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## Loomis Votes to Support Railroad, Mining Workers

The Placer County farming community passes resolution to extend coverage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 to those previously denied.

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The town council of the Central Valley community of Loomis on Aug. 12 passed a resolution in support of extending the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 to Japanese American railroad and mining workers who were fired from their jobs after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor.

The Loomis resolution pointed out that these two groups experienced a denial of liberties and restrictions (including loss of jobs, loss of property, restrictions on travel to a five-mile radius of residence and curfew) that have not been compensated.

Furthermore, the resolution declared, these people should be found eligible for apology and redress compensation and that a letter stating Loomis' sentiments will be sent to David Flynn of the appellate division of the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C.

Al Muratsuchi, regional director of the Pacific Southwest District of the Japanese American Citizens League, stated, "It's great that the town of Loomis is supporting redress for Japanese American railroad and mining workers. We hope other towns and cities across the nation will send similar messages to President Clinton."

Helen Florence, a town council member who first pushed for the declaration, disclosed that all five members of the council were "very enthusiastic" about the resolution.

Florence related how the idea to pass a resolution started when her good friend Ida Otani, a Japanese American Loomis resident, asked her to sign a letter in support of redress for the railroad and mining workers.

"I had never heard of the story of the railroad and mining workers," she said. "Our adult class at church discussed the relocation, and Ida, who had never talked about it, shared

her story. I was really moved by it. Lots of people never heard about the railroad and mining workers. It seems like they were prisoners in their own homes."

Loomis is a farming community of 6,000 people located in Placer County, 20 miles east of Sacramento on Highway 80. Japanese Americans owned a lot of farmland and orchards before the "relocation" of World War II, and many came back after war to farm, according to Florence.

"Our town has an interesting Japanese American history. They have lived here for generations, and the Methodist church was founded by Japanese Americans," Florence said. "I thought it would be in the community's best interest to adopt the resolution. I will tell our town clerk also to send the resolution to the president."

Cricket Strock, of the town clerk's office, revealed that the resolution has been sent to all other cities in Placer County, the state Senate and Assembly representatives, U.S. Sens. Boxer and Feinstein and the county's member in the U.S. House of Representatives.