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Friday, July 10-17, 1987

## Houston Judge Rejects Claim of Discrimination

HOUSTON — Judge Ross Sterling, in a summary judgment on May 28, rejected claims by an Asian American employee of the City of Houston Department of Health and Human Services that he had been racially discriminated against in an employment promotion.

According to court records and testimonies, Dr. Dinh D. Vu, who has a master's degree in public health and a Ph.D., claimed that he had been denied promotional opportunities twice, despite his education and experience in the field of public health since 1956. Vu, who is from Vietnam, has served as senior health planner with the Health Department since 1978.

Early in 1983, the position of Chief of Health Planning was available. Vu applied for the position five days after the posting of the opening. But his application was ruled to be late by Dr. Andrew James, Division Chief of Program Development and Technical Support of the department.

Vu was eventually interviewed by James, and his candidacy was rejected on the grounds that a superior candidate had been found. Loise Bullock, an employee of Texas Instruments who claimed to hold an MBA from Houston Baptist University, was selected because of her strategic planning ability, and her experience in several computer languages, according to James. Bullock was eventually disqualified when the City Personnel Department determined that her MBA degree was non-existent.

A second round of recruitment for the position of Chief of Bureau of Health Planning was instituted. Vu reapplied, but this time James rated him at the bottom of the list of candidates. The list was again topped by Bullock, despite her lack of a master's degree.

James' second recommendation of Bullock was rejected by Dr. James Haughton, Director of the Health Department, who had the final authority in the selection of candidates. Haughton subsequently appointed Dr. Peggy J. Rogers to the position. Rogers holds a master's degree in public health and a Ph.D. Although she applied several days after the deadline for applications, she was chosen for her superior computer knowledge, and her management and communications skills, according to testimonies by James and Haughton.

Vu claimed that after Rogers' appointment, he was subjected to constant retaliation. When he received an award from the Asian Pacific Mental Health Association to attend a 10-day workshop at the University of Michigan and requested permission to use his own accrued vacation time to pursue his continuing education, his request was denied. Vu was one of 20 selected

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Photo by Robert Shimabukuro

LEC Board member Shig Wakamatsu (left) with then-LEC chair Minoru Yasui during meetings of the LEC and JACL boards held in Los Angeles last year. Wakamatsu now chairs the Minoru Yasui Memorial Fund Drive. (Related story on page 2.)

## Yasui Family Requests Court to Review Coram Nobis Case

WASHINGTON — A writ of certiorari requesting a Supreme Court review of Minoru Yasui's *coram nobis* case was filed June 21 on behalf of Yasui's family.

The case was dismissed on March 23 by the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, which agreed with the government that Yasui's death last year had rendered the matter moot.

"We're asking them [the Supreme Court] to review the granting of the government's motion," Peggy Nagae, a Seattle attorney working on the case, told Pacific Citizen. "The government has 30 days to respond and we have about 10 days to reply."

The Supreme Court ruled against Yasui during WW2 when he appealed his conviction for violating a curfew imposed on Japanese Americans. In 1983, Yasui, Fred Korematsu, and Gordon Hirabayashi had their wartime cases reopened on the basis of recently discovered documents which they said showed that the government had falsified evidence in order to justify its actions against JAs.

In 1984, U.S. District Judge Robert Belloni vacated Yasui's conviction but would not rule on the governmental misconduct issue. That decision was still under appeal when Yasui died in November 1986. Yasui's wife True, daughter Holly, and brother Homer filed briefs in January urging that the case be continued.

Nagae could not predict when or if the Supreme Court would agree to review the case, but she did say that if the case is heard, the results would be different from the Court's ruling on the National Council for Japanese American Redress class action suit on June 1. In that case, the justices avoided ruling on the constitutionality of the internment and instead decided that the case had been heard in the wrong appeals court.

"They have to address the issue," she said. "They won't be able to go off on that kind of procedural issue."

## SJR 21 Passes Assembly

SACRAMENTO — State Sen. Ralph C. Dills (D-Gardena) has announced that his resolution urging Congress to remedy the injustices of the wartime internment of Japanese Americans received final approval by the Assembly on June 29.

Senate Joint Resolution 21, adopted by both houses of the Legislature, was introduced by Dills on June 8. The bill urges the President and Congress to approve H.R. 442 and S. 1009, known as the Civil Liberties Act of 1987. Currently pending in Congress, the act would acknowledge the injustice of the relocation and internment of Japanese Americans during WW2.

The bills would establish an education trust fund and provide restitution payments to the 60,000 internees still living. The act also

includes a formal apology from Congress and the President on behalf of the nation.

"This act is a significant effort to restore our fundamental national commitment to the Bill of Rights," Dills said. "The [act] would implement the recommendations of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians which found that those Japanese Americans interned during WW2 were deprived of their basic civil liberties and constitutional rights."

"The commission found that the Japanese were wrongly victimized and violated solely as a result of racial prejudice, war hysteria and a failure of political leadership. My resolution urges that this grave injustice be remedied by our current government."

## Bork's Nomination Seen as Threat to Class Action Suit

CHICAGO — President Reagan's nomination of Robert Bork to fill the Supreme Court vacancy left by Justice Lewis Powell is seen as bad news by the National Council for Japanese American Redress, which is seeking a high court review of its class action lawsuit.

Bork, as a justice of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, has issued an opinion opposing the redress suit. A federal judge had dismissed the suit in 1984 on the grounds that the statute of limitations had expired. On Jan. 21, 1986, a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit ruled that the suit should be allowed to proceed. The government appealed this decision and petitioned for a rehearing. On May 30, 1986, the petition was denied; Bork, however, wrote a dissenting opinion.

"Plaintiffs alleged that the government internment program effected an uncompensated taking of their property," he wrote. "The statute of limitations requires that such claims be brought no later than six years after the right of action accrues. . . . The alleged taking occurred approximately 40 years before this lawsuit was filed. The district court properly held that the statute of limitations barred the claim. That conclusion seems inescapable. . . ."

"The truth is that, had plaintiffs filed their claim earlier, they would have been able to use the relevant documents, most of which were already in the public domain, in building their case, as well as anything else accessible through discovery. . . . the essential facts for a legal challenge were well known by 1950. . . . this suit could have been brought successfully at any time within the past 40 years. . . ."

William Hohri of Chicago, spokesperson for NCJAR, told Pacific Citizen that he thought Bork's confirmation would have an impact on the suit. "My reading of Bork is that he uses the law to promote his own prejudices," he said. "I don't think he's a great legal mind at all."

Hohri called Bork's 1986 opinion "nonsense" because "a suit couldn't have been filed against the U.S." immediately after the war. "Plenty of lawsuits were attempted and they all got kicked out. There wasn't any evidence at the time to indicate the government had committed fraud against the Court." The suit is based in part on declassified government documents discovered in the early 1980s.

The suit was sent to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit on June 1 when the Supreme Court ruled that the D.C. court did not have jurisdiction when it heard the appeal. Hohri said that the suit will be reviewed by the Supreme Court again because whichever side gets a favorable ruling from the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals, the other side will appeal.

Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, who concurred with Bork's dissent while serving on the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, did not take part in the June 1 ruling. Asked if Bork would also recuse himself from the case, Hohri replied, "It's not a requirement, it's more a question of ethics. . . . The problem that Bork will eventually have is that he has already ruled on the issues. It would be very difficult for him to change his opinion, which is in writing. It was a very strongly worded opinion."

## H.R. 442 Receives Seven More Co-Sponsors; Total Reaches 150

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Seven members of the House of Representatives have signed on as co-sponsors of H.R. 442, the Civil Liberties Act of 1987. The bill now has 150 co-sponsors in the House.

Rev. Floyd H. Flake (D-N.Y., 6th district) became a co-sponsor on July 1. Flake sits on the Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs Committee, the Small Business Committee and the Select Committee on Hunger.

On July 7, Reps. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif., 5th district), Ben Nighthorse Campbell (D-Colo., 3rd district) and James L. Oberstar (D-Minn., 8th district) announced their co-sponsorship. Pelosi sits on the Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs Committee and the Government Operations Committee. Campbell serves on the Interior and Insular Affairs, Agriculture and Small Business Committees, and Oberstar serves on the Budget Committee and the Public Works and Transportation Committee.

Rep. Tim Valentine (D-N.C., 2nd district) became a co-sponsor of H.R. 442 on July 8. Valentine serves on the Public Works and Transportation Committee and the Science, Space and Technology Committee.

Reps. Doug Bereuter (R-Neb., 1st district) and Ron de Lugo (D-Virgin Is.), a non-voting delegate to the House of Representatives, recently signed on as co-sponsors. Bereuter serves on the Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs Committee, the Foreign Affairs Committee and the Select Committee on Hunger. De Lugo serves on the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, the Post Office and Civil Service Committee, and the Public Works and Transportation Committee.

### Summer Schedule

Next Issue Dated  
JULY 24-31, 1987

Adv. Deadline — Fri., July 24  
News Deadline — July 27

## Yasui Fund Drive Formally Launched

CHICAGO — The Minoru Yasui Memorial Fund drive was formally launched over the July 4 weekend with more than 28,000 letters sent to individuals across the country.

The purpose of the fund drive is to defray the legal costs for Yasui's *coram nobis* case, which may be reviewed by the Supreme Court (see story on page 1).

In his letter of appeal, fund drive chair Shig Wakamatsu said, "The record of Min Yasui's life-long fight for justice since the spring of 1942 is a legacy for all Americans to honor. Particularly for Japanese Americans, his struggle for justice symbolized our collective struggle, a truth more poignantly acknowledged upon his untimely death last November. There remains the unfinished business of his *coram nobis* case...."

"The primary purpose of this fund drive... is to assist the Yasui family to pursue the *coram nobis* case to its conclusion.... Without this judicial review, the presumption of disloyalty, which was the principal basis for the 1942 evacuation, will remain in our legal annals despite civil and military records to the contrary."

In keeping with Yasui's last wishes, any funds remaining after the legal expenses will be forwarded to JACL for the legislative redress campaign.

Wakamatsu, noting that Yasui was chair of the JACL Legislative Education Committee during the last two years of his life, said, "Min performed a tremendous task in educating the public, particularly the young, to the tragedy of the WW2 detention and the issue of redress."

Because the Senate redress bill has 75 co-sponsors and the House bill has 143, added Wakamatsu, "The Senate bill is assured, but we have a ways to go in the House. Thus, every dollar contributed beyond what will be required for the *coram nobis* case will go toward the passage of H.R. 442."

According to Wakamatsu, the mailout constitutes the single largest effort to obtain support for the redress program from individuals.

Contributions, which are not tax-deductible, can be made out to the Min Yasui Memorial Fund and sent to the JACL Midwest Office, 5415 N. Clark St., Chicago, IL 60640.

## DISCRIMINATION

Continued from previous page

from a pool of candidates throughout the U.S. to attend this workshop, which was especially tailored to the needs of Asian communities.

According to legal briefs and testimonies, Vu was also continuously rated low in his job performance ratings for unsubstantiated reasons, although he had been previously rated impeccable in his professional performance and was promoted from Planner II to Planner III in October of 1982.

Another incident of alleged retaliation involved the order of the administration for Vu to use his own vehicle to transport a fellow worker. When he expressed concern about the possibility of his car insurance being invalidated should an accident occur during the trip, he was threatened with suspension and counseling. Vu appealed this disciplinary action to the Civil Service Commission, which ruled in his favor.

Vu also said that he was threatened again with disciplinary actions if he claimed more than seven days of sick leave in a year. By city regulations, Vu was allowed 14 days of sick leave

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a year.

After a jury of 7 persons heard arguments from both sides for 2½ days, Judge Sterling dismissed the suit on the grounds that there was insufficient evidence for the jury to consider. If Vu files an appeal, he must do so within 90 days of the decision.

Betty Waki of Houston JACL said the case is significant because Asians "are not a protected minority across the board [in Houston]. If you're not Black or Hispanic, many people don't think there's any discrimination." She noted that Houston's school district still considers Asian teachers to be white.

The chapter is a member of the Council of Asian American Organizations; Waki is the group's affirmative action coordinator.

—from reports by U.S. Asia News and Pacific Citizen staff

## Union Supports Redress Bills

PORTLAND — The Federated Auxiliaries of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union has supported the passage of redress bills H.R. 442, H.R. 1631, and S. 1009.

The two House bills provide redress for Japanese Americans and Aleuts, respectively, who were relocated during WW2. The Senate bill would compensate both groups.

The resolution was one of several passed during the Federated Auxiliaries' four-day convention, which ended June 18. Delegates from 14 auxiliaries from San Diego to British Columbia attended.

No matter how long you've lived in California, chances are you haven't really seen it. Explored, discovered or traveled it. This state is so diverse it could be its own country. Which is why, if you want a great place to take your family, you'd do well to stay right here.

Welcome to the Californias. Welcome to home.

### The North Coast

Have you ever stood next to a Redwood tree? Can you even look up that high? They've

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been here since the dinosaurs. Slightly longer than the Russians who settled here in 1812. (And built a fort that still stands.)



This part of the world is another time. Breakfasts are big. Everything feels solid. Hearty. Homey.

Pick out a painting from one of the local artists. Sit on a beach surrounded by miles and miles of nothing. Get to know your kids. When they talk about freedom, this is what they mean.

### The Gold Country

It all began right here. Remember 1849? Fortunately, things haven't changed much since then.

You can still pan for gold. Wander through towns with names like Rough 'n Ready and Fiddletown. You like white-water rafting? This is the capital. How about antiques (as in saloonfuls of Tiffany glass)?

Sleep in a hundred year old hotel. Go to a jumping frog contest. Follow the tracks to the most famous railroad museum in the whole world.

### Shasta Cascade

This is God's country. The air is crystal clear.



The Mount-over high eagles than More trout do, too.

Shasta is a fisherman's dream; every kid's fantasy. Go wind-surfing. Hop on a jetski. Learn to rock-climb (at a state park born 225 million years ago). And before you leave a gold mining town called Weaverville, grab a glass of sarsaparilla to go.

### The Central Valley

If you ever wondered what life on the Mississippi was like, come to the Delta. Rent yourself a houseboat and go up the lazy river. Fish for catfish and crawdads. While you watch the world go by.

Visit the state capitol. Take

in a rodeo. Go for a balloon ride. And have yourself some of the freshest fruit on earth.

### The High Sierra

Imagine a range of polished granite that goes on for 400 miles. It's where Yosemite lives; what Ansel Adams' photographs have been trying to tell you. Climb a mountain. Watch a dog sled race. And if you've never seen a Giant Sequoia (those trees that look like skyscrapers), they're up here too.

This is what the High Sierra is about. Look up wilderness or astonishment in the dictionary. You'll see its picture.

### San Francisco

The big city. Golden Gate Bridge. Cable cars. Chinatown. Alcatraz. Fresh crab at Fisherman's Wharf. Chocolate from Ghirardelli



Square. Take your appetite. Your taste for culture. And leave your heart.

Head up to the wine country. Watch for whales in Monterey. And give your regards to Mayor Eastwood in a storybook town called Carmel.

These are the Californias. If you thought you'd already been here, think again.

## The Californias

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## Assembly Passes AB 1375 Nishikawa Vows

SACRAMENTO — State bill AB 1375, which would appropriate \$115,000 for development of two educational films—one on the internment of Japanese Americans during WW2 and the other on the Armenian genocide—passed out of the Assembly on June 25.

Authored by Assembly Speaker Pro Tempore Mike Roos (D-Los Angeles), the bill would provide resources for California teachers to help educate students about the human rights violations. The educational materials that are currently available are old and outdated, according to Roos, and have a very narrow focus.

"I am attempting to provide two comprehensive films on these issues so that the mandated model curriculum can be

implemented," Roos said.

In its original form, the bill made the films available to both public and private schools and required a two-thirds vote. According to Roos, after Republicans were initially able to delay passage of the measure out of the Assembly, he amended the bill to make the films available only to public schools. This enabled it to pass on a simple majority vote, since the State Constitution requires the Legislature to pass spending bills by a two-thirds vote, but authorizes spending on public schools by a majority vote.

The bill, which would not be enacted until Jan. 1, 1988, will next be heard in the Senate Education Committee, where Roos hopes to amend it back to its original form.

## Contract Increase

LOS ANGELES — Board of Public Works Commissioner Dennis Nishikawa, citing a historic lack of participation by Asian Americans in the city's contracting process, recently announced that the first in a series of workshops designed to reverse that trend will take place July 21 from 2 to 5 p.m. at City Hall.

Nishikawa, guest speaker at the Asian American Architects and Engineers (AAAE) general meeting at the Savoy Restaurant in May, vowed to do his part as the board's first Asian American member to increase the number of city contracts awarded to minorities.

"I have dedicated and announced that my emphasis and focus will be on minority and women business enterprise forces," he said. "There is no good reason why we cannot partake of this public process."

According to Nishikawa, the city has approximately \$150 to \$200 million in contracts and services each year. Of that figure, \$20 to \$30 million is awarded for architectural and engineering services.

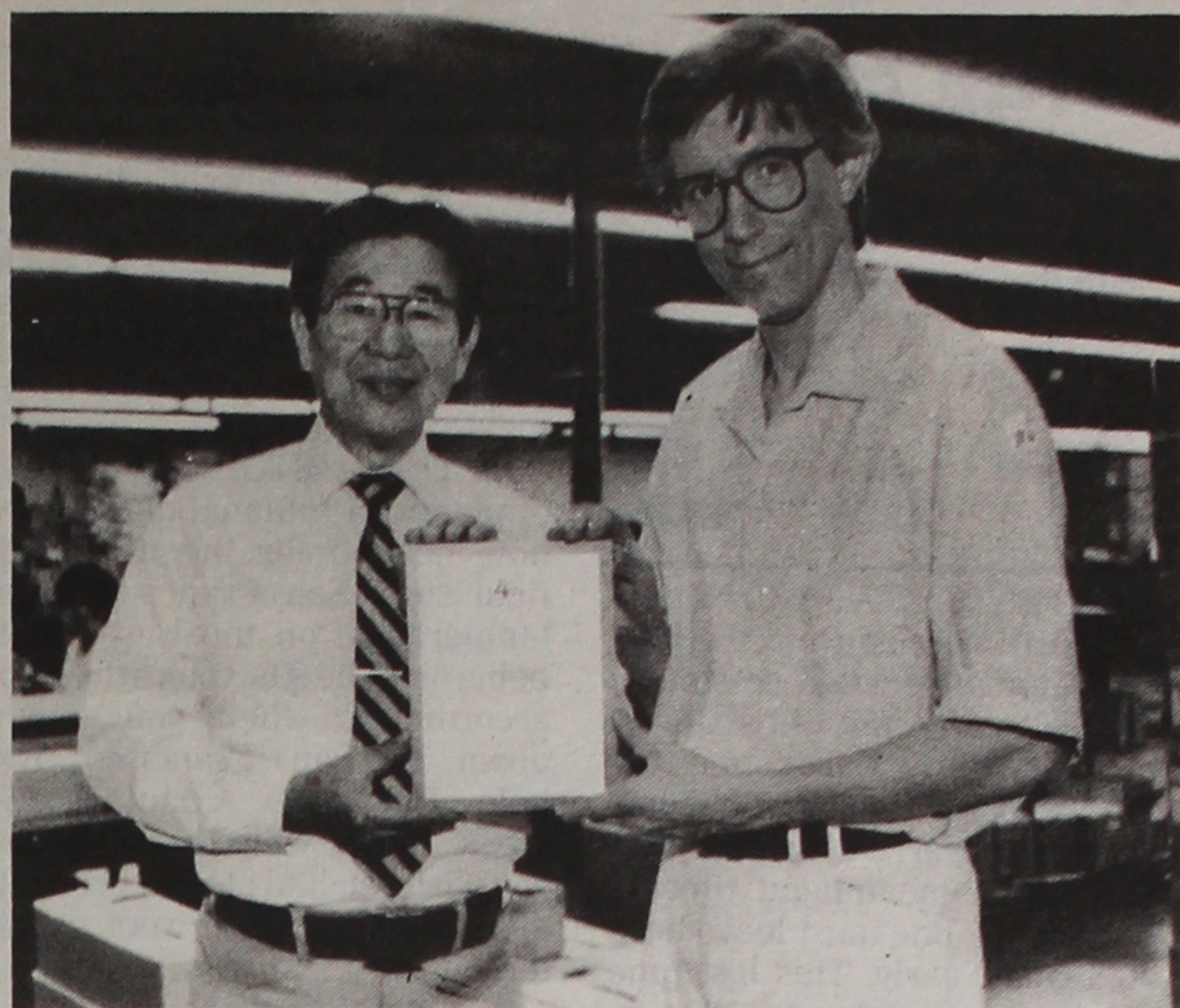
In addition, the commissioner said that the Board of Public Works "has some of the largest waste water engineering programs going on today and on the horizon."

"We intend to spend about \$2 to \$3 billion over the next eight to ten years to reconstruct city sewer systems," said Nishikawa, adding that the city has already spent about \$800 million dollars on the Hyperion water treatment plant near El Segundo.

"We as Asian Americans have every right to compete in this area," he told his audience. "But you need to roll up your sleeves, just as I must roll up my sleeves, to walk down a path targeting good economics, good work and community service."

Nishikawa urged all persons interested in learning about the city's contracting process to attend the workshop, co-sponsored by the Board of Public Works and the AAAE.

For further information, contact the board office at (213) 485-3379.



Sachio Kano has been awarded KNBC-TV's Spirit of Southern California Plaque, presented for outstanding community service, for creating Asian Rehabilitation Services in downtown Los Angeles. Kano founded ARS in 1972 to provide services for the developmentally disabled who couldn't speak English. The center serves more than 100 disabled clients a day through vocational, educational and community services. The award was presented to Kano by Fritz Coleman, Channel 4 weatherman.

## Onizuka Honored with NEA Award

LOS ANGELES — Ellison Onizuka, astronaut of the ill-fated Challenger space shuttle, was named as the first recipient of an award renamed in his honor at the 21st annual National Education Association's Human and Civil Rights Awards on July 3 at the Bonaventure Hotel.

Onizuka posthumously received the Ellison S. Onizuka Memorial Award, which will be given annually for furthering the achievement of equal opportunity

for Asians and Pacific Islanders.

A mission specialist, Onizuka visited numerous schools throughout the country after his first space mission in 1985. A product of the Hawaii public school system, his example inspired the Hawaii State Board of Education to create a roll call of outstanding high school graduates and the Hawaiian people and business community to create a scholarship for high school graduates who plan to study aerospace science.

## Survey Underway: How Charitable Are Asian Americans?

SAN FRANCISCO — To what extent do Asian Americans donate to charitable organizations? How much do they give to Asian agencies and how much to "mainstream" causes such as the United Way? What are the cultural reasons for their giving, or not giving? These are some of the questions to be addressed in the Asian American Charitable Giving Study by researcher Rosalyn Tonai.

Tonai's independent study is sponsored by the University of San Francisco's Nonprofit Management Institute and partially funded by a grant from the Ford Foundation. She is working with organizations such as the Asian Foundation for Community De-

velopment, Asian Law Caucus, and East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation.

To research her subject, Tonai developed a survey which is being sent to 2,000 Asian Americans selected from Asian community organization mailing lists and from the telephone book. Results should be available this fall.

"A lot of people say Asians give, or don't give, but there's little quantitative information on this topic," said Tonai. "I'm hoping that my study will contribute to an understanding of the Asian American community, serve as a basis for future research, and also help Asian non-profits know

Continued on page 9

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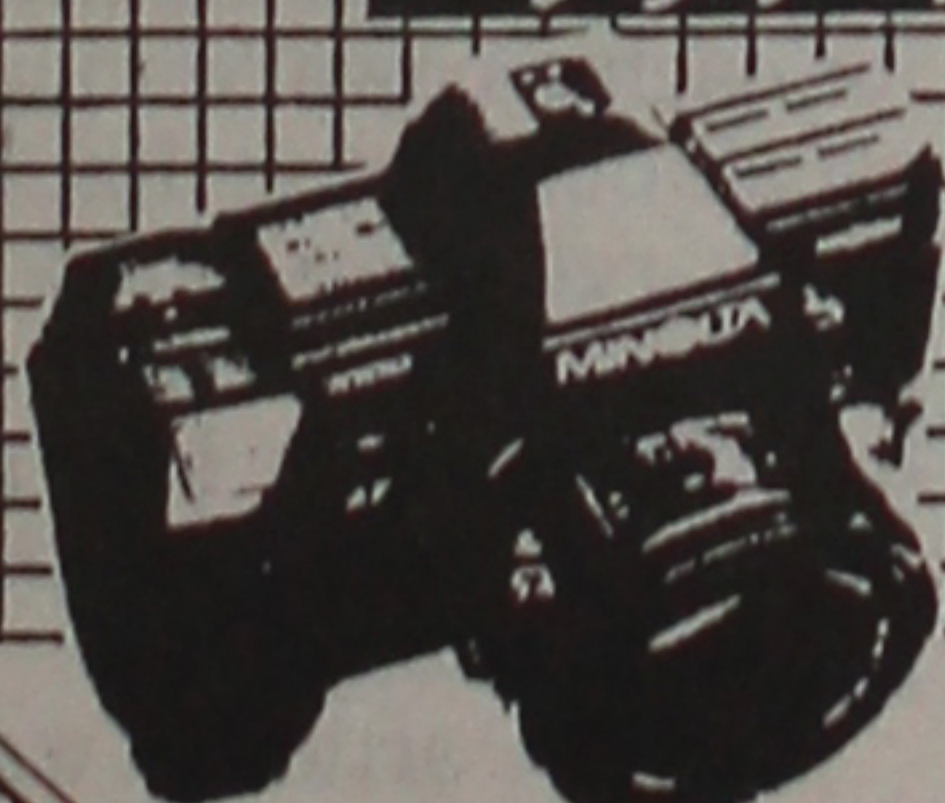
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## From East to West... and Back!

EAST WIND

Bill Marutani



ATTENDING A JACL National Board meeting from the East Coast for a weekend session in San Francisco not only can be, but in fact is an exhausting venture, at least for this ancient one. In order to arrive on the West Coast at a meaningful time to participate, one must leave here on Friday, early. This last time out, it meant catching a 7:00 a.m. flight to touch down in San Francisco around 11:00 a.m. No, that's not a four-hour time span; you have to add on the time zone differential of three more hours. And four plus three equals seven—"hours," that is.

And I swear, those tourist-class accommodations get more cramped each time.

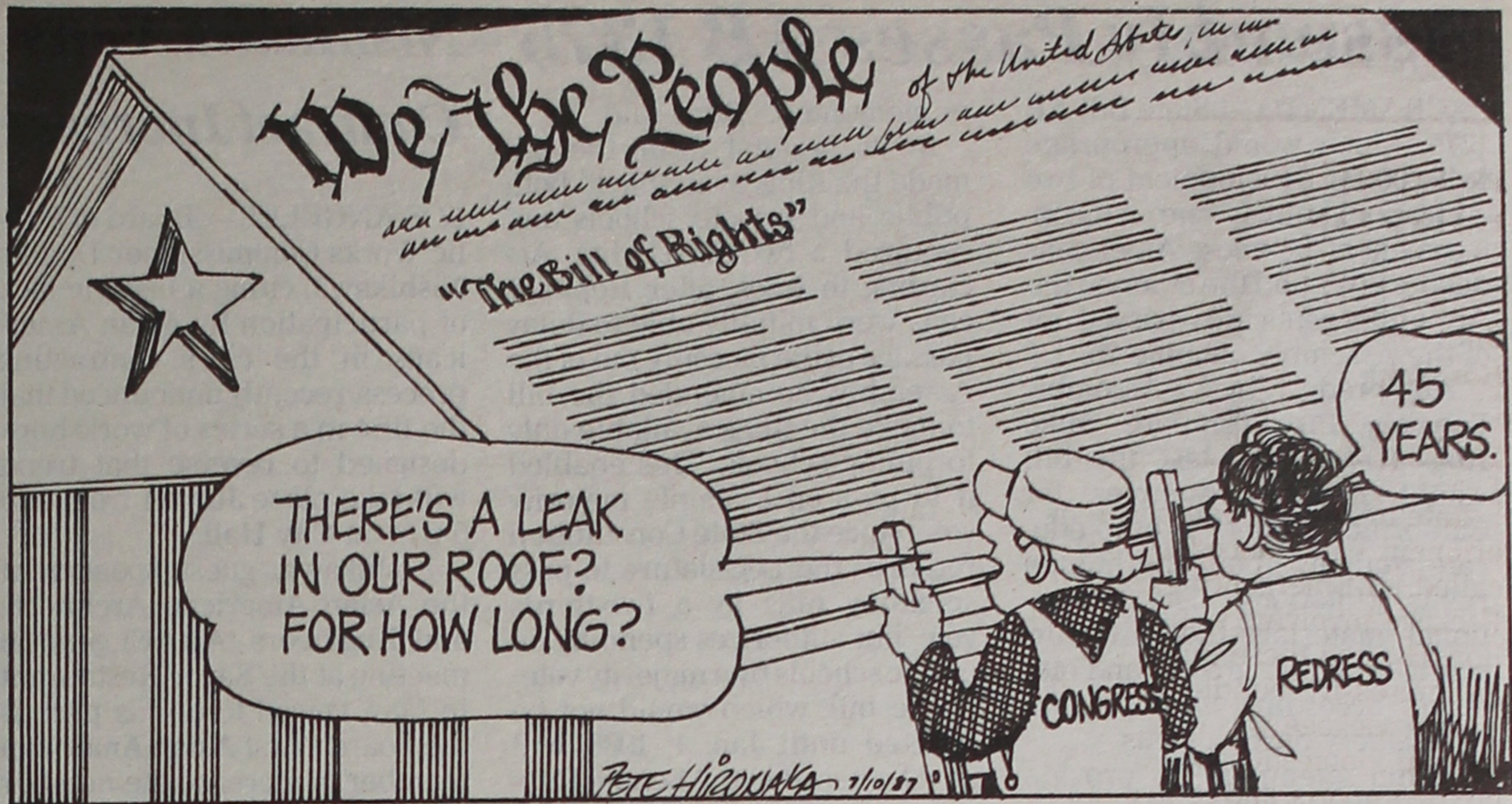
NOW, IN ORDER to be at the airport by 7:00 a.m., this means leaving the house before 6:00 a.m. And in order to leave the house by that time, it means one has to get up quite a bit before 6:00 a.m. And the fact that you stayed up late the night before, doing some hurried, last-minute

packing, and finally "hit the sack" past midnight means that you got very little sleep. So it's a very groggy person that drags himself aboard the jet, squeezing himself into that cramped seating.

AFTER A STOP and change of planes in Indianapolis, one is now headed for the next and final stop: San Francisco. The temperature on the East Coast being near the 90's, you've dressed accordingly; when you touch down in San Francisco, it's below 60 degrees. A damp 60 degrees. If not your down parka, you wish you had at least brought along a toasty-warm wool sweater.

A short-sleeved shirt can be mighty cold on such occasions. And wearing those white sneakers looks absolutely out of place.

AFTER DROPPING OFF your sparse luggage at the Kyoto Inn, you immediately head for the JACL National Headquarters office nearby for a meeting scheduled for 1:30 p.m. As the meeting progresses, the prior night's lack of sleep, the cramped flight, and seven hours of "being on the road" slowly but surely begin to take their toll. The West Coast folks are sharp, alert and bright-eyed in their common time zone. You, on the other hand, are struggling to try to give the impression that you're "right on top"



with the others. As the hour reaches 4:00 or 5:00, your stomach reminds you that its "clock" is nearer 8:00 p.m. And all the *sushi*, *nabeyaki-udon* and other delectables sold around the corner in the various shops in Japan Town await you.

IT ALMOST SEEMS rude to the West Coast denizens that as soon as the meeting finally concludes, you head for the door and disappear. But generally you persuade a few of them to join you for an "early" (for them) dinner. And being the gracious hosts that they are, they join you. Upon completing a welcome repast of your brand of "soul food," your ever-gracious hosts suggest some

follow-up activity; after all, the evening is "young" (for them). Your woozy mind and weary body say, "Nay," and you drag yourself back to the hotel and "sack out."

And I do mean "out." THE FOLLOWING MORNING when you arise, it's still dark outside. While it may be 7:30 a.m. your time (East Coast), it's 4:30 a.m. local time. And locally, it's dark. So you head back to bed and fretfully try to sleep, somehow managing to pretend to get some rest for a few hours. Going downstairs for some breakfast, or more accurately, hoped-for breakfast, nothing is open. It's too early.

More sitting around. GOING THE OTHER direction from the West Coast back to the East Coast and home, one might think that a compensating time factor would come into play—to make up for the time differential you've endured during the weekend. After a Sunday morning session of the National Board, you rush for the San Francisco International Airport for your 1:00 flight, with a stop and change of planes en route. It is 11:00 p.m. by the time you cross the threshold of your home.

As I write this, it is the second day after returning. I'm slowly unwinding back to normal routine.

## For the Record

Business proceeded briskly at the June 20-21 National Board meeting. Consequently, I am appreciative of the tasking that befell the PC reporter (in this case, acting editor J.K. Yamamoto) to take everything down and keep everything straight. I have tried to take minutes at meetings, and I know it is a difficult job.

In an attempt to avoid misconceptions and misunderstandings by concerned PC readers attributable to incomplete information, I wish to fill in the gaps which necessarily result because news coverage is only a "snapshot" of the total picture.

### No New Manual Committee

Contrary to the "JACL Board Votes on New Personnel Manual Committee" headline for the National Board meet coverage, no new personnel manual committee was appointed or voted in. The ad hoc committee on the personnel manual update submitted their work. The National Board accepted this committee's submittal. What committee was appointed?

In compliance with the current applicable JACL personnel manual (effective Feb. 1, 1986) the President initiated action about 40 days prior to the National Board meet seeking the chair and members of the JACL Personnel Advisory Committee. The manual says "the purpose of this commit-

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Harry Kajihara



tee is to serve in an advisory capacity to the National Board and the National Director in the formulation of JACL personnel practices and procedures, review the effects and results of current policies, and recommend necessary changes to the National Board and National Director."

Contrary to past practice, this President chose members from the board to serve on this committee because I feel that board members (1) are in the best position to be knowledgeable on current personnel practices, (2) are liable for the actions of JACL, and (3) through familiarity can best assess the results of policies and formulate necessary change.

The President also sought national representation. The committee members and chair consenting to serve were one governor west of the Rockies, Mae Takahashi, two governors east of the Rockies, Steve Hasegawa and Mike Suzuki, Governors' Caucus

chair Denny Yasuhara, who by his position receives direct input from all district governors, VP of Operations Yosh Nakashima, whose office involves dealing with personnel matters, and legal counsel Gene Takamine (non-voting) to input on legal matters.

There are concerns about (1) having members on this committee steeped in knowledge on personnel practices (2) the advisability of representation by staff on this committee and (3) committee continuity. Consequently, one of the four tasks assigned to this committee is to develop possible solutions to these concerns for board review.

The remaining three tasks assigned to the committee include: (1) taking the work of the ad hoc committee on personnel manual update, the staff's version, and the current personnel manual to produce a board-approved manual for distribution at the opening National Board meeting at the Seattle convention, (2) developing a process for familiarizing new board members with the personnel manual at the Seattle convention, and (3) performing all work required to define actions to be taken on the JACL fixed annuity retirement plan.

### Retirement Plan

This President has discovered that the JACL Fixed Annuity Retirement Plan was adopted in 1982. This plan calls for the appointment of a JACL Retirement Committee to oversee this plan. No committee has ever been appointed. I believe that JACL needs to meet its employee fringe benefit commitments.

In this regard, JACL needs a committee in place to continually monitor the retirement fund investment program, make certain sufficient moneys are raised to cover JACL's retirement plan monetary obligations, and so on. JACL's commitment has reached \$33,309.13 as of September 1986, a 23% rise in four years. The JACL personnel advisory committee has been tasked to study and develop recommendations on the actions that need implementation on this retirement plan.

### Meeting With Director

Soon after the February National Board meeting, the National

President believed that it was necessary to convene a meeting with the National Director and National Board representatives attending. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss and gather information to serve as a base for the formulation of improved JACL personnel practices and policies.

Upon concurrence by honorary legal counsel Bill Marutani that he would preside over this meeting, the President requested VP of Operations Yosh Nakashima to attend because he was soon to be approved by the board as personnel advisory committee chair, and Denny Yasuhara as the governors' caucus chair. The VP of Operations advised the President that due to another personal commitment, he could not attend.

The topics discussed included policies on severance pay, educational opportunities for staff, promotions, evaluation procedures, salary schedule updates, retirement plans, vacation record keeping, written agreements with program employees. Minutes of this meeting will be finalized through review by all persons attending and made an official record supplementing the board minutes. The personnel advisory committee will be tasked to review the meeting proceedings and develop follow-up actions needed for board approval.

### SRS Group Consultants, Inc.

In 1985, a contract was entered by JACL with SRS Group Consultants, Inc. The purpose was to have a professional firm conduct membership recruitment by mailout process. On June 17, 1987, this President was advised by Administrative Director David Nakayama that the contract signed with SRS, in part, agreed to:

(1) SRS handling all renewals of members they recruit through the year 1990, (2) \$5 minimum charge for each renewal with inflationary escalation clause that leaves this \$5 charge open-ended, and (3) a fee of \$5 for each renewal obtained by SRS through 1990 payable to SRS at the rate of \$1 per renewal per year through 1995.

In the PC article, it was reported that "board members were angry that the contract gave SRS \$1 per membership renewal for 5 years for each member obtained through

mailout. Suzuki said that failure to detect the clause could not be blamed on one person, noting that the national director, national legal counsel and national president had reviewed the contract." The names of the referenced national president and legal counsel reviewing this contract were inadvertently left out, giving the erroneous impression that Kajihara and Takamine reviewed and approved the contract. For the record, the contract was signed in 1985. The president was Frank Sato and the legal counsel was Floyd Shimomura.

The President, complying with the board recommendation, will appoint a committee to review the SRS Project. This committee will be tasked to develop an approach which will result in the maximum benefit for JACL.

### Advance to LEC

The \$75,000 grant to LEC was changed to a \$75,000 loan during the previous administration. This money was an advance from the anticipated 4-year chapter pledge fund. The current administration recognizing the financial conditions of the JACL treasury from which the advance was made, enacted deferment of \$25,000, reducing the loan to \$50,000 until such time that the moneys materialized under the pledge program.

The "books could be closed" in accordance with Secretary-Treasurer Alan Nishi's wishes if an additional \$12,000, approximately one-half of the outstanding 4-year pledge, is received.

### Cooperative Pluralism

Mako Nakagawa (Seattle Chapter), educator and National Ethnic Concerns chair, gave a presentation on cooperative pluralism. As I understand it, fighting prejudice instilled in people is a reactive measure, likely never ending. Instead, a proactive measure would have the possibility of eradicating prejudice.

Educate from a very early age that both the prejudicer and the prejudice suffer and lose. With educational exposure of this concept to all the young ones, in time this understanding will prevail and in the distant future prejudice will be wiped out. I understand

Continued on page 5

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## Japan's PR Gap Needs Narrowing

FROM THE  
FRYING PAN

Bill  
Hosokawa



Late in May the Japanese government announced what it called an Emergency Economic Package involving some \$43 billion. Even in these times, that is an impressive bundle.

The package was designed to expand domestic spending, increase imports, and contribute to the international community. All of this was calculated to improve the imbalance of world trade and ease pressures on Japan.

Among other things, the program would reduce Japanese taxes by \$7 billion (thus stimulating spending for consumer goods), launch a large public works program, promote housing investment, create 300,000 new jobs, reduce consumer prices, and open up markets to foreign goods.

The Nakasone government thought these were very significant moves. They are indeed. If similar steps were taken in the U.S. they would be front-page news for days, and grist for editorial comment for weeks. Recognizing the importance of its action, the government issued a series of news releases.

Problem was, they weren't news releases at all. They were fact sheets. Only if one were determined enough could one get through the verbiage and find out what it was all about.

From all that I can gather, Japan expected its action to make quite a media splash in the U.S. The expectation was natural in view of persistent American

carping about Japan's economic success, particularly since the emergency economic measures were an impressive response to the criticism.

But what happened? Not much, not much at all. The economic papers, like the *Wall Street Journal*, carried fairly comprehensive stories. *Time* magazine had a line or two. Local newspapers all but ignored the news, and Tokyo can be forgiven for some measure of exasperation.

I think there's a lesson here that deserves study. That old bugaboo, the culture gap, took over in this case and a substantial part of the responsibility is Japan's.

In the first place, there was a matter of unrealistic expectations. Japan expected applause for an action that provoked yawns. Tokyo had been talking interminably about emergency measures that would stem the trade deficit, and when details were announced, the U.S. press reaction was ho-hum, show me.

The experts tell us that it is a Japanese cultural trait to move very slowly toward a consensus. At times, it seems to Americans there is no movement at all, which irritates them; but to the Japanese, lack of movement is not necessarily lack of progress.

Then, once a consensus is reached and a decision made, the Japanese consider the job as good as done. This may be so, but from the American point of view a statement of intentions without tangible results didn't provide much to respond to. We know from experience that there is many a slip between the cup and lip.

If both sides understood these disparate viewpoints, there would be fewer hard feelings. But I fear it's going to take a long time before the cultural gap is bridged.

## Moving On

by J.K. Yamamoto

I first came to PC in the summer of 1984, when I was needed to take the place of an assistant editor who had quit after one week—a PC record that has never been broken. Now, three years and three editors later, I regret to announce that I too am bowing out.

Starting this summer, I will be joining the staff of the Hokubei Mainichi in San Francisco as English editor. The July 3 PC marked the end of my tenure as acting editor here.

It was a tough decision. I had not intended to leave PC so soon; there were stories I wanted to write and projects (such as the stringer network, which is only now getting off the ground) I wanted to oversee.

On the other hand, I had long been contemplating a move to the Bay Area, having lived almost my entire life in the L.A. area, and an opportunity to work in San Francisco—not to mention a chance to work at a paper similar to PC—does not come along every day. In the end, the latter argument won out.

For those who are still confused about PC staff changes, here is a quick recap from the beginning of this year. Lynn Sakamoto, who had been hired as editor last year, stepped down from that position in mid-February. I became acting editor and Lynn continued to help on a part-time basis until the end of May. Since I ended up as a one-man editorial department, plans were made to hire an assistant editor. (The hiring of a permanent editor was postponed when the PC Board chair learned

there was only one applicant.)

With the news of my imminent departure, it was decided to hire two assistant editors instead of one, since at least two people are needed to staff the editorial side of the paper. (Those who say that one person is enough fail to understand that such a setup means unreasonably long hours for that individual, or a drop in the quality of the paper, or both.)

I am happy to report that the assistant editor search produced a number of applicants and that two have been hired.

Laurie Mochidome of Gardena, Calif., has worked with me on the two issues preceding this one; George Toshio Johnston of Boulder, Colo., will have started his new job by the time this issue comes out. They can do a better

Continued on Page 7

## KAJIHARA

Continued from previous page

that action has been initiated in the Washington state educational system in this regard.

### Tri-District Convention

On Aug. 5-9, a five-day "East of the Rockies" Tri-District Convention will be hosted by the Mile-Hi Chapter of the Mountain Plains district with the Midwest and Eastern Districts participating. The convention will be held in Denver. Bob Sakaguchi is president of the Mile-Hi Chapter. The governors of the respective districts are Steve Hasegawa, Tom Hara, and Mike Suzuki.

## REDRESS PLEDGES

As of May 31, 1987

DISTRICT (Amount Received/Total Pledge)

|                                      |      |
|--------------------------------------|------|
| Pac. S.W. (\$17,874/\$37,345)        | 48%  |
| No. Cal./W. Nev. (\$47,277/\$47,252) | 100% |
| Pac. Northwest (\$5,330/\$7,745)     | 69%  |
| Mountain Plains (\$2,165/\$2,295)    | 94%  |
| Eastern (\$4,137/\$4,025)            | 103% |
| Midwest (\$9,135/\$9,145)            | 100% |
| Cent. Cal. (\$6,695/\$7,465)         | 90%  |
| Intermountain (\$3,000/\$5,570)      | 54%  |

## Traveling the Long Road to Justice: A Report on Redress

LEC  
UPDATE

Grayce  
Uyehara



Nobody said getting redress for Japanese Americans would be easy. We knew we would go through hard and rough terrain. Even among our own people, some believed that those who worked for redress were impossible dreamers, wasting both time and money.

But we've kept inside our heads that, win or lose, we would have given our best in the fight to petition our government to redress the grievances of the 120,000 people who lost their freedom without due process and the other protections guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Though we now see momentum building for the redress legislation, we need to know where we are today and what we can do during the month of July, besides celebrating Independence Day.

On June 17, H.R. 442 was passed by the full Judiciary Committee by a roll call vote of 28 to 6 to be sent to the House. The individual payment to the surviving victims is still intact, though we have legislators who do not think payment should be made. Though Rep. Dan Lungren (R-Calif.), who served on the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, presented his amendment, which would strike out the individual payment and leave \$50 million to educational programs, it was defeated by a roll call vote of 26 to 8.

It is not an overstatement to say that since H.R. 442 passed from the Judiciary Committee with strong support the signs are positive. But our major problem is that many members of the House have not been contacted on the redress issue; therefore,

our prediction would have to be guarded. That is why we must use this momentum to reach as many members of Congress as possible during the next month.

To show that we cannot relax while our bills are moving forward, I will explain where they still must go.

The mark-up of S. 1009 by the full Governmental Affairs Committee has yet to have a date set, since the tentative date of June 30 had to be set aside. The indications now are for a mid-July mark-up with chairman John Glenn of Ohio presiding. With more than a majority of the Governmental Affairs Committee on board as co-sponsors of S. 1009, there should be no problem with passage. No prediction can be made about amendments which could come out during the mark-up.

In the House, H.R. 442 may go to the Rules Committee, which would expedite floor action by setting conditions for debate and amendments on the floor. This is what is meant by the bill still having a long road to travel. We are not through with the possibility of more amendments since this bill is controversial for some members. Then the bill goes to the floor of the House, where it will be debated, usually amended, passed or defeated. If passed, it goes to conference action, since S. 1009 is a related bill, and both versions can go straight to conference.

Finally, the version from conference is sent to each chamber (Senate and House) for final approval. Following that last step, the bill, approved by both houses, is sent to the President, who can sign it into law or veto it. It will take two-thirds majority votes in both houses to override a veto and have the bill become law without the President's signature.

On the Senate side, there is one step less. If S. 1009 is reported by the full Governmental Affairs Committee, the bill can then go to the Senate floor for action and through the rest of the same procedure as the House bill.

It is, indeed, a long road to justice, but we are out of the basement and can see the progress we have made. Much of what happens next will depend on us. Will we be able to say that we gave redress our best shot?

The political process is not predictable, but a politician's place in Washington is determined by the constituents. This is why the major letter-writing campaign and whatever individual contacts can be made in the districts with the legislators are crucial to having them understand the redress issue.

Also, there is a certain reality about how a bill comes through from the time of introduction until final passage. Without sufficient support in the form of votes, no bill will move forward. In each congressional session, thousands of bills are introduced only to have several hundred survive to passage.

Therefore, no one should ever expect a bill to come through intact, and we have to decide what part of the bill is most important to the 60,000 survivors who went through the evacuation and incarceration.

It is fitting to repeat the words of the Speaker of the House, Jim Wright of Texas, who was the prime sponsor of H.R. 442 in the 98th and 99th Congresses. In a *Washington Post* article dated April 7, he said, "The wisdom of politics is to know how much to press. It is better to get something than to insist on something perfect."

JACL and the Legislative Education Committee need each of you to write to any of your friends, business/professional associates, and church or civic leaders to ask for their support of redress as well. July is the critical month.

Write to me for a sample letter, brochures and "Japanese American Incarceration: A Case for Redress" to include with your letters. The address is JACL-LEC, 1730 Rhode Island Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C., 20036.

I fully appreciate the enormous work involved in sponsoring a major event like a convention. Fortunately for JACL, there is a continuous stream of persons who will roll up their sleeves and take on these major work efforts. For National JACL, these conventions and conferences sponsored by the various districts are extremely important because these events "show the JACL flag" to the community and provide the opportunity for non-JACLers to become involved in JACL.

Of course, equally important is that it brings JACLers together to discuss and plan the future course for JACL.

Many thought provoking, critically relevant workshops are in

store for the attendees, according to the convention brochure. The topics listed include developing leadership skills for the year 2000; Nisei, Sansei, Yonsei—what do they expect?; Asian men, Asian women—roles in transition; identity conflict in racially mixed children; Asian identity conflict; and others.

August is a vacation month. I hope many JACLers have planned to take their vacation in Denver this summer and avail themselves of this tri-district convention.

### National Singles Convention

On Sept. 4-6, the 3rd National JACL Singles Convention will be held in San Francisco. The San Francisco/Bay Area Nikkei Singles and the Greater Los Angeles

Singles JACL chapter are co-sponsoring this event. Ki Tanamachi and Marjorie Fletcher are co-chairpersons. I am advised that this convention will have a wide variety of activities, including golf and bowling, dances, mixers, workshops, and banquets.

I like all convention activities but I am, by nature, partial to workshops. Scanning the workshop topics, I note many valuable personal growth type subjects will be covered: self-sufficient individuals, getting it together with excellence, new beginning—best is yet to come, and others.

So why don't you all plan to top the summer by attending the singles convention during the Labor Day weekend in San Francisco?

**CLASSIFIED ADS**

**Kimochi Fundraiser Planned**

LOS ANGELES — Kimochi, Inc. has announced that plans are under way for the fourth annual Sansei Live! fundraising event, to be held in the GiftCenter Pavilion, 888 Brannan Street, on Oct. 17 from 7 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

Dr. Michael Toriumi, podiatrist for the Kimochi Home, is this year's chairperson for the evening extravaganza that includes music, food and dancing.

Members of the fundraising committee include Kris Hachiya, John Noguchi, Hiro Tokubo, David Nakayama, Kirk Tomioka, Kathy Aoki, Dina Harada, Carole Hayashino, Coleen Nakamura, Wes Nihei, Tami Suzuki, Robert Tokunaga, Carolyn Wong, Barbara Wada, Debra Kosaka, Steve Nakajo and Laura Takeuchi.

For more information, call Steve Nakajo at (415) 931-2294.

**Chapter Pulse**

**FRENCH CAMP**

• Chapter's annual benefit bazaar will be held July 18, from 4 p.m., at the French Camp Community Hall. The fair includes concession booths, games and a prize drawing. For more information, contact Lydia Ota at (209) 957-3437.

**GREATER L.A. SINGLES**

• Chapter will present "Fusion," a fund-raising dance featuring the Bob Bergara Band, on July 25, 8 p.m.—midnight, at Japanese Institute of Sawtelle, 2110 Corinth Ave. in West Los Angeles. Donation: \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Info: Annabelle Lee, (213) 327-0099, or Bea Fujimoto, 935-8648.

**MARINA**

• Chapter and Venice Pioneer Project are co-sponsoring a Las Vegas Nite Fundraiser on Sept. 12, 8:00 p.m., at the Venice Japanese Community Center, 12448 Braddock Drive. Tickets are \$15 each. Proceeds from the event will support community programs. For tickets and information, call Terry Takeda at (213) 202-6976; Sharon Kumagai at (213) 826-8951; Gordon Tani at (213) 402-6075; or Shirley Chami at (213) 558-4255.

• Actor Rodney Kageyama will be speaking at a meeting on Aug. 6, 7:30 p.m., at Burton Chase Park. Kageyama, who played a role in the movie "Gung Ho," will discuss Asians and their acting abilities. For information, contact Bill Kaneko at (213) 342-5644 or (213) 205-5515.

**WATSONVILLE**

• Chapter's annual community picnic will be held Aug. 9, 11 a.m., at Aptos Park. A barbecue steak lunch will be served.

**WEST VALLEY**

• The tenth annual Daruma Folk Festival, a benefit for senior citizens, will be held Aug. 15, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Saratoga Lanes parking lot, Saratoga and Graves near Prospect Road in San Jose. The Japanese American cultural event features food, drummers, folk singers, folk dancers, fresh produce, and crafts.

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