

April 19, 1979

For your interest
Cheers
Michi

daily return

Dear Michi,

Thanks for your sympathetic words. And thanks for Ron Mamiya's letter. ~~I don't~~ I think we're all pretty much recovered. I'm enclosing a copy of my eulogy which was supposed to be a simple thanks, but the family wanted a little more. Yuriko's mother has gone off on a 1-week vacation with Yuriko twin sisters & their families.

I just called my employment agency and told them to pull me off the job market for at least two months. I will be working full-time on operations and, I hope, the Four Winds book. So that's taken care of, too. Yuriko's going to have to support both of us for a while. She's willing.

Ron Mamiya's letter revealed some real cracks in the National Committee for Redress. Their version of his expulsion certainly does not jibe (or ~~is it~~ ^{only} give?) with the date of his letter. Their story is that ^{only} after significant delay (presumably weeks), during which time he intimated he was working on the legislation, did he indicate his unwillingness to prepare the legislation. March 3 to March 12 is only 9 days.

It's really too bad that all this has to go on behind the scenes. It really leaves the ~~person~~ rank-and-file in the dark. Yesterday I talked with Bill Yoshino who is the Midwest Regional Director of JACL. He ~~sees~~ was completely in the dark about Mamiya's departure from the Committee. And, unfortunately, I gave him Tateishi's version which is erroneous. The image that I conjure up is from a very old Second City skit based on Jules Pfeiffer's ~~the~~ Fables in which a delegate from a then newly emerging African nation (complete with dashiki and dark glasses) is discoursing on the problems of being an

emerging nation. He ends with, "now the question is, 'Is America ready for democracy?'"

I have ~~to~~ not heard from Chin. I will certainly write to Maniya. I'm not too interested in a national organization to compete with NCR. I think the action is at the local level. But I would certainly join in a coalition of some sort. I clearly see the potential necessity of making a clear break with JACL if it comes to that. Whatever happens, I intend to get the support of other, non-Nikkei groups and to make certain they set their sights on reparations.

I've started on an outline for a book. I'd like to base it on my ~~own~~ own experiences since I was in high school at the time, since I was in Manzanar ~~when~~ where the riot occurred, and since I had some interesting hassles with the draft and the camp administration when I tried to go back for a visit, and since it's taken me so many years to become enlightened ~~at~~ about its political and historical dimensions. I do have a good friend who will help me with ~~stylistic~~ stylistic and editorial criticism. She is currently enjoying a long vacation in Holland until August. But I would most grateful if you would read and criticize on content.

I must say that I am greatly in your debt for all the documents you've let me read. I really do appreciate things like the Kurihara paper and Maniya's letter and your points on German reparations and all the facts and insights you've given. Your words of praise are marvelous as long as I don't inhale (as ex-mayor Lindsay said).

Peace,

bstt.

(over)

P.S. I don't want my memo published. You don't have to do anything with it. I may write to Toxi Wada, who knows Sohei, and see if anything is cooking in New York amongst the nikkei.

P.P.S. (4-20-79)

I think we may be turning around the Chicago chapter.

Had lunch with Mike Yasutake, Chicago Redress Committee chairman.

He read the actual legislation. It's bad news. I showed

him Mamuya's letter. He will ask the chapter to have an

open meeting to discuss + decide on whether to recommend

reconsideration of the Commission approach to the National

Committee for Redress. The chapter board is pretty conservative.

But I think we can come up with some conservative voices who

want to go all the way. It should be interesting.

The National Committee is getting nervous. They had Mike

call me last night to get me to back off on a direct

appropriations bill. I simply asked Tateishi if SACL

would oppose a direct appropriations bill. Apparently

he thinks one is imminent. Hell, I don't even know how to

go about getting one introduced — yet. Tateishi's rationale

was that Mineta would drop his support of the SACL bill

if another bill was introduced. Doesn't make sense to me.

If it's true, it will have to be Mineta's problem. The world just

isn't that tidy and neat.

(over)