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Friday, Nov. 21, 1986

## Min Yasui Dies at 70; Services Held in Denver

by Robert Shimabukuro

DENVER — On a clear, crisp and idyllic Rocky Mountain day, over 200 friends, relatives, political activists and advocates from across the country crowded into the Fairmount Mortuary Chapel to pay their respects to human rights activist and former JACL-LEC chair Minoru Yasui Nov. 16.

At the age of 70, the retired attorney and Denver Community Relations Commission director who devoted his life to the cause of human and civil rights succumbed to cancer on Nov. 12.

### Violated Curfew

On March 28, 1942, Yasui walked into a Portland police station and turned himself in to test the constitutionality of the military curfew order which prohibited German and Italian nationals and all persons of Japanese ancestry from being on the streets between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m.

The curfew had been ordered following the establishment of military zones prescribed by President Franklin Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066, issued on Feb. 19, 1942.

On Nov. 16, 1942, Yasui was convicted for the curfew violation because he was found by District Court Judge James Alger Fee to be "an enemy alien." Fee ruled that while the curfew ordered by Lt. General John L. DeWitt, commander of the Western Defense Command, was not applicable to citizens, Yasui had relinquished his citizenship because he had worked for the Japanese consulate in Chicago in 1941.

### Wartime Laws Upheld

The U.S. Supreme Court, however, upheld both Yasui's and Gordon Hirabayashi's conviction for curfew violations on June 21, 1943. The Court ruled that Judge

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Photo by Sachi Yamamoto

Minoru Yasui in October 1985 during a Los Angeles speaking engagement.

## Coram Nobis Attorney Says Yasui Appeal Will Continue

by Robert Shimabukuro

LOS ANGELES — "We will continue to press Min's case. That's what he wanted, and that's what we want to do," asserted Peggy Nagae, lead attorney for Minoru Yasui's *coram nobis* case, following the Nov. 12 death of Yasui.

"At this time, we are researching the precedents for continuation of the legal action," Nagae told the PC during a Nov. 14 interview at the Century Plaza Hotel. "This is a very special case. Because of the important constitutional issues involved, it should be fully litigated."

Yasui had been seeking a reinstatement of his petition originally filed in 1983, and a formal evidentiary hearing on his allegations that the U.S. government had committed a fraud upon the Supreme Court in his 1943 test case by destroying, altering and suppressing material evidence relating to the military necessity of incarcerating Japanese Americans. The petition was based on wartime documents recently discovered in the National Archives.

In January 1984, U.S. District Court Judge Robert Belloni agreed to vacate the conviction, but also dismissed the *coram nobis* petition, refusing to consider the allegations of governmental misconduct.

Yasui appealed the dismissal and the case is pending in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.



Peggy Nagae

## Eu Injured by Burglar; Reward Being Offered

by Lynn Sakamoto-Chung and J.K. Yamamoto

LOS ANGELES — More than \$6,000 in reward money has been collected by the local chapter of Chinese American Citizens Alliance for the arrest and conviction of the man who attacked and robbed California Secretary of State March Fong Eu on Nov. 10 in her Hancock Park home.

The reward fund, initiated by CACA the day after the assault, is being spearheaded by an ad hoc committee of CACA members led by national president Irvin Lai. Lai told PC he hopes the money will provide the incentive for "a good citizen to come forward with information on the attack."

"Someone out there knows who did it," he added. "Maybe by putting a price on his [the attacker's] head, that someone will turn him in."

Lai acknowledged that the attack was probably not racially

motivated. But, he said, "The Asian community wants to fight back crime. This is a way for everyone to participate. We can exercise our strength and fight crime."

### Released From Hospital

Eu, 64, was released Nov. 16 from Westside Hospital, where she was treated for multiple cuts and bruises. Earlier reports that she would require plastic surgery to repair facial scars have been dismissed.

"I'm very pleased to be alive," Eu said at a Nov. 17 press conference, "but as you can all see, it's just been one week and I'm doing very well... I surprised myself, how quickly I recovered. The psychologist says I'm doing extremely well, the doctor says I'm doing extremely well."

The recently reelected secretary of state joked, "It helps to be a politician in a situation like this, because we have pretty



Photo by Nareshimah Osei

March Fong Eu faces the press.

hard heads and thick skins."

The night of the attack, Eu and her husband Henry had entertained guests. After the guests left, Eu stayed downstairs to do paperwork while her husband

Continued on page 6

## Monetary Damages Sought

## Supreme Court Will Hear Arguments on NCJAR Suit

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Nov. 17 agreed to hear the government's arguments against the lawsuit filed on behalf of Japanese Americans interned during WW2.

William Hohri, chair of the Chicago-based National Council for Japanese American Redress, told the PC, "The government has 45 days in which to file their briefs... unless they get an extension. We have 30 days in which to respond."

The outcome of the Supreme Court review could have far-reaching consequences, according to NCJAR attorney Benjamin Zelenko. "There is much at stake: redress for the constitutional violations inflicted on 120,000 loyal Americans, constitutional precedent, and the integrity of this Court."

### Statute of Limitations

Filed by NCJAR in 1983, the suit seeks more than \$24 billion in damages from the government. Judge Louis Oberdorfer of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia dismissed the suit in 1984, agreeing with the government's argument that the six-year statute of limitations for seeking damages had expired.

The U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia overturned that decision last January, ruling that former internees could not be expected to sue unless the government first indicated that a wrong had been committed. The Appeals Court set 1980—the year Congress established the Commission on War-time Relocation and Internment of Civilians—as the starting point of the six-year limit.

The Appeals Court also rejected the government's contention that payments made under the 1948 Evacuation Claims Act constituted just compensation.

### Claims Eliminated

However, the court also eliminated 21 of the 22 claims in the original suit, leaving only the one dealing with loss of property. In a writ of *certiorari* filed in the Supreme Court in August, NCJAR sought restoration of the other claims, which include violations of constitutional rights. The petition also seeks the waiving of sovereign immunity, which requires that the government consent to be sued before it can be sued.

The government also filed a petition in the Court, charging that "the statute of limitations has long since run out on the constitutional claims that are not barred by sovereign immunity," according to U.S. Solicitor General Charles Fried.

Hohri was not surprised that the government's petition was granted first. "The government's petitions for *certiorari* are usually granted," he said. "Our petition... has neither been accepted nor rejected, but remains pending."

The Court, he speculated, "may want to treat the government's petition first, and then treat ours if the government loses."

Rep. Robert Matsui (D-Calif.) said, "I'm disappointed that the Court decided to take up the Justice Department's appeal, because a well-established rule in the law is that individuals can have recourse in the courts if the government seizes property without due process."

Continued on Page 3

## Asian Candidates Victorious in Washington, Texas Races

Continuing from last week, PC presents election results involving Asian American candidates.

The Nov. 4 elections ended in easy wins for three Washington incumbents, defeat for a first-time mayoral candidate in Oregon, and a historic victory in the race for a Texas judgeship.

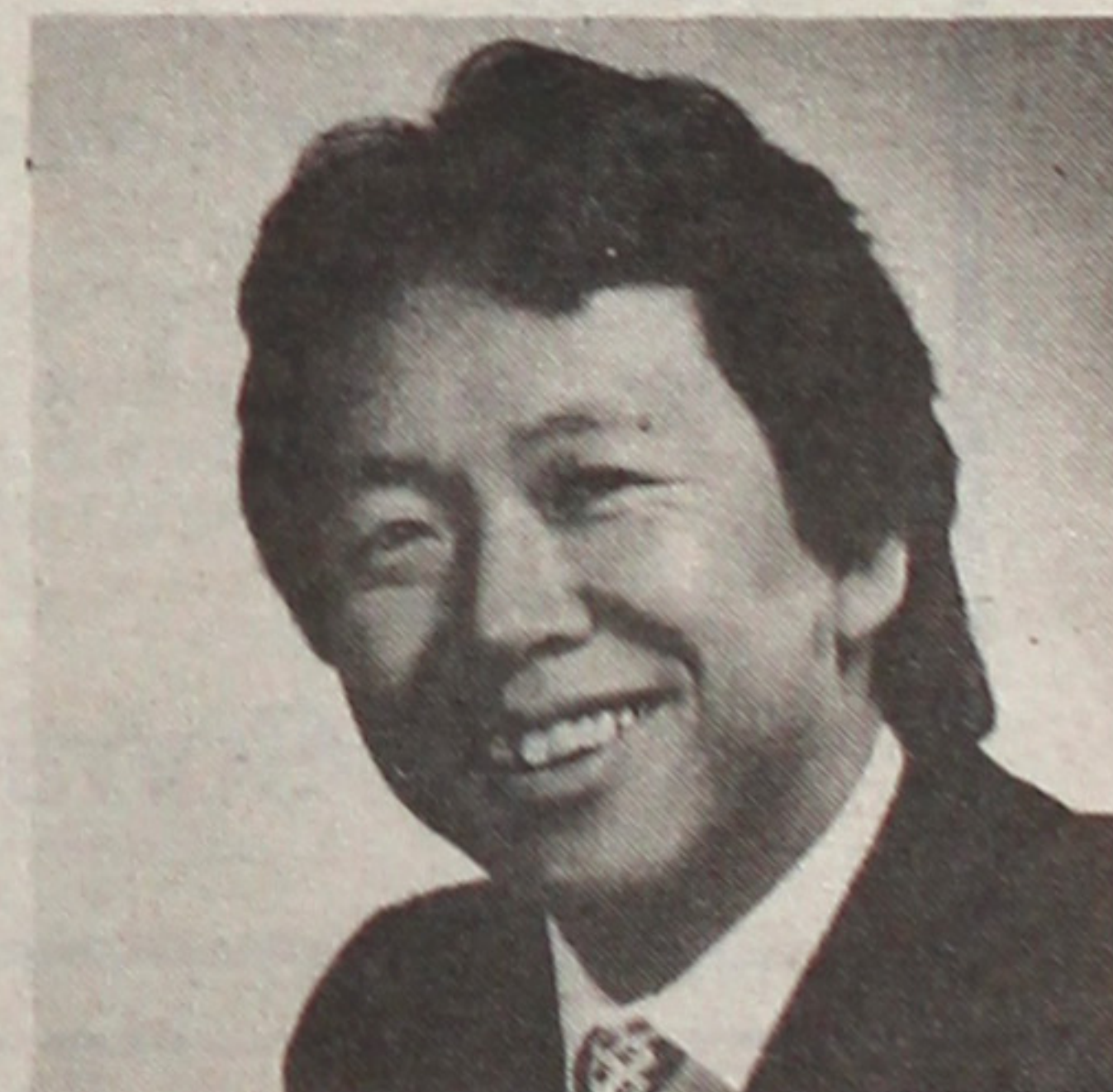
Two Chinese American Democrats retained their seats in the Washington State House of Representatives, defeating their Republican opponents by comfortable margins. Art Wang of the 27th District (Tacoma) received 11,781 votes to Bill Donaldson's 3,734; Gary Locke of the 37th District (Seattle) beat Bill Baylor, 17,212 to 2,331.

Seattle Municipal Court Judge Ron Mamiya (Position 3) was reconfirmed with 81,294 votes.

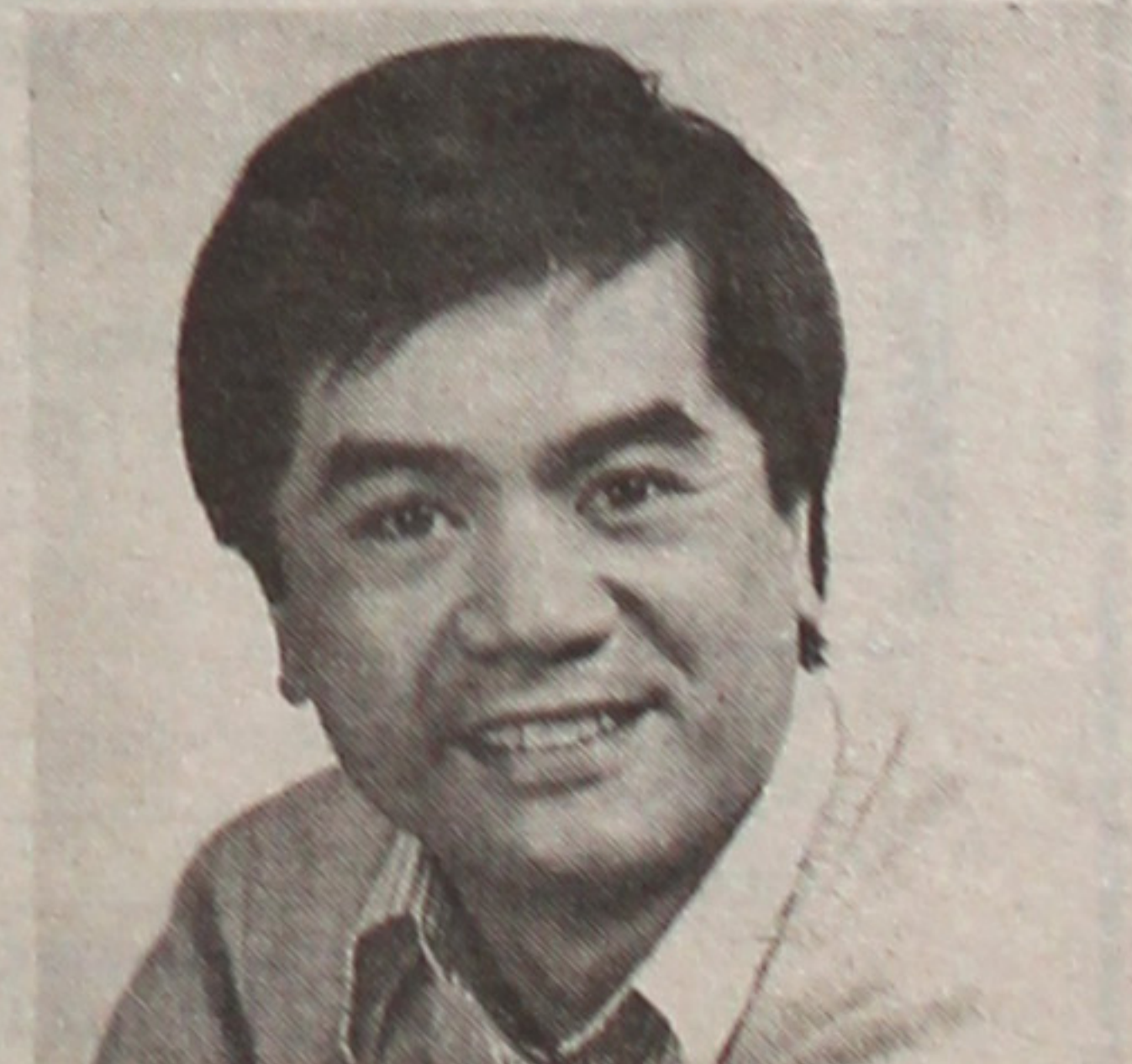
### Mayoral Race

In Ontario, Ore., a community of 9,500 near the Idaho border, George Iseri lost the mayoral

Continued on Page 3



Art Wang



Gary Locke



# Jack Ozawa, Philadelphia JACL President, Dies at 63

CHERRY HILL, N.J. — Longtime JACler Jack Kunio Ozawa died suddenly Nov. 8 at age 63. He had retired from ARCO last year and was serving his second consecutive term as president of Philadelphia Chapter JACL.

Originally from Seattle, he attended the University of Washington and was evacuated to the Minidoka, Idaho camp during WW2. After graduating from the Missouri School of Mines, he was employed as an engineer at Atlantic Refining Company of Philadelphia in 1945.

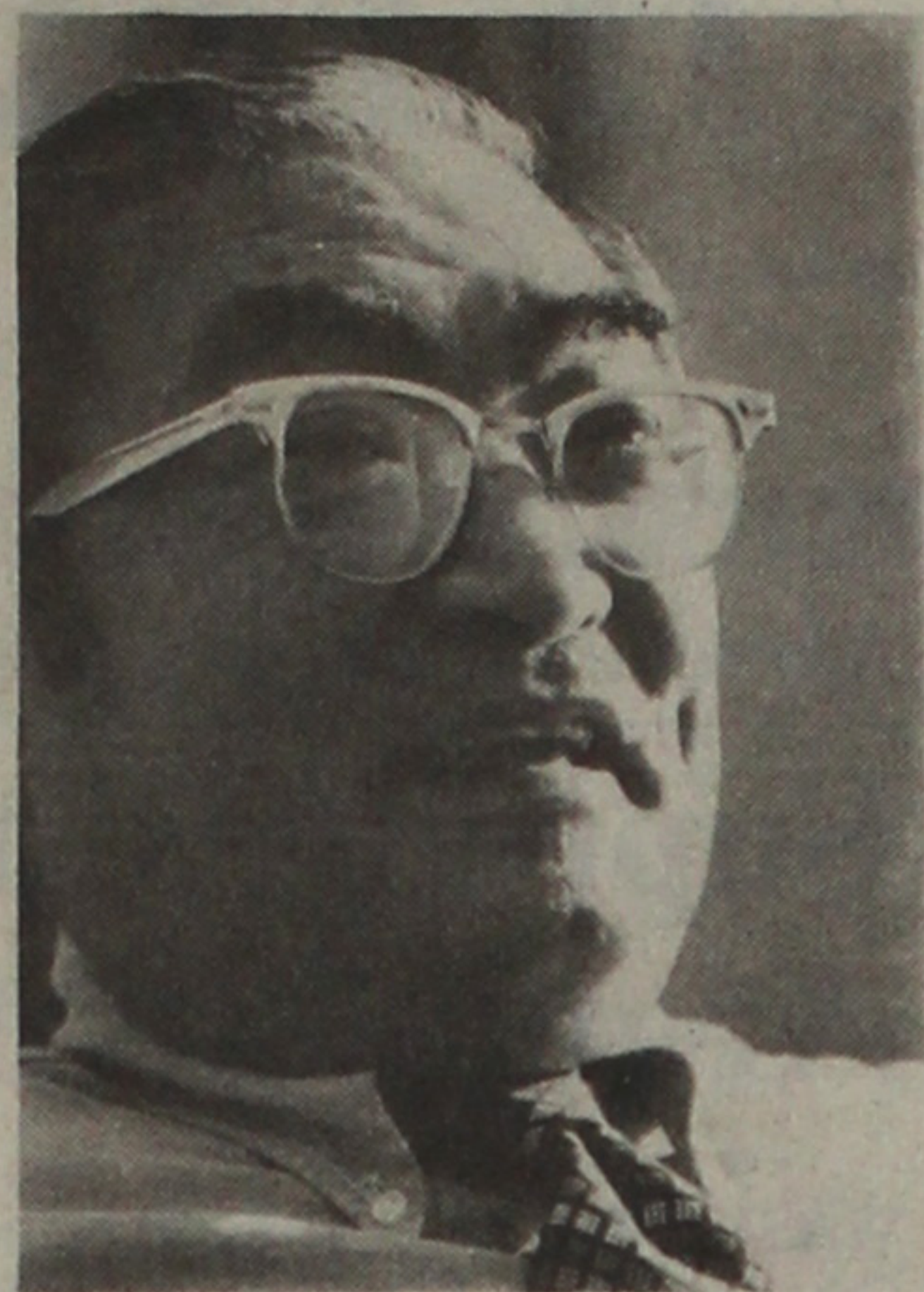
He later worked for W.R. Kellogg in New York and Harvey Research Laboratory near Chicago, then returned to ARCO in Philadelphia to work in research and development.

Ozawa was president of Philadelphia JACL in 1947-49 and 1985-86, and of New York JACL in 1964-66. He also served as Eastern District Council treasurer and vice-governor and was a recipient of the Silver and Sapphire pins. He was a member of 1000 Club, co-chair of the Philadelphia Redress Committee and an LEC prime solicitor.

He also served as treasurer for the Pan Asian Association of Philadelphia and the Pan Asian Conference for Economic Development, and was a board member of the Japanese House of Fairmont Park.

A board member of Nationalities Service Center, he was to receive the NSC Award on behalf of Philadelphia JACL in December at the Union League.

"Jack was always generous of



Jack Ozawa

his time, talents and resources for JACL, Pan Asian, and others," said Hiroshi Uyehara of Philadelphia JACL. "His presence will be greatly missed by the Greater Philadelphia community and the Philadelphia Chapter board."

## MIT Professor Gets Japan Physics Prize

CAMBRIDGE — MIT Professor Toyochi Tanaka has been awarded the Nishina Memorial Prize, one of the highest awards presented by the Japanese physics community, for his "fundamentally important contribution to physics."

Tanaka was cited for his discovery of a phase transition and critical phenomena in polymer gels and his explanation of their physical and chemical basis.

## Calif. Arts Council

# Asian Cultural Organizations Receive Grants

LOS ANGELES — Grants to 116 county organizations totaling \$1,705,878 have been awarded by the California Arts Council through its Organizational Grants Program.

Asian American community organizations included in the roster of recipients are the Cambodian Art Preservation Group, East West Players, Great Leap Inc., Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, Koto String Society, Pacific Asia Museum, and Visual Communications.

The council's Organizational Grants Program is designed to develop and strengthen the artistic and administrative capabilities of small, medium and large organizations, and to make their programs available to more people in California.

Most awards are made in the category of Artistic and Administrative Development, which provides grants to qualified organizations of all sizes. However, 27 grants are made in the category of Support to Prominent Organizations. These organizations have budgets of more than \$1 million and are considered to be valued arts resources for the region in which they are established. This category includes many prominent symphonies, museums, ballet and theater companies.

Deadline for applying for next year's grants is Feb. 2, 1987. Additional information and applications may be obtained by writing to the California Arts Council, 1901 Broadway, Suite A, Sacramento, CA 95818.

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# San Francisco Police Arrest Youths for Attacking Asians

SAN FRANCISCO — Three high school students were arrested Oct. 22 and charged with assault with a deadly weapon and robbery in connection with an attack on eight Asian teenagers last month.

According to police, on Oct. 16 a group of about 20 Black youths attacked eight Asian students as they got off a bus at the corner of Palou and Phelps streets.

Two of the victims were sent to a hospital with wounds from a metal hook, said Officer Eddie Dare of the SFPD Community Services Department. Police declined to give the names of the victims and of two of the three arrested because they are minors.

## Prior Harassment

Dare said the Black students had verbally harassed one of the Asian students many times as he rode home from Philip Burton School on the No. 44 O'Shaughnessy bus. The Asian student was riding with two friends from the Cameron House bilingual after-school program on Oct. 16 when he was again harassed by Black youths.

The three friends, ages 14, 15 and 16, along with five other Asian students, got off the bus and were quickly shadowed by 20 Blacks from the same bus, according to Dare.

Rev. Norman Fong of Cameron House said that the attackers "beat the crap out of" the victims with a baseball bat and a metal hook. The reverend took three of the victims to a hospital.

Dare noted that one victim needed stitches because the hook-wielding attacker "took a chunk out of his leg." a second victim had his teeth "nearly knocked out," while a third received minor cuts and scratches, Dare said.

The police report also said that the assailants stole money from one of the victims.

The report was filed the day after the attack when Fong escorted the three injured boys to the Potrero Hill Police Station. The police, however, told Fong they could not do anything about the incident.

Angered, Fong contacted Dare, who arranged a plainclothes operation to arrest the attackers. Dare, Fong, the Asian students and eight officers from the Muni Transit Police and the Potrero Hill Station boarded the No. 44 bus on Oct. 22 and asked the students to identify their assailants.

Four of the passengers were so identified. Two were arrested and taken to the Youth Guidance Center on Laguna Honda while a third was booked at the county jail. The fourth was released.

Afterwards, Fong praised Dare for his help and expressed concern about the "rise in anti-Asian violence" and the lack of police support when he first took the three youths to the station. "We need to get police to be more responsive," he declared.

—from a report by East West

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東西二



# Monument to Nikkei Veterans Dedicated in Little Tokyo

LOS ANGELES — The power and fragility of liberty were the combined messages delivered to the approximately 250 people who attended the Nov. 9 unveiling and dedication of the Nikkei Veterans Monument in Little Tokyo Square.

The sculpture, by local artist Marlee Wilcomb, depicts a raised hand holding a lit torch and is based on a design by Karl Oike, which in turn was based on the emblem of the 100th Battalion of the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team. But, while honoring the thousands of Japanese Americans who have served their country, the monument will also serve as a reminder of the plight of the more than 120,000 Japanese American citizens and resident aliens who were uprooted from the West Coast and incarcerated during WW2.

This irony was alluded to often by ceremony speakers and several 442nd veterans who were in attendance. One such veteran, Motomu Nakasako, was interned at Heart Mountain, Wyo., when he was 17. Like many of his fellow Nisei, he left the camp to become a member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, which distinguished itself in several European campaigns.

Nakasako, currently director of Veterans Affairs for Los Angeles County, told the Los Angeles Times, "We must look back in history and be reminded what happened to the Japanese American soldiers... so future generations will be reminded when there is a breakdown in our constitutional guarantees."

The ceremony included a dedication by the Los Angeles Buddhist Church Federation, a speech by former assemblyman Paul Bannai, and a performance by Sozenji Taiko.

Plans for the sculpture were started five years ago when a businessman, who wished to remain anonymous, donated \$40,000 for the creation of a monument to honor Japanese American veterans. Since that time, the project has been under the auspices of the Nisei Veterans Coordinating Council.

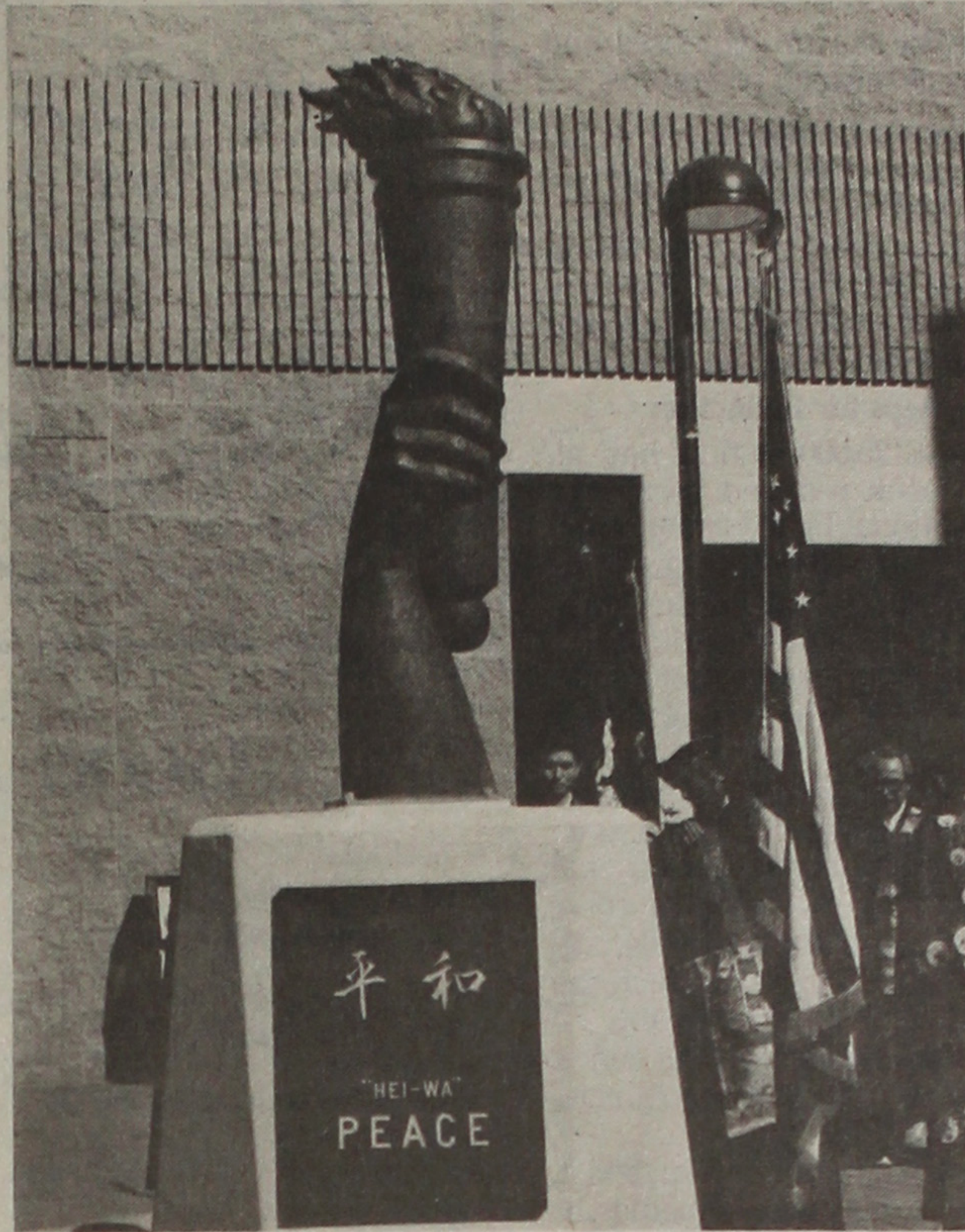


Photo by Robert Shimabukuro

## SUPREME COURT

Continued from Front Page

"I'm hopeful, however, that the Court will decide to consider the question of violations of constitutional rights."

National JACL issued a statement expressing "the hope that the Court will also review the appeal by the petitioners."

JACL also requested "reinstatement of all 22 causes of action, including the constitutional and civil rights violations... JACL is hopeful that the Court assumes a humanitarian position and considers the entire range of issues related to the internment."

Gordon Hirabayashi, who had his WW2 Supreme Court test case reopened in 1983 and challenged the government's position in federal court, found the development in the NCJAR suit a positive one.

"The fact that the Court will hear even the government's case is still good news," he told PC. "The fact that they respond to one side or the other means they're giving it [the suit] a little more reality. And if that's the case, then it's encouraging."

Tell Them You Saw It  
In the Pacific Citizen

## ELECTION RESULTS

Continued from front page

race to City Councilwoman Laurie Wrenn, 1,338 to 1,643.

The owner of successful real estate, insurance and travel agency businesses, Iseri, 66, was appointed to the City Council nine years ago, becoming the first Japanese American to hold a city office, and was elected twice after that. He and his family moved to Ontario from the Tule Lake camp during WW2 to become agricultural workers.

The race was "one of those nice, healthy political scenes where you have two strong, solid, high-profile candidates and the voters can't lose," Ontario Argus-Observer reporter Ann Crosby told the Eugene Register-Guard. "If it's a factor that George Iseri is Japanese, it's only a factor with a very negligible percentage of people."

In Texas, Hannah Chow, a Democrat, was elected as a judge

for Harris County Criminal Court No. 5. She defeated Republican Roy Rogers, 235,237 to 200,151.

Chow is believed to be the first Asian American to be elected to a county-level office in Texas. Active in community affairs, she is president of the local Asian

American Bar Association.

According to Betty Waki of Houston JACL, the results show a broad base of support for Chow, since only about 6,000 of the 200,000 Asians in the Houston area are registered to vote.

—J.K. Yamamoto



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# Decreasing the Deficit

## By the Board

by Alan Nishi  
Secretary-Treasurer



It has been just three months since I was installed as National JACL secretary-treasurer, and already my plans to gradually "get my feet wet" with the responsibilities of my office have been altered significantly with the current cash flow/budget problems that JACL is experiencing.

Following the National Convention, I met with Ron Wakabayashi, national director; Patti Paganini, acting business manager; and Yosh Nakashima, vice president of general operations, at JACL headquarters to review our financial situation.

### Cash Flow Problems

During that meeting, it was revealed to me that JACL would be facing a sizable cash flow deficit during the last quarter of 1986, and that this deficit would require JACL to borrow, on a short-term basis, funds to make it through the year until our cash flow picks up in early 1987.

Since that meeting, I have been working very closely with National President Harry Kajihara, who also shares my concern over the seriousness of the cash flow problem and the need to reduce the projected deficit as much as possible to minimize our borrowing requirements.

It must be stressed that this commercial loan will be only a temporary remedy to our year-end cash flow and budget problems. The deficit will still have to be made up in order for us to be on budget for 1987. Hopefully, with some swift action, we can keep the projected deficit at a manageable level.

### Major Factors

At the October National Board meeting, JACL finances were major items on the agenda. The cash flow deficit was estimated to be approximately \$125,000, which is primarily attributed to the following factors:

1. The \$75,000 advance from the JACL general operating budget to LEC, which was approved by the National Board during the last biennium. This advance was to be repaid to the JACL from the fourth-year redress pledge monies after the Endowment Fund loan was paid.
2. Projected drop in membership revenues for 1986. Estimated shortfall of approximately \$50,000.
3. Additional unbudgeted expenses, which included such items as the Arthur Young sur-

vey, SRS startup expenses and higher insurance premiums.

It should be noted that as far as budgeted operating expenses are concerned, National JACL has been able to stay within budget, and that it is the non-budgeted expenses that are the primary factors in our deficit.

### Steps for Reduction

This \$125,000 deficit has already been reduced by \$25,000 by a National Board action to defer indefinitely the remaining \$25,000 advance from the JACL operating budget to LEC. However, it is imperative that all districts fulfill their fourth-year pledges before the end of the year to repay the \$50,000 that was advanced to LEC this last biennium.

If this does not occur, National Board action regarding the reimbursement of this advance will have to be made to reduce the budget deficit. Conceivably, if this matter is resolved, the deficit could be reduced to approximately \$50,000.

Whatever the size of the deficit, it must be dealt with immediately. If quick action is not taken, the deficit could snowball, especially with our membership revenues on the decline and operating expenses on the rise each year.

With this in mind, I will be working with our JACL president and consulting with concerned JACL members who possess the financial expertise to devise a deficit reduction program to present at the next National Board meeting in February.

### Increasing Revenue

In addition, our national president has formed the Committee on Development of a Diversified Funding Base, which he will chair. The role of this committee will be to identify ways to broaden JACL's funding base.

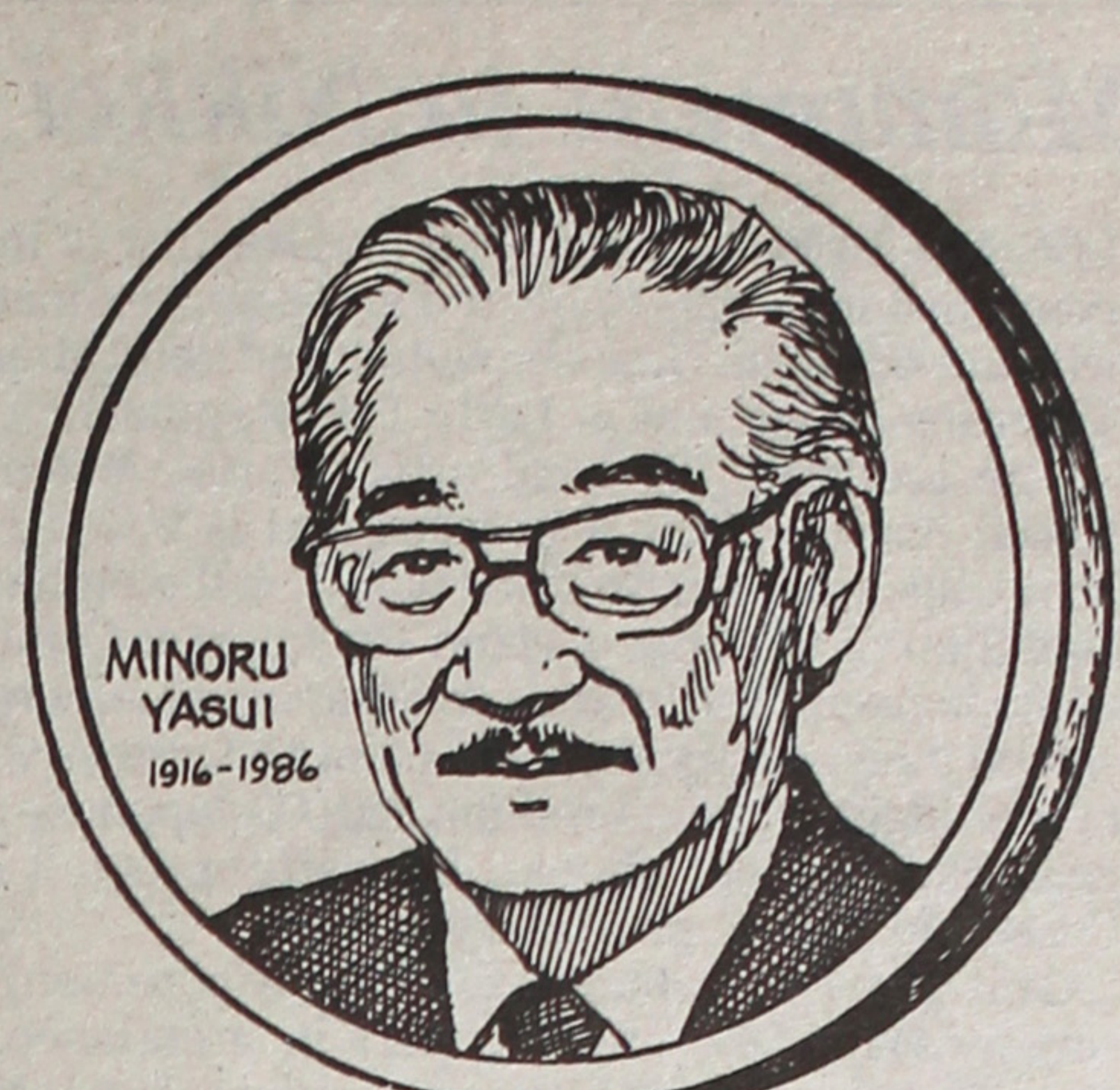
With finances playing a major role this biennium, it is clear that one of my primary roles as national secretary-treasurer will be to closely monitor any action which will have a fiscal impact on our organization, and to see that such actions have a financially sound basis.

At the conclusion of the last National Board meeting, I felt that the board had a good understanding of the seriousness of our financial situation and that all members realized the need to work together as a team to put our organization back on a course of financial stability.

I strongly encourage input from the general membership to the National Board. As your elected officers, we need to hear from you to best carry out the goals and objectives of JACL. And, as your national secretary-treasurer for this biennium, I am ready to assume the challenges ahead.

Nishi writes from Stockton, Calif.

## SPECIAL EDITION — ONE OF A KIND



MINORU YASUI  
1916-1986

PETE HIRONAKA 11/21/86

## Good Night, Sweet Prince

by Grace Ueyehara  
LEC Executive Director

*Do not go gentle into that good night  
Old age should burn and rave at close  
of day  
Rage, rage against the dying of the  
light.*

—Dylan Thomas

While in the midst of writing my LEC Update, I received the call telling me that Minoru Yasui, our primary spiritual leader for JACL's redress effort, was called on Nov. 12 to his final rest.

Though we had been informed how seriously ill he was, we still kept hoping for his recovery. I am sure Min, too, hoped that he could recover and gain sufficient strength to continue the fight.

In his last letter to me before his surgery, he wrote, "I truly deplore quitting the redress battle, at this juncture—but the physical deterioration of my bodily functions needs to be faced realistically."

He had started out by saying, "Ah well, what will be will be." That was not Min, for he was not the kind of man who wanted to give up the fight which he started in 1943. And so, in his formal letter of resignation as chairman of the JACL-LEC board of direc-

tors, he requested that he be able to remain on the board.

As chairman of the JACL National Redress Committee, Min went north and south, east and west, throughout the United States—even to Hawaii and Japan—to bring the redress message to people who needed to learn what can happen in a democracy if we are not vigilant about our individual freedom.

He said that we have to see that the Constitution and the Bill of Rights are held high and with equal weight for all people who reside in this nation, and that we have to uphold this principle in America if we are to lead the rest of the world to freedom.

We were fortunate that we had the total dedication of Min Yasui for the long fight. Redress requires inner strength and belief that justice will be done. All of us who worked with him saw that strength and fire in action wherever he spoke.

No one can emulate his fiery delivery, and so the words of Dylan Thomas aptly describe Min, who gave his all to keep the redress movement advancing when others no longer believed in righting the great tragedy of 1942. Min raged at the injustice which

resulted from the years of racism experienced by our people.

I recall how many times he would say, "I'm getting too old for this fight," but he never stopped until his body made him stop.

Just last weekend, during my presentation to the Mountain Plains District Council, many of us talked about Min. I closed with the statement that President Reagan, in the recent election campaign, was exhorting people to "win one more for the Gipper." I challenged the JACLers to put forth their best efforts to complete the task which had Min Yasui at the forefront.

Minoru Yasui raged with all his might at the inequities and the injustice suffered by Americans of Japanese ancestry, and in the process led the fight for the rights of all Americans. All of us who worked with him on redressing the wrongs so that America will live up to the noble goals envisioned by the Founding Fathers now part with Hamlet's words:

*Now cracks a noble heart.  
Good night, sweet prince,  
And flights of angels sing thee  
to thy rest.*

## 1000 Club Roll

(Year of Membership Shown) * Century; ** Corporate; L Life; M Memorial; C/L Century Life Summary (Since Jan 1, 1986)	
Active (previous total) .....	1,928
Total this report: #43 .....	37
Current total .....	1,965
NOV 3-7, 1986 (37)	
Berkeley: 17-A Scarcella, 10-Martha Tsutui.	
Downtown Los Angeles: 22-Tom Shigeru Hashimoto, 9-Kenneth Kasamatsu.	
East Los Angeles: 22-Dr George S Mizunoue, 31-George Watanabe.	
Flarin: 28-Bill S Taketa.	
Fowler: 28-Harley M Nakamura.	
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Fresno: 9-SH Mikami.	
Gardena Valley: 17-John J Fujita, 25-George T Yamauchi.	
Houston: 1-Betty Waki.	
Japan: 5-Mutsuya Matsumoto.	
Marysville: 33-Mosse M Uchida.	
Mid Columbia: 32-Sho Endow, Jr.	
Monterey Peninsula: 34-Minoru C Uyeda.	
Orange County: 33-Ken Uyesugi.	
Pasadena: 36-Yoneo Y Deguchi, 31-Hayato Harris Ozawa.	
Philadelphia: 32-Ben Ohama.	
Placer County: 25-Kunio Okusu.	
Portland: 25-William Y Sakai*.	
Reedley: 28-Tak Naito.	
Reno: 3-Gerald A Ikeda.	
Sacramento: 27-Dr Stanley Y Inouye.	
Salt Lake City: 1-Wataru Misaka, Life-Ann Nagata Morris.	
San Diego: 31-Shoji Date.	
Sanger: 31-Tom H Nagamatsu.	
Seattle: 31-Ted A Sakahara.	
Snake River: 22-Sam Uchida.	
Twin Cities: 26-Toshio W Abe.	
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Watsonville: 20-Kenzo Yoshida.	
National: 33-Mats Ando26-Lloyd K Kumataka.	
CENTURY CLUB*	
12-William Y Sakai (Por).	
LIFE	
Ann Nagata Morris (SLC).	
Summary (Since Jan 1, 1986)	
Active (previous total) .....	1,965

## Statement from JACL President Harry Kajihara

On behalf of all JACLers, I wish to express deepest condolences to the immediate family of Minoru Yasui: True; daughters Iris, Laurel and Holly; brothers Ray, Robert and Homer; sisters Michi and Yuka; and his five grandchildren.

We Americans, in particular Americans of Japanese ancestry, are very proud of Min Yasui. He showed "guts and courage" far beyond those possessed by most of us, when he stood up against the government in 1942 to test the constitutionality of the curfew and other adverse government actions flowing from Executive Order 9066.

Min will live forever in our hearts as one illustrious and courageous individual who devoted his life work for equality and justice for all Americans. He will be severely missed in the current redress pursuit.

## A Charitable Deduction

Tax advisers have been suggesting that taxpayers who itemize their deductions will do well to speed up their charitable deductions, now that President Reagan has signed the tax reform legislation. And, taxpayers who do not itemize will no longer qualify for charitable deductions in 1987.

Contributions to the JACL/Pacific Citizen Typesetter Fund, which recently sealed \$37,000, have pushed the fund to within 92.5 percent of the \$40,000 goal. Please help the JACL/Pacific Citizen attain this goal by the end of the year by sending your donation to the PC, 941 E. Third St., Room 200, Los Angeles, CA 90013.

—Harry Honda

Total this report: #44 .....

Current total .....

NOV 10-14, 1986 (16)

Berkeley: 15-Masaji G Uratsu.

Chicago: Life-Marion K Ishii, 32-Noby Yamakoshi.

Gardena Valley: 9-Ken Hokoyama, 2-Dona Reiko Nishimura.

Hollywood: 21-Jeffrey Y Matsui.

New York: 30-George Kyotow.

Orange County: 26-Dr S Douglas Arakawa.

Portland: 22-Dr James M Tsugawa.

Puyallup Valley: 17-Yoshihiko Tanabe.

Sacramento: 25-Tom Furukawa.

Seattle: 7-Harold J Nakahara, 36-Fred T Takagi.

Sequoia: 17-James S Izumi.

Snake River: 33-Abe Saito.

West Los Angeles: 30-Joe Uyeda.

LIFE

Marion K Ishii (Chi).



**pacific citizen**

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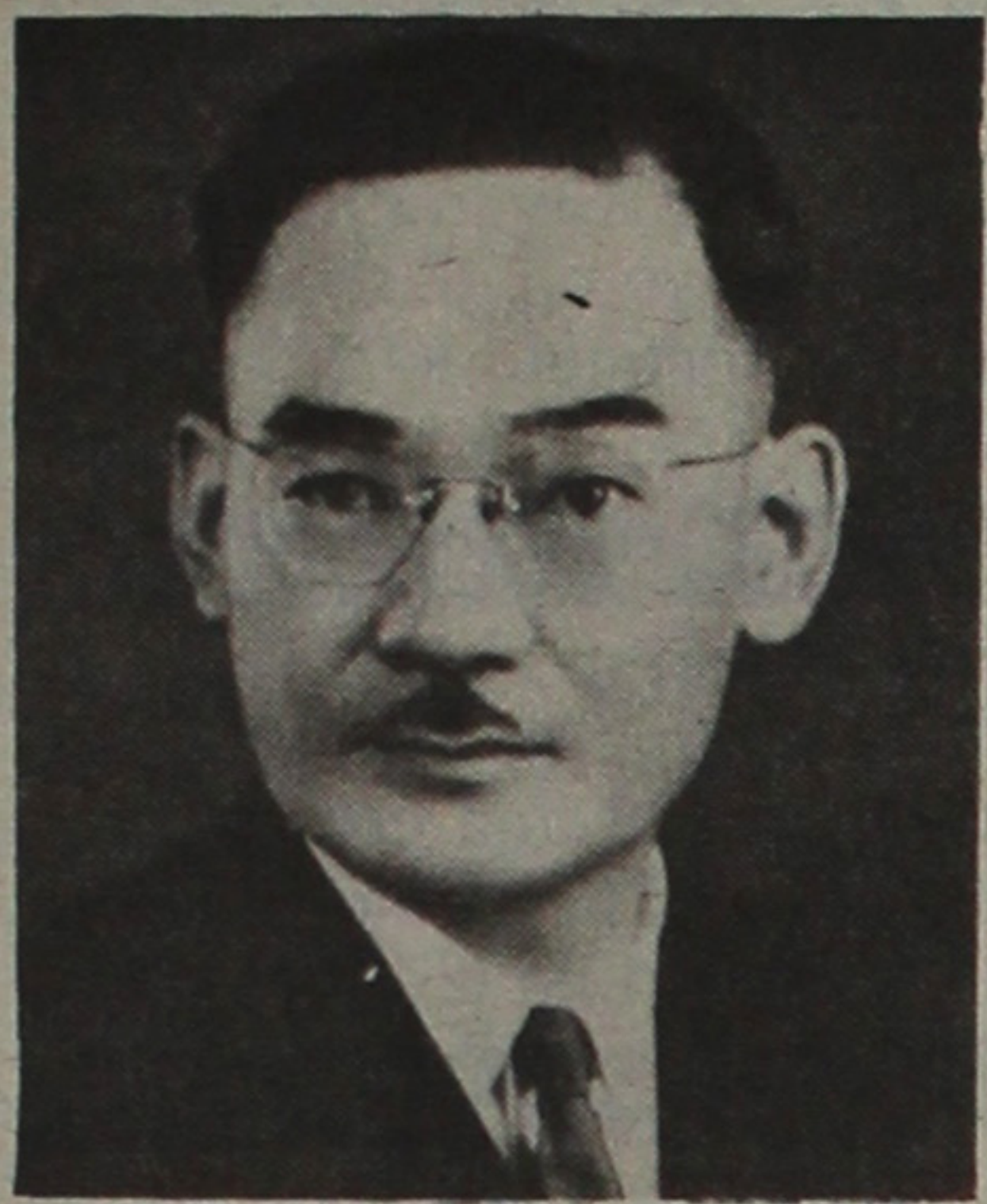
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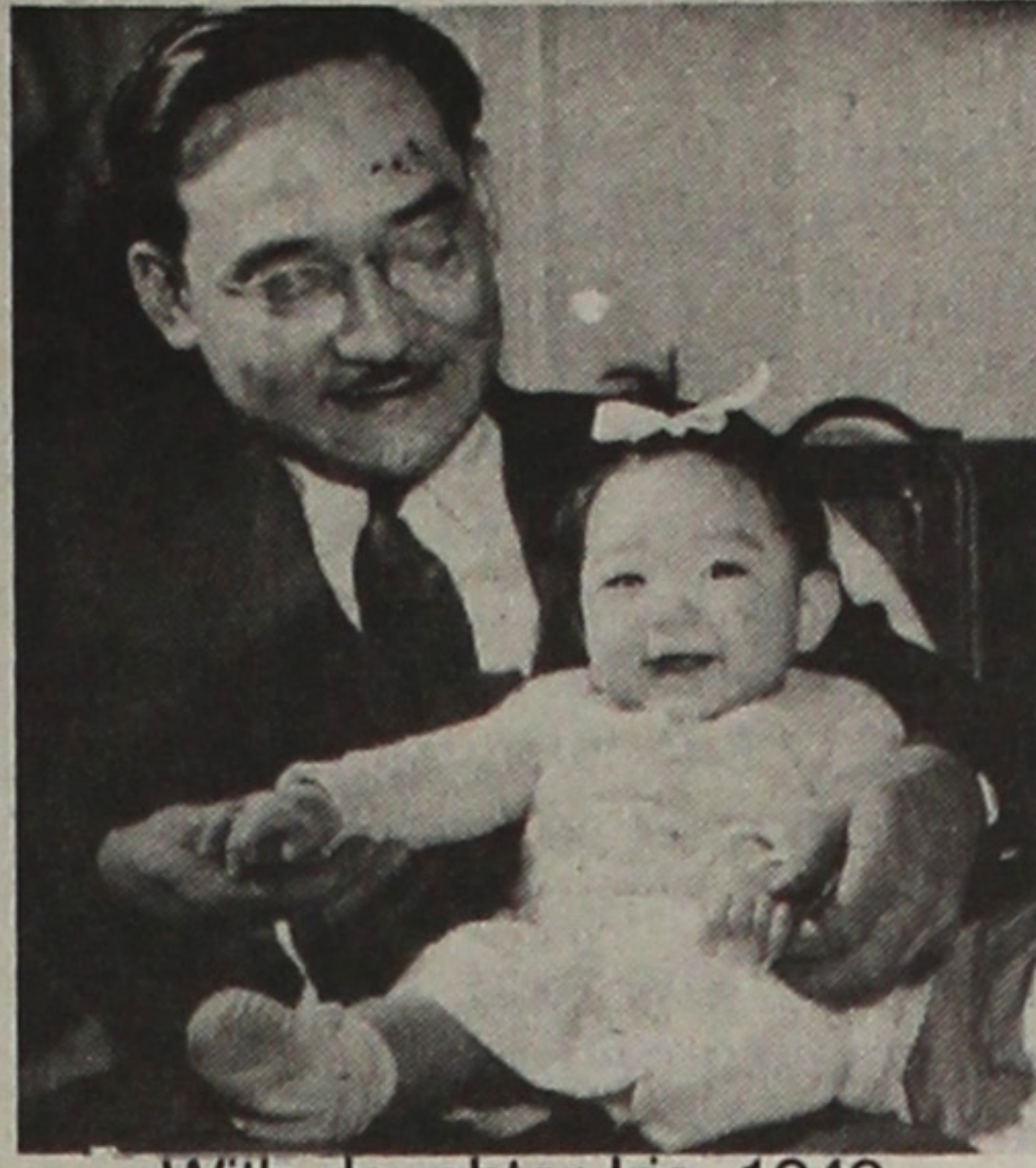
## In Memoriam



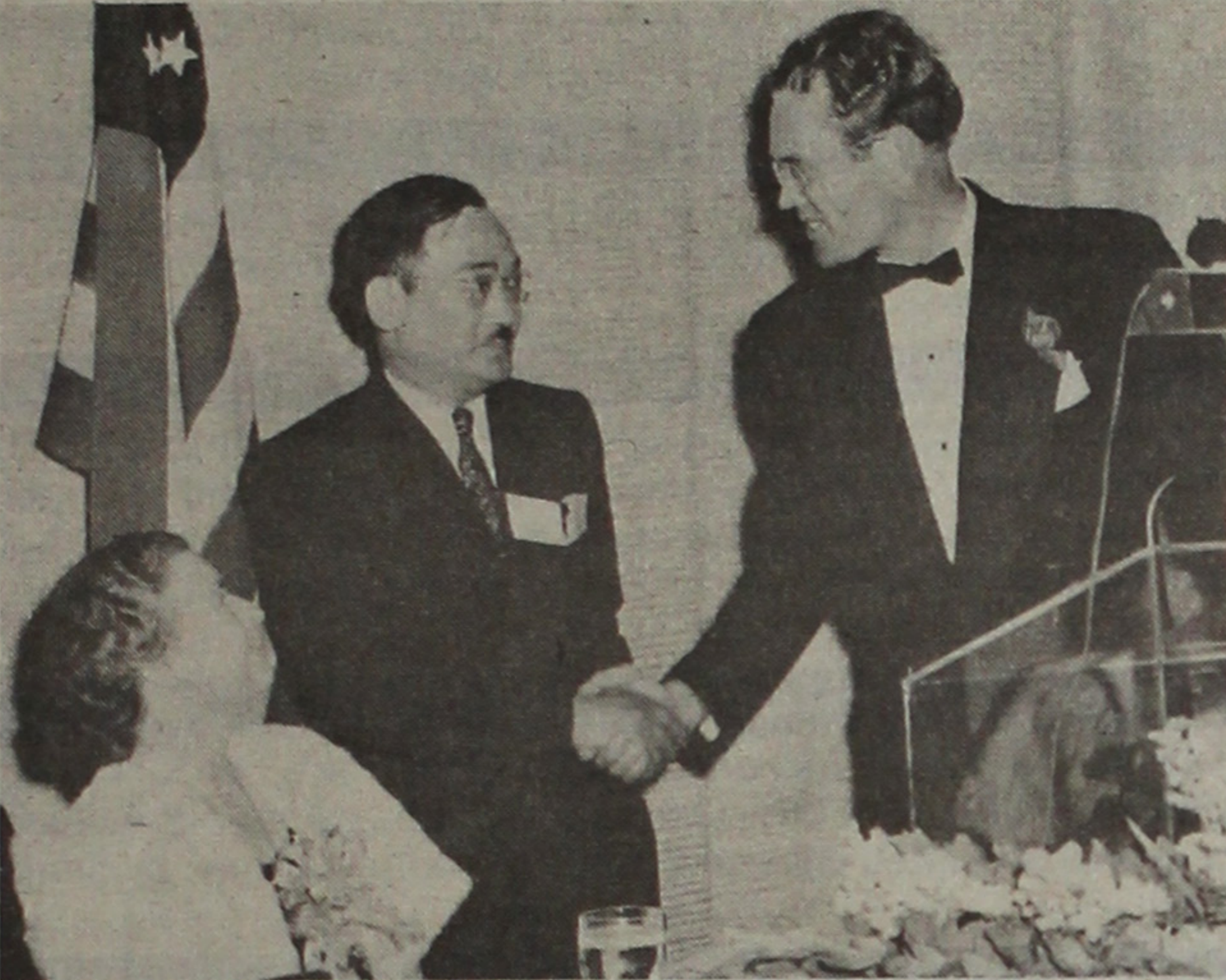
Minoru  
Yasui

1916-1986

MP Regional Director, 1946.



With daughter Iris, 1949



Nisei of the Biennium, San Francisco, 1952



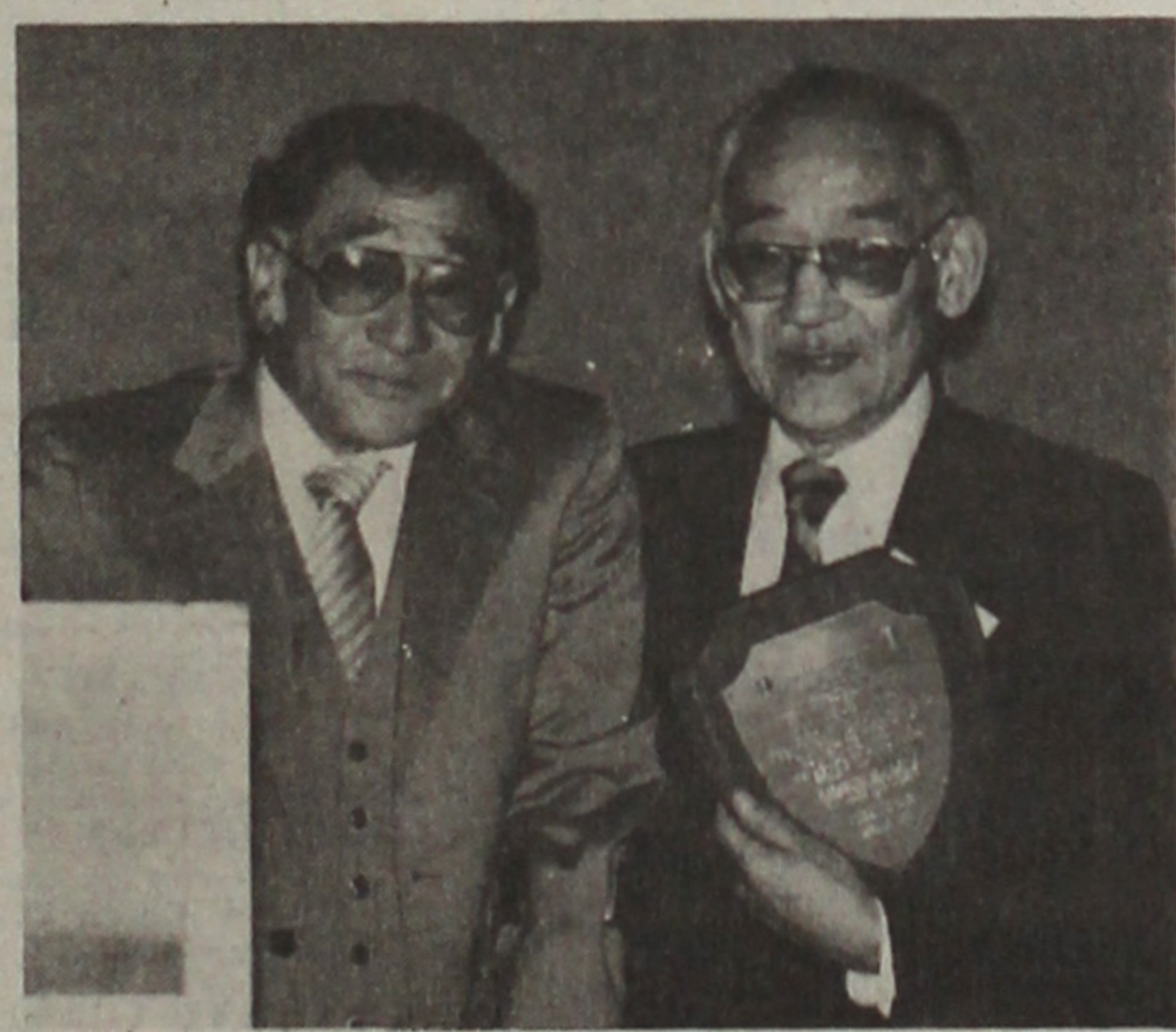
With daughter Laurel, 1954



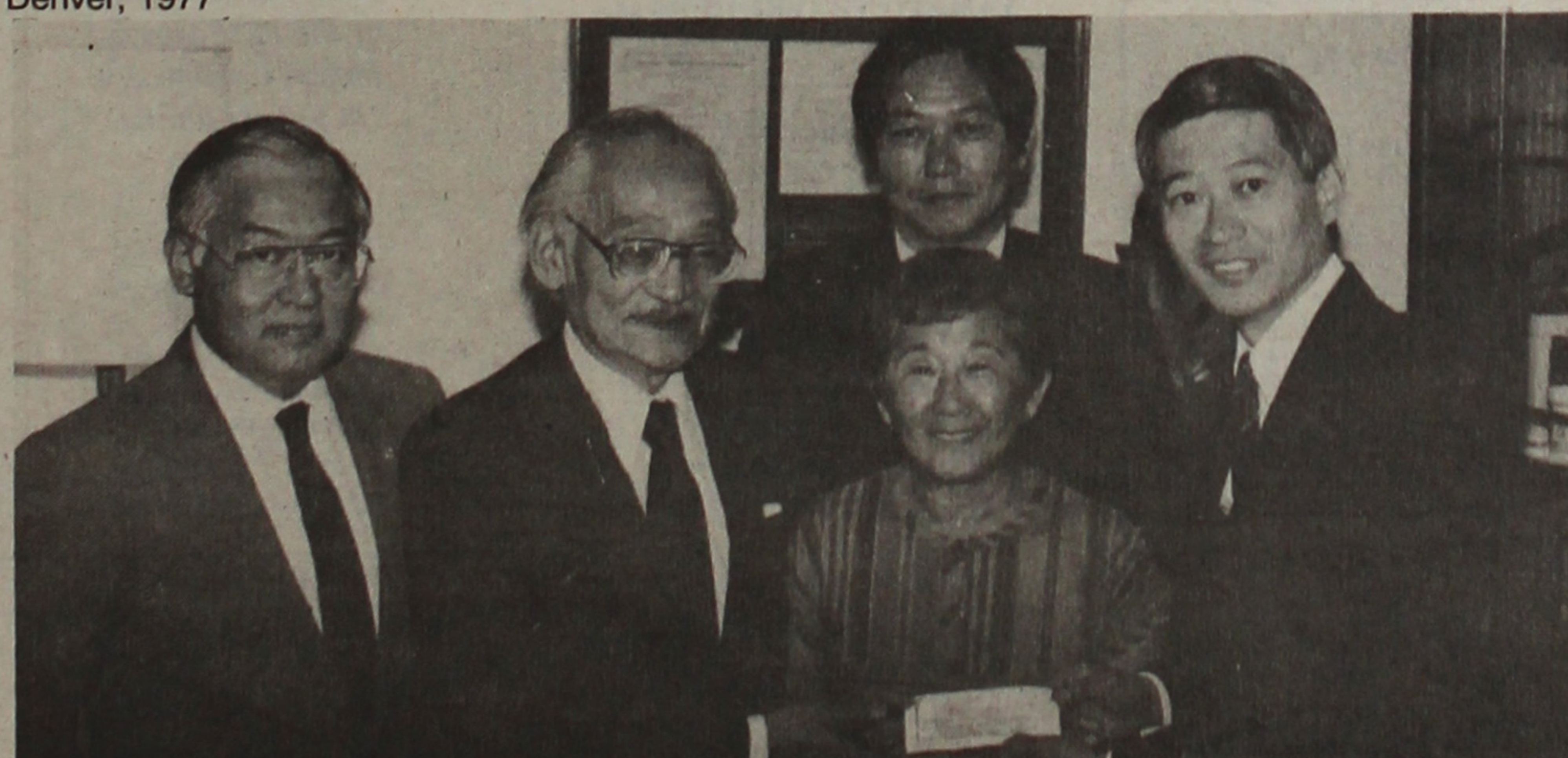
Yasui (second from right, back row) with 1947 Denver JACL chapter officers.



Receiving an award from the City and County of Denver, 1977



With Rudy Tokiwa, 1983



Rep. Robert Matsui (D-Calif.) presents \$1,000 check to LEC chair Yasui, with Frank Sato (left), Grayce Uyehara and Grant Ujifusa (rear), 1985.

## Min Yasui: A Lifetime of Fighting for Justice

by Robert Shimabukuro

After 70 years of a life devoted to the pursuit of justice and civil rights for all Americans, retired lawyer, administrator, and champion of Japanese American rights Minoru Yasui died of cancer in a Denver hospital Nov. 12.

Yasui's cancer had been diagnosed during the summer. He had entered the hospital for surgery Sept. 8. The former JACL-LEC chair resigned from his post Aug. 31, citing his deteriorating health as the reason.

Yasui was born Oct. 19, 1916, in Hood River, Ore., the third of Masuo and Shidzuyo Yasui's nine children. Yasui's father had immigrated to the U.S. in 1903 at the age of 16. Physically unsuited for manual labor, Masuo dreamed of becoming a lawyer while working as a houseboy in Portland.

But he soon found out that only citizens could become lawyers, and because he was neither Caucasian nor Black, he could not become a citizen.

So the energetic Masuo decided to pass on his dreams to his children and instead opened a mercantile store in Hood River in 1906.

Slowly, Masuo and his brother Reinichi acquired lands and orchards, and by 1940 had owned outright or accumulated interest in close to 1,000 acres of farmland in the Hood River valley.

Masuo became a prominent member of the Hood River community, a friend and neighbor to some of the most influential people in Oregon.

Minoru was born 10 years after his father first settled in Hood River, and his father's dream of becoming a lawyer was passed on to Min. He seemed the ideal person.

*His most outstanding quality was his desire to help other people. He always was willing to champion other people, and he never cared whether someone had enough money to pay for his services. He could talk on any level and people listened when he spoke. While still a law student, he lectured to the State House on parliamentary procedure. He was an expert parliamentarian.*

—Ron Shiozaki

He was graduated with honors from Hood River High School and enrolled in the University of Oregon. During summers, he worked at the family's apple and pear orchards and the general store. Yasui graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Oregon in 1937. He was also a second lieutenant in the Reserve Officers Training Corps.

He then became a student of law at the university's law school and graduated with an LLB in June 1939. The following September he was admitted to the Oregon State Bar.

*He was warm and friendly, brilliant without being too erudite and condescending. Unbelievably fair, proud of his heritage and convinced of his values to the point of being stubborn. He was as completely loyal a friend to me as I was to him. His favorite song (and mine too) on the nickelodeon was "Sugar Blues" by Clyde McCoy. If we had every nickel that we put in the nickelodeon for that song, adjusting for inflation, we'd both be rich by now.*

—Bernard Kliks

Yasui found job opportunities for young AJA attorneys fresh out of law school scarce in 1939. Starting a practice seemed even more difficult. Through his father's influence, Yasui was offered a job with the Consul General of Japan in Chicago. The single and free-spirited Yasui accepted the position at the age of 23. From March 1, 1940 until Dec. 7, 1941, Yasui worked for the consulate.

It was because of his employment with the consulate that District Court James Alger Fee would later rule that Yasui had elected to be a citizen of Japan rather than of the United States.

*Because my duties were not overly onerous at the consulate, I was personally engaged in running a Boy Scouts of America troop, and I participated in various community groups. I led a hyperactive social life, carousing in the bars along North Rush Street, playing poker all night, and generally running around too much.*

—Min Yasui, quoted in *And Justice For All* (1984) by John Tateishi

On Dec. 7, 1941, Yasui was outraged that Pearl Harbor had been bombed. He immediately quit his job with the consul general. Soon after, he received orders to report for active duty with the U.S. Army at Camp Vancouver in Washington.

Upon returning to Portland and reporting for duty across the Columbia River at Camp Vancouver, Yasui was instructed to wait for further instructions. So he returned to Hood River.

Yasui followed with interest the U.S. government's response to the rising anti-Japanese sentiment. Daily, the newspapers chronicled the mounting tension and agitation against Japanese Americans. The FBI arrested several thousand Issei.

Buddhist priests, Japanese language teachers, martial arts instructors, leaders of community organizations and other persons of Japanese birth were deemed "suspicious" and summarily arrested.

Included in the mass incarceration was Yasui's father. At a subsequent hearing, the elder Yasui was put on trial in early 1942 to determine whether he should be held permanently as a dangerous enemy alien. The hearing was conducted by the Justice Department, and with the younger Yasui present to assist his father. Masuo was adjudged a dangerous alien and incarcerated in a Justice Department camp. He was not released until the spring of 1946.

It was during this period of heightened anti-Japanese sentiment that military and political leaders called for the evacuation of Japanese Americans from the West Coast.

On Feb. 19, 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, which empowered the Secretary of War to proscribe "military areas" and to either exclude any or all persons from such areas or to establish the conditions under which persons might enter, remain in, or leave such areas.

Continued on page 6



## YASUI: FIGHT FOR JUSTICE

Continued from Page 5

Lt. General John L. DeWitt, commanding officer of the Western Defense Command, immediately began to issue a series of public proclamations, including the military curfew order which Yasui believed would not be supported by the judicial branch of government.

Determined to secure a judicial ruling, on March 28, 1942, Yasui deliberately violated the curfew order to test its constitutionality. He walked into a Portland police station on Third Avenue and asked to be arrested.

*A Portland city policeman said to the then 25-year-old Min, "Go home, sonny, or you will get in trouble." What that policeman did not know was that Min did not mind getting into trouble when a principle was at stake.*

—Rep. Norman Mineta (D-Calif.)

*On that night he was arrested, he was over at my house. He was about to leave when I noticed that it was past curfew time. I told him that I would drop him off at his house. He told me, "No, just dump me off downtown at the police station. I want to challenge this law. Why should they pick on me? Your dad's German." The immediate personal result was that he was one of the longest solitary prisoners in Multnomah County jail history.*

—Bernard Kliks

While Yasui was awaiting action on the appeal of his conviction for violating curfew orders, Yasui spent nine months in the Multnomah County jail. After the Supreme Court had ruled that Yasui had not forfeited his citizenship, but that the military curfew was constitutional, Judge Fee found that Yasui's nine months in jail was sufficient punishment for the crime. He also suspended the \$5,000 fine that he had earlier imposed.

Upon his release from jail, Yasui was taken to Minidoka camp. While confined, Yasui spent much of his time appealing on behalf of women whose Issei husbands were interned in Justice Department camps.

*One thing we have to admire about him is his stand on evacuation. His ability to speak off-hand without notes is what I really admire about him. I respect his ability to speak out. He's a brilliant speaker, always was.*

—George Azumano

Yasui was granted permission to rejoin family members in Denver in the summer of 1944.

In June 1945, Yasui passed the bar examination, receiving the highest test score, but was informed by the Colorado Bar Committee on Ethics and Qualifications that because of his criminal conviction, he was not of high enough moral character to practice law in Colorado.

After appealing the decision to the Colorado State Supreme Court, Yasui finally won the right to practice in January 1946.

Continued on Page 7

## MARCH FONG EU

Continued from Front Page

went upstairs to take a bath. The burglar probably got in "through an open door which the housekeeper was using to go in and out to throw out garbage," Eu theorized.

The burglar "came up from behind, he grabbed me by the hair," recalled Eu. "I knew my husband was in the house, so I screamed... very loudly." But the house was so large, she said, that her husband heard nothing.

"He struck me," she continued. "He had an axe, he struck me with the blunt end... and told me to shut up or he'd kill me... He asked me for money... and I kept yelling 'Help!'"

## Dragged, Hit and Kicked

The assailant, described as a Black man, 5 feet, 8 inches tall, about 30 years old and weighing about 140 pounds, dragged Eu from room to room, demanding to know where she kept her money. She was able to find \$300 or \$400 in a bedroom and some more money in the kitchen. All the while, "he had me by the hair... if I fell down when he hit me, he would kick me," she said.

Finally, said Eu, the man "proceeded to drag me outside to the patio and he left me... after hitting me, I guess for the purpose of knocking me out."

A search of Eu's neighborhood, an exclusive guarded community called Fremont Place, turned up no clues or suspects.

Flanked by two doctors and two security guards at the press conference, Eu said she has been receiving "letters, cards, telegrams, flowers, gifts from all over... This outpouring of concern has been just overwhelming."

At the same time, she noted, many of the well-wishers are "telling me about experiences they have had, a similar situation. So it's given me much cause to reflect on the whole issue of crime... Is there anything we can do to help people become safer in their own homes?"

Continued on Page 7

## Chapter Pulse

## ARIZONA

- Karaoke Taikai social will take place Dec. 13, 5:30 p.m., at the JACL Hall, 5414 W. Glenn Drive, Glendale. Bento dinners will be available for \$5 each. Info: Mrs. Koyama, (602) 944-1951; Masako Ferreira, (602) 937-0505; Hank Morimoto, (602) 942-4320; or Masako Takiguchi, (602) 934-9637.

## MARINA DEL REY

- Conquer the Bridge 8K Run, co-sponsored by the Gardena Chapter, will take place Nov. 23 beginning at 8 a.m. Course begins at Harbor Boulevard and 6th Street and crosses over the Vincent Thomas Bridge. Entry fee of \$13 includes T-shirt and runner's calendar. Fee is \$10 for run only. Info: (213) 568-1525.

## GOLDEN GATE

- Monthly meeting will take place Nov. 22 from 1—3 p.m. at the National Japanese American Historical Society, 1855 Folsom St. Agenda will include a tour of the facility and a look at the society's collection of photographs, documents and artifacts depicting the Japanese American experience.

## PUYALLUP VALLEY

- Chapter board meeting will take place Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m., at the Tacoma Buddhist Temple, 1717 S. Fawcett. Everyone is welcome to attend.

## SAN FRANCISCO

- Chapter's fourth annual Spaghetti-Crab Feed will take place Dec. 6, 5 p.m., at Christ United Methodist Church, 1700 Sutter St. Advance tickets are \$10 per person. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$15. Info: Naomi Yamaguchi, (415) 445-3812; or Greg Marutani, (415) 641-1697.

## ST. LOUIS

- Chapter will host the annual Christmas Party at Kirkwood Junior High School Dec. 13 at 6:30 p.m. Festivities will include a Japanese buffet, gift exchange and an appearance by Santa Claus.

## WATSONVILLE

- Annual installation dinner-dance will take place Dec. 5 at the Santa Cruz Elks Club. No-host cocktails will be served at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Keynote speaker will be Dr. Gini Bianchi, UC Santa Cruz professor. Info: Patty Kondo, (408) 688-2052, evenings.

## WEST VALLEY

- Chapter's Senior Club is presenting its annual Christmas Boutique through Nov. 26 at the JACL clubhouse, 1545 Teresita Drive, San Jose. Hours are 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.; however, special appointments may be arranged by calling (408) 253-0458.

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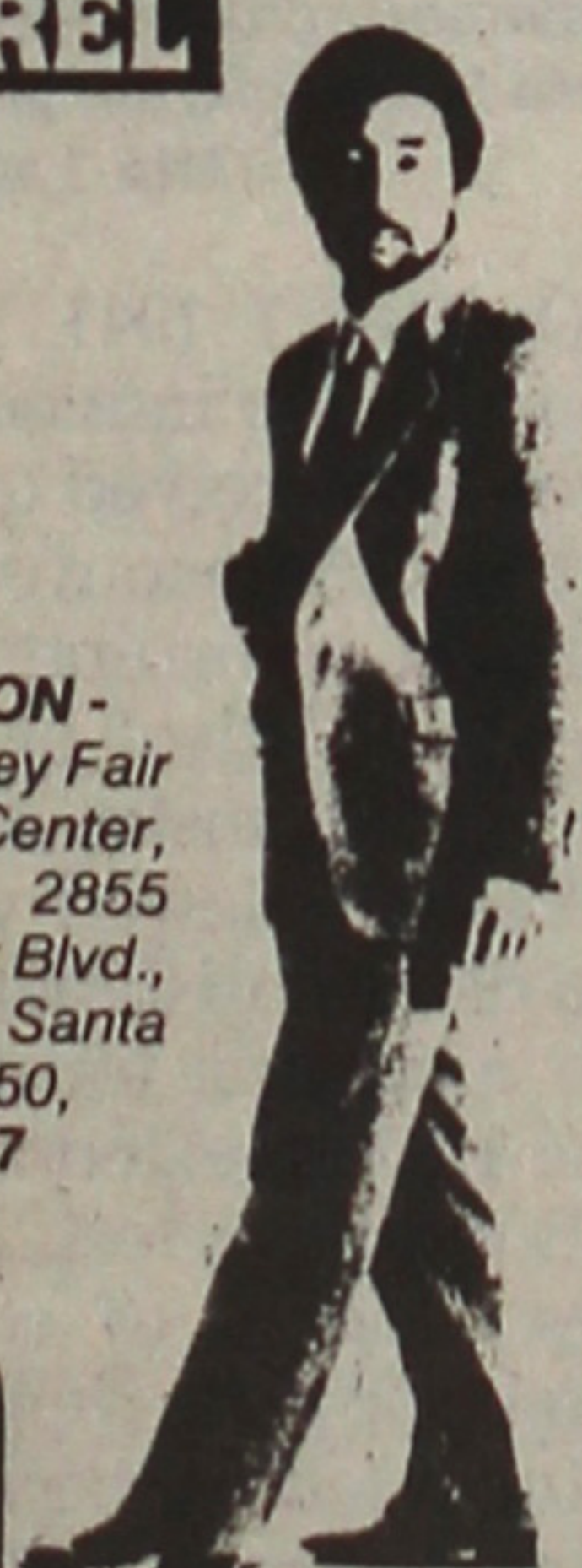
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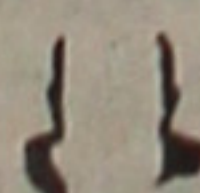
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## Americans for Fairness

# Sacramento Redress Event Set for Nov. 27

SACRAMENTO — Actress Kim Miyori and actor/writer Lane Nishikawa will be the featured performers of what is being billed as a "Japanese American Redress Event" Nov. 29, 7 p.m., at Sacramento City College Auditorium, 3855 Freeport Blvd.

Nishikawa will be presented in his one-man play, "Life in the Fast Lane," which examines the Japanese American experience.

Also scheduled to participate in the event are California Reps. Robert Matsui and Norman Mineta. Both will provide an update on redress efforts in Congress.

Also invited are Sens. Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga of Hawaii.

Proceeds from the event, sponsored by Americans for Fairness, will go toward educational efforts and lobbying for redress.

Tickets are \$25 per person. For more information contact Ray Kyono, (916) 674-8509.

## MARCH FONG EU

Continued from page 6

Because her assailant was "probably on drugs," she emphasized her belief that a war on drugs would reduce the overall crime rate.

Asked whether she is ready to resume a normal workload, Eu said she hoped to do so soon. "I'm doing as much as I can now," she added.

Donations to the reward fund can be sent to CACA Reward Fund, c/o Chinese American Citizens Alliance, 415 Bamboo Lane, Los Angeles, CA 90012.



RECOGNITION OF INTELLIGENCE — Sen. Daniel Inouye (left) received the CIA's highest award, the Agency Seal Medallion, from CIA Director William Casey on Sept. 30 for "outstanding accomplishments as a member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence from May 1976 to January 1985." The Hawaii Democrat served as the first chairman of the committee from 1976 to 1977. He continued as a member of the committee through 1984, when his term ended.

## Supporter of Redress Defeated in New York Congressional Election

NEW YORK — A congressional candidate who had promised to support redress legislation was defeated by the incumbent in the Nov. 4 election.

George Hirsch, a Democrat, sought to represent the 15th District, which runs along the East Side and includes Chinatown and parts of Soho. He lost to Republican Bill Green, 40,136 (42%) to 55,454 (58%), with 99 percent of the precincts reporting.

During an Oct. 14 meeting with members of the 15th Congressional District Rainbow Club, he addressed the issue of redress:

"The dignity and rights of the Japanese Americans interned during WW2 cry out for reparations and redress by our nation. I am in full support of congressional actions... providing for a national apology to those Americans of Japanese ancestry who

were interned, and the establishment of a trust fund for educational and humanitarian purposes, as well as monetary compensation for surviving internees.

"National action on this fundamental issue of civil rights and human dignity is long past due."

—from a report by New York Nichibei

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## YASUI: FIGHT FOR JUSTICE

Continued from Page 6

From 1946 to 1952, Yasui practiced law in Denver. His first clients were primarily indigent minorities, who oftentimes, once acquitted, would neglect to pay him.

In 1967, Yasui was appointed executive director of Denver's Commission on Community Relations, a position he held until he retired in 1983.

In 1963, racial violence erupted in the Five Points section of Denver. Yasui decided to see first hand what was happening. He found out. First he was beated by one of the rocks being hurled through the air. Then he got jumped, beat up, and relieved of his wallet by three neighborhood toughs.

—James Meadow, in Rocky Mountain News, Jan. 16, 1974

Yasui served on numerous Denver agencies and organizations. He was also active in issues of concern to Japanese Americans.

From 1946 to 1952, he served as the Tri-District representative of the JACL. While in that position he worked for the passage of the Japanese Evacuation Claims Act. After Congress passed the act, Yasui helped AJAs file claims.

Uncle Min just never gave up. He was obsessed with justice being done, even when other people thought he was crazy for trying to see justice done. He's a real American folk hero.

—Sharon Maeda

In 1979, Yasui was appointed chair of the JACL Committee on Redress, and in 1982 he was asked to chair the newly formed Legislative Education Committee, which was activated at the 1984 National JACL convention in Honolulu.

On Feb. 1, 1983, Yasui filed a petition for writ of error coram nobis in the Federal District Court of Oregon, requesting a vacation of his 1942 conviction. The case is presently pending on appeal in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

I have to say that I came to JACL because of people like Bob Takasugi and Min Yasui. You lionize people like them. I looked to them as real heroes. They took their special talents to advance our interests. When you look at his life, he was an excellent role model to the Peggy Nagaes and all the other young lawyers. He's a special person. He was an excellent role model as a member of the bar serving the public interest.

—Rose Ochi

Min Yasui stood up, came forward and challenged what he believed to be unconstitutional law, while others faltered or acquiesced. He placed his career, his reputation and his freedom on the line.

Peggy Nagae contributed to this article.

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## YASUI: SERVICES HELD

Continued from Front Page

Fee had erred in ruling the curfew unconstitutional as applied to citizens. It also ruled that Yasui had not forfeited his American citizenship.

So American citizens Yasui and Hirabayashi were convicted of curfew violations on the grounds that in times of military emergency, residents having ethnic ties with the enemy may be a greater source of danger than those of a different ancestry.

Yasui's test of the WW2 laws against Japanese Americans, his subsequent fight to clear his name and the honor of all Japanese Americans, and his commitment to the principles of justice were mentioned by all who spoke about him at his memorial services.

## Tributes From Community

During the ceremony arranged by Denver photographer and Mile-Hi JACL chapter vice president Tom Masamori on behalf of the Yasui family, writer and editor Bill Hosokawa, banker William Funk, Marriott Hotel Southeast executive secretary Darlene Silver, and Chief District Court Judge Sherman Finesilver, all of Denver, and Reps. Norman Mineta and Robert Matsui of California spoke of Yasui's lifelong support for the poor and the underprivileged, and his undying commitment to justice.

Hosokawa briefly outlined Yasui's early life, while Funk, Silver, and Finesilver spoke of the contributions Yasui made to the city of Denver.

Funk, who served six terms as chairman of the Denver Community Relations Commission during the 16-year period that Yasui was the executive director, called Yasui "a hero who touched my life."

As a member of the committee which in 1976 created the Minoru Yasui Community Volunteer Awards (MYCV), Funk said that "as we named the award, there was only one man in our community deserving of such a tribute, ... a living tribute, rather than a memorial."

## 'Spirit of Family'

Funk also reminded those in attendance that during the community turbulence of the '60s and '70s in Denver, with Yasui's constant promotion of the theme, "Let's pull together," a "spirit of family prevailed" while Yasui headed the Community Relations Commission.

Finesilver commented that Yasui was an "innovator, college professor, leader, visionary, humanitarian, lawyer and builder of bridges" who took care of "world matters of little people who had no chance."

Yasui never sent bills to anyone, Finesilver continued. "In reality, he was the first legal aid society of Denver, without portfolio, the first public defender because he cared."

Mineta and Matsui told the gathering about Yasui's fighting spirit and his contributions to Japanese American dignity. Matsui related that although he did

not meet Yasui until 1983, he became aware of Yasui while at law school when he read about *Yasui v. the United States* in his constitutional law class.

It was then that he learned of "the enormity of what really happened to 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry," said Matsui. "That one decision, in my opinion, has put myself and other lawyers who have read that case in a position where we think we have an understanding of justice and what it all means."

"So I would have to say that through that case," Matsui continued, "Minoru Yasui will live in the minds of literally millions of people as long as we have a democratic form of government."

Mineta mourned the death "of a friend and a champion." He added that ever since his arrest, Yasui had fought for "what he knew to be right: the reversal of a terrible injustice—evacuation and the incarceration of American citizens of Japanese ancestry by their own government. And it drove Min wild with anger to think that what happened to us would be precedent in law for similar injustices in the future."

But, Mineta added, in dedication to his memory, "we will carry on with his efforts."

Lise Yasui, speaking on behalf of the family, echoed those sentiments stating, "I think we owe it to [uncle Min] to continue to

speak where his voice left off."

In speaking about Yasui's fight "to make the future a safe place for individual human rights and personal dignity," Lise noted the importance of Yasui's wife True. "I'd like to thank my aunt True," she said, "for her tremendous contribution to that fight. My uncle Min spent many hours on the road away from home, and she supported him and worried about him, took care of him, and urged him in his crusade."

Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii) and Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley sent messages of condolence and tribute. Telegrams from organizations and individuals across the country were also acknowledged.

Services were officiated by Rev. Joseph Sakakibara of Simpson United Methodist Church and Rev. Kanya Okamoto of Tri State Buddhist Temple.

Yasui is survived by his wife True and daughters Iris, Laurel, and Holly of Denver; brothers Ray of Hood River, Ore., Robert of Williamsport, Pa., and Homer of Portland, Ore.; sisters Michi Ando of Denver and Yuka Fujikura of Rockville, Md.; and five grandchildren.

The family has requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be sent to the Minoru Yasui Memorial Fund, United Bank of Denver, c/o Shirley Baird, 1700 Broadway, Denver, CO 80274-0074.

The family of Minoru Yasui gratefully acknowledges the messages of sympathy sent by his many friends, supporters and associates.

We are certain that Min's spirit and commitment will be carried by others and that his voice will continue to be heard.



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## ABC's 'Our World' to Include Segment on Internment of JAs

The Nov. 27 broadcast of the ABC News series "Our World" will include a segment on the internment of Japanese Americans during WW2.

Each program focuses on one year in recent history. In this installment, which deals with how WW2 affected Americans in May, June and July of 1943, interviewees include Mike Masaoka, who discusses the internees who were recruited to fight in Europe and the Pacific, and Robert Mo-

teki of New York, who talks about internees who left camp to harvest crops.

This program was first scheduled for broadcast on Nov. 13 but was preempted by President Reagan's speech on the arms deal with Iran. Check local listings for the exact time of the Thanksgiving broadcast.

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