

# J A C L NEWSLETTER

## SEATTLE CHAPTER

MAY 1992

VOLUME 28, NO. 5

### (Outgoing) President's Message

by *Tim Gojio*

I have declared my candidacy for the Washington State House of Representatives in the 34th Legislative District (West Seattle, Burien, and Vashon Island).

I believe it is necessary for me to avoid any possible conflict of interest between my duties as president of the Seattle Chapter JACL and as a candidate for public office. As such, the Seattle Chapter JACL board and I have concluded that it is in the best interest of the organization for me to transfer my responsibilities as President to First Vice President Joy St. Germain as of May 1, 1992.

Joy brings great energy and organizational skill to the Seattle Chapter. She has my total confidence and

support. I know that the Seattle JACL will provide Joy with the support necessary to lead as president.

My time as president has been eventful and interesting. I appreciate the kind words and thoughts which have been extended to me, and have taken to heart the comments which have been oriented toward improving the chapter.

I regret that a conflict has arisen between my public service career goals and my continued involvement as chapter president. I will always remember the many people with whom I have worked, and I wish Joy the best as she takes over the position of president.

### (Incoming) President's Message

by *Joy St. Germain*

The Seattle chapter JACL hosted the JACL Pacific Northwest District Meeting on Saturday, May 9. Topics included discussion of the 32nd biennial National JACL Convention in Denver Colorado, August 3 -8, 1992. More information about Seattle Chapter and PNW District Council plans for the National Convention, including discount group airfares to Denver, will follow in this newsletter.

Recommendations and new initiatives to reorganize the structure of the JACL will include:

- Restructuring the National Board, National Council, and staff of JACL
- Evaluating the governance of the *Pacific Citizen* newspaper
- Focussing the District Councils and Chapters upon implementation of the JACL Program for Action (see page 6)
- Publishing a JACL annual report and annual membership brochure
- Acquiring a new JACL logo

- Pursuing more aggressively foundation and corporate funding to support JACL programs

If these recommendations are adopted at the convention in Denver, the changes will take effect in 1994. I look forward to representing you as the president of the Seattle chapter JACL at the national convention. Please feel free to bring to me and the board of directors any issues, ideas or concerns that you may have about JACL and our Seattle chapter. Please come to our board meetings, held every third Wed of the month at 7 pm at the Japanese Language School, 1414 S. Weller St.

#### Inside:

JACL Program for Action

JACL/Asian American  
Response to Rodney King verdict

## Chapter Focus

### Asian American Town Meeting

On Saturday, April 18, this event was jointly sponsored by the Seattle chapter JACL, the Taiwanese American Citizens League, the Filipino Political Action Group of Washington, and the Taiwanese Student Association at the University of Washington at the Keystone Congregational Church in the Wallingford District.

Danny Howe, editor of the International Examiner, served as moderator for two panels discussing economic and social issues affecting Asian Americans. Panelists included State Representative Gary Locke and Art Wang, Lacy Mayor Gene Liddell, Seattle Municipal Court Judge Rom Mamiya, former Tukwila councilmember Clarence Moriwaki, Seattle Chinese Post editor Susan Cassady, journalist Bob Shimabukuro, economist Peter Lin, and UW Small Business specialist Paul Sommers.

### Seattle Japanese Community Queen Contest

The Community Queen contest was held April 18 at the Seattle Sheraton Hotel. Lillian Tanaka was

crowned as the 1992 Seattle Japanese Community Queen. The other participants were Angella Tanaka-Kramer, Connie Nakano, Cindy Yoshihara, Anne Uemura, and Taniya Taniguchi. The Seattle Chapter contributed to the Miss Tomodachi award, which was won by Anne Uemura.

### Newsletter mailout

A special thank-you to the volunteers who have helped with the newsletter mailout in the months of March and April: Bruce Echigoshima, Haruo Fujino, Sue Fujino, Kiyoshi G. Fukano, Tim Gojio, Ayako Hurd, Lee Hurd, Kazzie Katayama, Mits Katayama, Chuck Kato, Lil Kato, Cherry Kinoshita, Iris Miyahara, Mako Nakagawa, Ken Nakano, Belle Nishioka, Rose Ogino, Arlene Oki, May Sasaki, Sam Shoji, and Kip Tokusa.

Please join us for the newsletter mailout every second Wednesday of the month at 6 pm at the Japanese Language School at 1414 S. Weller.

*continued on next page*

## Chapter Focus (continued)

### 1992 Scholarship Banquet

The 1992 Scholarship Banquet potluck will be held on Wednesday, May 20 from 6-9pm at the Kawabe Memorial House. Please bring a main dish, side dish or salad. The Seattle Chapter JACL will grant three \$1,000 awards: the Minoru Tamesa Scholarship, the Bunshiro Tazuma Scholarship, and the Reverend Emery Andrews Scholarship. Please join us for a special evening to honor our students.

### First Vice President needed

The position of First Vice President is now open. The First Vice President presides over Board meetings in the President's absence; attends District Council meetings in the President's absence; monitors the activities of the following standing JACL committees: Aging & Retirement, Cherry Blossom Festival, JAYs/Youth, Mailout, Min Masuda, Nikkei Concerns, Queen Contest, Scholarships, Tomodachi, and *Tomo no kai*.

This position offers a great opportunity for a new-

comer to become involved, or for any interested person to become more active. Please let any of the officers or members of the Board know of your interest in joining our team (see phone numbers on last page of newsletter).

### National Legacy Fund Donors

Deepest appreciation is extended to the following donors whose contributions to the National JACL Legacy Fund have been received in the month of April:

\$1,000+: Mas/Marie Honmyo

\$500+: Kazuko Sasaki (in memory of Hiro Sasaki)

Other: Takami Tachiyama (in memory of Toshi Tachiyama), Kosuki Echigo, Patricia N. Sado.

### Thousand Club Golf Tournament

The 1992 JACL-Thousand Club Golf Tournament will be held on Sunday, July 26 at the Allenmore Golf Course in Tacoma, starting at 12 noon. It is open to all JACLers and spouses. See entry form below.

## 1992 Seattle Chapter JACL - 1000 Club GOLF TOURNAMENT

*Open to all JACLers and spouses*

DATE: Sunday, July 26 PLACE: Allenmore Golf Course TIME: 12 noon

Tee times limited to first 52 persons. Mixed foursomes. Entry deadline July 1, 1992.

Entry fee-\$35 (includes green fee and dinner); Golf only-\$20; Dinner only-\$15.

*Dinner immediately following tournament at Poodle Dog in Fife.*  Top Sirloin or  Baked Chicken.

*Please return entry fee and form to Tournament Chairperson:*

Bob Mizukami

or

Reiko Tsubota

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Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Present GHIN INDEX \_\_\_\_\_ Date of entry \_\_\_\_\_

*Final handicap will be based on July 1 GHIN. Bring GHIN card. If no handicap, use club handicap or approximate score*

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## Community Notes

### The Kame Project

Beginning in May, the University of Washington will invite Nikkei residents of King County, age 65 or older, to participate in the Kame Project, a cross-cultural study on aging. Funded by the National Institute on Aging, this new study will compare elderly Japanese in the Seattle area with their counterparts in Hawaii and Japan.

Researchers will try to determine if there is a connection between ethnicity and culture and how people age. By comparing persons of similar genetic backgrounds living in very different society and cultural environments, scientists hope to discover the possible risk factors associated with the major diseases of aging. Equally important, researchers hope to identify the protective elements which allow persons to age successfully. For more information, contact Greta Hoshibata or Joyce Nakamura at [redacted].

### Anti-Asian violence roundtable

The Commission on Asian American Affairs and the Asian Bar Association are cosponsoring a community discussion on Anti-Asian sentiment and violence on Tuesday, May 19, from 5:30-7:00pm at the Asian Counseling and Referral Service lunchroom, 1032 S. Jackson, Suite #200. See **Special Report** in this issue of the newsletter on the Commission's response to the Rodney King verdict and subsequent violence.

### Issei/Nisei/Sansei: Japanese America on Film

A series of films followed by discussions will explore

the Japanese American experience, from immigration to internment, to the ensuing pursuit of cultural identity. The films will be shown at the Theatre Off Jackson, 409 Seventh Ave. S at 1 pm on the first three Saturdays of May. Tickets are \$4 for each program.

The May 16 screenings include *Family Gathering*, by Lise Yasui, a biracial Japanese American woman who researched her family's past through interviews, photographs, and home movies; and *Beacon Hill Boys*, a comedy-drama set in Seattle's Beacon Hill focussing on the coming of age of a sansei in the 70s, directed by Dean Hayasaka, Wm. Satake Blauvelt, and Ken Mochizuki, who also stars.

### Seattle Heart Mountain Reunion

Registration packets for the fourth Seattle Heart Mountain Reunion have been mailed out to over 1700 people. The reunion is scheduled for September 11-13 at the Sea-Tac Red Lion Hotel. Registration is due by June 1 and is \$100 per person; after June 1 and until July 1 \$115 per person. Any forms post-marked after July 1 will be returned.

Included in the registration fee are the Friday evening welcome buffet dinner, exhibits, souvenir book, slide presentations by Bacon Sakatani; Saturday dinner-dance with guest speaker Lori Matsukawa, KING-5 tv newscaster; and Sunday brunch. For reunion information or registration forms, call Gil Inaba at [redacted] or Toshi Terayama at (206) [redacted].

*continued on next page*

### Community Voice Awards

Shigeko Uno, Frank Irigon, Sid and Dan Ko, and Van Sar have been selected as the 1992 Asian Pacific American Community Voice Awards. The International Examiner is sponsoring the second annual Community Voice Awards banquet on Thursday, May 19, 1992 at the Nippon Kan Theatre, 628 S. Washington St. No host cocktails start at 5:30pm and dinner is served at 6:30 pm. Tickets are \$40 per person. For reservations/information call 624-3925.

### Portland JACL Remembrance Event

The Portland Chapter JACL is sponsoring a half-day event at the Portland Exposition Center on Saturday, May 16 from 2-7pm. Called "Our Family Had A Number," the event will commemorate the experiences of Japanese Americans during World War II in a radio-show format. The site was chosen because it

was the assembly center where individuals were detained before being sent to Relocation Center camps. The afternoon will close with an informal obento dinner and fellowship. For more information, contact Jean Matsumoto [redacted] or Sharon Takahashi [redacted].

### Minority/Women-Owned Business Conference

The Washington Department of Trade and Economic Development is sponsoring a Business Opportunities Conference for minority and women-owned businesses on June 9 in Kennewick. The conference will provide technical assistance to businesses in the areas of start-up, finance and bid preparation, and offer guidance for working with prime contractors and federal, state, and local governments. The registration fee is \$15. For more information, call Judith Tensmeyer at [redacted].

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## JACL Program for Action

### Mission Statement

The purpose of the Japanese American Citizens League is to:

- Protect the rights of Japanese Americans as its primary and continuing concern. It shall also strive to secure and uphold civil and human rights for all people.
- Preserve the culture and values of Japanese Americans in a multicultural society.
- Participate in the development of understanding between all social and ethnic groups.
- Promote, sponsor and encourage programs, projects, and activities designed to further and to encourage members to perform faithfully their duties and obligations to the United States of America. The organization and its members shall uphold the Constitution and the laws of the United States.

### Summary of Goals and Objectives

#### GOAL 1: Secure and uphold the civil and human rights of Japanese Americans and all people.

- Monitor and reduce anti-Asian violence.
- Assure that American school systems and textbooks reflect accurately the Japanese American and Asian American experience.
- Portray Asian Americans positively in the media.
- Counteract negative impact on Japanese Americans and other Asians which results from "Japan-bashing."
- Increase equal employment opportunities for Japanese Americans and other minorities in the public and private sector.
- Assure that Japanese Americans and other minorities are admitted and treated equally and fairly on college campuses.
- Support legislative initiatives that provide for the welfare of the broader community.

#### GOAL 2: Create programs to address the needs of JACL membership

- Provide for social needs of JACL members (i.e. young family activities, networking, singles, adult daycare, etc.)
- Provide for career development needs of JACL membership (i.e. skills training, job bank, etc.)
- Provide JACL members with quality, affordable health services (i.e., insurance, health fairs, long-term care, etc.)
- Sponsor programs related to changes in family patterns (i.e., death, divorce, out-marriage, etc.)
- Provide programs related to financial planning.

#### GOAL 3: Increase JACL's organizational capabilities to carry out its mission.

- Increase and diversify JACL's revenue base.
- Implement Youth Plan for Action
- Amend JACL governance structure to improve the organization's effectiveness (i.e., National committees to be chaired by National Board members; consolidate national committees to sharpen focus, etc.)
- Assure that the Pacific Citizen functions primarily as a JACL publication.
- Eliminate sexism and racism in JACL.
- Extend full membership rights to every member (e.g., right to vote and hold office)

#### GOAL 4: Pursue the conclusion of redress and reparations for the injustices of wartime internment of Americans of Japanese ancestry.

- Assure that every eligible individual receives redress payments.
- Serve as a clearinghouse for redress information.
- Assure that redress payments do not adversely affect the entitlement benefits such as Social Security, Medicaid, welfare, veterans benefits, etc.
- Assure that redress payments are exempt from state income tax.
- Assure that qualified individuals are appointed as directors of the Civil Liberties Educational Trust Fund.

#### GOAL 5: Increase the number of Japanese Americans and Asian Americans in leadership positions.

- Develop new leaders for JACL.
- Provide leadership training.
- Identify and advocate appointment of Japanese Americans and other Asian Americans to leadership positions.

#### GOAL 6: Preserve the cultural heritage and values of Japanese Americans

- Support organizations and projects that preserve and promote Japanese and Asian artistic and cultural values (i.e., museums, libraries, theatres, schools, etc.)
- Sponsor Japanese American values workshops (i.e., cross-cultural communication, interracial marriage, etc.)
- Increase participation in the Asian Pacific Heritage Month and other celebrations.
- Promote local chapters' cultural heritage activities.
- Provide opportunities for learning Japanese language, arts, music, etc.

## Special Report

### Response to the Rodney King Verdict

*Before April 28, 1992 most people outside the Los Angeles never heard of Simi Valley, a predominantly white middle-class suburb some 35 miles from city center. But when the jury handed down its verdict exonerating four white policemen in the beating of African American Rodney King, explosions reverberated throughout the nation. Outrage, rage, and flames leaped from city to city, including Seattle.*

*Following are some excerpts from press releases sent out by National JACL in response to the Rodney King verdict and subsequent violence.*

"It is difficult to reconcile the jury's verdict with the images captured on video and testimony presented by other law enforcement officials during the trial," said Dennis Hayashi, JACL National Director. "We join with other civil rights leaders in calling for an immediate federal investigation into civil rights violations."

Carol Kawamoto, governor of JACL Pacific Southwest District expressed shock and dismay at the acquittal of all four policemen. Referring to recommendations issued by the Christopher Commission, which calls for police reform within the Los Angeles Police Department, Kawamoto said, "The department's policies and actions must vigorously reflect and reaffirm civil rights for all people."

On Friday, May 1, President Bush met with leaders from the African American and Chicano communities to seek their advice in the aftermath of the Rodney King verdict. No Asian American group or individual was invited to attend this meeting.

In a letter to the President, Asian American representatives of various civil rights organizations, including Dennis Hayashi of National JACL, wrote: "We are angry and disappointed with the fact that Asian Americans were not invited to your meeting on May 1 ... As you know, Asian Americans were greatly impacted by last week's events. It is estimated that over 1500 Korean American businesses were destroyed. In an incident telecast nationally, a Japanese American motorist, who was dragged from his car and badly beaten, was one of the first casualties."

"... The majority of the Asian American community was dismayed by the verdict in the Rodney King case,

and supports an expedited investigation and requests for indictments of civil rights charges ... Failure to acknowledge that Asian Americans share the concerns of other noted civil rights organizations regarding the King verdict serves to deepen the growing division between our communities ..."

Later that day, Dennis Hayashi did meet with James Turner, U.S. Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, to discuss the government handling of the Rodney King verdict and the case of Jim Loo, a Chinese American who was murdered in 1989 in Raleigh, North Carolina. Loo's assailants, Lloyd and Jim Piche, called Loo and his friends "gooks" and "chinks." The U.S. Department of Justice sought the maximum sentence of 7-1/2 years imprisonment for the defendants, but District Court Judge James Fox downgraded the sentence to 4 years.



*Following is a letter to President Bush, initiated by the Washington Commission on Asian American Affairs and signed by over 75 Asian American community organizations, including the Seattle Chapter JACL.*

May 4, 1992

Like millions of other Americans, we were outraged by the verdict in the Rodney King case and numbed by the subsequent violence in Los Angeles and cities throughout the country, including Seattle.

As Asian Pacific Americans, we recall a similar injustice nine years ago when two unemployed auto workers received probation after pleading guilty to the killing of Chinese American Vincent Chin, whom they mistook for a Japanese national. In the Rodney King case, a jury with no African American representation and little understanding of urban problems exonerated the policemen for a brutal beating that cannot be justified under any circumstances. Justice denied to one race of people is justice denied to all people.

We condemn lawlessness and violence from police officers and rioters alike, but last week's protests and vandalism were not simply a reaction to a single

*continued on next page*

## Rodney King Verdict Response

(Continued)

incident. The unrest speaks to what have become catastrophic problems in urban America — the widening gulf between the rich and poor, the marginalization of racial minorities, the growing welter of hopelessness that has pervaded our cities for more than a decade. It was only a matter of time before the cities erupted; the Rodney King case simply lit the fuse.

The events of the past few days also make it clear that this is problem not only for the inner city of America, but for the whole country, urban and rural, privileged and underprivileged, people of all colors. Entire generations of Americans are growing up without hope for jobs or housing or self-respect. The loss of enterprise and creativity is incalculable.

We were encouraged by your pledge to pursue

swift justice for Rodney King though a civil rights investigation and possible federal trial. But we challenge you, Mr. President, to address what underlies our country's economic and racial divide. We challenge you to take the leadership on civil rights not only as they apply to a single case of injustice, but to the larger injustices of poverty, of homelessness, of inequality. We challenge you to reverse the decade of retreat from civil rights enforcement and federal aid for the cities. We challenge you to make these issues our highest national priority.

We know how this country can coalesce in response to natural disaster and war. This is no less of a national catastrophe. We urge you to continue to speak out, to promote federal legislation, to provide the leadership so that we can come together as Americans of all races, ethnicities, political affiliations, and economic classes.

## Redress Update

Completion of all the individual payments under the redress program in FY 1993 will utilize the already allocated \$250 million of the original \$1.25 billion entitlement for 12,500 cases, out of which 95% have been cleared for eligibility, according to Paul Suddes, Acting Administrator of the Office of Redress Administration. This will roughly cover all eligible individuals who were born in 1934 or earlier.

According the Washington D.C. JACL office, as many as 14,000 potentially eligible individuals will not receive redress compensation in FY 1993, which begins this October, if the supplemental funding is not authorized by Congress. The supplemental funding is contained in Senate bill (S.) 2553 and House Resolution (H.R.) 4551, entitled "Civil Liberties Act Amendments of 1992."

If S. 2553 is passed out of the subcommittee on Federal Services, chaired by Sen. David Pryor (D-AR), the bill is expected to be considered by the full

Governmental Affairs committee, chaired by Sen. John Glenn (D-OH) in mid-May. H.R. 4551 is currently in the full Judiciary Committee, chaired by Rep. Jack Brooks (D-TX). Redress supporters who are concerned about incomplete funding are urged to write the chairpersons of the appropriate Senate and House committees asking that they approve S. 2553 and H.R. 4551.

Nearly 70 individuals attended the ORA redress workshop held on April 15 to receive one-on-one assistance in clearing their eligibility requirements or to ascertain their case status. According to ORA representatives Tink Cooper, Joanne Chiedi, and Kay Roso, who provided computerized information, ORA has mailed out letters of potential eligibility (pink) to those whose birthdates are as late as 1942 in preparation for the third year disbursement. Those who missed the workshop can call the ORA Hotline to request information at 1-800-395-4672.

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## Calendar of events

compiled by Ed Suguro

**Weekly ballroom dance** — every Wed, 1-3pm, Nisei Vets Hall, 1212 S. King St.

**Half Third Fourth: Mixed Media Window Installation** — features artists Nora Mukaihata and Irene Kuniyuki, through July 28, 911 Media Arts Center, 117 Yale Ave. N., viewable 24 hours a day. For information: 682-6552.

**Executive Order 9066: 50 Years Before and 50 Years After** — a history of Japanese Americans of Washington state through photos, words and art, through August 30, Wing Luke Asian Museum, 407 Seventh Ave. S., Tues-Fri 11am-4:30pm, Sat-Sun noon-4pm. Admission: \$2.50 adults, \$1.50 seniors/students, 75¢ children under 12. For information: 623-5124.

**Issei/Nisei/Sansei: Japanese America on Film** — part three, the Sansei perspective, *Family Gathering* by Lise Yasui and *Beacon Hill Boys*, by Ken Mochizuki, Wm. Satake Blauvelt, and Dean Hayasaka, Theatre Off Jackson, 409 Seventh Ave. S., tickets \$4. For information: 624-3925.

**Pacific Reader literary reading** — Saturday May 16, 7:30pm. Benefit reading for the International Examiner hosted by Alan Lau. Scheduled readers include Sharon Hashimoto, Tina Koyama, Lydia Minatoya, and Traise Yamamoto. Elliot Bay Book Company, 101 S. Main. Tickets: \$5. For information: 624-6600.

**Asian Pacific American Women Speak Out** — discussion of culture, communications, and stereotypes, Sun, May 17, 2:00pm, Seattle Central Community College, 1701 Broadway, Rm 4106. For information, Tonya, [redacted].

**Community discussion on Anti-Asian sentiment** — Tues, May 19, 5:30-7:30pm, cosponsored by the Washington Commission on Asian American Affairs and the Asian Bar Association, ACRS lunchroom, 1032 S. Jackson. For information, Loann, [redacted].

**Chapter Board meeting** — Wed, May 20, 7pm, Japanese Language School, 1414 S. Weller St. Everyone welcome.

**Seminar: contribution of Asian Americans in Organized Labor** — Thurs, May 21, 7:00-9pm, cosponsored by Inland Boatman's Union/ILWU, Cannery Workers, Rep. Art Wang, AMBA. US WEST Bell Plaza, 1600 Seventh Ave, 1st floor. For information: Rich, [redacted] or Ron, [redacted]

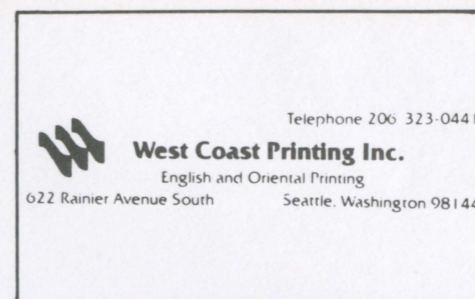
Northwest Asian American Theatre presents **Godzilla Comes to Little Tokyo** — a musical comedy by Karen Tei Yamashita with social, political and ecological relevance, bargain previews May 22 and 26, regular shows May 27-June 28, 8pm, Sunday matinees 4pm. Theatre Off Jackson, 409 Seventh Ave. S. Tickets: \$6-12, group rates available. For more information/reservations: 340-1049.

**Ikenobo Gardens tour** — May 23, June 6 & 13, spring tours of the gardens in Redmond, including luncheon at Sahalee Country Club. Cost: \$24.50 for tour, tea and luncheon, \$5 deposit required. For information: 868-0589.

**Nisei Vets Memorial Day service** — Mon, May 25, 10am, Lake View Cemetery, 1554 15th Ave. E. Keynote speaker: Fr. Albin Fogelquist, pastor of St. Peter's Episcopal Church.

**Doshi Kai meeting** — Tues, June 2, 7pm. Call Wayne Kimura for name and address of restaurant, [redacted].

**Nikkei community dance** — Sat, June 13, 8-11:30pm, Nisei Vets Hall, 1212 S. King St., BYOL, ice provided, \$3 if live band, \$2 if recorded music. For information: 772-1160.



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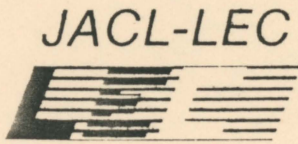
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# JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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May 1992

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ACTION ALERT - ACTION ALERT - ACTION ALERT - ACTION ALERT - ACTION ALERT

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## URGENT CALL! 14,000 ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS MAY NOT RECEIVE REDRESS PAYMENTS!

- ISSUE:** "The Civil Liberties Act Amendments of 1992", Senate Bill 2553 and H.R. 4551, would authorize an additional \$320 million to fulfill the commitment of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-383), which officially apologizes for the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II and provides \$20,000 in redress compensation to surviving internees and those affected by E.O. 9066.
- BACKGROUND:** In addition to providing for an official apology and redress compensation, the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 established a Public Education Fund to finance historical research and to promote education about the internment.
- In 1988, Congress authorized \$1.25 billion to cover an estimated 60,000 individuals and provide \$50 million for the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund. Because of inaccurate actuarial projections and with the inclusion of military servicemen and "voluntary" evacuees, the Dept. of Justice now estimates that the original figure was too low, and that a total of at least 75,000 redress payments will be needed to complete the program. S. 2553, similar to H.R. 4551, provides for an increase of \$320 million in addition to the original \$250, making a total of \$520 million to complete the individual payments as well as fulfilling the educational purposes of the Act.
- CURRENT STATUS:** S. 2553, was introduced on April 8, 1992 by Senator Daniel Inouye (D-HI), with Senator Daniel Akaka (D-HI) as co-sponsor. The Senate bill was referred to the Senate Subcommittee on Federal Services, Post Office, and Civil Service, chaired by Senator David Pryor (D-AR). The Senate bill is expected to be in the full Governmental Affairs Committee by mid-May; the House bill is currently in the full Judiciary Committee.
- The Dept. of Justice has indicated support of most of the amendments. Eliminating the Public Education Fund, the President has included the increase of \$250 million in his budget but has not classified the additional funds as an entitlement so that it will be vulnerable to the politics of the budget process, making the passage of the authorization bill extremely difficult.
- TO DATE, CLOSE TO 50,000 REDRESS PAYMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE AND THERE ARE SUFFICIENT FUNDS FROM THE ORIGINAL ENTITLEMENT TO COMPLETE 12,500 MORE PAYMENTS (estimated to cover individuals born through 1934). IF ADDITIONAL FUNDS ARE NOT AUTHORIZED BY PASSAGE OF S. 2553 AND H.R. 4551 AS MANY AS 14,000 ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS WILL NOT RECEIVE REDRESS PAYMENTS.
- ACTION NEEDED:**
- 1) Send letters to Senators Slade Gorton and Brock Adams (both of whom voted favorably on the original Civil Liberties Act of 1988) urging them to co-sponsor and vote for S. 2553.  
Address; The Honorable Brock Adams  
U.S. Senate, Washington D.C. 20510
  - 2) Send targeted letters to GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE members, especially the chairs, urging an expedient and favorable vote out of committee.
  - 3) Continue to send support letters to our Representatives and the House Judiciary Committee for H.R. 4551.
  - 4) Send a letter to President Bush urging him to retain funding for the Education Fund as well as to keep redress monies earmarked as entitlements.

**SAMPLE LETTER to Senators:**

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_:

I am writing to urge you to co-sponsor and/or vote for S. 2553, the Civil Liberties Act Amendments of 1992, which would provide the additional authorization needed to fulfill the commitment of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-383).

The Civil Liberties Act of 1988, as you may know, was legislation of historic significance for it restored integrity and dignity to our nation's basic constitutional rights which were so grievously violated with the forced internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, simply because of their ancestry.

Congress must honor its commitment to uphold the spirit and intent of the Act by authorizing the additional funds necessary to provide reparation payments to all eligible former internees, as well as to finance the Education Fund so as to insure that no American will be subject to such a fundamental injustice in the future.

February 19 of this year marked the 50th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066 which allowed our government to remove and intern over 120,000 Americans simply because they were of Japanese ancestry. It is only fitting, then, that Congress pass the "Civil Liberties Act Amendments of 1992" as a strong reminder of how fundamentally wrong the interment was, and more importantly, to make sure that such a miscarriage of justice will never happen again.

Your support of S. 2553 will demonstrate your strong commitment to the principle that the constitutional right of all individuals, regardless of race, creed or color, must be upheld--so that the rights of all Americans are safeguarded.

Sincerely,

**SAMPLE LETTER to President George Bush:**

President George Bush  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

RE: THE CIVIL LIBERTIES ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1992, H.R.4551/S.2553

Dear President Bush:

I am writing to express my appreciation for your commitment to the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-383), which provides reparations to Americans of Japanese ancestry who were forcibly interned in concentration camps during World War II by the U.S. Government. However, I am concerned about the positions that the Department of Justice and the Office of Management and Budget have taken with respect to the proposed Civil Liberties Act Amendments of 1992.

I strongly object to the recommendation by the Justice Department that the education component of the Fund be eliminated. Education is one of the main purposes of the original Act and is central to ensuring that such a violation of civil liberties will never happen again.

The increase in violence against Asian Pacific Americans in the wake of our current trade tensions with Japan and the experience of Arab Americans during the Persian Gulf War provide compelling evidence of the need for educational programs. Clearly, the existing scattered private efforts have not and will not be enough. Such efforts lack comprehensiveness and are too localized. All Americans need to hear and learn from the story of Japanese Americans.

The OMB's recommendation that the additional funds authorized by the amendments not be treated as entitlement funds, is of great concern to me, and I strongly urge that the funds be considered entitlements, just as the original authorization is currently treated. This is a program nearing its completion and it would be unfair to put the remaining redress recipients at risk of not receiving their just due. The Civil Liberties Act of 1988 is a debt of honor that our government must fully keep.

Again, I strongly urge you to support "The Civil Liberties Act Amendments of 1992."

Sincerely,

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Thank you's to:  
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