



Pacific Citizen

National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League

Racism
in Japan
—page 6

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Friday, March 19, 1993

Short TAKES

News in brief

Police still baffled by campus fire

A Carbondale, Ill., police official reported March 10 that no solid leads or motive have yet been determined behind the fire believed to be set deliberately and which killed five Southern Illinois University students three months ago. The reward money now stands at \$32,000.

About 650 people, he said, have been questioned.

More than 2,500 staff hours have been claimed in the investigations. A significant portion of that time was spent relative to the racial aspects in the case, the police official added.

— From Mike Hoshiko

Patsy Mink rejects U.S. parks offer

The Interior Department is looking for a high-profile candidate to head the National Parks Service and bandied about were names such as Tom Brokaw of NBC, actor Robert Redford and Rep. Patsy T. Mink (D-Hawaii).



MINK

Talking with the *Honolulu Advertiser* March 11, the Nisei congresswoman said the Clinton administration had indeed asked her

weeks ago. "Yes, the position was offered to me but I declined," she said.

She was flattered by the offer but "I love my current job," she continued. She sits on the House Budget, Education and Labor, Natural Resources and Steering and Policy committees.

Nikkei released from Waco siege

Former Honolulu resident Margaret Lawson, 77, identified as "an elderly Japanese woman, very neat and quiet," was released March 2 from the Mount Carmel complex in Waco, Texas, and is being held as a material witness, the *Dallas Morning News* reported.

Defense lawyer Oliver Kelly, court-appointed from Killeen, Texas, said Lawson and Catherine Mattson, 75, who walked out together, became adherents of sect leader David Koresh when he was in Hawaii in the late 1980s.

Then known as Vernon Howell, he had recruited about 15 members, most of whom belonged to the Diamond Head Seventh-Day Adventist Church. Among those following him to Texas were Keith Sonobe and family. He and his wife Floracita were still inside the compound, the *Honolulu Advertiser* reported March 6, while their two daughters were among 21 children released from the compound.

— From Allan Beekman

Library removes 'Jap' card label

San Francisco resident Helen C. Jones had pointed out to city library official Ken Dowlin that a file drawer in the children's section of the Main Library was labeled: "JAP - JUY."

That was corrected by shifting cards around to remove the derogatory term.

It was the right milieu. Political. Intellectual. The Big Issues Place. The Center of it all.

What better place to gather for a Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) national board meeting than Washington, D.C. And members did just that, March 19-21, to discuss their own politics and issues.

Just blocks away from the capitol and White House—right in the thick of it—where any conversation includes Bill, Al,

Hillary and certainly among JACLers, Doris—national board members, many members of the Eastern District Council and interested members came together to recap, reconsider, and further develop their agenda.

Perhaps the biggest issue coming before the board, and one that may portend of other larger, broader issues being considered by organizations such as JACL, was the controversy over gays in the military.

In its Feb. 5, 1993, issue, *Pacific Citizen* reported on the support by some Nikkei of President Clinton's move to lift the ban on gays in the military. Essentially, those quoted in that article argued that gays in the military is a civil rights issue.

In subsequent issues, opposing views were published, including one by a Nikkei military man.

By national board meeting time, the issue had moved closer to center stage, with some regional directors reporting



RICHARD SUENAGA

DC Discussions

JACL National Board meeting

By RICHARD SUENAGA
Editor



that gays in the military issue and the JACL position on it had become informal or formal topics of conversation.

Dennis Hayashi, JACL national director, told board members that in his own view he recommended that the organization support the lifting of the ban of gays in the military.

Karen Narasaki, JACL Washington, D.C., representative, added that in the preamble of JACL's constitution sexual orientation is included as an area of discrimination the organization opposes.

Trisha Murakawa, vice president, plan-

See DC/page 2

More national board coverage

Next week:

- Legacy Fund
- Youth Council
- Education Committee
- Thoughts on the future



GWEN MURANAKA

With Doris Matsui

In this PC interview, the White House deputy director of public liaison reflects on her new job, the Clintons, public service and her family . . .

By GWEN MURANAKA
Assistant editor

PROFILE

Who: Doris O. Matsui
Job: White House Deputy Director of Public Liaison.

Credentials: Clinton Transition Board; president, Congressional Club; former president, board of directors, KVIE and Rosalie Stern Award recipient for outstanding community volunteer, University of California.

Education: University of California, at Berkeley.

economic plan to health care and national service.

"Prior to Clinton's speech on the economy Feb. 17, we had groups of business people in and started talking to them in broad strokes and after it was announced we had other groups come in and started talking about the details to make

sure that everything works out," said Matsui.

Matsui said that she was planning a meeting with Asian American health care leaders. "Health care reform is coming up and we're creating some meetings ourselves," said Matsui. "We want to make sure that the task force is consulting all constituencies." Matsui has long been involved in health care issues, particularly involving women and children. She was chief sponsor of the breast cancer education initiative, called Project Awareness.

"Health care is an issue where my interests and Hillary's dovetail," said Matsui.

As one might expect, her job means that Matsui is often in contact with both of the Clintons. About Bill Clinton, she said,

See MATSUI/page 4

NEXT APPEARANCE—Doris Matsui is the featured speaker at the upcoming JACL Tri-District Conference April 2-4 in Costa Mesa, Calif.

ON GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS—p. 4.

No. 2,703

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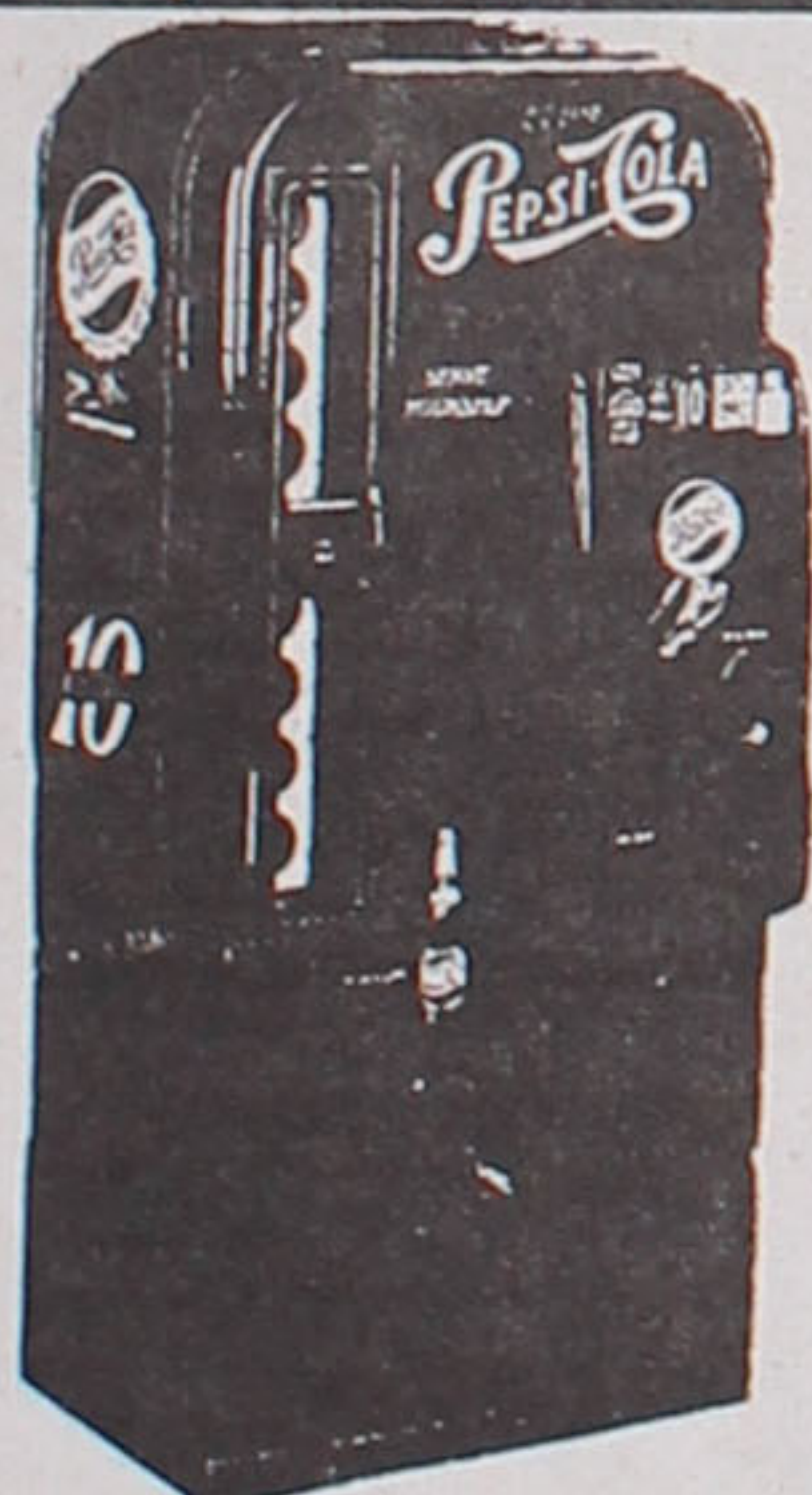
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Calendar

Washington Seattle

Through Sunday, April 4—Asian New Year traditions and Dean Wong's International District photos, Wing Luke Asian Museum, 407 7th Ave. S., Tues.-Fri., 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., noon to 4 p.m. Cost: \$2.50, adults; \$1.50, seniors/students; \$.75, children under 12; Thursdays free. Information: 206/ 623-5124.
Saturday, Apr. 17—Northwest Asian American theatre's 20th anniversary gala, Washington Athletic Club, 1325 6th, Seattle, 6 p.m. Cost: \$40, Kong Sun Gifts, 676 S. King. Speaker: David Henry Hwang. Information: Roger Tang, 206/ 365-0282 (eve.), 206/ 543-9663 (day) or Nancy Calos-Nakano, 506/ 763-4382.
Fri.-Sun., Apr. 23-25—The 18th annual Seattle Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival, Seattle Center, Fri.-Sat., 9 a.m.; Sun., 10 a.m. Admission: free. Music, dance, martial arts, and food. Information: 206/ 626-4140.

Colorado Denver

Saturday, Apr. 10—Asian American Education Alliance Spring Workshop, Denver Public Schools Administration Bldg., 900 Grant St., Denver, 9 a.m. Speakers: Dr. Edward Low and Kathy Joslin. Information: Dr. Russell Endo,

California San Francisco area

Sunday, April 4—Monterey Peninsula Chapter, JACL, sponsors a showing of Kanojo's spring fashions, Monterey Peninsula Buddhist Temple, 1155 Noche Buena St., Seaside, 1 p.m. Cost: Free. Information: Kazuko Matsuyama, 408/ 649-0704.
Sunday, April 4—The Nisei Widowed Group's monthly meeting, 558 16th Ave., San Francisco, 2 p.m. New members welcome. Information: Elsie Uyeda Chung, 415/ 221-0268, or Yuri Moriwaki, 510/ 482-3280.

Los Angeles area

Wednesday, March 31—Japan America Society hosts a luncheon with Kai Hoshi, president, Canon Trading USA, speaking on, "U.S.-Japan strategic business and technological partnerships: then and now," Westin South Coast Plaza, 666 Anton Blvd., Costa Mesa, 11:30 a.m. Cost: \$30, members; \$35, non-members. Information: 714/ 850-4335.

Thursday, April 1—Marina Chapter, JACL general meeting, Venice Japanese Community Center, 7:30 p.m. Speaker: Dr. Lilly Nakamura speaking on, "Fear of Commitment" Donation. Information: Alice, 310/ 324-0582.

Fri.-Sun., April 2-4—PSW hosts 1993 Tri District Conference, Westin South Coast Plaza Hotel, Costa Mesa. Registration: \$90, before March 17; \$110, after. Hotel: \$67 per room. Information: B.J. Watanabe, 714/ 779-4140; Ruth Mizobe, 714/ 529-8360; or the PSWD regional office, 213/ 626-4471.

Sat.-Sun., Apr. 3-4—Orange County Buddhist Church's Hanamatsuri, 909 S. Dale St., Anaheim, 3 p.m. Food bazaar, cultural exhibits and taiko. Admission: free. Information: 714/ 527-9186.

Sunday, Apr. 4—The Koreisha Chushoku Kai's 17th anniversary benefit banquet, Quiet Cannon Restaurant, San Antonio Rm., 901 N. Via San Clemente, Montebello, 4 p.m. Donation: \$60. Information: 213/ 680-9173.

Thursday, Apr. 8—Asian Business League's general meeting, Shangri-La, 313 S. Boylston St., L.A., 6:30 p.m. Speaker: Richard Katz, mayoral candidate. Cost: \$10, members; \$15, non-members. RSVP: Naomi Kuromoto, 213/ 626-5837.

DC

(Continued from page 1)

ning and development, who had earlier been quoted in PC's Feb. 5 article, said, "It's embarrassing if we don't take a position on it."

Randy Harano, governor of the Intermountain District, reported that some members in his district would disagree with JACL support of the lifting of the ban.

Lillian Kimura, JACL national president, said that another consideration is the addition of language that refers to an ethical code of conduct regardless of any sexual orientation.

WHY JACL TAKES A STAND—

Lillian Kimura discusses this issue in her IN-SIGHT column/page 5.

In the end, board members approved the organization's support for the lifting of the ban, but the discussion also took on larger implications.

Reference was made to chapters and districts which had early on in the controversy taken a position on lifting the ban.

Larry Ishimoto, Central California District governor, asked, "What can chapters or districts say?" Hayashi pointed out that districts have taken a role in making comments before, and that there was no set policy on them making comments on issues that are national in scope.

Offering to draft a procedure or policy, Hayashi said that statements on issues was a national responsibility but that districts and chapters could review the statements and make recommendations to the national board.

In response, Lucy Kishiue, Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific governor, said, "We can't afford to wait for the national board," adding that communication technology should be able to assist in quicker review and decision-making.

Arguing for a unified position, Kimura said she believed that it was national's role to make statements and that once the position is taken no chapter should oppose it except at a convention.

Kishiue emphasized that a procedure had to be established that would not separate national from grassroots chapter members.

Illustrating this local-national problem, Patricia Ikeda-Carper, president of the Cincinnati Chapter, JACL, pointed to the Marge Schott controversy, saying that the local chapter, in effect, was blindsided by national's statement against Schott.

"Cincinnati didn't agree with national's position on Marge Schott," Carper said. (The) statement "put us in a very awkward position with the media."

She added that "the issue has local implications, (national) has to contact us. Even if we disagree, we should still talk about it."

MORE ON SCHOTT—

Cincinnati member Shiro Tanaka expresses local chapter position/page 6.

While this issue will apparently be further discussed, another related issue was approved.

Hayashi turned to the "Civil Rights Act of 1993," recommending board support.

In this current session, he said, legislation is being drafted that

would amend various federal laws to extend protection against discrimination against gays and lesbians.

Urging approval, Narasaki said, "JACL should be in the forefront of that movement."

Since the act is in draft form, the JACL national board then endorsed its concept.

In another related political matter, the board acted to support the Mile Hi Chapter's efforts to overturn Colorado's Amendment 2 which changed that state's constitution to prohibit anti-discrimination legislation protecting gays.

The board not only voted in favor of this action but to support similar initiatives elsewhere.

In its full schedule of items, here are brief roundups of discussions, updates and decisions:

● **Reorganization status:** This proposal, which calls for numerous changes in JACL's structure and method of operation, continues to be discussed. Changes and deletions from the original proposal have been incorporated, Kimura reported to the board. A copy of this latest draft will be made available to all districts for dissemination to all chapters for more review and comment in the near future. The draft will be completed in time for the upcoming Pacific Southwest hosted Tri-District Conference, April 2-4, in Costa Mesa, Calif.

● **Bruce Yamashita case:** Narasaki reported that Bruce Yamashita, who had been "disenrolled" from Marine Corps Officer Candidates School in 1989, had lost his discrimination case in a recent Naval board hearing. Narasaki said he would move to the next appeals process which could take from six to eight months.

● **Redress cases:** Hayashi reported that a number of cases are being appealed to the ORA based on special circumstances. He emphasized that JACL was working with the Asian Law Caucus on these cases but that it was only in the discussion stages at this time.

● **Finances:** The revised 1993 JACL budget was formally approved. It will be printed in an upcoming issue of *Pacific Citizen*.

Jon Kaji, JACL secretary/treasurer, told the board that the audit of the organization's finances is scheduled to be completed by the end of May.

Kaji reported that the firm of Grant Thornton was recommended for the job based on a bid of \$9,800. The board then gave its approval.

● **Health insurance:** Kaji also reported that Blue Shield, which has been with JACL for 25 years, with some 10,250 members participating in the program, is scheduled to move out of JACL's national headquarters facility in San Francisco.

In light of the lost rental income and of looking around for other competitive health coverage plans, Kaji suggested that perhaps it was time to seek a better situation with another program.

● **1994 national convention:** Floyd Mori of the Salt Lake City Chapter reported on the next convention scheduled to be held in Salt Lake City.

Mori reported that the event will be structured much along the

See DC/page 7

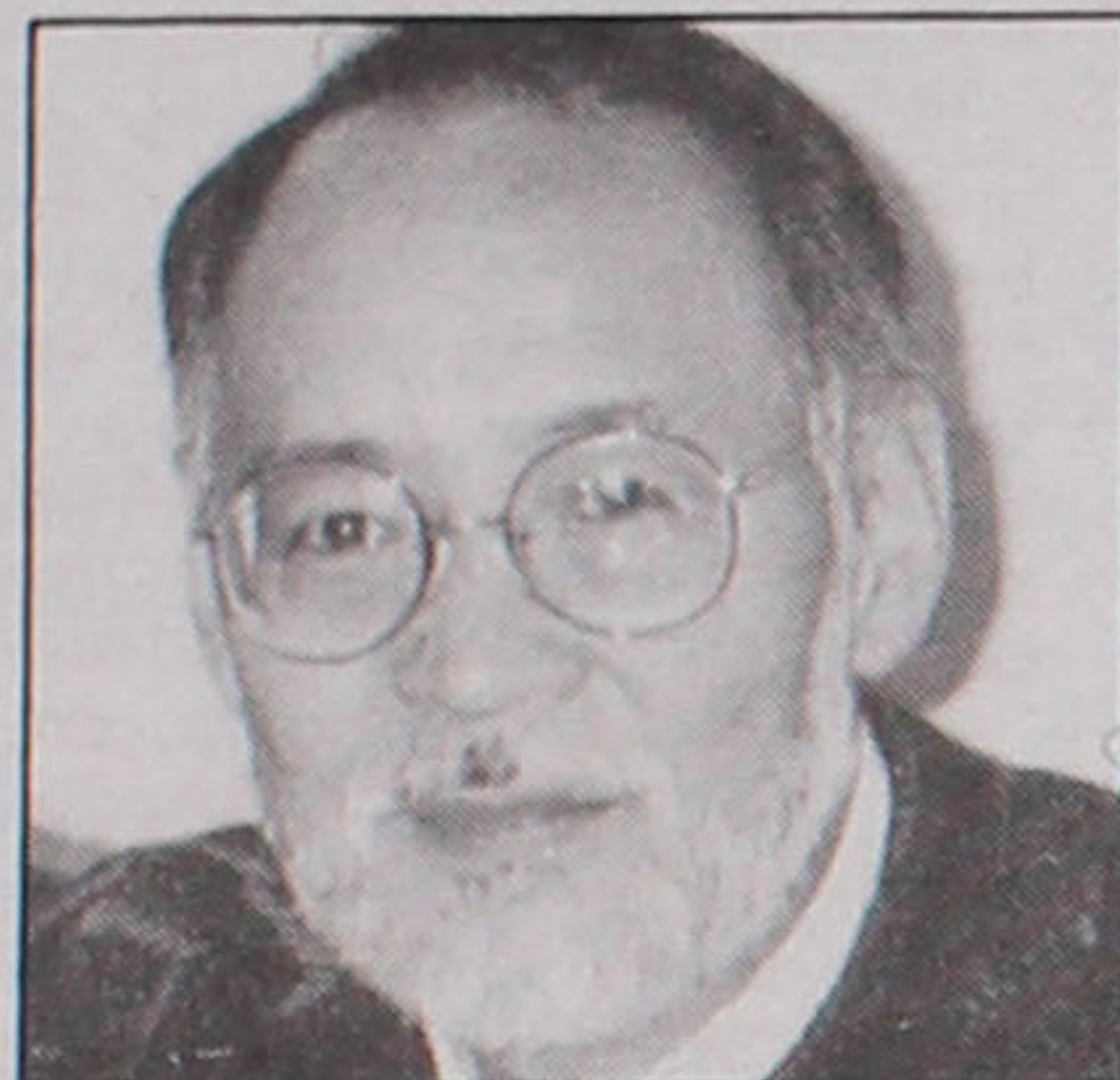
Small kid time



Gwen Muranaka

Words of Wisdom . . .

Washington, D.C., not only played host to the JACL national board, but to leadership conference participants, Washington D.C., Chapter members and members from up and down the mid-Atlantic seaboard. The Eastern District Council banquet Mar. 20 was an opportunity for the past, present and future of JACL to meet, mingle and share experiences. Pacific Citizen asked a few of the long-time JACL elite what advice and observations they could give to the younger generation coming up the ranks.



Tom Kometani
 president, New York Chapter
 Learn from the old people. Be willing to take a risk and no *enryo!*



Ruth Hashimoto
 New Mexico Chapter
 Keep up the good work. Continue the legacy of JACL.



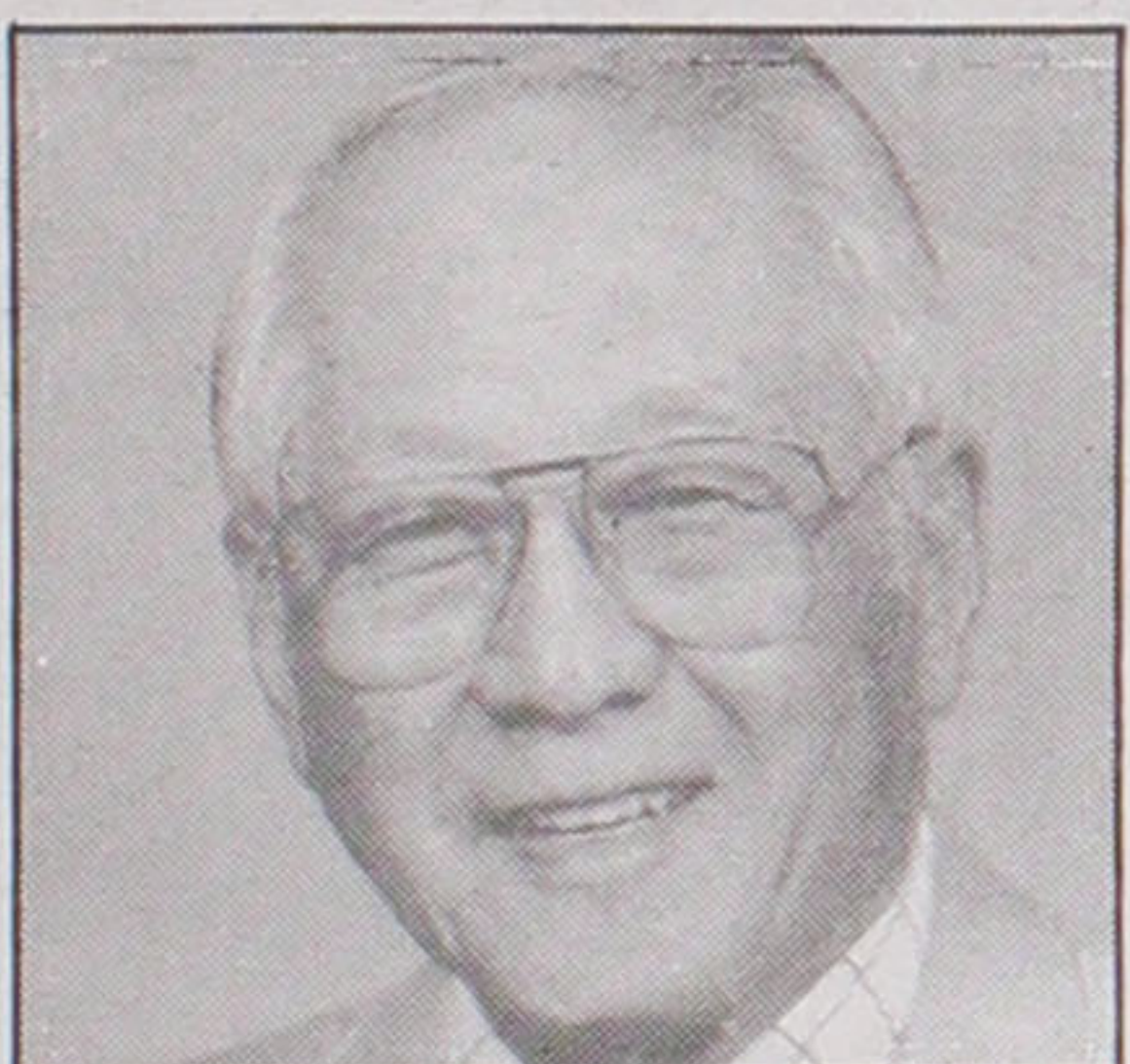
Etsu Masaoka
 Washington, D.C., Chapter
 I am hopeful for the future. The potential is tremendous from what

By
GWEN MURANAKA
 Assistant editor

I've seen of the leadership conference participants. We need a national organization to keep pressure on Congress. That's what we're counting on the young people to do.

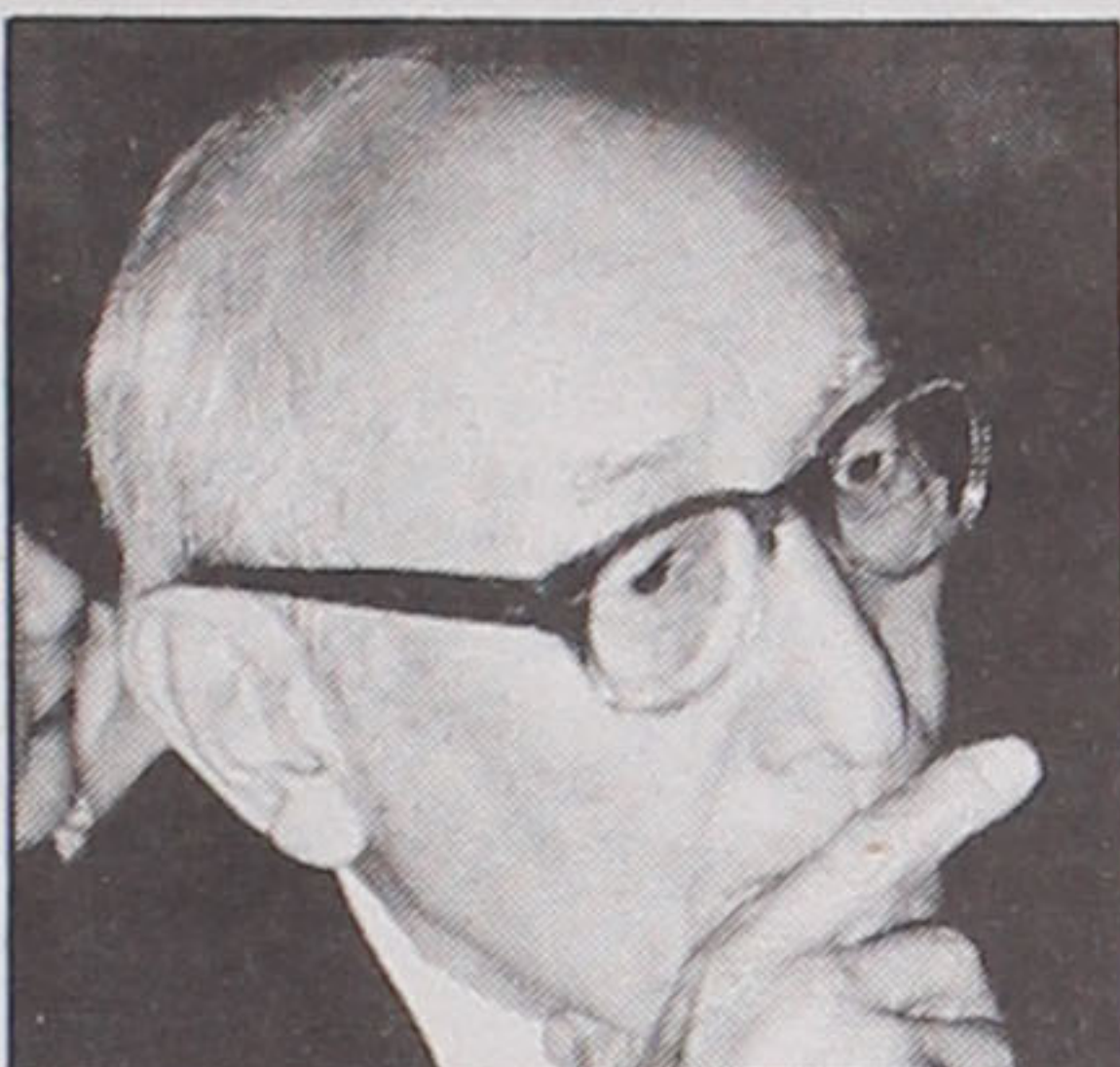


Grayce Ueyehara
 Philadelphia Chapter
 We can't be wasting our energies blaming each other for things in the past. It's time to move forward.



Pat Okura
 Washington, D.C., Chapter
 The young, Sansei and Yonsei,

have to learn something about their history, about the Issei and Nisei. This is why things are the way they are, we have to learn from experience. A lot of things JACL is facing now, we faced 30 years ago.



Tosh Hoshide
 Washington, D.C., Chapter
 Get involved! When I try to interest (young people) in JACL they say, "I don't have time to do anything with JACL." Come and exchange ideas, learn from older people, we've come through heavy prejudice and obstacles which younger people can learn from.



Lily Okura
 Washington, D.C., Chapter
 The thing I hear from young people is that "Since I heard about JACL, I want to get involved." The word "involvement" is important.

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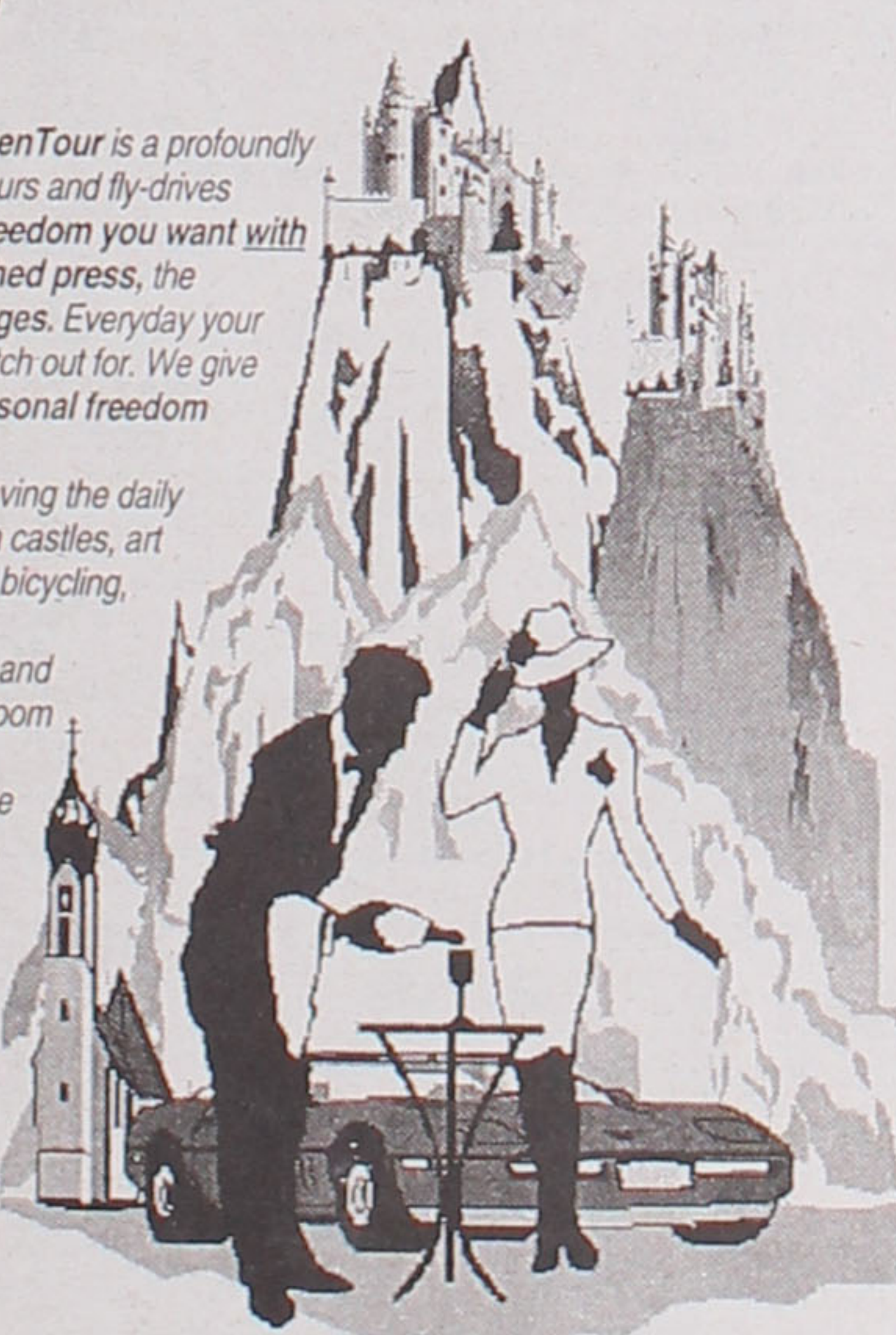
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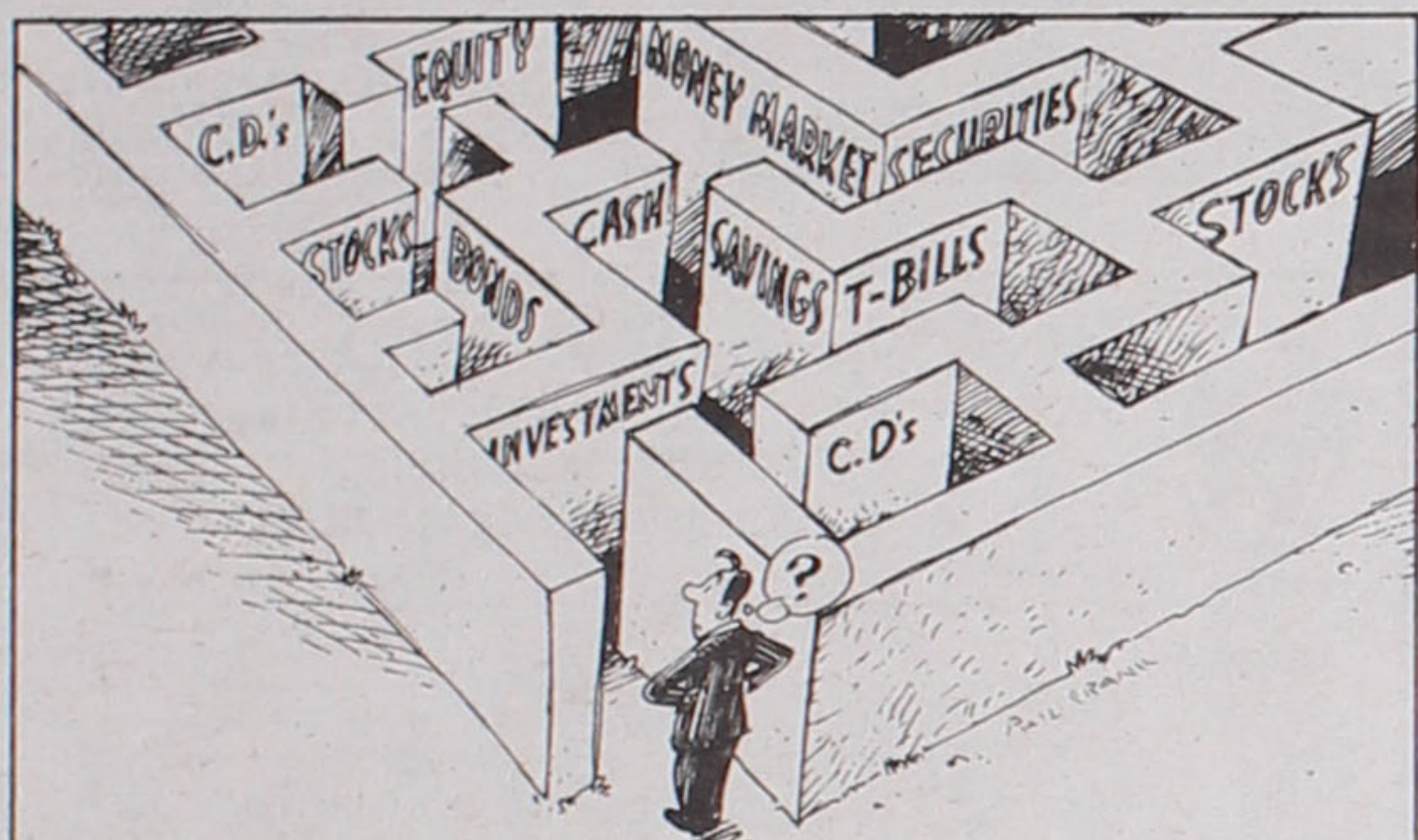


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Matsui: On Asian American appointments

About the controversial issue of Asian American appointments in the Clinton administration, Doris Matsui, White House deputy director, public liaison, said, don't worry, more are on the way.

"They are starting the process of announcements," said Matsui. "You have to look at the end result of the process. The individuals selected have to look long and hard at this, there is sacrifice involved. It takes a while."

But beyond the immediate issue of Clinton's appointments, Matsui said that Japanese Americans have to become more involved not only within their own community, but within larger society.

"From my contact with the Japanese American community I've noticed that there have been a lot of successes, individually, but I

feel we could use a lot more involvement in political process," said Matsui.

"We have to realize that whatever career you're in now, you're going to have several careers. It is a global economy—we have to be prepared to do several different jobs, have to have different experiences," said Matsui, noting that Japanese Americans have always tended to specialize in one field rather than achieving breadth in many fields.

"Money can't be a factor. If money is a consideration, you're just losing out and not helping the community," said Matsui.

The deputy director recently played a role in getting Clinton's support for the Justice for Wards Cove Workers Act recently resubmitted to the House by Rep. Jim

McDermott (D-Wash.).

"It was a matter of getting to the president, we just had to get the proper check-offs," said Matsui.

"I've been working with various Asian groups on Wards Cove. It's a good lesson. Yes, we're a free country, yes we have freedoms, but we have to always be observant."

She said because of that Asian American groups, despite their differences, have to stick together and stand up for each other.

"In the Asian American community there are vast differences between those who have been here for three or four generations and those recently immigrated. We have to help each other articulate the concerns of our communities," said Matsui.

MATSUI

(Continued from page 1)

"He is very friendly, very people-oriented. I have never seen anyone who is so in touch with the people he speaks to. He's the greatest listener, knows your name and remembers the context he last met you."

The deputy director, echoing a common observation about the president, said that often at public encounters, "you can't pull him away."

"I first met Hillary a few years back," said Matsui. "She is a very bright, compassionate person. It

is wonderful what she's doing as a first lady."

As for her own family, Matsui admits that it has become increasingly difficult for she and Robert to find time to be together.

"We try to keep Sundays free," said Matsui. She told of how their long hours and busy schedules often mean they miss each other. "Apparently he went to California," she said, bemused, because the night before he came home after she went to sleep and she left for work before he woke up.

"It's long hours for both of us, but it's fulfilling. We enjoy what we're doing," said Matsui.

As those who receive the

Matsui's Christmas cards or see the family photo in the *PC Holiday Issue* can tell, son Brian has grown up over the years from a child to a young man, now studying political science and history at Stanford.

While his mother isn't one to dictate what her son should do, it is clear that she has hopes that he follows his parents' devotion to the community.

"He grew up in Washington, and attended the Sidwell Friends School, where Chelsea Clinton is currently going. They instill a real sense of community service," said Matsui.

"He understands Washington, has a good feel for it. We're letting him make the decisions."

Giving back to the community is a common theme for Matsui. When asked who her role models are she answered her parents, saying, "They've always made me feel I was very special. As long as I've tried, I'm a success."

She credited her father with instilling in her a sense of community service. "My father is still alive, he is a leader in the small town in which he lives and he loves it that Bob and I are playing on a much bigger stage," said Matsui.

"What I see here (in Washington) is a wonderful commitment to public service. The president himself has raised the whole level, made service fashionable and reinstalled a sense of honor to it."

"I was too young to vote for JFK, but as a teen I was captured by Kennedy's message and always hoped when I was grown up that I would have the opportunity to participate in something similar," said Matsui.

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IN-SIGHT

LILLIAN C. KIMURA

National President JACL

The decision-making process

Several months ago, Harry Honda, PC's Editor Emeritus, sent me a statement of policy which appeared in JACL Reporter, February 1947. It was written by Hito Okada, then president of JACL.

In view of the controversy which has arisen as a result of Pacific Citizen's article and the Northern California District Council's position on gays in the military, it seems appropriate to reflect what was said 43 years ago. Mr. Okada wrote, "The Japanese American Citizens League is in existence because there are problems and adjustments which are peculiar to Americans of Japanese ancestry. The term 'Japanese American' in the name of the organization is used merely to identify the problems, not to identify the constituency or to describe the organization." He went on to say that membership is not limited to JAs, that we invite others to work with us so that a strong organization can be built. "We believe that as we work for the solution of the problems peculiar to our own minority group, we are helping constructively thereby to solve problems of all minorities."

In response to questions asked on why JACL does not take stands on issues affecting all Americans, Mr. Okada wrote the "basic premise is that when we start taking stands as an organization upon other matters, we begin to set ourselves apart as a group." He felt that JAs as individuals

should speak out on these matters. Because the membership of JACL is made up of various individuals with differing views, he thought taking stands on these broader issues would create disunity. He concluded JACL was working for the day that our problems would be no different than those faced by other Americans.

Well, today is a new day. Different times requires different responses and solutions. I would like to review the decision making process of JACL.

It is true we are an organization made up of diverse individuals. We are mostly Nikkei with a smattering of other ethnic and racial group members. We are Democrats, Republicans, Independents and Ross Perot supporters. Some of us are staunchly conservative while others may be viewed as "flaming" liberals. (I think we do need to understand that JACL as an organization can be construed as liberal because our purpose is to secure and uphold the civil and human rights of all people, that our agenda puts primary emphasis on democratic reform and individual liberty.)

We are a democratic organization. Members through their delegates at National Convention determine what we will be about. Through the resolutions process, Chapters and Districts espouse their concerns. The National Board recommends certain positions. These issues are debated on the Convention floor. A decision is made.

It is the responsibility of the National Board and staff then to implement these decisions. Several bienniums ago, we tried to codify all of these decisions into one document. It was important to have all the public policy positions in one place so when an issue came up it would be easy for us to determine whether Convention had given us the green light to take action.

I firmly believe that the directions given to JACL by delegates at Convention are sacrosanct and that we all have an obligation to support them in the public arena. If we disagree, we can choose not to work on an issue and then bring it back through the Convention process for reconsideration. But at no time should individual chapters or districts disavow publicly the position which was arrived at by democratic vote. It is important for us to have a unified organizational stance.

Back to the earlier statement of policy. In these times there are few issues that do not affect all of us. Where we do not have a clear cut position given by Convention delegates, it is the responsibility of the National Board to determine where we will stand. As president, it is my responsibility to see that we make the best decision possible. Hopefully, anything we decide will help move us steadfastly toward justice, equality and freedom. That's thirty for now.

Kimura's IN-SIGHT column appears regularly in Pacific Citizen.

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Opinions



From the frying pan

BILL HOSOKAWA

Another foot in the mouth

About the nicest thing that can be said of Masao Kokubo is that he is ignorant, insensitive and stupid.

Kokubo, member of the prefectural assembly in Hyogo prefecture in western Japan, is the latest Japanese politician who unzipped his mouth when he should have been thinking.

According to the Associated Press, which picked up the item from Japan's Kyodo News Service, Kokubo told a budget committee meeting last week that Japanese "feel tainted when they shake hands with a black person."

"We know in our heads that discrimination is bad, but our feelings are different," Kokubo was quoted. "When you shake hands with someone who is completely black, you feel your hands getting black."

In this manner did Kokubo join the pantheon of Japanese political dunces along with then Justice Minister Seiroku Kajiyama who compared the arrival of foreign prostitutes in Japan to blacks moving into all-white neighborhoods in the U.S.; with then House speaker Yoshio Sakurachi who said Japan was superior to the U.S. because American workers were illiterate

and lazy. And whoever said it was—fortunately the name escapes me at the moment—who blamed blacks who don't pay their debts for the problems of the American economy. It is small consolation to realize that American politicians aren't the only ones who put mouths in motion without getting their brains in gear.

Kokubo was talking about Pakistani and Asian Indian laborers who have come into Japan seeking jobs that pay better than at home. But American blacks quickly, and rightly, took umbrage. In Denver one black spokesman threatened to picket a Japan America Society (an organization dedicated to better understanding between peoples of the two countries) function unless there were an immediate apology. It seemed to make no difference to the irate spokesman that members of the Japan America Society were as outraged as he by Kokubo's remarks.

This kind of assumption of guilt by association is an extremely unfortunate part of problems dealing with Japan and the United States. Of course the most obvious example is the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Within hours the resulting anger was being

directed irrationally at Japanese Americans.

When U.S.-Japan trade disputes heat up, again it is Japanese Americans who too often are targeted for blame. At this writing it is too early to see how Kokubo's insensitivity will play, but certainly the reaction is unlikely to be minor. Kokubo can apologize—the Japanese are good at that—but the damage has been done. We have every right to be angry that Kokubo is so ignorant of the potential damage his remarks can cause.

No country, and no people, have a monopoly on insensitivity and stupidity and Americans have been as guilty as anyone in this area. But such actions are particularly hurtful when they affect us Japanese Americans who happen to be black.

Kokubo should know better. He needs to be told so in no uncertain terms by both Americans and Japanese, as well as all people of color. ☐

Hosokawa is the former editorial page editor of the Denver Post. His column appears weekly in the Pacific Citizen.

Voices

Communicating with chapters

By SHIRO TANAKA
Cincinnati Chapter

I am writing this in response to the article titled, "JACL: Action against Cincinnati Reds owner Schott is not enough," which appeared in page 1 of the Feb. 12, 1993, issue of *Pacific Citizen*. The article featured the statement made by Dennis Hayashi, JACL national director; hence it was considered an official policy of JACL. Although I can understand his reasons for making those public statements, I believe that he has made several tactical errors in doing so because of the reasons presented below. These issues were discussed during the recent board meeting of Cincinnati Chapter. While no official resolutions were made on the issue, the following may be considered as majority opinions among the board members who were present. I hope that readers would consider them for the future policy making of JACL in dealing with similar incidents.

1. The issue of communication between the National Headquarters (NHQ) and a local chapter is in existence, NHQ must get in touch with the local president (or a board member, in his/her absence) before making any decisions or statements that might affect the chapter. Mr. Hayashi had made no contacts with our presidents (Ms. Lida Fukumura, 1992; Ms. Patricia Ikeda Carper, 1993), or any other board member before speaking out on this issue. We felt that we were totally ignored by NHQ.

2. The circumstances and the context of the anti-JA slur uttered by Mrs. Schott. In this instance, the consensus among JAs in Cincinnati has been that her racial/ethnic slurs were mostly against the blacks and Jews. Of course, we must be indignant about them, but the groups to pick up the major battle have been those most offended, which were the black and Jewish communities. The question of the slur against JAs was raised after the first ones were made public. In addition, we do not know the exact circumstances of the utterance of the word "Japs." As we understood, it was not uttered in her public speech nor was it perceived by us as an expression of her hatred against JAs. (I am informed that Mrs. Schott has at least several Japanese friends, since the Cincinnati Reds team visited Japan some years ago.)

3. The general character and behavior of Mrs. Schott. My perception has been that Mrs. Schott lacks sensitivity about minorities and still lives with the social mentality of the pre-1960 era. The war against Japan was raging while she was a youth and she has not had an opportunity or necessity to learn about the plight of the racial and ethnic minorities. This kind of ignorance would be dealt with most effectively by education, not by punishment.

It should also be pointed out that Mrs. Schott has been very popular in Cincinnati. She bought the Cincinnati Reds baseball team when it was about to be sold to another city. She has been a benefactor to numerous local charities. Despite the reported racial slurs and the social uproar which followed, most (more than 70% according to one survey) of Cincinnatians supported her and thought that the punishment she received from the Major League baseball was too severe. This means that any additional unfavorable comments against her at this stage may well generate strong resentment (against JAs) among the public here. This is totally unnecessary. On the other hand, if we (JAs and other minorities) could somehow succeed in educating her about racial/ethnic sensitivity, she could be a very powerful spokesperson on our side.

It should be understood clearly that I am not saying that we should not speak out against a wrong-doing of a popular person. However, I also believe that we should always explore a better and more effective way of dealing with anti-JA slurs. Fighting each single incident of unproven or privately uttered slurs may accomplish little and will quickly consume our time and resources.

4. Mrs. Schott apologized, publicly or otherwise. I am informed that, after Mr. Hayashi and Mr. Bill Yoshino (Midwest regional director) called Mrs. Schott over the phone to explain why she should not be addressing JAs or Japanese with the slur, she apologized. It is my gut feeling that Mrs. Schott is not a racist. If she were, she would not have readily admitted her igno-



East Wind

BILL MARUTANI

The crossroad

A NUMBER of months ago, we wrote about the embarrassment and difficulty—and, yes, reluctance—of the Japanese government to officially acknowledge the existence during WWII of

i-an-fu (comfort women) operations, women serving as sex slaves to Japanese military forces. The victims reportedly consisted almost entirely of Asian women from other nations with as many as 200,000 women so involved. A number of these women have come forward to confront the Japanese government, demanding an apology and monetary compensation; some have pressed their cause by filing a lawsuit. Next month, a case involving the claims of some 41 Filipino women is due to come to trial before the Tokyo District Court.

AS MORE DOCUMENTATION is uncovered from among the dusty files of the Japanese military archives, inexorably the stance of the Japanese government has receded. At one point there was either wholesale denial or non-recognition by the Japanese government. Now, more recently, with the discovery of records indicating that the

Japanese government had given approval to the establishment of brothels on military bases, the official stance somewhat softened. It is proposed that a fund be established to be administered by the Japanese Red Cross Society ostensibly to provide health care in various parts of Asia. By this indirect approach, legal responsibility is side-stepped. In conjunction with announcing the establishment of this fund, the government will assert that there is no evidence that the government itself was involved in coercing women into prostitution.

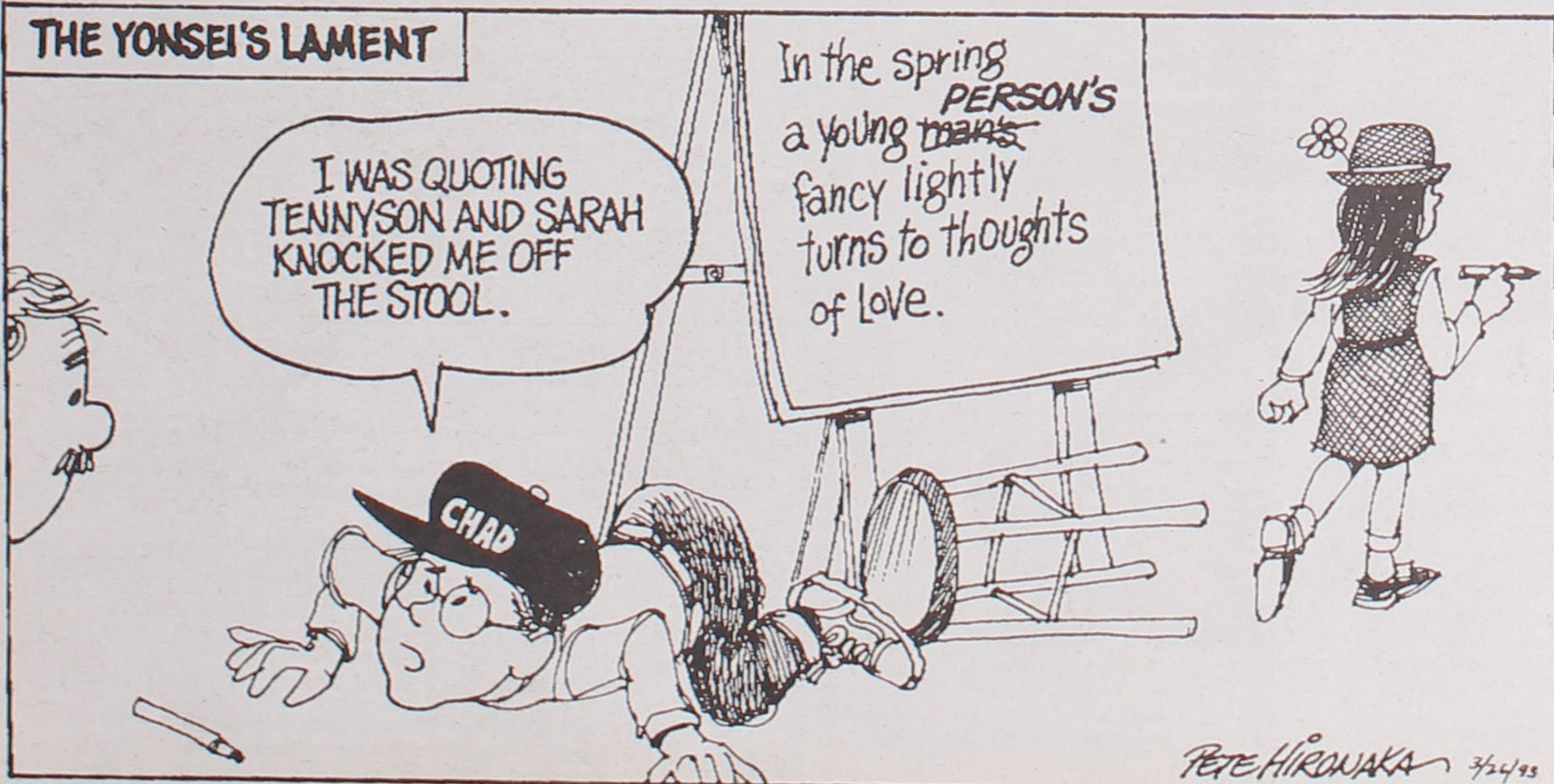
Maybe so. And maybe not.

IN AN EARLIER column, we also mentioned the legalistic reasoning used by the Japanese courts in rejecting other claims by foreign nationals residing in Japan. Applied to Korean residents: with the normalization in 1965 of relations between Korea and Japan, accompanied by payment of reparations to Korea, the "ledger" so to speak, had been balanced as to any and all claims between the two nations and

its nationals. As to Korean residents who had not completed steps to acquire Japanese citizenship, the citizenship reverted by operation of law to Korean citizenship. Thus, even though born, raised and educated in Japan, any individual claims that such Korean resident may have had, were said to have been erased by the 1965 treaty. Be that as it may, the *i-an-fu* victims continue to press forward, and they appear to be gaining. Next month's trial in Tokyo undoubtedly will be followed closely by many.

COMPELLING ACCOUNTABILITY by a government can require single-minded dogged determination. For a government to acknowledge it has committed a wrong, requires strength of national character and dignity. We shall be watching Japan's conduct in this matter. ☐

After leaving the bench, Marutani resumed practicing law in Philadelphia. He writes regularly for the Pacific Citizen.



VOICES

(Continued from page 6)

rance or apologized to Mr. Hayashi and Mr. Yoshino over the phone. The news of her quick admission of the mistake and apology was accepted by us local JAs, and we are not demanding Mrs. Schott's public apology. To demand a public apology at this stage would be tantamount to *Namakizu ni shio o nuru* or smearing salt into the fresh wound. This we must not do.

5. Mrs. Schott did not refuse to meet with JA and other Asian minority representatives. I am currently treasurer and a member of the Board of Inter-Ethnic Council of Greater Cincinnati, which is composed of about 30 racial, ethnic, and cultural groups in this area to promote multi-ethnic tolerance through education and social advocacy. When our chairperson (Chuck T. Lee) as well as Ms. Fukumura and Ms. Ikeda Carper tried to participate in the negotiation between Mrs. Schott's lawyer and representatives of the local black and Jewish groups, they were all shut out for some undisclosed reasons. However, we have decided not to pursue this issue vigorously for the sake of

quick and peaceful resolution of the matter. I am told that contrary to Mr. Hayashi's assumption, this exclusion did not come from Mrs. Schott. Therefore, it indicates that Mr. Hayashi made a public statement without the benefit of this information.

In conclusion, first and foremost, the national HQ must establish a close communication with the involved local chapter before making any public statement that may affect that chapter. Second, whether or not Mrs. Schott used the anti-JA slur in private conversation is a small matter which we have decided to ignore, only for the sake of winning the bigger war against the broad-based and subtle racism in our community. Education of the public, not confrontation with the repentant public figure, should prove more effective. In a sense, it was good that Mr. Hayashi's statement was not picked up by the national or local news media. It could have provoked thousands of people into resentments against a few hundred JAs in this community. We are also hoping that his statements would not have shut the mind of Mrs. Schott against our constructive approach with sensitivity training, since our

chapter was recently asked to participate in such a training by sending a facilitator.

Nothing can better illustrate our strategy on this issue than the famous Aesop fable about the sun and the cold winter in their contest to remove the traveller's heavy coat. It was the warm sunshine, not the howling cold wind, which prompted the traveller to take off the coat.

Shiro Tanaka, M.D., was president of the Cincinnati Chapter in 1991.

DC

(Continued from page 2)

lines of the 1992 Denver convention.

Most of the discussion focused on workshop topics.

Here are the proposed topics:

- Family History: A Genealogy Experience.
- Japanese Americans and the Arts
- Anti-Asian Hate Crimes
- Effective Media Relations
- Personal Financial Planning
- Asian American Women's Issues
- Access to the Corporate Board Room
- Minority Issues

- The Art of Political Lobbying
- The issue of Aging
- Health care for Asian Americans.

National headquarters will organize two more:

- U.S./Japan Relations
 - Education Workshop
- After board discussion, the following topics were added for consideration:
- Native Hawaiian Sovereignty
 - Gays and Lesbians.

The proposed list of 15 was then approved by the board. Mori said that only eight will be addressed at the convention.

The next step, Mori added, is fund-raising for the workshop sessions. He said a bigger effort will be extended in seeking corporate participation in renting exhibit space.

• **Membership program:** Alan Nishi, vice president, membership services, reported on the completion of membership brochures that will be distributed through the chapters.

Additionally, various JA members will be featured in *Pacific Citizen*, a promotional with each answering the question, "Why is it important to be a JA member?"

On the 1000 Club Life Commit-

tee, Nishi recommended Mas Hironaka of the San Diego Chapter rejoin the group to fill the vacancy left by the death of Tom Arima. The board approved.

• **Chapter presidents handbook:** Murakawa reported that updated versions were being prepared and would be sent to some 90 chapters within about two months. The cost, she reported, would be \$35 each.

Murakawa also reported on leadership training sessions for chapter presidents. Working with J.D. Hokoyama, head of Leadership, Education for Asian Pacifics (LEAP) and a member of the Downtown Chapter, she has created a 3 1/2-day program in which chapter presidents, president-elects or even other chapter members could learn about such leadership topics as cultural values and risk-taking.

The first one will be scheduled for Los Angeles since that is where LEAP is based. If successful, she said, the program could be arranged in other chapter cities.

The question of funding was raised and that the program should be designed to avoid strain on national finances. In response, Kaji suggested corporate sponsorship.



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Death Notice

MITSUYE T. ODA

CLEARFIELD, Utah - Mitsuye Takano Oda, 95, died February 25 of natural causes.
 Hiroshima-born of Saiki-gun, she married Mitsugu Oda in 1916 in Japan and soon came to the U.S.
 They resided in Syracuse, West Point and moved to Clinton in 1945. Both owned and operated a farm. She was among the first Utah Issei to become a naturalized U.S. Citizen.
 Mrs. Oda was an active member of the Syracuse Buddhist Church, Fujinkai, Hiroshima Kenjinkai and Ogden Buddhist Church, where funeral services were conducted March 8 with the Rev. Shinji Okada officiating. Interment followed at the Ogden City Cemetery.
 Surviving are daughter Mrs. Peter (Rose) Ohtaki (Menlo Park, Calif.), sons Jack, Henry (Monterey Park, Calif.), Davis S. (Torrance, Calif.), 11 grandchildren & 7 great-grandchildren. Predeceased are husband Mitsugu Dec. 19, 1968; and son Sam Isamu, 24.

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Obituaries

Atsumi, Howard C., 56, Gardena, Feb. 14 at Mammoth Lakes; Stockton-born, survived by wife Cookie, daughters Julianne, Carolyn, Denise, Janice, mother Reni Atsumi, brothers Richard, George, sisters Nancy, Myrtle Shibata, in-laws Aki Tsukahara, Sachi Watanabe (Wash.), Frances Kajji.

Bazon, David L., 83, Washington, Feb. 19, Superior, Wis.-born pioneer in the application of psychiatric principals to criminal law, chief judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for District of Columbia (1962-1978), appointed by President Truman in October, 1949, directly to appellate bench after three years with Justice Department in charge of alien property, where he became involved with the Washington JA CL Office.

Daly, B. Koharu, 63, El Monte, Jan. 21; Rocky Ford, Colo.-born, survived by son Michael, daughter Patricia Power, 1 gc, brothers Aichi Uyemura (Colo.), Ben, sisters Fumi Tsuchiya (Colo.), Michi Horiba.

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Nishimoto, Robert K., 88, Rosemead, Jan. 5; Honolulu-born, survived by wife Clara, son Robert Jr. (Sacramento), daughters Frances Yasuda, Lois Zaima, 8 gc., 4 ggc.

Sunada-O'Gara, J. Chizuka, Albany, Dec. 13; Green River, Wyo.-born Reno JA CLer ('88 honoree for assisting WWII internees), survived by sons Terence Masaichi, Sean Morijiro, brothers Dr. Leo Sunada (Wenatchee, Wash.), Dr. Kayo (Golden, Colo.), George (Logan, Utah), sisters Edith Sunada, Agnes Tabuchi (both Wyo.).

Takahashi, Paul, 69, Seattle, Feb. 1; WWII veteran, survived by 3 brothers James H (Reno), Nobu, George (both Seattle), 3 sisters Toyo Ishino (Arlington, Calif.), Kazue Takano (Riverside, Calif.), and Carol Fujimoto (Altadena, Calif.).

Yokota, Tetsuji, 57, Los Angeles, Feb. 5; Los Angeles-born Korean War veteran, survived by wife Tomoko, daughters Doris, Caroline, Lorraine, mother Fumi Yokota, sister Bessie, in-laws: father Hyoemon Hamaguchi, 2 brothers & 3 sisters (all Jpn.).

Yuoka, Taeko, 73, Harbor City, Feb. 8; Gardena-born, survived by husband Jack, son Dennis, daughter Kiyoko Gibson (Va.), 2 gc., brothers Sumio and Masari Suroki, sister Kazuko Ikebasu (Omaha).

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