses support for House redress bill H.R. 442.

"Final adoption of this bill is now 40 years overdue," said Marks, "and I will continue to struggle to win compensation and redress for the Japanese Americans who suffered the humiliation and disruption of internment." Sen. Robert Beverly (R-Manhattan Beach) commented, "We've passed several resolutions like this already. Why do we have to apologize over and over?" However, he cast his vote for the resolution. Sen. Ruben Alaya (D-Chino) spoke briefly against the bill, but abstained when it was voted on.

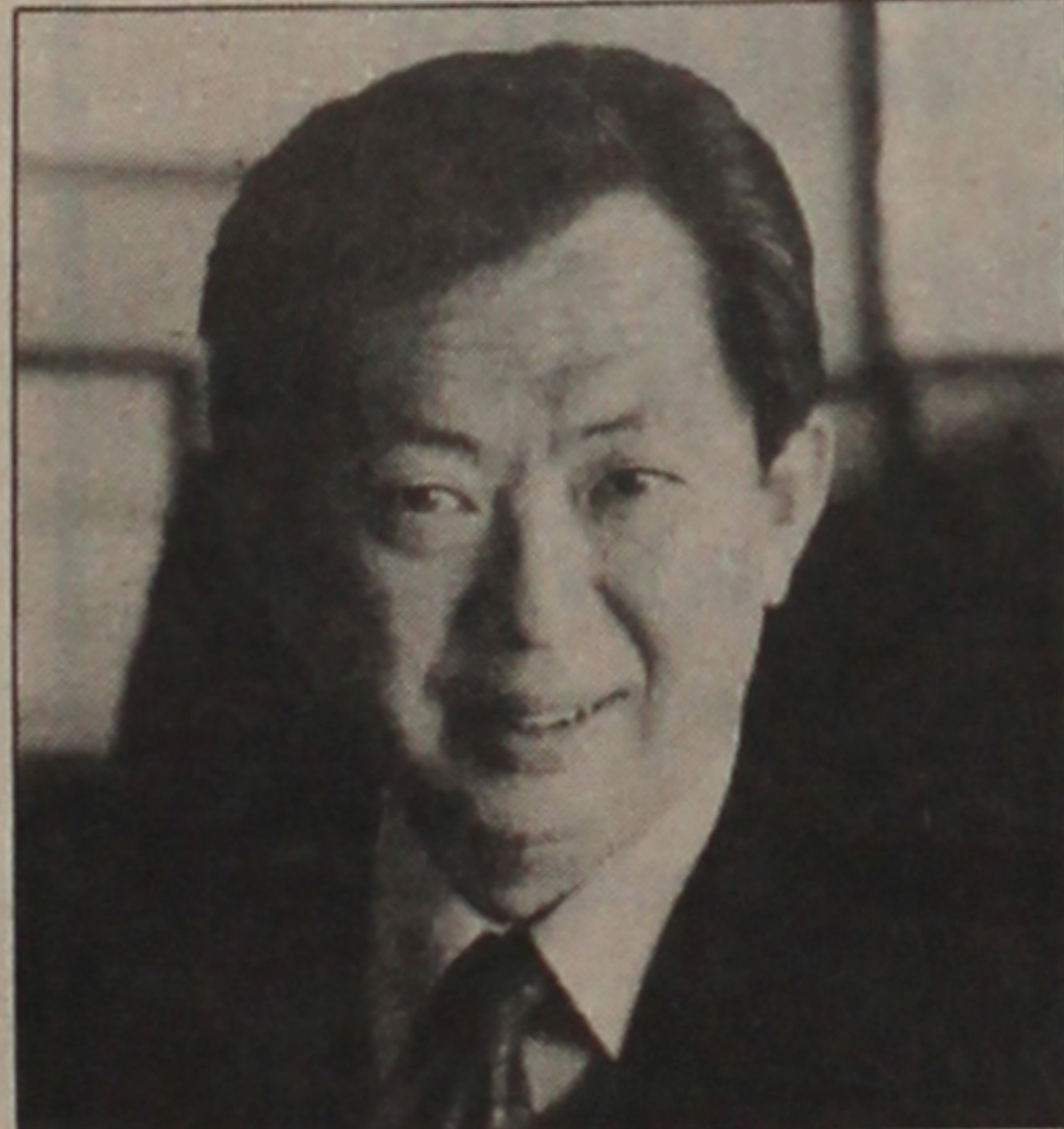
## Fundraiser for Hsieh set in D.C.

WASHINGTON—A fundraiser for San Francisco Board of Supervisors candidate Tom Hsieh is planned for May 14 at Wah Luck House in Chinatown.

"The fundraiser was organized on the East Coast because of our concern for Asian Americans getting into politics," said William "Mo" Marumoto, one of the co-chairs of the Washington, D.C.-area committee backing Hsieh's candidacy. "Well qualified individuals like Tom Hsieh deserve our bipartisan support."

In addition to Marumoto, co-chairs of the event are Anna Chennault, Stanley Lee, and Susan Au Allen. Honorary chairs are California Secretary of State March Fong Eu, Hawaii Senator Daniel Inouye, Delaware Lt. Gov. S.B. Woo, Court of Claims Judge Shiro Kashiwa, Becky Hsieh, Jun Mori, Irene Natividad, Charles Manatt, Fred Martin, John Pan, Lawrence Simons, and Wilbur Woo.

Steering committee members



Tom Hsieh

include Laura Chin, Patricia Fenn, Fernando Galaviz, Glen Hirabayashi, Ronald Ikejiri, Glen Kanamori, Lynne Kanamori, Harrison Lee, Ann Lee, Linda Lee, Toon Lee, William Chen Lee, Elizabeth Pan, Patrick Sung, Stephen Thom, Pauline Tsui, Peter Vlahos, Wendy Marumoto-Vlahos, Betty Wakiji and Kung Lee Wang.

Info: Linda Chu Takayama, (202) 337-9400, or Susan Au Allen, 638-2777.

## Philadelphia Pan Asian fest planned

PHILADELPHIA—"Asian Americans—Getting to Know Us" is the theme of the 1986 Pan Asian Festival to be held May 5-10.

The festival, sponsored by the Pan Asian American Assn. of Greater Philadelphia, began with the proclamation of Asian Pacific American Heritage Week by Mayor Wilson Goode at a City Hall ceremony on Apr. 18.

"Invisible Citizens," a video on Japanese Americans, will be shown at Annenberg Theater on Apr. 25 at 7:30 p.m., followed by a discussion with Keiko Tsuno and JACL-LEC executive director Grayce Uyehara.

Judge William Marutani will be keynote speaker at a May 6 teach-in conducted by the Philadelphia School District at the Museum of Art. Philadelphia JACL will conduct one of the sessions following the introductory remarks. A teacher and a 7th and 9th grade student from each public school will participate; each teacher will be given a take-home resource packet.

A series of films will be shown

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Chiyeko Nagata, shown here demonstrating how to make Japanese paper dolls, will take part in the cultural demonstrations at the 8th annual Asian Pacific Heritage Festival to be held Apr. 26, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at Laney College Mall, 900 Fallon St., in Oakland, Calif. Vice Mayor Frank Ogawa will open the festival, which also includes demonstrations of a sword and fan dance by George Wakayama, a Japanese tea ceremony, Korean martial arts, and Chinese and Filipino dances. Info: Ivy Makabe Down, (415) 834-1358.

## Yasui to speak at 'Freedom, Liberty' conference May 9

DENVER—Gov. Richard Lamm has convened an Advisory Committee for the Commemoration of the Statue of Liberty with a colloquium on "The Meaning of Freedom and Liberty in Contemporary America" to be held May 9 from 8:30 a.m. at Mountain Bell Auditorium, 1005 17th St.

Panelists speaking on the theme "Whither or Whether the Melting Pot—A Challenge to Freedom and Liberty" will be Minoru Yasui, former head of the Denver Commission on Community Relations, U.S. District Court Judge John Kane, and District Attorney Norman Early. Harvard University sociologist Nathan Glazer will moderate.

Other discussion topics include "Maintaining Freedom and Liberty," "Freedom and Liberty in Contemporary America," "Hard Choices Facing America," "American Leadership, Institutions, Choices and Freedom" and "The First Amendment, Freedom and Liberty."

There is no charge for this all-day session, but RSVPs should be made to the University of Colorado Graduate School of Public Affairs, (303) 556-2825.

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## Detroit group urged to continue

DETROIT—At the third rededication dinner of American Citizens for Justice on Apr. 12, Rep. Norman Mineta (D-Calif.) urged ACJ members to continue their fight against racial discrimination and racial violence.

Mineta praised the work of ACJ, which was formed after the 1982 killing of Vincent Chin.

Because of pressure from ACJ, Mineta, and other Asian Americans across the country, the Dept. of Justice entered the case and brought civil rights violation charges against Chin's two assailants, Ronald Ebens and Michael Nitz. Ebens was found guilty on one count in 1984.

Although fighting to end discrimination can be discouraging, said Mineta, "that's why we must work together as a group so that

we may support and cover each other. But while individual energy may run low, we must not allow our group efforts to lag.

"Public life and political activity are constant, never-ending struggles. Success depends not only on being right, but being persistent; not only on being articulate, but constantly advocating our goals and educating the general public.

"We must educate those who know little or nothing about our problems. It is absolutely impossible to convince someone about the justice of a cure without first teaching a person about the outrageous injustices of racial violence and all that follows in its wake."

## PAN ASIAN

Continued from Front Page

at the Balch Institute with a different day assigned to each ethnic group. On May 7, JACL will show "Issei, Nisei, Sansei," "Birds of Passage," and "Nisei Soldier." The program begins at 7 p.m. and will be followed by a speaker. Donation is \$2.50 nightly or \$10 for the entire series.

The festival will conclude with a banquet at the Imperial Inn in Chinatown on May 10, 7 p.m. Tickets are \$25.

Participating groups include Chinese Benevolent Assn., Korean Assn., Filipino Executive Council, Cambodian Assn. of Greater Philadelphia, Burmese-American Friendship Assn., and Assn. of Indians in America. The first Pan Asian Festival was held in 1981.

Info: P.O. Box 1236, Philadelphia, PA 19105; (215) 238-2468.

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## Garden dedicated to Issei pioneers

INDIO, Calif.—In a solemn ceremony on Apr. 5, a Japanese Memorial Garden at Coachella Valley Museum & Cultural Center was dedicated to the Japanese pioneers who came to the desert early in this century to farm and make their homes.

Officiating at the ceremony was Rev. Alfred Tsuyuki, head minister of Konko Church in Los Angeles. Master of ceremonies was Indian Wells city planner Paul Kaneko, who was president of Coachella Valley JACL the year the garden was conceived, planned and built. Landscaping was done by Steve Kitajima and Ken Suzuki of Far East Landscapes.

The ceremony was in five parts: the *onusa* (purification rite), the *norito* (sacred main prayer), the *saishu tamakushi* (symbol of the true heart), the *tamakushi* offering by representatives and guests, and the *naorai*, a ceremonial toast.

Representatives participating in the *tamakushi* offering included Issei Yoshi Kono and Yoshitaro Mizutani, both of Oasis, who came to the area in 1919 and 1911, respectively. Nisei representatives were Charles Shibata and Kiyo Kitagawa. Representing JACL was chapter president Harry Arita.

Also present were Mayor Darwin Oakley of Indio and Arthur LaLonde of Coachella Valley Historical Society and Coachella Valley Museum & Cultural Cen-



Rev. Alfred Tsuyuki of Konko Church conducts ceremony at garden dedicated to Japanese immigrants in Coachella Valley. Next to him is Paul Kaneko, master of ceremonies and former JACL chapter president.

ter League.

The garden was financed by proceeds from a garden party hosted by Coachella Valley JACL in April 1985. The chapter also received numerous donations of funds, services and items for the garden.

The plaque dedicated at the ceremony reads, "In memory of the Japanese pioneers who settled in Coachella Valley since

1908, and who were among the early farmers in the Valley."

Arita and Kaneko were in charge of arrangements for the ceremony. Alice Sakai, chair of the food committee, was assisted by Jackie Sakai, Yuri Kaneoka, Jeannie Shibata, Tomi Izu, Susan Chappa, Kiyo Kitagawa, Gail Arita and Carol Kaneko. Masaka Yanaga arranged the centerpiece.

## Community Affairs

SEATTLE—The Nippon Kan Heritage Assn.'s photo exhibit on the lives of Pacific Northwest Issei from the 1880s to 1942 will be on display at the downtown branch of Seattle Public Library throughout May. Also at the library: a showing of the documentary "Guilty by Reason of Race," May 4, 2 p.m.; *koto* and *shamisen* concert by Madame Aya Sakoda and her students, May 28, 7:30 p.m.; panel discussion on the prewar JA community by Dr. Tetsuden Kashi- ma, Dr. Frank Miyamoto, Shigeko Uno and Florence Fujita, May 29, 7:30 p.m.

At the Rainier Beach public library, Tomo Shoji discusses the psychological impact of the JA WW2 experience on May 1, 7:30 p.m.; Midori Thiel performs *noh* and *kyogen* dances May 10, 2 p.m.; and "Guilty by Reason of Race" will be shown May 17, 2 p.m.

SAN FRANCISCO—The third annual J-Town Music and Comedy Festival is set for May 31 at S.F. Medical Society Auditorium. Comedian Bob Matsueda and jazz drummer Paul Yonemura will perform. The program will also be a celebration of the release of new albums by Matsueda ("Live in J-Town") and Yonemura ("First Flight Home"). Proceeds go to Nihonmachi Legal Outreach. Info: (415) 567-6255.

Nobiru Kai, Japanese Newcomer Services, 1596 Post St., offers a 10-week Japanese language class to be held Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.-12 noon, beginning May 17. Class will be divided into beginning, intermediate and advanced levels. Cost: \$45. Info: (415) 922-2033.

SAN JOSE, Calif.—Nikkei Matsuri, a Japanese American cultural festival, will feature arts and crafts, Japanese foods, and demonstrations of *taiko*, classical dance and other performing arts on May 4, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., in San Jose's Japantown at 5th and Jackson.

San Jose Taiko Group sponsors the California premiere of the *taiko* en-

semble of Kenny Endo and Eitetsu Hayashi on May 11 at Calvin Simmons Theatre in the Kaiser Convention Center. Endo, formerly of Kinnara Taiko in Los Angeles and San Francisco Taiko Dojo, now plays with the acclaimed O Edo Sukeroku Taiko. Hayashi was a member of the famed Ondekoza taiko group based on Sado Island. Info: (408) 293-9344.

LOS ANGELES—"Japanese Photography in America: 1920-1940" runs through June 1 at Doizaki Gallery, Japanese American Cultural & Community Center, 244 S. San Pedro St., noon-5 p.m., Tue.-Sun., closed Mon. The prewar period was the "golden age" for JA photographers, some of whom exhibited their works with those of Edward Weston and Imogene Cunningham. Info: 628-2725.

An Asian Pacific arts & crafts fair and children's day takes place May 4, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., at JACCC Plaza, featuring food, crafts and entertainment. Sponsors: JACCC and Mayor's Asian Pacific Heritage Week Committee. Info: Miles Hamada, 628-2725.

Asian Law Day, to be held May 3, 10 a.m.-noon, at Little Tokyo Towers, 455 E. 3rd St., offers information on wills, probate, and workers compensation. Guest speaker: Dr. Carole Fujita, who will speak about her discrimination suit against L.A. County. Free refreshments. Sponsors: Japanese American Bar Assn. and Little Tokyo Service Center. Info: 680-3729.

A talk entitled "Asian Pacific Angelinos: Model Minority or Yellow Peril?" will be given by Donald Hata, professor of history at Cal State Dominguez Hills, and Nadine Hata, dean of behavioral and social sciences at El Camino College, May 4, 4-6 p.m., at Old Venice City Hall, 681 Venice Blvd. Sponsor: Beyond Baroque. \$5 general, \$3 members. Info: Dennis Phillips, 822-3006.



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## Returning to the Community

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GETTING TOGETHER WITH younger folks and listening to their thoughts can be refreshing. The other day, I had lunch with a Sansei who had been working with a service-oriented organization, a fellow for whom I've always had a great deal of respect. During the course of the luncheon, I learned that in the mid-'60s he had been a civil rights activist in the South. No, none of this self-righteous "I'm-right-and-you're-all-wrong" sort of approach. On the contrary, notwithstanding his firm beliefs and goals, he tempered his views with much understanding of human nature and its foibles.

I think we call it "maturity."

DURING THE COURSE of the luncheon, he made some observations about the hearings of the

Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians. He was amazed (as was I) by the openness of the testimony of the victims, their earnest statements presented in an unvarnished, stark manner.

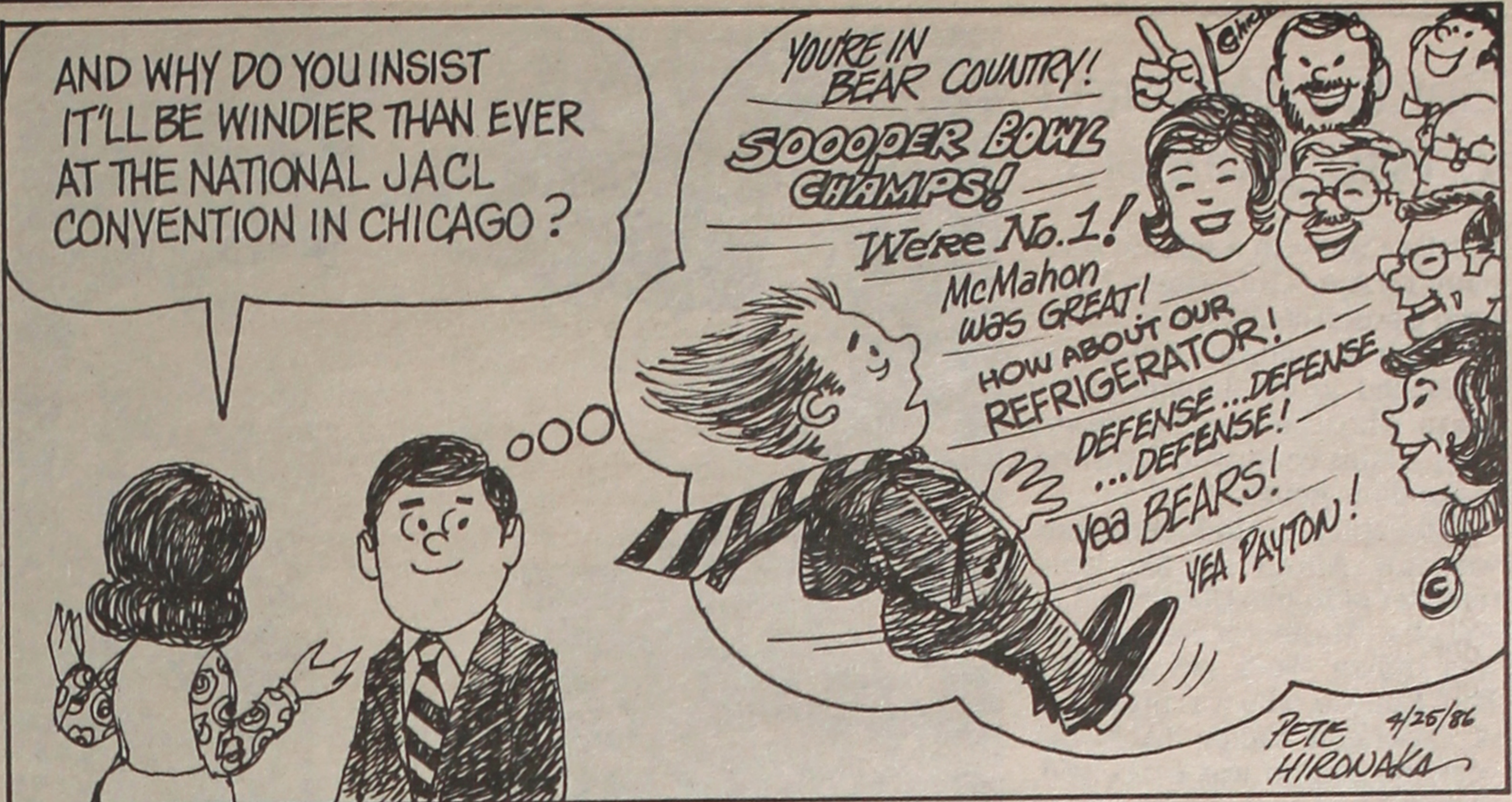
Our Sansei luncheon companion opined that by such testimony, the AJA's "returned to the community," the implication (as I understood it) being that prior to that time they had remained apart from the community.

I've been pondering over that observation, and I think he's right.

SUCH OPENNESS OF baring one's soul provided, he observed, the essential impetus to do something about it; it was a necessary pre-step to cause the AJA community to come together to the extent they had not done before; it helped to set aside innate reservations that are somehow characteristic of the culture of AJA's.

More gems of observations for me to ponder over.

OH, I SUPPOSE there (inevitably) are some folks "out there" who downplay, if not outright deny, the plus aspects of those hearings. My hunch would be,



however, that such folks did not attend and sit through some of the hearings. Had they done so, my further hunch is that they would hold a different view.

Listening, no human heart could come to any other conclusion. But, at the same time, I can also understand how some may be moved to reject—for it can be quite painful to recognize the raw harshness of what one was hearing to be the truth.

OVER CUPS OF tea we both mused over the institution of ac-

tions: the various *coram nobis* cases of Hirabayashi, Korematsu and Yasui; the valiant and dogged lawsuit by the NCJAR (National Council for Japanese American Redress); and, of course, the campaign for legislative redress. We both concluded that these various actions were complementary, supportive of one another, in many ways. They were, and are, differing means to attaining a common goal: restoration of our dignity, and the dignity of the memory of those who

have passed on.

And also for those who are to arrive on the scene. For the future.

THE TIME PASSED much more quickly than I realized. Others in the restaurant, who had arrived after us, had departed. There's something to be said about returning, or rejoining the community. Where we can, again, feel the vibrancy of the pulse.

I hope we stay there. And never leave.

## Staff, Power and Influence

### BY THE BOARD

by Denny Yasuhara

In any volunteer organization such as JACL, whose board of directors meets only a few times annually, an inordinate degree of power and influence is exerted by executive staff, particularly the executive director—and to some extent their regional directors.

Such influence is exerted through many avenues such as: (1) control of information dissemination, emphasis, and interpretation; and (2) overt, subtle, or covert support of candidates for national office.

#### Control of Information

Because of the nature and structure of National JACL and its board, its meeting frequency, and the time constraints most volun-

teers operate under (most having full-time jobs), almost all important information is supplied by executive staff or the national director. Thus, it is extremely important that that information be as complete and as free of administrative bias as possible.

Decisions of many volunteer organizations are based upon information supplied or not supplied by its executive staff, who may dictate a particular decision with board members unaware that their decisions were based upon incomplete or biased data or both. A certain point of view can also be contrived or adopted in this manner as well.

One responsibility of any board or staff member must be to insure that the data to be acted upon is as complete and free of bias as possible. Furthermore, there must be a free flow of information and open discussion of decisions (in executive session, if necessary) and any major activities the organization is involved in formally or informally.

To illustrate why I feel that this has not always been the case with the National JACL, let me cite a few examples. It must be understood that the blame lies not only with the national director and national president, but the National Board members as well, some more than others—myself included—for not expressing our views, for not being more inquisitive, or acquiescing because it suited our own purposes.

#### LDP Trips to Japan

The initial "informal" handling of the Liberal Democratic Party's (LDP) Japan trips is an example of not bringing the issue of U.S.-Japan relations and the ramifications of the LDP trips before the National Board for full discussion until it had become an accomplished fact and only after considerable criticism—the end result being needless controversy and dissatisfaction.

#### Headquarters Bulletin

In the April issue of the JACL Headquarters Bulletin under the article entitled, "Deficit Projected for 1986 National JACL Budget," Ron Wakabayashi writes, "The 1986 budget projections for National JACL indicate a potential deficit of \$90,000 for the fiscal year. Even-numbered years are usually higher in expenditures, because of the National Convention. In addition, the National Board action to make available \$75,000 to the Legislative Education Committee, paid at \$10,000 per month beginning in March, coupled with increased insurance costs, are major factors."

While blaming the \$75,000 allocation to LEC and the increased insurance costs as major factors, no mention was made of the cuts that were implemented to accommodate the \$75,000 allocation. The staff cost of living increases and the district allocations were rein-

stated at the last board meeting.

Even in the face of that, two full-time positions (the Washington Office representative's and the JACL redress director's positions) were eliminated from the 1986 budget, totaling about \$70,000—\$9,000 from printing and copying costs, \$6,000 from convention expenses, \$2,000 budgeted in the miscellaneous category, and \$10,000 included under computers. This brings the total to \$97,000 that was cut from the 1986 budget.

With the termination of the JACL redress program, additional projected expenses were eliminated, including postage, printing, supplies, phones, and meetings and conferences. This increases the total by about \$27,000, to \$124,000 cut from the projected budgets. All told, even with a 20% error, it would be a substantial amount to offset the \$75,000 allocation, reinstatement of staff raises and district allocations.

That we are still running a \$90,000 potential deficit in spite of all this and contending that it is the result of the \$75,000 allocation and increased insurance costs is less than convincing and open to serious question.

The board action to create an additional "hard" money public information position and Ron Wakabayashi's insistence to post Lia Shigemura's vacated position for hire are both part of that deficit picture. It would have been much more prudent to defer the posting of that position to a later date. Thus, at a particularly critical financial juncture, the national director is insisting upon expanding his permanent headquarters staff by one new full-time position, while at the same time denying his already existing staff a cost of living increase, then blaming high insurance costs and the LEC allocation.

Also ignored was the fact that

his original headquarters budget figures that I've used could have been unrealistic or inflated and could not have been met by incoming revenues to begin with. In any case, the point to be made here is that the national director's depiction of a budget crisis is real, but his interpretations and reasons for that crisis are not only incomplete, but deceiving.

#### Smithsonian Exhibit & PSW's LEC Dinner

Usually the importance of news articles is reflected by their prominence in terms of placement and the amount of space allotted for a piece of news. Certainly all events are not comparable, but its importance and priority to the editor of a newsletter or paper is often reflected in the number of lines or space allocated to a particular article.

Upon reading the JACL Headquarters Bulletin, I was struck by the number and length of the articles pertaining to the Smithsonian exhibit. All are enthusiastic and encourage support of the exhibit, requesting artifacts for possible inclusion in the exhibit—about 55 lines in all. I have no quarrel with that, for it will probably be an excellent opportunity to tell our story about internment and redress.

But only nine lines for PSW's JACL/LEC fund-raiser involving all four Nikkei members of Congress in the five-month period leading up to the event, and none in the January issue just two weeks before? And each being a simple announcement, briefly stating date and place with no enthusiastic encouragement or support, even in the face of lagging attendance in the final weeks? If redress is the top JACL priority, and if funding is critical to that success, this is an odd way to demonstrate that importance.

Continued on Back Page

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## Six Who Were Rescued

FROM THE  
FRYING PAN:

Bill  
Hosokawa



Go back with me 44 years, to April 1942. The Evacuation is under way. Japanese American communities on the West Coast are in turmoil. Businesses are being closed or sold for a pittance. Not least of the troubled are Nisei college students, so close to their goals of graduation and careers, yet so far away.

A young University of Washington professor named Bob O'Brien comes to the rescue of six of them.

He gets a special permit for them to leave the evacuation zone—remember, the Army made it illegal to remain and illegal to leave—and sent them to the U. of Idaho in Moscow, where they had been assured a welcome.

But in Moscow they found the welcome had vanished. Ben Uyeno and Chihiro Kikuchi found shelter on a farm. Jim Mizuki spent several nights in a shed in a hayfield. Yuri Tashima and Maxine Honda, fearing violence, sought protection in the Moscow city jail. Marian Mizuki was outside of town and missed the excitement.

O'Brien hurriedly drove to Moscow, picked up the six and took them to Washington State at Pullman, where the welcome was only slightly less chilly. That summer, as other opportunities developed,

the six scattered.

(Developed may not be the correct word. Kikuchi, working on his doctorate in physics, has in his files a letter from an assistant dean at the University of Michigan saying he would not be considered for admission unless he could produce "a very definite statement from someone in the school from which you have recently graduated or from which you expect to graduate, stating that you are not of Japanese ancestry.")

Soon afterward O'Brien took leave from the University of Washington to become director of the student relocation program for the American Friends Service Committee. Through his efforts, hundreds of Nisei from the WRA camps were placed in universities and colleges throughout the Midwest and East, many in elite schools to which they could only aspire in prewar days.

Thanks to this education, scores of Nisei became outstanding doctors and lawyers, scientists and engineers, teachers and business executives. Those who launched the student relocation program wanted to make sure a generation of Japanese American talent was not wasted by the Evacuation. It wasn't.

A few weeks ago Kikuchi (since 1982 professor emeritus of nuclear engineering at Michigan) and his wife, Grace, visited Bob O'Brien and his wife Helen in Los Angeles, where they live in retirement. Yuri Tashima, along with other friends, joined them one night. They recalled their trip to Idaho, their rescue by O'Brien and the hurried retreat to Moscow. Kikuchi had been in touch with Jim Mizuki, successful in his own right, and Ben Uyeno, an M.D., in Seattle. Marian Mizuki was in Sunnyside, Wash. But no one knew what happened to Max-

ine Honda. (If anyone knows, please write to me. I'll relay the information to Kikuchi.)

They talked about what the O'Briens had done for them and so many other Nisei at a time when others turned away. And it seemed that something ought to be done to recognize Bob and Helen, like maybe an award at the next JACL convention as an expression of appreciation from an entire generation of Nisei students. Maybe, if the Seattle Six planted the seed of an idea, others would pick up on it and the overdue recognition would be extended.

O'Brien listened attentively, but he had no way of responding. Two strokes have taken away his power of speech. But obviously, quite obviously, he was pleased that at least some of his students remembered.

(Kikuchi's address is 1050 Wall St., 5D, Ann Arbor, MI 48105.)

## 1986 National JACL Convention • Chicago, Illinois • July 20-25

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## A Great Deal to Discuss

MUSUBI

by  
Ron  
Wakabayashi



The occurrence of the JACL National Convention on a biennial basis is a factor in the significance of the meeting. Decisions and actions made by the National Council will direct the priorities and activities of the nation's oldest and largest organization of Americans of Japanese ancestry. The upcoming biennium has several elements that add enormously to the significance of the meeting.

The 100th Congress will convene, the body which has a good likelihood of deliberating and voting on the JACL efforts of the last decade to bring the redress campaign to a successful conclusion.

This biennium will also mark a very special American celebration, the Bicentennial of the Constitution, the founding instrument of American democracy. The story of Japanese Americans will convey a very special

message in the Smithsonian Institution during the biennium with the opening of a five-year exhibition.

The growth of Asian American communities has reached a trigger point, presenting great opportunities and great dangers. There is clearly a rise in anti-Asian sentiment. The transference of international trade-related disputes has an effect on how we are perceived. The 700% increase in the Asian American community nationwide has had backlash and tension tied to it.

At the same time, Asian Americans are becoming a political and economic factor with increased numbers. While the largest American-born Asian group,

Japanese Americans are gradually descending to sixth position in population rankings among Asian groups, with tremendous implications for impact on our perception and visibility in the future. But the influence of being the largest American-born group makes our community potentially great contributors in the organization and application of political and economic power in the period immediately ahead.

With a 60%-plus rate of out-marriage, this community faces unique transitional issues of identity formation among our young people. With foresight and sensitivity, we have the opportunity to set in motion efforts to make this transition a positive and nurturing one.

The convention touches on all this and more. Make plans to attend.

## A Look at '86 Convention Site

CHICAGO—The Hyatt Regency Chicago will be the site of the National JACL Convention to be held July 20-25.

The hotel is offering JACL conventioners exceptionally good rates of \$75 for a single or double, \$85 for a triple and \$95 for a quad. Regency Club and suite accommodations are also available at special JACL rates during the convention week.

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**QUALIFICATIONS:** 1) Four years experience in community based organization, human service provider or other related experience, or educational equivalent in Humanities, social sciences or public administration.

2) Ability to communicate well, both in writing and in oral presentation.

3) Ability to work with a diversity of personalities and settings.

4) Knowledge and experience in the history, dynamics, and issues pertaining to the Japanese American community, nationally.

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JACL NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS,

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10: Japan Summer Tour ..... June 20-July 5  
11: American River Rafting ..... June 20-22  
11a: Alaska Cruise/Expo'86 ..... July 9-18  
12: Canadian Rockies-EXPO 86 ..... (Sold Out)  
12a: NEW—Canadian Rockies-EXPO 86 ..... July 20-31  
12b: NEW—Festival in Japan ..... Aug 1-14  
13: England-Scotland-Wales ..... (Cancelled)  
14: European Highlights Tour ..... Sept 6-27  
14a: Australia-New Zealand-Fiji ..... Sept 7-23  
15: Hokkaido/Kyushu-Honshu Tour ..... Sept 26-Oct 18  
16: Fall Foliage-2 Nations, Niagara Falls ..... Oct 5-16

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16a: Japan Omote Tour ..... Oct 3-20  
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couver, Victoria, 3-day Expo ticket, ferry to Victoria, Butchart Gardens & ferry to Seattle  
via San Juan Islands, 6 meals. \$750 p/per twin plus air fare from hometown cities.**Golden Tour of Japan** 11days; Apr 18 Jun 27 Oct 17  
Group departs fr West Coast: Tokyo, Nikko, Kamakura, Hakone, Ise Shima, Kyoto,  
Nara. 18 meals/from \$2,120 p/per/twin.**Japan & Hong Kong** 15days Apr 5 Nov 1  
Group departs fr West Coast: Tokyo, Kamakura, Hakone, Nara, Kyoto & Hong Kong. 23  
meals, from \$2,426 p/per/twin**Orient Highlights** 16days Apr 19 Oct 18  
Group departs fr West Coast: Tokyo, Kamakura, Hakone, Nara, Kyoto, Bangkok,  
Singapore & Hong Kong. 24 meals/from \$2,756 p/per/twin.**Ancient Cathay** 21days May 19 Sept 29  
Group departs from West Coast: Tokyo, Kyoto, Guangzhou, Guilin, Shanghai, Xian,  
Beijing, Hong Kong. 43 meals/from \$3,376 p/per/twin.**Grand Europe** 21days Sep 14  
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stein, Austria, Italy, Monaco, France, London. 27 meals fr London Airport transfer;  
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Group departs from LAX. \$1,549 p/person/twin plus airfare from hometown cities.**Garden Tours of Japan** 16days Oct 23  
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## Chapter Pulse

### Marina

MARINA DEL REY, Calif.—Mike Woo, the first Asian American on the Los Angeles City Council, will be guest speaker at the chapter's general meeting May 1, 7 p.m., at Burton Chace Park. Woo will speak about Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics (LEAP) and Asian Americans in politics. Info: Shirley, 558-4255, or Sharon, 826-8951.

### French Camp

FRENCH CAMP, Calif.—The 37th annual community picnic sponsored by French Camp Chapter

## BY THE BOARD

Continued from Page 4

### Support of Candidates

In my view, it is improper for staff members to become involved in or comment about National JACL office aspirants or their campaigns in a manner that may influence potential voters prior to or during the election process. Furthermore, public comment praising or commenting on the work of some and ignoring the contributions of others is another means often used to further the candidacies of some and not others. Encouraging people to run against someone one dislikes or would like to see defeated is another ploy often used.

Upon joining the National Board two years ago, after a critical remark about a staff member, I was told that care should be taken if I had hopes of becoming a national officer, because the national director and executive staff had great influence through their contacts and could "make or break" any national candidate. Since that time, that view has been reinforced by others.

In a recent internal memo to staff, dated Apr. 11, the national director comments on this very issue, after receiving a letter raising just such a concern. That's excellent, but he needs to heed his own admonitions if articles in the March and April JACL Headquarters Bulletins and the Apr. 4 PC items entitled "Catastrophe Insurance" and "Revenue" are examples. If one cannot evenly distribute publicity for all national office candidates, one needs to refrain from doing so for some.

will be held at Micke Grove Park, on Apr. 27, 11 a.m. The program committee promises exciting and hilarious games for all ages. Beer and soft drinks will be provided. Tickets for door prize drawing will be distributed until 1 p.m. Everyone is urged to bring lunches and join in the fun. Tom Natsuhara and George Komura chair the event.

### Greater LA Singles

LOS ANGELES—Greater L.A. Singles Chapter is sponsoring a "Three in One Nite" event at the Marriott in Marina Del Rey. Members, friends and potential new members are invited to attend this blackjack reception, dinner and dance which begins at 7:30 p.m. Limited seating. Reservations: Annabelle Lee, (213) 327-0099, or Marion Imamura, (714) 893-2158.

### Downtown Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES—The 24th annual Mothers Day Luncheon will be

held in the Catalina Room of the Bonaventure Hotel, 404 S. Figueroa St., on May 4. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m., with lunch and program scheduled for 12:30-2:30 p.m. Co-sponsored with Nanka Nikkei Fujin-Kai, this event honors JA women for their efforts and contributions to the community. Honored this year will be Suze Iwataki of West Los Angeles, Katsue Watanabe of Lake View Terrace, Kinu Murakami of La Mirada, and Shizue Yamashita of Altadena.

Cost of the luncheon is \$25. Checks should be made payable to Downtown L.A. JACL and mailed to PSW Regional Office, 244 S. San Pedro St., Rm. 507, L.A., CA 90012. Parking is available in the ARCO garage on Flower St. Info: Lillian Inatomi, (213) 636-8456 (days) or 822-3363; or Frank Hirata, (213) 972-5474.

### Contra Costa

SAN PABLO, Calif.—The 1986 Senior Appreciation Dinner of Contra Costa Chapter will be held June 22 at Maple Hall. Schol-

arship recipients will also be announced at the dinner.

### Sacramento

SACRAMENTO—The annual Okei's Grave and Wakamatsu Colony Memorial clean-up at Gold Hill near Coloma in El Dorado County has been scheduled for Apr. 27, 9 a.m. Participants are asked to bring garden tools, trash bags and a picnic obento.

The Placer County, Sacramento and Florin JACL chapters and the Greater Sacramento Nikkei-jin Kai have been participating in this clean-up effort since 1970. First-timers from the Sacramento area are asked to contact Tom Fujimoto, (916) 428-7877, for directions.

## NCWNP meeting

PALO ALTO, Calif.—The second quarterly No. Calif.-W. Nev.-Pacific JACL District Council meeting, hosted by Sequoia Chapter, will be held May 4, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., at Dinah's Shack, 4269 El Camino Real. The district speech and forensic competition takes place at 2 p.m.

Reports will be given by treasurer Judy Niizawa; regional director George Kondo; governor Mollie Fujioka; PC Board member Greg Marutani; John Yamada (forensic), Yosh Nakashima (convention), Chizu Iiyama (programs/education), Mei Nakano (women's concerns) and George Yoshida (aging & retirement).



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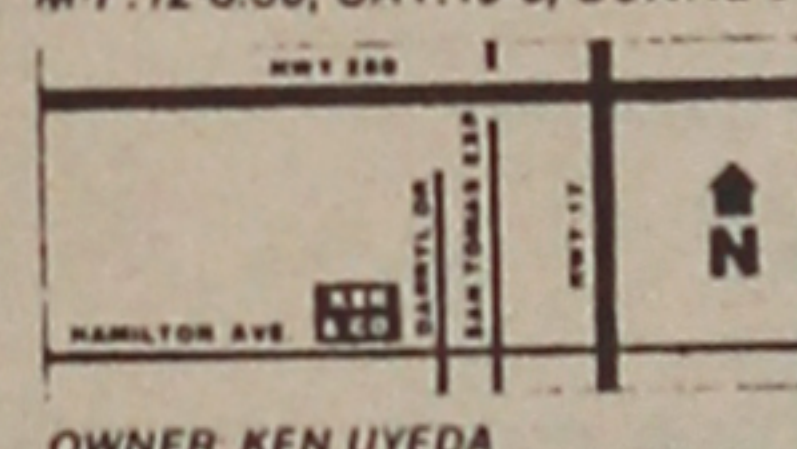
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