

Pacific Citizen

National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League

St. Louis
Nikkei honored
—page 3

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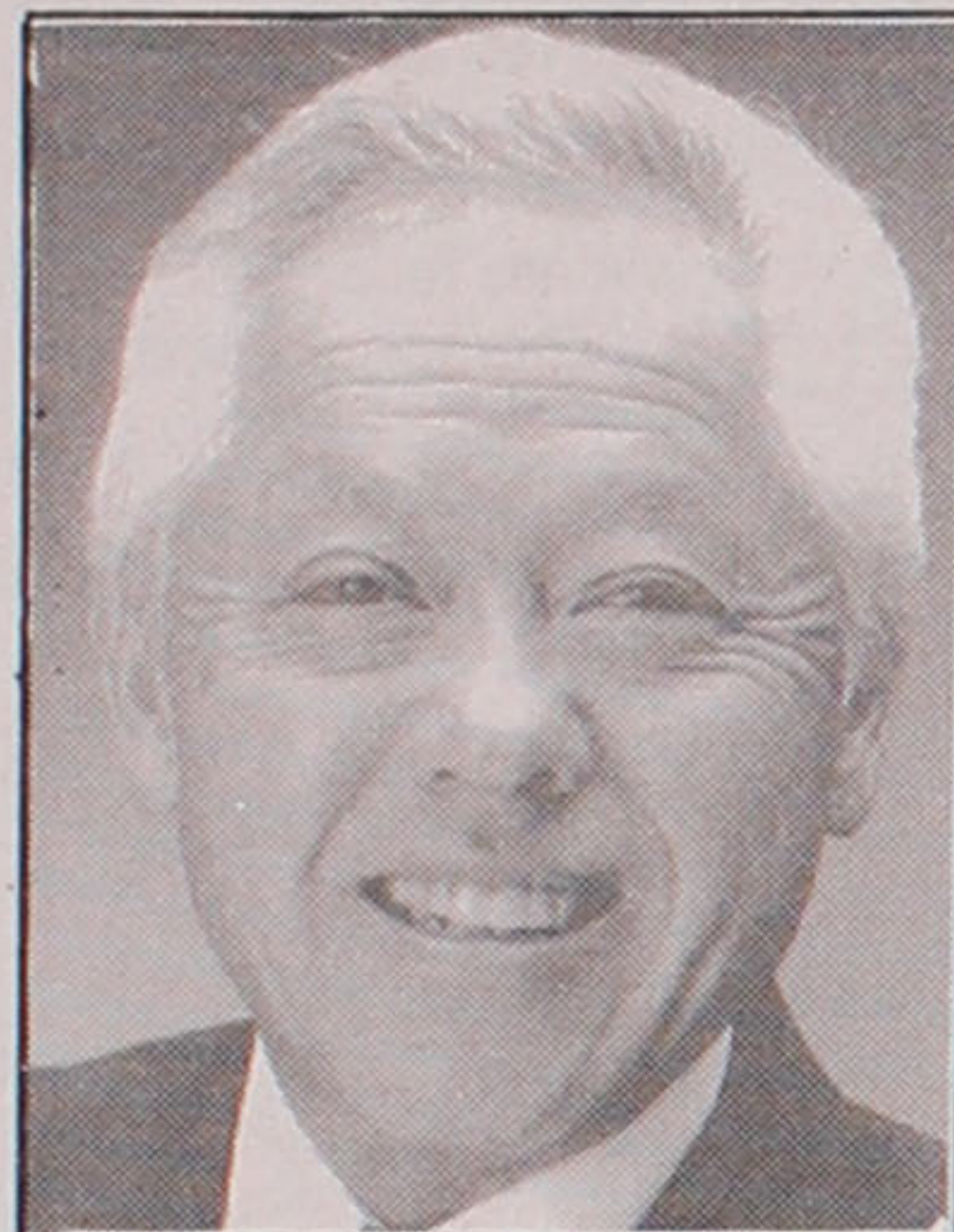
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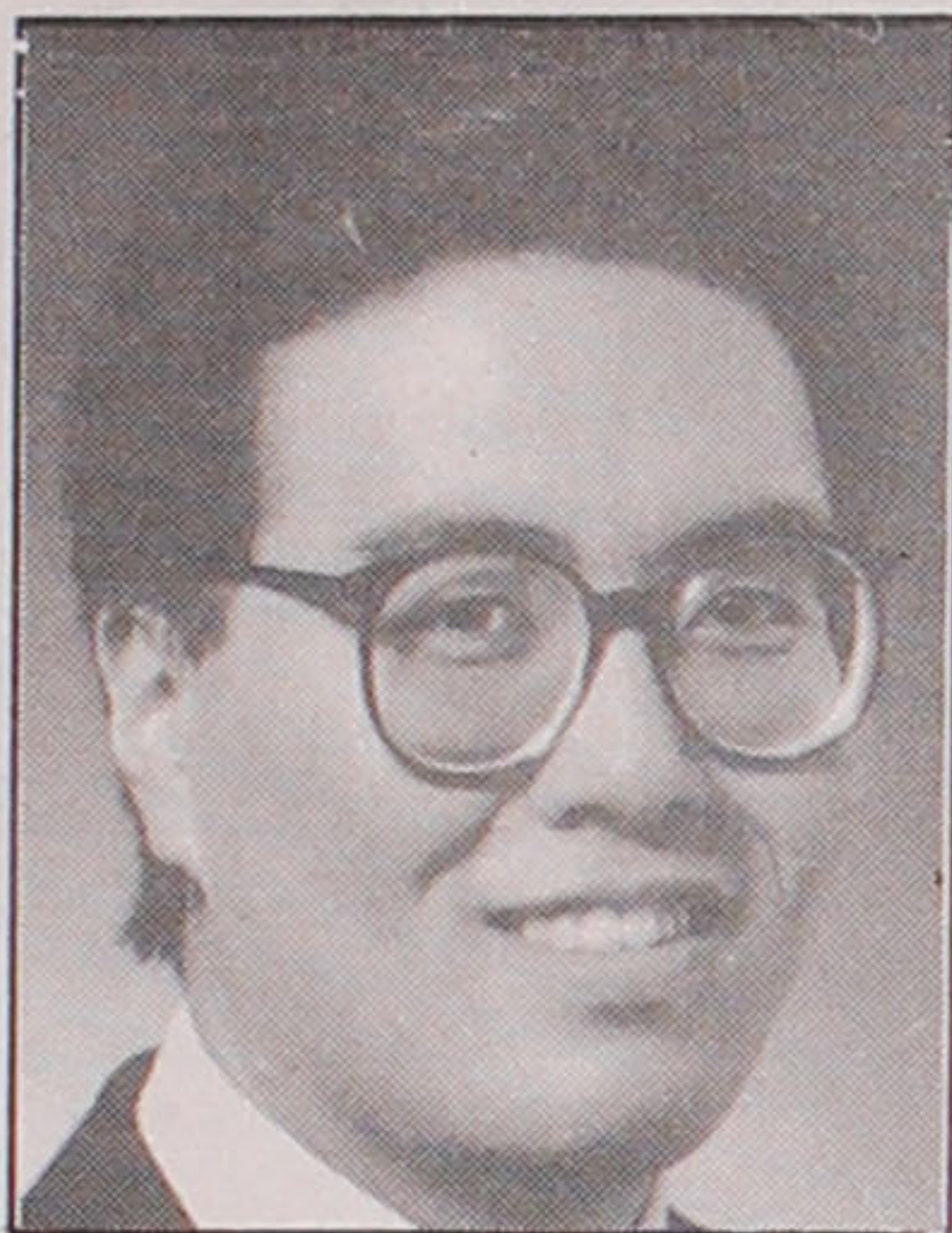
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Friday, June 12, 1992

Election roundup



NAO TAKASUGI
Running for California Assembly



MARK TAKANO
Running for Congress

Asian American inroads

A stout number of Asian names and of friends to the Asian American communities were sprinkled in the June 2 California primaries. Here is a brief rundown of some of the winners and losers:

In the Congressional races, two new prospects appear from Southern California: school teacher **Mark A. Takano** (D-41st District) of Riverside, and Diamond Bar Mayor **Jay C. Kim** (R-43rd). Both ran in districts without an incumbent as California gained seven seats—from 45 to 52.

Takano led in a seven-way battle with some 10,000 votes. The 31-year-old Yonsei son of longtime Riverside JACLers William and Nancy Takano, his Republican rival had nearly 13,000 votes. The 43rd is described as 46.6% Republican, 44.2% Democrat—numbers which augur a stiff campaign ahead.

See ELECTIONS/page 4

Short takes

JACL protests Perot racial comment

JACL National Director Dennis Hayashi has sent a letter to H. Ross Perot asking for an apology for the potential presidential candidate's racially derogatory language in a recent interview.

While discussing his views on economic aid to the Soviet Republics during a recent television interview with Barbara Walters, Perot referred to Japan and said, "You know the Japanese give money, and they say that you have to buy Japanese products. We give money and say, 'Rots of ruck (lots of luck), fellows, just buy whatever you want anywhere.' And they take our money and buy German, Japanese, French, British products—not too smart, Barbara."

In his letter, Hayashi wrote, "Usage of cheap racial stereotypes to discuss Japan and the United States, although currently fashionable, is both demeaning and insensitive. Statements such as yours which are made on national television serve only to

See TAKES/page 5

'Bashing,' racism' terms not always used right, experts say

By **GWEN MURANAKA**
Assistant editor

LOS ANGELES—Bashing, racism, xenophobia. Strong words, but when used imprecisely they are dangerous to U.S.-Japan relations, according to speakers at a June 5 conference titled "Political Correctness and Japan-bashing."

The conference featured notable experts in the field: Chalmers Johnson, UC, San Diego professor; Glen Fukushima, director of public policy and business development, AT&T Japan Ltd.; Tachi Kiuchi, chairman of Mitsubishi Electronics America, Inc.; David Arase, assistant professor of government, Pomona College; and Pat Choate, political economist and recently named advisor to H. Ross Perot on Japanese affairs. The event was sponsored by the Japan America Society of Southern California and the Los Angeles

See CONFERENCE/page 3

JACL candidates for national office

SAN FRANCISCO—The JACL Nominations Committee has announced candidates for national office.

"We hope that the delegates from each chapter will give careful and serious consideration in selecting their national board" said Sharon Ishii Jordan, chairwoman of the Nominations Committee. Jordan also pointed out that no one has been nominated for treasurer and urged JACL members to apply for this important position.

The election of officers will be held during the JACL national convention, Aug. 3-8, 1992, in Denver, Colo.

Members of the National Nominations Committee are Sharon Ishii Jordan, chairwoman; Lily Okura (EDC); Henry Tanaka (MDC); Izumi Taniguchi (CCDC); Phyllis Murakawa (PSWDC); Thaya Mune Craig (NCWNPDC); Cathy Maeda Yasuda (IDC) Sei Tokuda (MPDC); Cherry Kinoshita (PNWDC) and DeAnn Nakagawa (National Youth Council). Here are the candidates, their occupations, and a brief description of their current JACL activities:

NATIONAL PRESIDENT CANDIDATES



KIMURA

Lillian Kimura (New York Chapter): Associate national executive director of the YWCA of the USA; president, New York Chapter, JACL; member, National Board; chairwoman, Pacific Citizen board; chairwoman, Select Committee on Organizational Structure.



SAITO

John Saito (East Los Angeles Chapter): PSW regional director, 1979-90; member, PSWDC executive board; chairman, PSW Trust Fund board; PSW Legacy Fund coordinator.

CANDIDATES FOR NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

● General Operations (one candidate)

Neal Taniguchi (Berkeley Chapter): Assistant to the mayor, mayor's budget Office, city and county of San Francisco; governor, NCWNPDC; vice president, Berkeley Chapter, JACL.

● Public Affairs (one candidate)

William Kaneko (Honolulu Chapter): Planning and policy analyst for the office of the governor, state of Hawaii; member, national board, vice president for planning and development; president, Honolulu Chapter, JACL; national co-chairman, Leadership Committee; chairman, National Ad-Hoc Pearl Harbor Committee.

● Planning and Development (two candidates)

Floyd Mori (Mount Olympus Chapter): Consultant in international business—Mori International; member, national board, vice president for public affairs; president, Mt. Olympus Chapter, JACL.

Trisha Murakawa (Asian Pacific American Network Chapter): Assistant director, UCLA Governmental Relations; member, national board, chairwoman, National Youth Council; chairwoman, 1991 National Youth Council Youth Con-



MORI



MURAKAWA

ference; Secretary, PSWDC executive board; chairwoman, PSW Civil Rights Caucus; member, Asian Pacific Network (APAN) chapter board; chairwoman, APAN scholarship committee.

● 1000 Club, Member and Services (one candidate)

Alan Nishi (French Camp/Sacramento Chapters): Commercial banker with Union Bank; member, national board, vice president for 1000 Club, Membership and Services; member, NCWNPDC executive board; member, Sacramento Chapter, JACL, board.

● **Treasurer/Secretary**: Nominations are still open.

NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL CHAIR CANDIDATES



TACHIKI



NAKAHARA

Kim Tachiki (Asian Pacific American Network Chapter): Pharmacy technician and student, California State University, Northridge; charter member, APAN Chapter; co-chair, APAN membership; PSWDC youth representative; member, PSW Leadership Committee; member, PSW Presidents' Roundtable Committee; member, PSW Nominations Committee; participant, 1991 JACL Washington, D.C., Leadership Conference.

Kim Nakahara (San Francisco Chapter): Student, UC, Davis; member, San Francisco Chapter, JACL; youth representative and member, NCWNP executive board; National Youth Council; participant, 1991 JACL Washington, D.C., Leadership Conference; participant, National Youth Council conference.

Convention calls

JACL 32nd Biennial National Convention, "JACL: Solid as the Rockies," Aug. 3-8, Denver, Colo. General or registration information: Ruth Yamauchi, 303/237-9747, any time; Emilie Ito, 303/421-1302 (after 6 p.m.)



7 weeks until the Convention

JACL Solid as the Rockies - August 3-8, 1992 - Mile-Hi Chapter - Denver, CO

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Calendar

Seattle

Friday-Sunday, July 24-26—Prewar Green Lake Japanese Americans are planning "Homecoming '92" with Dr. Roland S. Kumasaka as reunion chairman. Registration: Shiz Nakawatase, 13044 27th Ave. NE, Seattle WA. 98125.

Los Angeles

Thursday, June 18—Asian Business

League (ABL) presents, "Leasing in a Tenant's Market-Opportunities and Pitfalls," Westin Bonaventure Hotel, Catalina Ballroom, 404 S. Figueroa St., 3:30 p.m., registration. Cost: ABL members \$15 pre-pay, at door and non-members \$20. Information: Carol Prince 310/553-3610.

Saturday, June 20—B.B. Chung King and the Screaming Buddha Heads

headline the Roxy, 9009 W. Sunset Blvd., Hollywood, 11 p.m.

San Francisco area

Friday, July 5—The Nisei Widowed Group's monthly meeting, at the home of Stella Takahashi, 2-4 p.m. New members welcome. Information: Elsie Uyeda Chung (S.F.) 415/221-0268 or Yuri Moriawaki (E.B.) 510/482-3280. ☐

Convention updates

Here are updates on the 32nd biennial convention at Denver, Colo., from the National JACL Convention Committee:

Early-bird package registrations (\$130) for the forthcoming National JACL Convention, Aug. 3-8, at Denver Sheraton Tech Center, are due Thursday, June 25. Regular package registration fee is \$145. For a packet, call Ruth Yamaguchi (day: 303/237-9747) or Emilie Ito (after 6 p.m.: 303/421-1302.)

Early and regular registrations include entrance to the Aug. 7-8 afternoon workshops, the Aug. 6-8 business sessions (16 hours), the Rope'em-In Reception (Aug. 5), National Awards Banquet (Aug.

6), and the Sayonara Banquet (Aug. 8).

Youth Package (\$130) includes the Regular Package, as above, plus the youth-sponsored luncheon (Aug. 7) with Warren Furutani, Los Angeles Board of Education president, as guest speaker. Open to all attendees. Those wishing to attend may use the convention registration brochure at an additional cost of \$15.

Convention Schedule and Other Events (see May 8 P.C.): Opening days (Monday-Tuesday, Aug. 3-4) are open for local tours of "Colorful Colorado."

The golf tournament from 1 p.m. at Plum Creek (separate entry fee of \$150 for JACL members, \$165 for non-members) and a volleyball tournament from 6 p.m. are scheduled Tuesday, Aug. 4.

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Newsmaker

St. Louis Nikkei honored for global work



HASEGAWA

George Hasegawa was recently honored with the 1992 International Citizenship Award at ceremonies held in St. Louis. The award goes to individuals who strengthen the community's global ties.

Hasegawa has played a major role in the success of the Japan American Society of St. Louis, and is an active member and past president of the St. Louis Chapter, JAACL.

The Nisei was also honored with the Fifth Class of the Order of the Sacred Treasure by the Emperor of Japan for his "distinguished contribution toward the promotion of friendship and deepened understanding" between the United States and Japan.

Hasegawa is a retired executive of an engineering firm.

CONFERENCE

(Continued from page 1)

les World Affairs Council, UCLA Center for Japanese Studies, and the *Yomiuri Shimbun*

"The term 'Japan-basher' is also ad hominem because it is frequently used as a synonym for 'racist,'" said Johnson, the author of the seminal work "MITI and the Japanese Miracle." Johnson re-

jected calling critics of Japan racist, saying, "It is like calling a critic of Israeli policy an anti-Semite or a white civil rights worker in America a nigger-lover. I obviously resent being called a racist for having written a book about a significant subject in my field, a book that uses and fully cites Japanese historical sources."

Similarly, Choate rejected the term Japan-basher, saying, "If comments about Japan are racist,

call it racist. Discussion of U.S.-Japan relations is fundamentally dishonest—propaganda posing as honest dialogue. The product of censorship is a lack of real discussion which is the real danger to U.S.-Japan relations." Choate said that Congressional Democrats are wary of criticizing Japan for fear of being called a "Japan-basher." He cited growing evidence that Japanese corporations and lobbyists on Capitol Hill have been us-

ing their influence to silence critics of Japan. "Smearing critics as racist is a potent weapon," said Choate.

Fukushima said race was not the prevailing source of U.S.-Japan tensions. "Focusing on such inherent characteristics as race can lead to profoundly negative policy implications. For the logical conclusion is that if race is the true source of bilateral friction, we are 'wasting our time discussing, negotiating, and trying to resolve specific problems, since their resolution will not end the tension and acrimony,'" said Fukushima.

But Arase warned that Asian Americans have increasingly become easy targets for racial bigotry fueled by anti-Asian antipathy. Speaking as an Asian American who studies Japan, Arase said, "Asian Americans have felt the fallout... There has been a rise in anti-Asian violence and hate crimes," citing the killing of Vincent Chin and the defacement of Japanese American community

centers.

While Arase said Japan deserves a degree of "measured criticism" for its policies, he claimed it is the inaction of both governments to correct inequities that has caused current tensions. "The failure of political leadership of both countries affects Asian Americans," said Arase. "It's a recipe for making Asian Americans a lightning rod of anti-Japanese feeling."

Kiuchi said Japanese nationals working in the United States need to become more open and friendly. "Japanese in the United States have a big stake in improving U.S.-Japan relations. We are 'sitting pretty,' socializing with other Japanese instead of interacting with Americans." Kiuchi noted that Japanese sometimes avoid courtesies such as saying thank you in airplanes and stores, sleep in meetings, and fail to engage in after-hours socializing with Americans.

See CONFERENCE/page 5

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ELECTIONS

(Continued from page 1)

In a seven-way fray, Korea-born businessman Kim, who also speaks Japanese, reads and writes Chinese, was in a close race with a former assemblyman, Charles Bader, and won by 600 votes: 12,614 - 12,012. Because the 43rd District has a decisive Republican majority in the tri-county suburb of Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Orange, Kim reportedly has a strong chance in November to become the first Korean American congressman.

While the voter turnout statewide was the lowest for a presidential primary, veteran Congressman **Norman Y. Mineta** (D-15th) of San Jose and **Robert T. Matsui** (D-5th) of Sacramento, both unopposed, scored impressively with some 71,000 and 65,000 votes, respectively. Incidentally, all but one incumbent congressman, **Robert Lagomarsino** (R) of Ventura, were victorious in the primaries.

One hopeful aspirant in Sonoma-Marín Counties, **David Strand** (D-6th) of Greenbrae, with a Nikkei wife and endorsed by his friend Rep. **Patsy Mink**, came in sixth in a 9-way race with 5,429 votes.

In a wide-open 10-way race in the new and obviously Latino dis-

trict but with Asian-Pacific fringes of Chinatown, Little Manila and Koreatown in central L.A., a third generation Chinese American attorney, **Albert C. Lum**, 58, finished third with 4,547. The 30th is 60% Democratic and at least 21% Asian Pacific and one of the heaviest.

In the Sacramento picture, incumbent State Sen. **Patrick Johnston** (D-5th) of Stockton was unopposed and garnered some 63,000 votes. His GOP contender had nearly 50,000. Johnston, a Stockton JACLER, authored the California no-tax law for redress recipients and the \$5,000 back pay to Japanese American state civil service personnel who were unfairly fired after Pearl Harbor.

Two Japanese American prospects, on either side of the Assembly aisle, won. Sansei farmer-businessman **Lon Hatamiya** (D-3rd) of Marysville and Oxnard mayor **Nao Takasugi** (R-37th) are poised for the November general. Both JACLers, neither had incumbents in their bid. Hatamiya polled 28,864 votes in a 2-way race; Takasugi led with 10,998 in a 7-way primary. **Ken Gow** (R-58th) of Montebello-Norwalk-Whittier won his nomination unopposed.

In a head-on no incumbent, two Asian women, both Republican, showdown in another heavily Latino 55th District, Alhambra

School Board member **Sophie C. Wong**, 55, toppled **Beth Fujishige**, 28, former state president of the Japanese American Republicans of Monterey Park 6,340 - 4,019. The China-born businesswoman faces Diane Martinez, daughter of U.S. Rep. Marty Martinez (D-31st), who won with 11,619 votes.

Two other Asians tried. Pasadena grocer **Tae Ho Choi** (R-44th) was fifth in a 10-way primary; onetime Cerritos mayor **Dr. Daniel K. Wong** (R-56th) lost 18,056 to 10,747 in a two-way race.

Within the counties, Kauai-born **Arlene Fraser** of Oxnard lost in her first try for public office, the Ventura County supervisor, 5th district, by a 2-1 margin: 9,985 to 4,971. She has been an Oxnard resident since 1979.

In Oakland, longtime councilman **Frank Ogawa**, the at-large member, was re-elected handily: 35,536 to 14,314. But in the nearby city of Fremont, **Yoshio Fujiwara** lost his bid for a city council seat.

The Pacific Southwest JACL District officers were elated by the 2-1 passage (359,146 - 177,917) of L.A. City Charter Amendment F, a police reform measure. PSW vice-governor John Hayashi, com-

See ELECTIONS/page 5

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TAKES

(Continued from page 1)

contribute to the current climate of Japan-bashing, and the racial backlash against Americans of Japanese ancestry... As a national figure who intends to run for the presidency, you must refrain from using racially tinged rhetoric while discussing substantive issues. We believe an apology for and a retraction of your statement is not only appropriate, but necessary." (PC)

PSW: amendment is discriminatory

The recent passage of a Los Angeles charter amendment that could lead to discriminatory business practices has been protested by the PSW JACL office.

Charter Amendment G, the "Local Preference and Domestic Content Requirement," sends a "highly disturbing message that lends credence to the 'Buy American' hype, and by extension, xenophobia and scapegoating," said Jimmy Tokeshi, PSW regional director. He said he intends to

raise these concerns with the city attorney's office.

The district actively opposed the amendment that, among other provisions, gives preference for Los Angeles city purchases to domestic bidders. According to Tokeshi, however, the amendment was vague and failed to define the "domestic content" requirement as well as what constituted a "local firm." The real danger, he said, is that discrimination of businesses on an arbitrary basis could result simply on the basis of a "foreign-sounding" firm or business name.

The local JACL office has noted a significant increase in acts of bias and hate violence against Asian Americans corresponding to renewed U.S.-Japan tensions.

"Individuals are directing their frustration and anger at both products and people whom they perceive to be non-Americans on the basis of race," said Trisha Murakawa, PSW JACL, Civil Rights Caucus chairwoman. "There is an ugly undercurrent of racism in all of the 'Buy American' and xenophobic rhetoric. There is also a serious potential for an even greater assault in terms of inci-

dents of discrimination and prejudice, specifically against Asian and Pacific Islanders, for businesses and for individuals with the passage of Charter Amendment G." (PC)

Judge: No retrial of officer who killed Samoans

COMPTON, Calif.—A Superior Court judge refused to order a new trial for a Compton police officer accused of killing two Samoan brothers, shooting them 19 times, mostly in the back.

Last month a jury deadlocked 9-3 in favor of acquittal of Albert Skiles Jr., a 12-year veteran of the Compton Police Department, of manslaughter charges related to the deaths of Pouvi Tualaualei, 34, and Itali Tualaualei, 22.

Representatives of the Tualaualei family told the *Los Angeles Times* that they would be petitioning the U.S. State Department seeking federal civil rights violation charges against Skiles. (PC)

ELECTIONS

(Continued from page 4)

mented: "It is a welcomed and critical step forward toward the rebuilding of the public trust and confidence in the LAPD as well as an important healing measure for this city." The amendment was opposed police chief Daryl Gates.

In the second PSW position, No on Charter Amendment G, the so-called "Buy American" measure which passed with a 10% margin (262,071 - 212,530), PSW regional director Jimmy Tokeshi was disturbed by the implementation at City Hall. Companies in California and Los Angeles County are given preference in bidding on city contracts. Tokeshi said the amendment was "overly vague" and that the danger exists of discrimination of businesses with foreign-sounding names. City Councilman Zev Yaroslavsky sponsored the measure.

Recall effort against the 18-month career of L.A. Superior Court Joyce Karlin failed, which baffled Black leaders. The white appointee of Gov. Pete Wilson won by a 51% majority with some 1.2 million votes cast and topped three challengers who contended she devalued black life when she granted a Korean woman grocer, Soon Ja Du, probation in the shooting death of Latasha Harlins, 15, who was accused of stealing a bottle of orange juice.

Citrus Municipal Court Judge Dan Thomas Oki, 40, of West Covina, already appointed by Gov. Wilson to the vacancy and uncontested, polled 24,337 votes. He is Wilson's first Asian American judge to be named, born in Azusa and lifelong San Gabriel Valley resident. He majored in political science at Stanford and finished Loyola Law School in 1977.

And had Hacienda Heights voted for cityhood, Eugene Chang and Cecilia L. Yu would have been seated in the 5-member city council. They were the two Asian Americans in a field of 16 candidates. A community of 52,000 in southeast Los Angeles county, the Asian Pacific density is estimated at 25%.

California county-wide

Sylvia Sun Minnick, Stockton city councilwoman, lost in the race for San Joaquin County board of supervisor, District 1.

Hawaii

Korean American Jackie Young, incumbent Hawaii state representative, is seeking re-election, noted the *Los Angeles Korea Times*.

IN OREGON, Republican David Chen, 56, of Beaverton, Ore., is running for Oregon state treasurer. The China-born graduate in mathematics from the University of Washington with a master's in international law from the University of Oregon resigned his associate administrator's position with the Farmers Home Administration to seek the GOP nomination... Yong Kem Lim, notes the *L.A. Korea Times*, is a candidate for state senate.

Illinois

Glenn Sugiyama (D), a Sansei Chicago businessman in his first bid for public office, lost by a 3-1 margin in the March 17 primary to incumbent Rep. Sidney Yates in the Congressional 9th District. Sugiyama had been endorsed by the *Chicago Tribune*.

Washington state

Korea-born Dr. Paul Ho Bum Shin is a candidate for the 21st District state representative seat in Olympia. For the past 21 years he has been a professor of history

at Shoreline Community College, served the past four governors as an Asian American Affairs commissioner and advisor on trade and education. Orphaned at 4, adopted at age 16 by a U.S. Army doctor and his wife, he came to the U.S. three years later, graduated with a B.A. in political science from BYU, an M.A. in international relations from Pittsburgh and a Ph.D. in history from Washington. He taught at BYU for three years and a year at Maryland and has lived in the 21st district (Woodway, Lynnwood, Edmonds and Mukilteo) for 25 years.

A Filipino American legislative assistant, Velma Veloria of Seattle, was expected to announce for the Washington State 10th District Position 2.

— HARRY K. HONDA

CONFERENCE

(Continued from page 3)

"It shows a lack of interest in our U.S. colleagues and culture. When Japan-bashing came up, we were very surprised, but we have isolated ourselves rather than make efforts to befriend Americans," said Kiuchi.


"The only way we will build a level of trust is to create a common bond. We are more interested in economic bonds. We need to strive to improve lives, not just businesses."

Other highlights of the conference included *Rising Sun* author Michael Crichton defending his novel in an address entitled "America Bound and Gagged: Political Correctness and Censorship of the U.S.-Japan Relationship." Using statistics showing that there are more American villains in the novel than Japanese villains, Crichton said criticism has failed to address the issues of the novel, choosing to condemn the book as racist. "The criticism has been driven by ideology, not content," said Crichton. (PC)

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Opinions



From the frying pan

BILL HOSOKAWA

An afternoon at Amache

A long four-hour drive south and east of Denver, not far from the Kansas border, is the sun-burned little town of Granada. U.S. Highway 50 bisects Granada, and the fields around it are green with spring.

But the green vanishes a half mile or less from the highway. Beyond, out of the reach of life-giving waters, is the desert—gray sand nearly as fine as flour in which cactus and sagebrush cling to life.

Here, just a mile or so outside Granada, the War Relocation Authority in its wisdom established in the summer of 1942 the Amache relocation camp for Japanese Americans exiled from the West Coast. The camp was occupied from Aug. 7, 1942 until October 15, 1945. At its peak the population was about 7,500.

Some of its former residents and many of their friends came back to the campsite over Memorial Day weekend. More than 200 of them, including a busload from Livingston, Calif., (whose chartered bus broke down in a snowstorm while crossing the Rockies), returned to observe the 50th anniversary of their exile.

It was both a sober and lighthearted occasion. Fifty years had erased many of the bitter memories just as time had obliterated most traces of the camp. (Not far away is the Granada town dump. On the road to both the dump and the campsite is a sign that says: "No junk cars or dead animals.") Of the campsite itself, there are only a few concrete foundations and the survivors among the trees that the evacuees had planted, to mark its location. And the cemetery. We must not forget the cemetery.

The remains of most of the 110 who died in the camp were taken back to the West Coast after the war. But long after the campsite was abandoned, some weathered wooden grave markers were found. It was obvious the elements would destroy them in a few years.

The Central Denver Optimists Club, whose membership is primarily Nisei, made the camp its project and replaced the wooden markers two at a time as finances permitted. Resting on the gray sand now are eight dignified polished stone markers with the following inscriptions:

Soichiro Nagai Dec. 26, 1944; Fusako Kubo Oct. 16, 1942; John Paul Tsutsui, Nov. 27, 1942; Steven Tamura; Tomiko Kamimoto, Aug. 31, 1945; Matsuda Baby Dec. 25, 1944; Tomoki Ogata June 27, 1944. Is it possible all were stillborn? There is one more stone, slightly larger than the others, that reads: Evacuees Unknown, Rest in Peace.

Adjoining the cemetery is a granite shaft to the memory of the 31 U.S. servicemen from the camp who lost their lives in World War II. Their names are etched into the stone. A letter in one of the names has been chipped slightly, probably by a bullet fired by some cretin with a hunting rifle.

After the memorial ceremony the crowd retreated to the Senior Citizens Center in the nearby city of Lamar for a potluck lunch. Everyone seemed to be having such a good time—renewing old acquaintanceships, making new friends—that it was difficult getting them back into the buses. Even the youngsters, who had come along to experience a bit of family history, seemed to be having a good time. It was a nice way to end a memorable occasion. ☐

Letters

PC letter policy

Letters should be brief and are subject to editing. Please sign your letter but make sure we are able to read your name. Include mailing address and telephone number. You may fax letters to 213/626-8213 or mail them to Letters to the Editor, Pacific Citizen, 701 E. 3rd St., Ste. 201, Los Angeles, CA, 90013.

Rising Sun movie: ultimate bash?

Twentieth Century Fox placed a casting call in the Rafu Shimpo of March 10, 1992 "seeking Asian American actors and actresses for feature film." The roles are: Eddie Sakamura, Ishihara, Yoshida, Tanaka, and Jingo—all but Jingo are male Japanese. Jingo is a "beautiful, exotic blend of races . . . half Japanese and half African American." Though the film's title is not given, the names clearly point to Michael Crichton's *Rising Sun*. . . *Rising Sun* is a riveting mystery novel set in current Los Angeles whose plot revolves around the great Japanese conspiracy. The Japanese have infiltrated the *L.A. Times*, our universities and governments, local and national, our business and research facilities, even our underworld of gang violence, for the economic conquest of America. . . *Rising Sun*, in my opinion, is literary and commercial exploitation of anti-Japanese racism of the worst kind. The question is: What will be our response to 20th Century Fox's Casting Call?

At the very least, J.A. performing artists ought to read *Rising Sun* to determine whether they wish to be associated with the novel. Would Jewish performing artists wish to be associated with a production of "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion," the depiction of the great Jewish conspiracy to overthrow Christianity and to take over the world?

How comfortable will we be to hear the same hero say, "The Japanese are the most racist people on earth?" Or a detective for the L.A. Police Department say, "The Japanese are masters of the smear job." Or describe the \$400 million in lobbying spent by Japan as "enough to pay the campaign costs of everybody in the United States Senate and the House of Representatives."

As a movie, *Rising Sun* may prove to be the ultimate "Jap bash." A fictional U.S. senator says, "You know, I have colleagues who say sooner or later we're going to have to drop another bomb. They think it'll come to that." I think we have choices: (1) do nothing; (2) help to produce and promote *Rising Sun*; or (3) boycott and protest it. It's *deja vu* to '42.

William Hohri

Chicago, Ill.

JACL heading wrong way on PC policy

An article (5/15/92) by Hank Sakai, past JACL national treasurer and past PC board chair, touched upon JACL history which resulted in the PC's editorial and fiscal independence from the national headquarters.

The question of "Who is responsible for the PC staff?" was clarified by an amendment which passed with the required two-thirds majority at the national convention in 1984 (Honolulu):

The Pacific Citizen and its staff shall be responsible to the National President, National Board and National Council through the Pacific Citizen Board. Pacific Citizen funds shall be clearly identified in the overall National budget as subscription income and disbursed to the Pacific Citizen.

The intent was never again to let PC fall into direct control of the National Director and/or any elected official through intimidation and through withholding the PC subscription money.

A PC, with access to JACL information and, free to inform the JACL membership of what is happening in the organization, it was felt, would be the best guarantee against the abuse of power by the appointed or elected officers of the JACL.

The very language which made possible the past abuse is re-introduced in the "new" reorganizational proposal: "The PC staff would be part of the JACL national staff, accountable to the national director."

We ought to learn from history, not ignore it.

Clifford Uyeda

Past National President

East Wind



BILL MARUTANI

Asian redress

IN AN EARLIER column on these pages, I wrote about efforts being made on behalf of Korean *i-an-fu* (comfort women) who reportedly had been impressed into serving the sexual program of the Japanese military during World War II. The *i-an-fu* ladies not only seek formal acknowledgement from the Japanese authorities of what took place but also contribution expressed by payment of money. Since that particular column was written, there had been some tenuous responses from quasi-official sources that such a program existed but at the same time failed to acknowledge any such program. More recently, a handful of Japanese veterans reportedly have come forward with an expression of willingness to verify that overseas centers of houses of prostitution existed, but whether the matter had gone beyond that is unknown to me.

However, a recent ruling by the Supreme Court of Japan, while not on the question, would appear to diminish any chances of

financial payment, contrite or otherwise.

DURING WORLD WAR II non-Japanese Asians were conscripted into the Japanese Imperial Forces, including thousands from Taiwan, then a colony of Nippon. Indeed, as to Taiwanese alone, it is reported that some 30,000 were buried as Japanese nationals. Pointing to Article 14 of the Japanese Constitution, which guarantees equality under the law, some 24 Taiwanese initiated a lawsuit in Japanese courts seeking monetary benefits that Nipponese veterans and military employees enjoy. The demand for compensation was ¥5 million (about \$41,000) per claimant. In affirming the 1985 ruling of the Tokyo High Court that under existing Japanese laws no means of relief existed, the court suggested that this was a matter for the legislative branch to address. Previously, in 1988, the Diet had voted ¥2 million (about \$17,000) as consolation money to each wounded Taiwanese veteran or to surviving family members. This sum was far less

than payments made to Nipponese veterans.

TAIWAN REMAINED a Japanese colony until the end of the Pacific war, and upon a peace treaty being entered into in 1952, the residents of Taiwan became citizens of the Chinese nationalist government situated in Taiwan. Further, in order to restore relations with the People's Republic on mainland China, in 1972 Japan severed its ties with Taipei. As a result, the already diminished chances of Taiwan's residents' of claiming compensation from Nippon all but vanished. And the recent ruling of the Supreme Court of Japan confirms this conclusion. It is believed that this ruling will adversely impact upon a number of other non-Japanese Asian's claims against Japan.

That maybe so. But if the Korean *i-an-fu*'s contentions are established in the minds of public opinion, it will be an issue that will be most difficult to cast aside. Even with legal jargon. ☐

