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Friday, May 16, 1986

## N.J. congressman adds name to list

WASHINGTON-Redress bill H.R. 442 has gained another cosponsor, Rep. Bernard Dwyer (D-N.J.), according to Rep. Robert Matsui (D-Calif.).

"Congressman Dwyer sits on the important Appropriations Committee, which has jurisdiction over government spending," said Matsui. "He is an intelligent, effective legislator."

Dwyer is one of five new cosponsors who have signed up since a House subcommittee held hearings on the bill Apr. 28. The others were Reps. Pat Williams (D-Mont.), Barbara Kennelly (D-Conn.), Bill Richardson (D-N.M.), and Martin Olav Sabo (D-Minn.).

"The hearing on redress legislation has opened up a window of opportunity," declared Matsui. "The coming weeks could be key to the bill's success. Now is the time to step up our efforts to attract support for H.R. 442"

Rep. Norman Mineta (D-Calif.) said that Dwyer's co-sponsorship is "more good news as H.R. 442 gathers additional sponsors."

Dwyer was visited on May 5 by Eastern District JACL Redress Committee chair Tom Kometani of New Brunswick, who was in Washington to attend the annual awards banquet of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights.

## Mineta urges Chun to release two South Korean dissidents

WASHINGTON-Rep. Norman Mineta (D-Calif.) and 10 of his col- (ret.), director and campaign leagues sent a joint letter to South chair of the U.S. English organi-Korean president Chun Doo Hwan Apr. 30, urging the release of two brothers imprisoned by the government.

Soh Sung and Soh Joon Shik, Japan-born college students critical of the Park Chung Hee regime, were arrested in 1971 for alleged involvement in a "campus spying group." Sung was given a life sentence and Joon Shik was given a seven-year term. Although Joon Shik's term expired in 1978, his imprisonment has been extended under the "preventive detention" law (see Nov. 8, 1985 PC).

"Many members of Congress have been encouraged by recent

Continued on Back Page



Photo by Sachi Yamamoto

BANZAI!—Actor Pat Morita and Calif. Secretary of State March Fong Eu break open a sake barrel during opening ceremonies for an exhibit on Japanese Americans at the L.A. Children's Museum (story on page 10).

# Conferees examine possible causes of prejudice and violence against Asians

by Carole Hayashino

BERKELEY, Calif.—Discrimination is alive and well and growing in the United States, concluded participants in "Break the Silence," a conference held May 10 at Boalt Law School, UC Berkeley.

Speakers reported that murders, beatings, racial slurs and symbolic attacks on Asian Americans have risen dramatically in recent years. The day-long conference, sponsored primarily by JACL, Asian Law Caucus and Chinese for Affirmative Action, was attended by 200 representatives of national, state and local Asian American community organizations.

Conference organizers noted that the Vincent Chin case in Detroit brought national attention to the issue of anti-Asian violence. The unemployed auto worker who bludgeoned Chin to death with a baseball bat in 1982 was initially sentenced to probation and a fine, but community pressure resulted in the filing of federal civil rights violation charges. The killer was later found guilty.

In the wake of the increasing

frequency of attacks on Southeast Asian refugees, religious denominations organized networks and state and local governmental bodies held hearings to study the problem.

Accounts of the growing violence against Asians were carried in Asian American community newspapers and, by the end of 1985, in such major newspapers as the New York Times, Boston Globe, Washington Post, Philadelphia Inquirer, Los Angeles Times, San Francisco Examiner and San Jose Mercury as well.

The conference took place three weeks after the release of a report by the Calif. Atty. General's Commission on Ethnic, Religious and Minority Violence and prior to the expected release of a 200-page report on anti-Asian violence by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

Rep. Norman Mineta (D-Calif.) presented the keynote address. He was introduced by JACL national director Ron Wakabayashi, who credited Mineta with providing national leadership in

Continued on Page 11

# Debate held on English initiative

by Clifford Uyeda

SAN FRANCISCO — The proposed initiative to establish English as the official language of California was the topic of a forum held by Golden Gate JACL on Apr. 21.

Speaking in favor of the measure was Col. Stanley Diamond zation. Diamond once served as special assistant to former Sen. S.I. Hayakawa, founder and honorary chair of U.S. English.



Allan Seid

Diamond emphasized that the first obligation of being American is to learn English, but that the use of English in the U.S. is being eroded. He expressed his firm belief in the "melting pot" theory of American society and charged that the "mosaic" concept of America is dangerous and divisive.

"We can understand each other only if we can talk to each other," said Diamond. "A bilingual state prevents this." He warned that a society based on "ethnic nationalism" would be catastrophic.

He claimed public support for his concept by saying that threefourths of California voters oppose bilingual ballots. (Proposition 38, an advisory recommending the elimination of bilingual ballots, was passed in 1984 by a roughly two-to-one margin.)

Psychiatrist Allan Seid, president of Asian Pacific American Coalition/USA (APAC) and a former commissioner of the Calif. State Board of Education, spoke in opposition to the initiative.

Seid claimed that the basis for unity in America is not linguistic, but a belief in the fundamental principle of democracy. Living in a multicultural, multilingual society creates tolerance, he said, adding that foreign language speakers are valuable resources to the country.

Responding to Diamond's claim of majority opposition to bilingual ballots, Seid said that the majority is not always right. He gave as an example the war-

Continued on page 11



Stanley Diamond

#### JACL President Frank Sato on H.R. 442 Hearings

I believe the House hearing on H.R. 442 generally went very well. Judiciary Committee Chairman Peter Rodino and Subcommittee Chairman Dan Glickman are to be congratulated for their leadership in scheduling the hearing in the most effective manner.

Strong, positive statements by House Majority Leader Jim Wright, Joe Rauh, and our Nikkei delegation of Sen. Spark Matsunaga, Rep. Norman Mineta and Rep. Robert Matsui clearly offset the opposing views expressed by former Sen. S.I. Hayakawa, Rep. Samuel Stratton, Lillian Baker, David Lowman and others.

The opposition to H.R. 442 filed by the Justice Dept. represents their position, but I do not believe it represents the views of the President and the administration, based upon my discussions with the White House.

On balance, we have seen clear progress, but the task ahead will not be easy. The help and support of everyone is needed as never before as we strive for the final push.

More articles on H.R. 442 hearings on pages 7, 8 and 9.



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# Community Affairs

LOS ANGELES—"Frontiers in Services to the Pacific Rim Populations," a forum on health and mental health issues, takes place June 4, 8:30 a.m. 4:30 p.m., at Davidson Conference Center, USC. Speakers include Mas Fukai, deputy to Supervisor Kenneth Hahn; Lily Lee, United Way Asian Pacific Research & Development Council; Robert Gates, L.A. County Dept. of Health Services; and Allan Rawland, L.A. County Dept. of Mental Health. Topics include substance abuse, child abuse, concerns of the elderly and health issues of new immigrants. Sponsor: Asian Pacific Planning Council. Info: Cindy Ogawa, (213) 739-5273, or Leona Pang, 295-6571.

Nikkei Widowed Group features Dr. Koji Uemura, who will speak on "Five Rules of Health," on June 8, 1:30-4:30 p.m., at Japanese American Cultural & Community Center, 244 S. San Pedro St., Rm. 4-B. Uemura is a doctor of chiropractic healing and a certified acupuncturist practicing in Gardena. Info: Henry Ohmoto, (213) 324-5194.

East West Players presents "Natsu Mero Uta Gassen," a musical entertainment that will tour L.A.-area community centers in June. Performed in Japanese and created by EWP creative director Mako, the program is in honor of senior citizens and their pioneer spirit. Sponsors: L.A. County Music & Performing Arts Commission, County Board of Supervisors and L.A. City Cultural Affairs Dept. Info: 660-0366.

Asian Refugee Mediators, a ministry of Agape Fellowship, seeks donations of children's clothing, from infant to teen sizes, for Southeast Asian refugees. Because most of the families have several children, these items are often in short supply. Info: Kary Kambara or Linda Nawa, (213) 482-4336.

CHICAGO—Japanese American Redress Committee presents a summary of what took place at the Apr. 28 House hearings on redress May 24, 7:30 p.m., at Heiwa Terrace. Also included is a screening of the documentary "Unfinished Business," which tells the story of the Hirabayashi, Yasui and Korematsu cases.

The annual Nikkei Queen Pageant will be held May 25 at the Botanical Garden in Glencoe. Winner of the contest will participate in the Miss Nikkei International Contest to be held in Sao Paulo. Sponsors: Chicago Shimpo, Chi-

SAN DIEGO — Rep. Norman Mineta gives a free public lecture on "Americans of Asian Ancestry" May 27, 6 p.m., at Peterson Hall, Rm. 108, UCSD. Sponsors: San Diego JACL and UCSD Asian American Studies Program. Info: Matthew Chen, 452-3600; Mitsuo To-

cago Japan Broadcasting Co., JACL,

Japanese American Service Commit-

tee and Chicago Nisei Post 1183. Info:

Alliance, 452-2048.

SAN JOSE, Calif.—Asian American Social Club holds a get-together May 22, 7:30 p.m., at the JACL Building, 565 N.

5th St. Info: East Bay—(415) 797-2617 or 791-7008; South Bay—(408) 289-1067;

mita, 589-3072; or Asian Pacific Student

Peninsula—(415) 961-2274.

NEW YORK—Chen & Dancers perform May 28 and 30, 8 p.m., and June 1, 2 p.m., at Theatre of the Riverside Church, 120th St. near Riverside Dr. The dance company features H.T. Chen, Nai-Ni Chen, Remy Charlip, Jimmy Mori, Dina McDermott, Shyhling Kuo, Lise Hulse, Patrick Gutierrez and Dian Dong. Cost: \$7, \$5 for students and seniors. Reservations: (212) 864-2929.

SAN FRANCISCO—The 25th anniversary of the San Francisco Nikkei Lions will be celebrated May 31 (cocktail hour at 6 p.m., dinner at 7) at Spenger's Seafood Restaurant in Berkeley. Founded in 1961 under the auspices of Lions International, the club has been active in supporting such groups as the Boy Scouts, Hamilton Senior Center, and

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# Louisiana Nikkei remembered

NEW ORLEANS—A grove of cherry trees whose colorful blossoms are reflected in the waters of the lagoon along Lelong Ave. are a living monument to the late community leader Frank Tamai.

Originally from Vacaville, Calif., Tamai moved to Omaha during WW2, served in the Korean War, and moved to Metairie, La., in 1960. He was president of Oriental Merchandise Co., former

Kimochi, Inc. Evening includes installation of new officers, silver anniversary program, prize raffle, and dancing with George Yoshida's Sentimental Journey Band. Cost: \$25. Info: Ichiro Sugiyama, (415) 387-2588. chair of the Asian Pacific American Society, and president and founding member of the Japan Club.

He first presented the idea of planting a flowering cherry tree grove in City Park on the club's 10th anniversary in 1984.

In February 1984, 21 trees were planted along the banks of the front lagoon, and plans were made to add trees to the grove every year.

Following Tamai's death at the age of 58 in February 1985, his family and friends established a memorial fund to help make his dream a reality.

On Feb. 17, a little over a year after his death, family, friends, park officials and members of Friends of City Park watched as Tamai's wife Chiyeko, son Stan and daughter Ramona Umeki planted a cherry tree in the grove. Fifty-eight trees were dedicated to his memory, and a bronze plaque now marks the site.

# Pan-American Asian anthology released

NEW YORK—A special issue of the literary magazine Contact II (Winter/Spring 1986), entitled "Asian American: North and South," features poetry, art and reviews from Canada, the U.S. and Latin America.

Featured writers include Janice Mirikitani, Nellie Wong, Yuri Kageyama, Carlos Bulosan, Cathy Song, Wing Tek Lum, Genny Lim, Willyce Kim, Presco Tabios, Richard Oyama, and Erick Chock.

Alan Chong Lau and Laureen
Mar co-edited this special issue.
The Latin American section,
which features a collection of
Asian poetry from Peru, Ecuador
and Brazil, was co-edited and
translated by Jeff Tagami, Victoria Sales-Gomez, Jaime Jacinto
and Karen Tei Yamashita.

Also included is a comprehensive review of Asian American poetry publications and a selection of work now being done in Canada and Latin America.

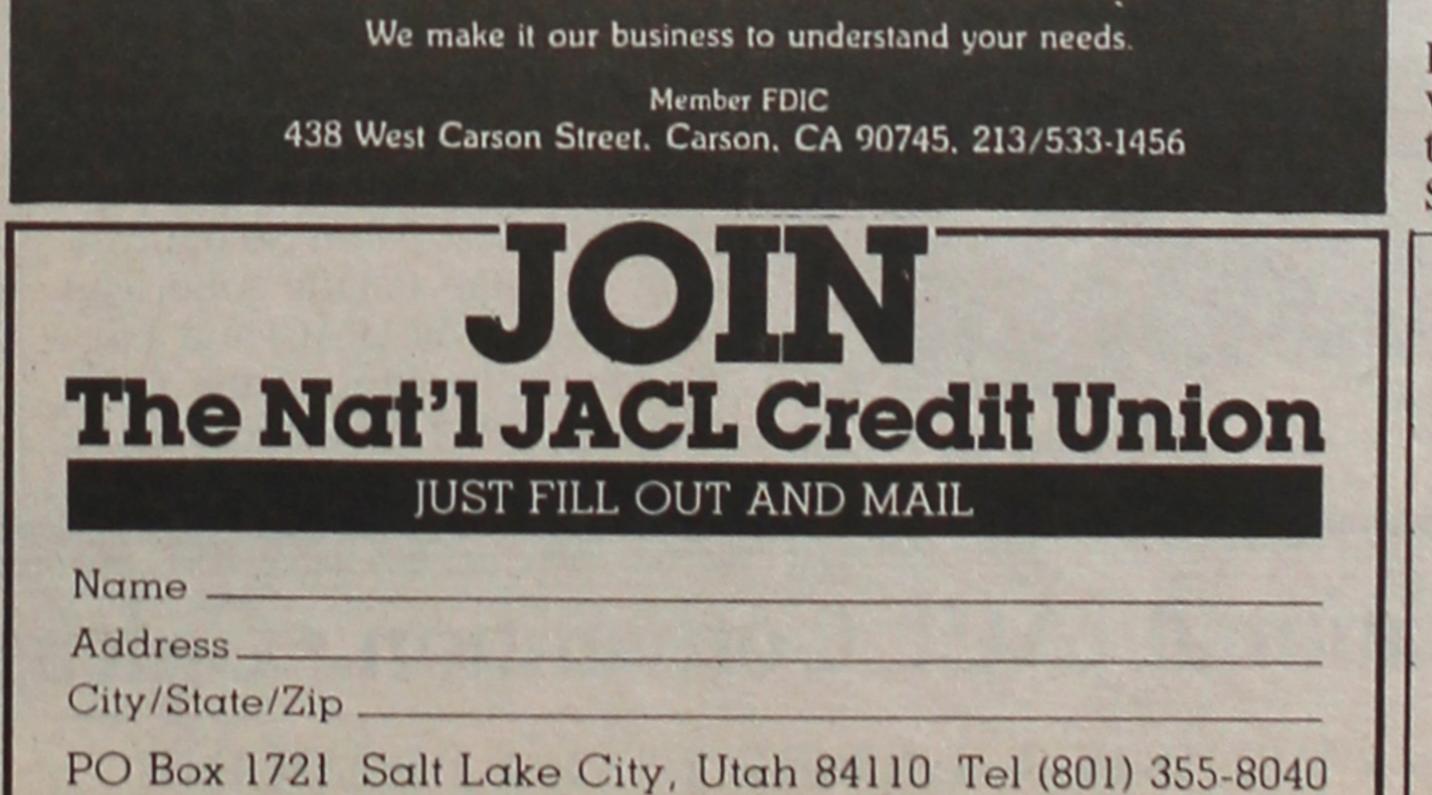
Copies are \$6 each, plus \$1 for postage and handling. Order by writing to: Contact II Publications, Box 451, Bowling Green Station, New York, NY 10004.

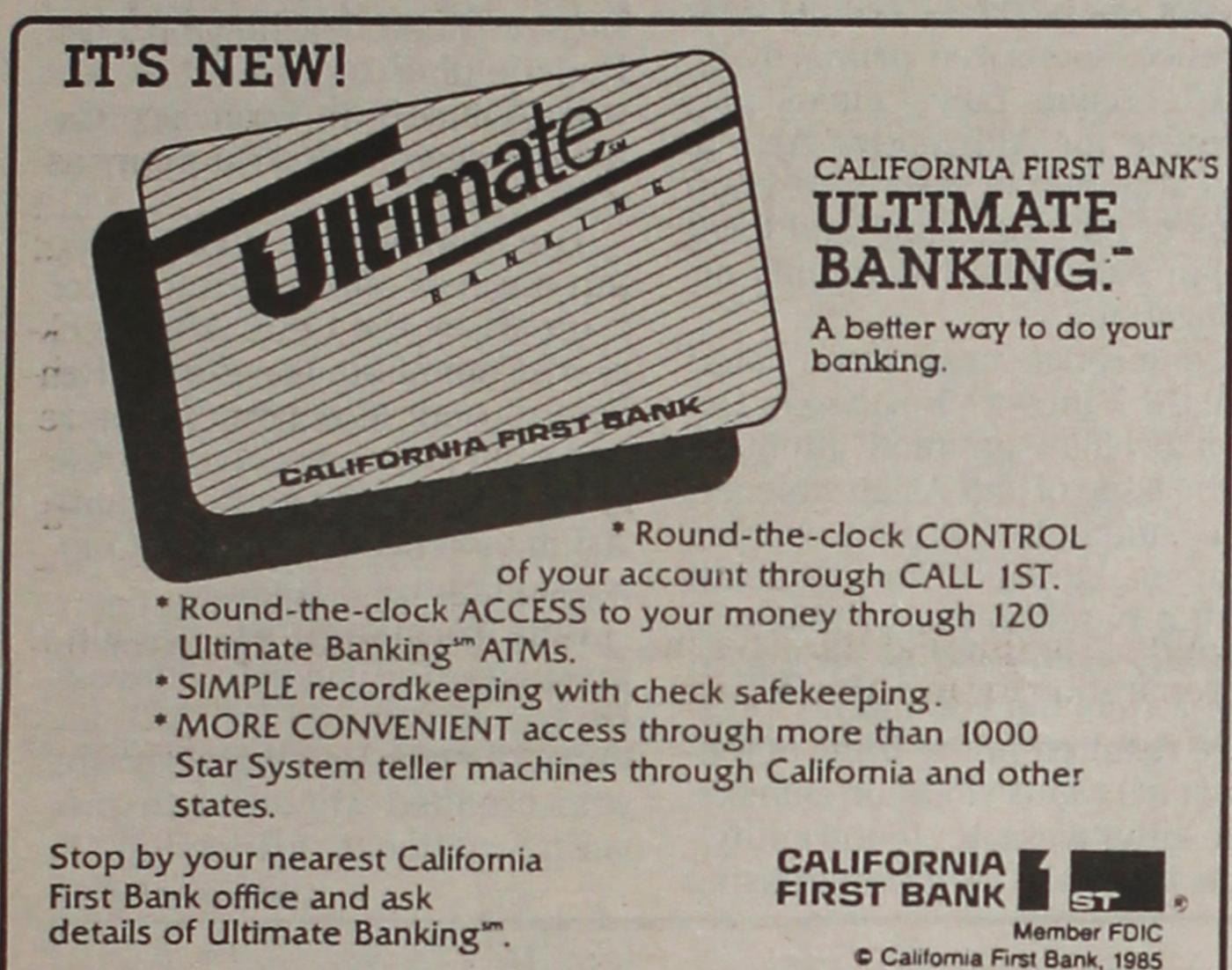
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# Odoi will try again to unseat Dymally

GARDENA, Calif.—Mas Odoi, 64, is attempting for the third time to win the Republican nomination for the 31st Congressional District.

Odoi, an electronics technician, last ran in 1984, when he was defeated in the primary by Henry Minturn, who subsequently lost to the incumbent, Democrat Mervyn Dymally.

"I feel that my country needs a minority person to speak up for America," Odoi told the Los Angeles Times. "I'm running against Mr. Dymally again because he seems opposed to everything that President Reagan is trying to do to bring out the inner greatness of the American people."

Also seeking the Republican nomination are Jack McMurray and Gary Boogaard.

The district includes Gardena, Hawthorne, Carson, Compton, Lynwood, Paramount and Bellflower. The population is 31% Black, 21% Latino and 8% Asian.

## Fukawa reelected; Nishinaka retires

Following the Apr. 8 elections, one Central California Nikkei city council member has begun a second term while another has retired.

In Delano, City Councilwoman June Fukawa was reelected, receiving 885 votes.

The top vote-getter was Coun-Continued on Back Page



From left: Nancy Araki, Japanese American National Museum project coordinator; Bruce Kaji, JANM president; James Wood, chairman of L.A. Community Redevelopment Agency; and Frank Kuwahara, CRA commissioner.

# JA museum receives \$1 million

LOS ANGELES—The Los Angeles Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) passed a resolution Apr. 28 granting \$1 million in agency funds to the Japanese American National Museum.

The decision fulfills an informal promise made when the CRA budgeted \$1 million for the museum from the expected revenue of tax increment bonds.

"With the sale of the bonds, the CRA has the money to commit," JANM president Bruce Kaji said. "The pledge has become a reality."

The \$1 million meets the matching funds requirement for a \$750,000 grant from the State of California resulting from a bill introduced last year by State Sen. Art Torres. The CRA is currently applying to the state for agency management of the combined funds.

Both the city and state funds are designated for renovation and repair of the old Nishi Hongwanji Temple on Central and San Pedro in Little Tokyo, the proposed site for the museum.

"The \$1.75 million is a solid start for JANM," said Kaji, "but it's actually less than half of the amount needed to make the Nishi suitable to house a museum. In addition, we must still raise money for the actual exhibits and operating costs."

According to JANM project coordinator Nancy Araki, it will be several months before the funds are actually used. "We are now conducting long-term design and budget planning," she said. "We don't want to waste a cent."

The resolution on JANM funding was passed unanimously by the CRA's seven-member board of commissioners.

# Heritage Week winners chosen

LOS ANGELES—Winners of the annual Asian Pacific American Heritage Week poster and essay contest were congratulated at a City Hall ceremony on May 9.

Students from throughout the L.A. School District submitted entries centering on the theme "Contributions of Asian Pacific Americans: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow." A panel of judges that included educators, artists and administrative representatives chose winners in four divisions: (1) kindergarten to 3rd grade; (2) 4th to 6th grades; (3) junior high school; and (4) senior high school. Those chosen were:

#### Posters

Division 1—Anna Intharathut (Mt. Washington), Jay Dvahastin (Mark Keppel), Phat Treebumrung (Page); Di-

vision 2—Jon Khamlaksana (Ellington), Trinh Thuc La (Castelar); Division 3— Hy Tu (Nightingale), Linda Ahn (John Burroughs), Karen Robles (Village Christian); Division 4—Huan Minh Do (James Monroe), Kam Chung Hui (John Marshall), James Shinbashi (James Monroe).

#### Essays

Division 1—no winners; Division 2— Tamara Premsrirath (State Street), Bonny Woo (Castelar), Carrie Lui (Castelar); Division 3—Kiu Chung Tse (John Burroughs), Paul Gero (Griffith), Janet Sun Lee (Eagle Rock); Division 4—Joanna Africa (Franklin), Angelo Guerrero (Franklin), Lisa Tsui (Franklin).

The contest is sponsored by the Mayor's Office, Asian Pacific American Heritage Week Committee, Asian American Education Commission, and Asian American Educators Assn.

# 64,000 ex-internees still living

WASHINGTON—Approximately 64,000 Of the 120,000 Japanese Americans interned during WW2 are still alive today, according to Library of Congress estimates released Apr. 25 by Rep. Norman Mineta (D-Calif.).

Most survivors are in the 55-65 age group, Mineta said, and the estimated number of survivors in 1993 is projected to decrease to about 54,000.

Mineta requested the data in preparation for the Apr. 28 hear-

ing on redress bill H.R. 442. "Approximately 4,000 of the internees have died since the redress bill was first introduced in 1983," said Mineta.

"I hope this bill passes quickly, before many more die without this stain on their honor removed."

The Library reached its estimates on survivors by applying national age and mortality figures to age distribution figures on the survivors.



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# Sumi-masen



RECENTLY A READER of this column wrote us from the Emerald Isles: Ireland. Graciously, or diplomatically, his epistle started off with compliments. Then followed the "but." To quote from his letter:

"But I do, however, have a complaint. You seem to write with only a Nisei audience in mind since you sprinkle your column with transliterated Japanese words which you often do not translate, evidently taking it for granted your readers will know the word or phrase." His request: "Please give the translation." And he included copies of two "East Wind" columns, marking those Japanese words for which no translation was provided. Sumi-masen.

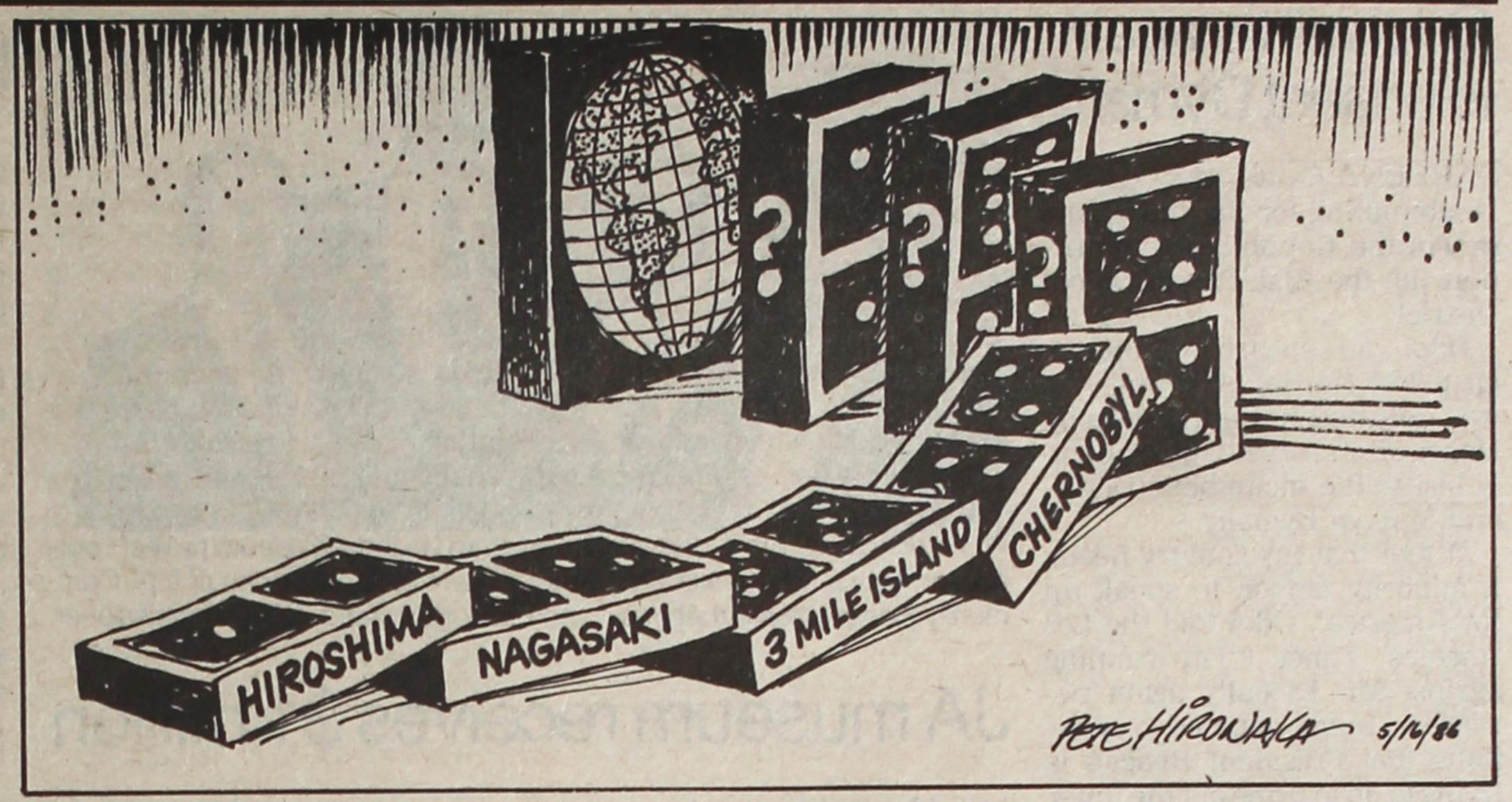
THIS IS NOT the first time such a plaint has been registered with

us. A while back, another reader took the time and trouble to write, voicing a similar plaint. And since there may well be others out there who are put out by this columnist's practice of not providing translations of all nihongo terms, perhaps it may be well for us to give an explanation.

Or at least try.

FIRST OF ALL, the reader in Ireland is absolutely correct: we do have the AJA reader in mind. Not exclusively by any means, but primarily so. And we think that is entirely appropriate. Were it otherwise, we might as well be writing for a non-ethnic publication.

Too, there are certain concepts, nuances, that only a nihongo term can convey adequately. Although we do not recall using the term, take, for example, the term bakashojiki (a term I cannot find in my desk copy of the Japanese jiten). How does one translate that into English and yet retain its flavor? Translate that into "trusting fool"? "Naive trust"? Close, but just not quite. There's something missing. At very best, something gets lost in the translation. But that's true whenever, or very often, a concept is translated from a foreign word into English.



Or vice versa.

THERE'S YET ANOTHER (ulterior) reason why we "sprinkle" nihongo here and there in this column. We're by no means sure, but it is our hope that a number of AJA's, principally the young, find this column sufficiently of interest to read it once in a while. And we seek to tantalize them just enough that they might pull out a Japanese-English jiten to look up a word or two. Then maybe three or four. And soon begin looking up words strictly on their own. And soon,

even take an interest in learning nihongo.

As we said, we harbor an ulterior purpose.

WHEN OUR CHILDREN attained some maturity, they criticized their parents (and I'm onehalf of the target) for "failing" to teach them nihongo. At that, my wife and I give knowing glances to one another. They have apparently forgotten how we forced them into a station wagon each Saturday and drove them miles to a nihongakko in the adjoining county to try to get them to learn to read, write and speak nihongo. We might as well have been trying to force castor oil down their throats.

Speaking of throats, when we heard their belated criticism, I think both my wife and I were ready to seize one.

AND SO TODAY, through these columns we're sneaking in a bit of linguistic "castor oil." And, I might add, you need not be an AJA to take an interest in a jiten.

Oh, yes. sumi-masen means "forgive me." Please.

# Facts and Figures

Recently a review of Katriel Schory's documentary "Yankee Samurai" was sent out to various publications by Go For Broke, Inc. The review was more of a commentary on the "fact" that 800 442nd RCT men died in the rescue of 200 men of the Texas Lost Battalion.

According to Bill Hosokawa's Nisei, the Quiet Americans, the 442 "suffered 814 casualties, including 140 dead" during the rescue mission. Go For Broke's own pictoral history lists the total 442nd you. RCT death count for the entire war at 680.

Now this is not the first time these figures have been mentioned by writers. The problem, of course, lies in the fact that the word "casualty" is sometimes confused with "fatality."

While not in any way trying to minimize the casualty figures or the sacrifices of the 140 that died rescuing 200 fellow countrymen, I thought these facts should be

ONE THING LEADS TO ANOTHER



Bob Shimabukuro

pointed out. Figures that are tossed around casually have a habit of being thrown back at

The great air conditioning struggle is now behind us... hopefully. The arbitrator, Claude W. Bridges, ruled that the Pacific Citizen suffered \$3,210.41 worth of damages for the lack of air conditioning last summer and fall. I'm not sure how they figure these things out, but I wonder if it is possible to transpose this settlement into four years in a desert camp.

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# In Memoriam: Steere Noda

Steere Gikaku Noda, a respected politician, community leader and sports promoter in Hawan, died March 29 at the age of 94 in Hale Pulama Mau, part of Kuakini Medical Center in Honolulu. The following eulogy was written by Arnold Hiura, editor of the Hawaii Herald.

We often find ourselves using the term "pioneer" when describing individuals who have made extraordinary contributions toward the betterment of our society. While the term is always used appropriately, it can take on a broader meaning in some cases than in others.

We would have to rely upon the highest possible connotation of the term to describe the late Steere Gikaku Noda. Following are just a few highlights from the life of this remarkable gentleman.

Noda was born in 1892 at Ewa Plantation, less than a year after his parents arrived from Kumamoto-ken. He grew up on a vegetable farm in Nuuanu, attending Royal School and Mid-Pacific Institute (then known as Mills College) as well as Japanese language schools. By the time he graduated in 1911, Noda had already begun to make his mark, embarking on a life that was to be filled with "firsts."

#### **Sports Enthusiast**

He was only 13 years old when baseball team, reputed to be the self was blessed with great ath- China baseball tours, and profes-.579 batting average.

Off the field, Noda was the first Nisei to be employed by the fed- were equally numerous, includeral government, working for the ing special emphasis on the Boy in 1964. — Ed.

er, Noda became the first Nisei JACL, which he helped found. to be employed by the judicial system. In 1916, he became the first Nisei to enlist in the U.S. military, serving in the Hawaii National Guard.

#### **Political Career**

ed to the State Senate in 1959. mouth; work with the hands). He also served as a director of Given a life as eventful as his, Pioneer Savings and Loan from 1953-1966.

#### International Friendship

All the while, Noda never lost his enthusiasm for sports. Back in 1915, he had taken his Asahis to Japan, beginning what was to be a lifetime of promoting sports as a vehicle for fostering international friendship and understanding. In addition to promoting the exchange of numerous amateur baseball games between he formed the legendary Asahis Hawaii and Japan, Noda was also credited with promoting sumo, oldest baseball organization amateur wrestling, boxing, Hawest of the Rockies. Noda him- waii-Philippines and Hawaiiletic ability, possessing speed, a sional baseball teams such as the strong arm and an incredible Brooklyn Dodgers and the Yomiuri Giants, among others.

His community affiliations

Internal Revenue Service as a Scouts of America, the Honolulu clerk and interpreter. Moving to Japanese Chamber of Commerce, district court as a clerk/interpret- and the Honolulu Chapter of

#### **Humility and Honesty**

But lest this become just a list, and a partial one at that, it is important to note how Noda filled these many roles. From his early role with the IRS and the court system, he was known as a In 1924, Noda received his li-champion of immigrant rights. cense to practice law in Hawaii. And, in spite of his lofty political From there, he was elected to and social status, he was known the Territorial House of Repre- for his humility and honesty. It sentatives in 1948, serving five says much that in spite of such consecutive two-year terms. In a lengthy career in the public 1950, he was a delegate to the spotlight, he was widely loved first Hawaiian Constitutional and respected, never deviating Convention. And, in a special from his personal slogan, "Pa'aka" statehood election, he was elect- waha hana ka lima" (Shut the

> it seems fitting that, even in his passing, Noda's story remains amazing. In his last few weeks, as he grew weaker, family members related that he spoke more and more about dying. They implored him to "hang on" as his granddaughter, to whom he was very close, was a contestant in the Cherry Blossom Festival.

> Steere G. Noda passed away about 10 p.m. on Saturday, March 29, the exact time when organizers noted the Cherry Blossom Pageant had ended at the NBC Concert Hall. A short time earlier, his granddaughter, Lenny Sae Yajima, had been crowned the 34th Cherry Blossom Queen.

Noda is survived by sons Steere and Richard, daughters Edna Oba and Lillian Yajima, nine grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. His wije Alice ince Teshima), whom he married in 1913, died

# Very 'Punny'

FROM THE FRYING PAN:

Bill Hosokawa



What's funny to one person may fall completely flat to another. Even though I was aware of this, I invited readers to submit examples of Japanese American ethnic humor in response to a request from Dr. Tetsuden Kashima of the University of Washington.

The result, as I had feared, was not encouraging, but there were a few good stories which I'm pleased to share. They seem to fall into several categories. One has to do with language errors, which are incomprehensible unless you understand Japanese.

For example, Richard M. Kawanishi of St. Louis tells of a Japanese immigrant who asks his friend how to say "national bank" in English. In Japanese, it's kokuritsu ginko, and his friend provides a literal translation of the characters: "That's easy—country (koku), stand (ritsu), silver (gin), go (ko)."

There's a not dissimilar one from Toby Hirabayashi of San Jose. A Caucasian friend asks Mr.

ing "It's been 10 years since I set foot on this land." But it comes out in literal translation: "I hangu uppu leg ten years."

And Ken Sato of Seattle tells of an Issei who comes home after a bad day on the job exclaiming "Ki ga ki de nai." His young son turns to his Caucasian friend and explains, "My dad said 'a tree is not a tree.' "

That reminds me of the youngster who said that delectable Japanese dish chawan mushi—a kind of custard steamed (mushi) in a bowl (chawan)—was called "bowl bug," which is not illogical since mushi also means "insect."

Then there are one-liners. Jim Watanabe of Spokane asks: What's five fu and five fu? Answer: Tofu (to also means "ten"). Watanabe also remembers one that went around the Minidoka WRA camp: What did Mickey Mouse say to Minnie Mouse? Answer: Minnie, do ka? (how are you?).

Ned Sato of Seattle suggests the seasoning preferred by the Japanese flasher is sho-yu. And Esther Suzuki of St. Paul recalls that when her son was about 4 years old he said the hot water in the bathtub was "hotsui, hotsui," a combination of the English "hot" and the Japanese atsui.

Fred Harada of Phoenix tells a story applicable to any ethnic group. An Issei goes back to Japan for a visit and is asked by some Kato how long he's been in the boys if he speaks English. "Of States. Kato thinks in Japanese: course," he replies. "In America Ashigake juunen narimasu, mean- even the little kids speak English."

The Japanese are fond of puns and many are possible in a language rich with similar sounds but different meanings. Paul Kusada of Madison, Wis., has a story which, in somewhat cleaned-up form, goes like this: A farm boy is told to cut the tall grass but he finds a skunk has been there recently, so he skips the chore. His father asks, "Kusakatta ka?" That could mean "Did you cut the grass?" or "Was it stinky?"

In a similar vein, Jim Watanabe asks: If a horse and an apple had a race, which would win? Answer: The horse ate the apple and uma katta, which could mean either "it was delicious" or "horse won."

No one sent along the one about the Issei lady who was having trouble with her eyes, a story Mary Masunaga told me, so I'll repeat it. A doctor examined an old lady and told her she had cataracts. "No, no," she protested. "I have Rincoln Continental."

The entry I liked best was an observation from Nikki Sawada Bridges, relayed by Joe Oyama of Berkeley, to the effect that ikura (salmon eggs used in making sushi, and also meaning "how much") isn't the same as hamachi (a fish, yellowtail, also a sushi ingredient). How muchi. Get it?

Thanks also to B. Hara of Covina, Calif., a podiatrist who can see the funny side of things despite his profession of working on painful feet; Cliff Honda of Reseda, Calif.; Leon Uyeda of Westminster, Calif.; and Jiei Nakama of Guadalajara, Mexico. I'm sorry I couldn't squeeze in your entries.

# Dangerous Legislation

The idea of making English the official language of California appears innocuous and acceptable to a majority of voters. The opponents warn that such an initiative only legitimizes intolerance toward recent immigrants and works contrary to the pluralistic view of American society we presently hold.

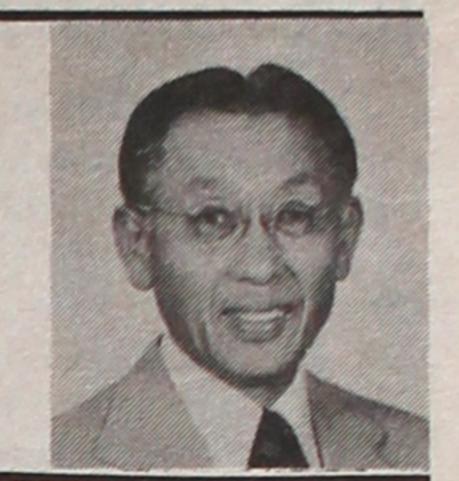
The Golden Gate JACL board members were appalled at what they heard from Stanley Diamond of U.S. English at a forum the chapter sponsored Apr. 21 at JACL National Headquarters (see story on page 1).

What first appeared like an innocuous initiative was revealed to have hidden issues. Ethnic organizations such as JACL were seen by Diamond as attempting to separate themselves from the majority. The U.S. English spokesman completely failed to understand the reasons for the existence of ethnic organizations. His group was attacking anything that is not "American" as defined by the group.

The real danger in the initiative is the license it provides for the elimination of the rich multicultural society we call America and the substitution of a rigid, unforgiving, monolithic dream of the sick past in which everyone must conform with the wishes and position of the majority. Democracy is judged by how it treats its minorities. As one Golden Gate member stated, the

CLIFF'S CORNER:

Clifford Uyeda



initiative goes against the civil rights of American citizens.

English is already the official language of the United States. There is no need to legislate this fact. The official language of a state is not like an official state flower, tree or bird. It is a dangerous license for intolerance and racial prejudice. The rich, multicultural society will be threatened by bigotry in the name of

The U.S. English advocates are already crying out against "foreign" street names and billboards. Will foreign language schools be the next target? Then, what else will be forbidden in the name of a monolingual society?

As one Golden Gate chapter board member remarked, "I came to the forum with an open mind. Now I have absolutely no doubt about my position. The English constitutional amendment initiative is a dangerous threat to the tolerance and diversity of society which have made America great."

# Navajo, JA Relocations Differ

by William Shimasaki

We, living in Flagstaff, have many friends among both the Navajos and the Hopis. Some of the writers in recent issues of PC have been misinformed about the relocation of the Navajos and are disseminating the misinformation.

In one such article, "Forced Relocation—1986" (March 14 PC), it was the writer's opinion that relocation of an ethnic group should never be allowed to hap-

#### For the Record

 The deadline for resolutions to be presented at the JACL National Convention is May 21, not May 31 as stated in the May 9 PC (page 6).

• The Story of Yamada Waka, reviewed by Bill Hosokawa in the May 9 PC, was written by Tomoko, not Toyoko, Yamazaki. Toyoko Yamazaki wrote Futatsu no Sokoku, upon which the TV series "Sanga Moyu" was based.

#### **PC Policy Statement**

Letters to the editor which can be conceived as campaigning or letters of endorsement will not be published. Such letters will be accepted only as a paid campaign advertisement.

pen again. It is commendable to profess such sentiments in view of the experience that we have had.

#### Navajo Compensation

However, the relocation of the Navajos cannot be equated to that of the Japanese Americans from the West Coast. The Navajos had essentially been encroaching on Hopi land since 1882. Moreover, to compensate them for moving from their homes in Hopi territory, they were given bonuses if they relocated voluntarily, and if not, they were given land in compensation for the land that they were squatting on.

Furthermore, they were furnished middle-class housing in such cities as Flagstaff and Winslow. There were several reported cases of relocatees selling for cash the houses that were given to them and moving back to the reservation.

A capsule history of the problem is presented here.

#### **Background of Dispute**

On Dec. 6, 1882, President Chester A. Arthur issued an executive order establishing the Moqui (Hopi) Indian Reservation. Encompassing some 2.5 million acres, the 1882 reservation was intended "for the use and occupancy of Moqui, and other such Indians as the Secretary of the Interior may see fit to settle thereon." The basic purpose of the executive order was to protect the Hopis from encroachment.

#### **Encroachment by Navajos**

At that time there were approximately 1,800 Hopis living there, mainly in villages in the southcentral portion. There were some 300 Navajos living on the reservation as well.

By 1888, because of the increasing encroachment of the Navajos on the Moqui reservation, the U.S. Army was sent out to advise the Navajos that they were encroaching on the Hopi. The Navajos were told to move out but were not forced to move.

In 1924, the Office of Indian Affairs expressed the official view that the Navajos had some rights of use and occupancy on the 1882 reservation.

#### Joint Use Area

In April 1943, 600,000 acres of the original 2,500,000 acres were formally designated as Land Management District 6 and were to be for the exclusive use of the Hopis. Navajos living within the lands were asked to resettle outside of the Hopi designated lands.

The Hopis did not accept this division and opposed Navajo use or occupancy of land outside of District 6; legal proceedings were initiated. The court ruled that all of the 1882 land outside of District 6 would be designated as the Joint Use Area (JUA). Both the Navajos and the Hopis shared in the benefits from the use of surface rights and the sale of subsurface rights in the JUA.

For all practical purposes, joint use on a full and equal basis

proved a failure due to the constant bickering between the Navajos and the Hopis.

To compensate the Navajos for the loss of the land caused by the relocation from the Hopi designated lands, 250,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management land were acquired without cost to the Navajo tribe. They were also authorized to acquire an additional 150,000 acres of private lands. These lands were acquired by the State of Arizona from private holdings and placed in trust for the Navajos.

#### Coal Resources

Among the new lands selected by the Navajos were 35,000 acres in northern New Mexico that are rich in coal resources. They are now negotiating with the Public Service Co. of New Mexico for the development of the coal resources and the construction and operation of a generating plant.

By terms of Public Law 93-531 (1974), the Navajo and Hopi Relocation Commission was established to deal with this problem. The first family was relocated in 1977. It is presently estimated that about 2,600 families will receive relocation assistance. It must be stressed that this population is extremely mobile as

livestock is the main source of income because the land is not suitable for farming.

#### Resettlement Exercise

The program is essentially a resettlement exercise that encompasses the acquisition of replacement housing, as well as the maintenance of cultural and family stability. As of the end of 1985, approximately 400 Navajo families were actually occupying homesites in the Hopi Partitioned Lands. Almost 900 families were relocated by the end of 1985.

In December 1985, \$22,680,515 was provided by Congress to construct homes and related facilities for relocatees in the new lands. Bonus payments totaling \$6,551,000 were made for relocatees who moved voluntarily. A total of \$73,279,000 has been allocated to date for relocation housing. Including administrative costs, a total of \$106,446,514 has been allocated to date for the relocation process.

The table below gives unit costs for the 400 families that have relocated voluntarily and the balance of the 2,200 families affected.

This is a far cry from the relocation of Japanese Americans from the West Coast!

UNIT	COSTS PER FA	MILY	
Type of funds	Amount	Families	Unit costs
1. Bonus Payments 2. Relocation Housing 3. Discretionary Funds 4. Commission Operations	\$6,561,000 73,279,000 7,595,000 19,011,514	400 2200 2600 2600	\$16.402 33,308 3.075 7,312
Totals	\$106,446,514		\$60,097
Source: Official Briefing from N	avajo-Hopi Relocation	Commission. No	vember 1985

## 3 districts select forensic winners

Three districts have chosen students who will take part in the National JACL Speech & Forensic Competition to be held at the Chicago convention in July.

 The Pacific Southwest District JACL competition was held May 10 at the Airport Hyatt in Los Angeles.

In the prepared speech category, Jeff Suzuki of Selanoco Chapter, speaking on 'Deterrence or Jingoism: Nuclear Buildup in the U.S.," took first place and Mike Tatsugawa of Downtown L.A. Chapter, speaking on "American Parallels to South African Apartheid," took second.

In the extemporaneous category, Lisa Itamura of East L.A. Chapter, speaking on how she would persuade a congressman to vote for redress, was in first place and Suzuki, speaking on what the JA community will be like in 50 years, was in second.

Judges were Torrance City Councilman George Nakano, LA. Superior Court Judge Madge Watai, and Garvey School Board member Judy Chu. A total of 10 students participated.

Also addressing the gathering were National JACL president Frank Sato, PSW governor Ken Inouye, PSW Leadership Task Force chair Irene Hirano, and **PSW** Speech Contest Committee members Mary Nishimoto, Cathy Higashioka, Ed Goka and Bill Kaneko. This event marks the first time a PSW speech contest has been held since 1968.

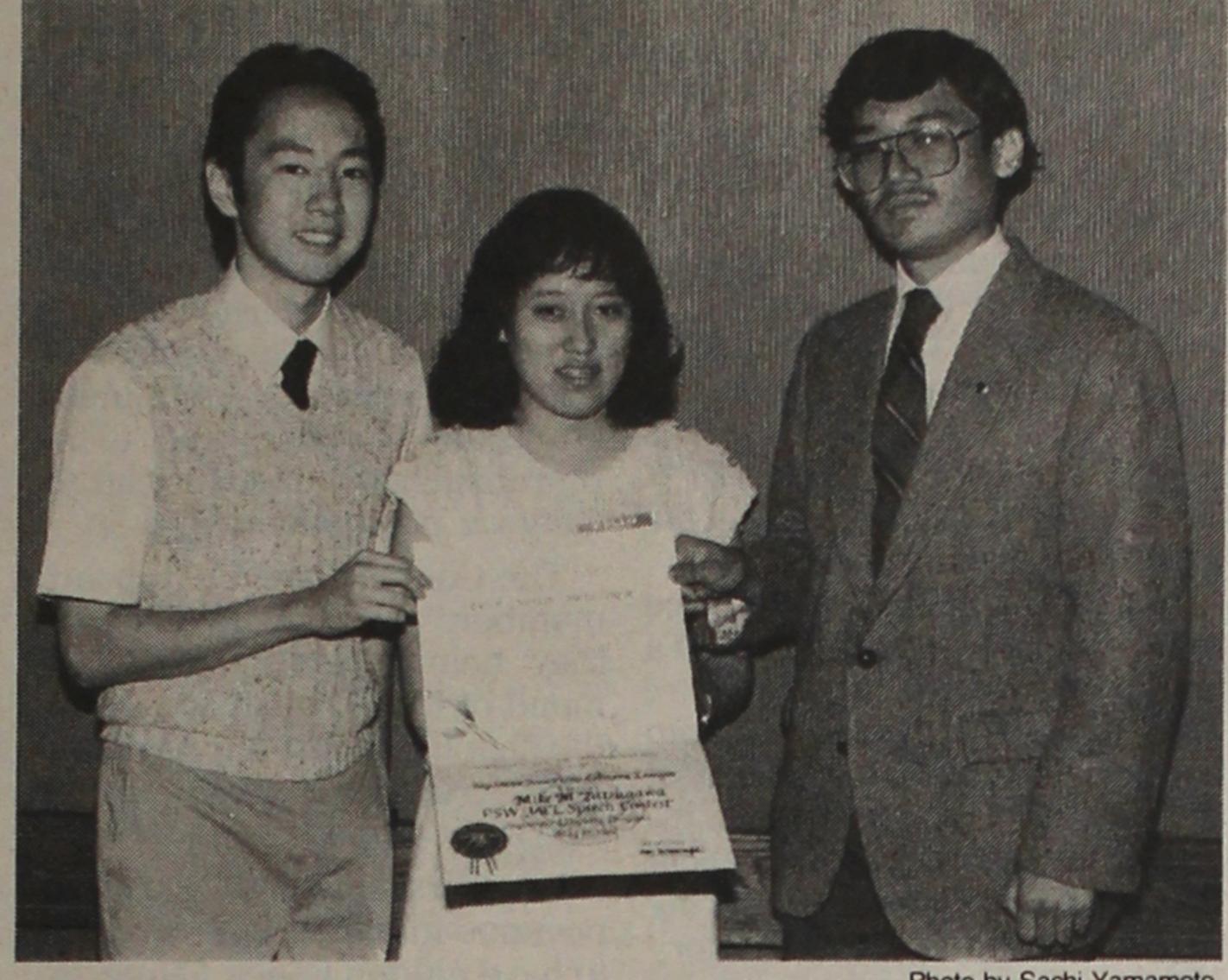


Photo by Sachi Yamamoto

PSW speech contest winners (from left): Jeff Suzuki, Selanoco Chapter; Lisa Itamura, East L.A. Chapter; and Mike Tatsugawa, Downtown L.A. Chapter.

 Yumi Sera of Fowler Chapter was declared the winner of the Central California District forensic competition held on Apr. 20 at Arthur's Restaurant in Selma.

Runner-up was Mike Takata of Tulare County Chapter.

The topic chosen by both speakers was 'The Impact of Wartime Internment of Japanese Americans on Succeeding Generations."

Speech instructors Al Pietraforte and Milton Wohl were the judges. The contest was organized by Dr. James Nagatani.

 The No. Calif.-W. Nev.-Pacific District competition was held during the District Council quarterly meeting on May 4 at Dinah's Shack in Palo Alto.

In the extemporaneous category, the winner was Kim Suehiro, a freshman at UC Berkeley, who spoke in favor of making English the official language of the U.S. She represented Sequoia Chap-

The winner in the prepared category was Sheila Sakakura, a student at Linden High School, who represented Stockton Chapter. Her topic was "Human and Civil Rights in the 1980s and Beyond."

Judges were Steve Okamoto, Ron Watanabe and Alice Nakahata. The forensic competition committee was chaired by John Yamada.

# Chapter Pulse

#### Florin

SACRAMENTO—Florin Chapter's 1986 scholarship winners are: 1st Place—Jonathan Okamoto of John F. Kennedy H.S., who will attend UC Santa Barbara majoring in business; 2nd Place— Seiji Richard Fujimoto of Valley H.S., who will attend Arizona State University majoring in art; 3rd Place—Katherine Oda of Elk Grove H.S., who will attend UC Davis majoring in pediatrics.

The scholarship committee was headed by Nellie Sakakihara, assisted by Dori Fossgreen and Twila Tomita. This year marks the 20th year of the chapter scholarship program.

#### Lake Washington

BELLEVUE, Wash.—Lake Washington JACL has scheduled a program on retirement, featuring the video "A Tale of Nisei Retirement" and Dr. Chisato Kawabori, regional director of the U.S. Administration on Aging, on June 7 at the Bellevue Ramada Inn, 105th NE and Northup Way near SR 520. No-host cocktails at 6 p.m., dinner at 7, program at 8. Cost: \$13 for dinner and program, \$2 for program only. Info: 885-9654 or 747-2589.

#### Sacramento

SACRAMENTO—The Sacramento JACL community awards banquet will be held May 30, 6:30 p.m., at Hoi Sing Restaurant, 7007 South Land Park Dr. The following 1986 scholarship recipients will be honored:

Sacramento Chapter JACL: Michael Matsumoto, Rio Americano H.S.; Alice Matsui Memorial: Nell Shimasaki, Luther Burbank H.S.; Anna Kawahara Memorial: Kathy Kubo, John F. Kennedy H.S.; Dr. Goichi "Joe" Kawahara Memorial: Katherine Aoki, Rio Americano H.S.; Sacramento Bowling Assn.: Lisa Shoda, Del Campo H.S.; Nisei Post 8985 VFW Memorial (Harry Kohaya, Kazuo Kanai, Mrs. Hisayo Seno, Frank Oshita): John Inouye, C.K. McClatchy H.S.; Lion Dr. Akio Hayashi, Senator Lions Club: Kelli Koshiyama, Rio Americano H.S.; Roy M. Kurosawa Memorial: Mary Curler, Cordova H.S.; Nisei Post 8985 VFW Memorial (Dr. Ma-

Continued on Page 9

### CJAA to participate in JACL program

SAN FRANCISCO—Calif. Japanese Alumni Assn. (CJAA) announced at its Apr. 23 board meeting that it will participate in the 1986 National JACL Scholarship Program.

As a participant in the JACL program, CJAA has given out \$23,000 during the past two years.

Awards of \$2,500 each will be given to undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at any of the University of California campuses.

A maximum of \$20,000 will be divided equally between undergraduates and graduates. No awards are offered for entering students.

Info: George Kondo, (415) 921-5225.

# 1986 NATIONAL JACL CONVENTION

JULY 20-25, 1986 • CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The Chicago Chapter Welcomes the 1986 National Convention to JACL's Kind of Town!

#### **CONVENTION EVENTS:**

CHICAGO TODAY BUS TOUR

Sunday, July 20-1:30 to 4:30 p.m. WINDY CITY NITECAP Sunday, July 20-8:00 to 10:00 p.m. KICK-OFF RECEPTION & DINNER Monday, July 21-6:00 to 10:00 p.m. CHICAGO CUBS/SAN DIEGO PADRES BASEBALL GAME Tuesday, July 22-3:00 p.m.

WOMEN'S CAUCUS LUNCHEON Wednesday, July 23-Noon to 2:00 p.m. MIKE MASAOKA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD DINNER Wednesday, July 23-7:00 to 9:00 p.m. "TREASURES OF TODAI-JI" EXHIBIT Thursday, July 24-5:30 to 7:30 p.m. SPEECH & FORENSIC COMPETITION Friday, July 25-2:00 to 4:00 p.m. SAYONARA BANQUET & BALL Friday, July 25-5:30 p.m. to Midnight

#### WORKSHOPS:

Monday, July 21 ANTI-ASIAN VIOLENCE-3:00-5:00 p.m. WOMEN'S CONCERNS-3:00-5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, July 22 AGING & RETIREMENT-2:00-5:00 p.m. LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT-2:00-5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 23 U.S.-JAPAN RELATIONS 2:00-5:00 p.m. NIKKEI PARENTING & BICULTURAL VALUES-2:00-5:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 24-REDRESS-3:00-5:00 p.m.

#### SPECIAL AIRLINE FARES:

Yamada Travel Service

TOLL FREE: 1-800-237-3762, Ext. 974

Yamada Travel Service in Chicago is the official convention travel agency and United and American Airlines are the designated carriers.

By special arrangement, Yamada Travel is able to offer conventioneers an additional 5% discount on United Airlines' Super and Ultra-Saver fares, subject to availability.

Call toll-free now for airline reservations at these discounted JACL convention fares!

#### YOUTH PACKAGE:

JAYS will also meet in Chicago the week of July 20-25. A special program includes mixers, workshops, a trip to Great America Amusement Park and Chicago River boat cruise, plus the "world's best" pizza at Gino's East and a performance at the Second City Theatre. The youth registration fee and Sayonara Banquet and Ball are included in the package.

#### HOTEL RESERVATIONS:

The convention hotel is the Hyatt Regency Chicago, at 151 East Wacker Drive. Special JACL rates are \$75 for a single or double, \$85 for a triple, and \$95 for a quad. Call Hyatt Reservations at 1-800-228-9000, advising attendance at the JACL National Convention (Convention Code No. GC-JACL). Reservations must be made by June 20 to be assured of these special convention room rates; requests after June 20 will be on a space available basis.

#### CONVENTION REGISTRATION:

Each person attending the convention must fill out a separate registration form. The registration fee admits holders of convention badges to all business sessions, workshops, and the Speech and Forensic Competition.

Indicate your choice of the entire package (or individual events) and the special events by circling the fee amounts on the form.

To take advantage of the early registration discounts, reply no later than June 1.

Make checks payable to JACL 1986 NA-

TIONAL CONVENTION and send registration forms and payment of all fees to:

Registrar

JACL 1986 National Convention 5415 North Clark Street

Chicago, Illinois 60640

Cancellations received by June 15 will be refunded 100%; 50% by July 15; no refunds thereafter.

For further information on the convention. write to the Registrar, or call (312) 728-7170 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Central Time.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF "EARLY BIRD" DISCOUNTS!! REGISTER FOR THE CONVENTION BY JUNE 1; MAKE YOUR HYATT REGENCY ROOM RESERVATION BY JUNE 20. DON'T DELAY!!

Street			(Firs	State Zip	(Middle)			Convention	
Phone (Eve.) () Chapter	(Da	iy) ( )	strict	Arnva	il Date			Individual Events	\$
PLEASE CIRCLE AS APPLICABLE	Delegate Alternate Booster Other (specify)		District	er President Officer al Board al Staff	Century C Chapter Y Youth Boo	lub outh Pres	adent	Special Events	*
	CONVENTION PACKAGE:	Before 61 \$180	After 61 \$210	SDECIAL EV	CNIC	Before 61	After 61	Youth Package	3
EE AMOUNTS:	Registration Windy City Nitecap Kick-Off Dinner	30 25 40	35 30 45	Chicago Toda Chicago Cubi	heon ay Bus Tour	\$20 15 15	\$25 20 20	TOTAL:	\$
	DSA Dinner Treasures of Todai-ji	35 25	40 30	SUB TOTAL		5	5		

# Window of Opportunity

The bill known as the Civil Liberties Act of 1985 was introduced on Jan. 3, 1985 by House Majority Leader Jim Wright (D-Texas). H.R. 442 started with 99 co-sponsors; it now has 130.

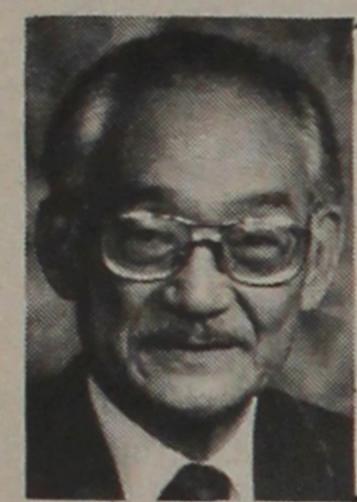
Thirty-three proponents and opponents of the bill testified at the marathon hearing held on Apr. 28 by the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Administrative Law and Governmental Relations. Subcommittee chairman Dan Glickman (D-Kan.) ably and fairly showed his leadership and



his experience as Assistant Majority Whip in hearing "all sides of the redress issue."

With the window of opportu-

# A Good Hearing



REDRESS UPDATE

by Minoru Yasui Legislative Education Committee

Hearings on H.R. 442 held on Apr. 28 before the House subcommittee on Administrative Law and Governmental Relations went well. Proponents of redress were greatly heartened by effective testimony presented by supporting witnesses. Indubitably, a favorable momentum has been established for thoughtful consideration of the bill.

Inasmuch as Chairman Dan Glickman indicated that the record would be kept open for three weeks, and that a hearing would be held on the Aleut portion of the bill, subcommittee and committee action on this bill will be held in abeyance for the immediate future.

During this interim, supporters of redress have the opportunity and obligation to "ride the fair winds" and to sign on more co-sponsors for H.R. 442 while the momentum is with us. If this can be done in significant numbers, we would predict that both the subcommittee and the full House Judiciary Committee would be willing to consider favorably the essential elements of H.R. 442.

With faith in the right and the justice of our cause, we believe that H.R. 442 can pass!

nity open as wide as it will ever be for the redress issue, JACL, through the Legislative Education Committee, must actively and swiftly build on the momentum if we are to see the day when the bill to right the injustice is passed in Congress. This day will not come unless enough of us care about rectifying the tragedy of denial of constitutional rights which happened to 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry in 1942.

This means each one of us must talk to our friends and to people in the community who believe that justice is for all Americans and ask them to write or talk to their congressman.

We urgently request that you take some time to do the following: (1) Write to Chairman Dan Glickman, Subcommittee on Administrative Law and Governmental Relations, B351-A Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515. Thank him for the hearing and ask him to move H.R. 442.

(2) Write a similar letter to Chairman Peter Rodino, Committee on the Judiciary, 2137 Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515.

(3) Write to President Ronald Reagan, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D.C. 20050.

(4) Most importantly, write to your congressman if he or she testified or sent written testimony in support of H.R. 442 during the House hearing. The proponents were Sens. Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga (D-Ha-

Continued on Page 9

# LEC Fund Drive Update

by Harry Kajihara **JACL-LEC Fund Drive Chair** 

Eleven months into the threeyear JACL-LEC Fund Drive, the hard work of many prime solicitors, multiple prime solicitor chapters, PSWD LEC Fund Raising Dinner Committee, and non-JACLers who have donated money has resulted in the drive raising nearly \$175,000.

The following 26 chapters have become multiple prime solicitors: PNW— Seattle (\$2,915), Pu-

Fresno (\$4,695), Sanger (\$992), Tulare (\$150); PSW- Marina (\$100), Selanoco (\$9,000), GLA Singles (\$1,393), San Fernando Valley (\$4,935), Pasadena (\$640), Carson (\$250), San Gabriel Valley (\$400), Orange County (\$331), Riverside (\$1,985), Las Vegas (\$1,121); MP\_ Houston (\$200); MW— Cleveland (\$3,405), Detroit (\$905.77), St. Louis (\$150).

#### **Prime Solicitors Needed**

JACL-LEC needs more prime solicitors and multiple prime soyallup (\$400), Lake Washington licitor chapters to obtain con-(\$300), Portland (\$112); NCWNP— tributions from JACLers and Stockton (\$1,180), Diablo Valley non-JACLers. Please remember (\$2065), Florin (\$3,110); CC— that the Fund Drive is planned Clovis (\$2,145), Delano (\$376.40), over a three-year period. The

PITCHING IN-Members and friends of Las Vegas JACL presented a \$1,121 check to LEC chair Min Yasui on March 28. Representing the more than 40 donors were chapter president George Goto (left), chapter secretary Norma Wagoner, and chapter redress chair Wayne Tanaka. Yasui gave an update on the redress campaign during his visit.

plan is based on the possibility that JACL-LEC may have to conduct the lobbying phase of JACL's redress pursuit into the 100th session of Congress. If the bills pass earlier, so much the better.

#### Second Year Begins

The second year of the Fund Drive will start with an LEC Bay Area Fund Raiser dinner in San Francisco June 13. The dinner will be organized by the American Fairness Committee under the leadership of Cressey Nakagawa, president of the San Francisco JACL chapter.

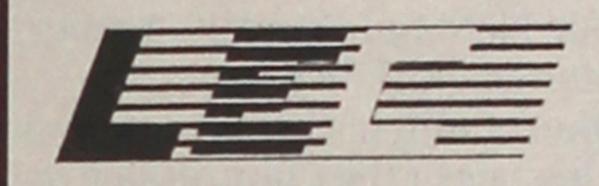
There are also people who have already donated toward the second year of the Fund Drive, which begins June 7. Sumiko Kobayashi (\$200), Philadelphia chapter; Tomio Moriguchi (\$500) and Ruth/Ben Woo (\$100), Seattle chapter; Miyuki Homer Yasui (\$1,000), Portland chapter. Early contributions are most welcome.

The Nikkei members of Congress are optimistic. They say that the possibility of the passage of redress legislation never looked better. Whether it be the 99th session or the 100th session of Congress, I personally feel that the light at the end of the tunnel is beginning to glow brightly.

JACL has become the organizational spokesperson for the legislative approach to redress. As such, JACL bears a heavy responsibility. Moneys must be raised to fund the JACL legislative redress pursuit to the very end. Could we JACLers think of doing anything less? I don't think so.



and Jason Osajima present checks and pledges totaling \$3,500 for LEC to B.J. Watanabe, prime solicitor. Daty's \$2,000 contribution is the largest individual donation received to date. Jason's contribution includes donations from grandparents Shig and Joanne Watanabe and parents B.J. and Ron.



JACL Legislative Education Committee Fund Drive Report

No. 7, May 7, 1986

Targeted Donation by May 7,1986 . . . \$322,667.00 Donations Received

0.1001101100	CITOU.
	\$172,374.88
Staff	\$100.00
ac Northwest	
No. Cal-WN-P	18,361.00
Central Cal	
ac Southwest	
ntermountain	
Atn-Plain	
Aidwest	
	25,052.00

Prev. Bal.: ... \$113,186.88 Donors (3/7/86 to 5/7/86)

#### **LEC Donations**

No. 7, May 7, 1986

\$1,000 and over

Las Vegas JACL, PSW Dinner Comm. (\$37,500); San Jose JACL Dance Club; Selanoco JACL (\$8,000): Homer & Miyuki Yasui.

\$500 - \$999 Ruth Hashimoto, Takeyo

Imori, Tom Murakami, Roy/ Frances Takeda.

\$100 - \$499

Junsuki Agari, Yo/Florence Ando, Berkeley JACL 1000 Club, Sim/Betty Endo, Yuk/Mich Fujioka, Robert/Amy Goka, Mike/Leah Hamachi, Kazuko Henjyoji, Ted/Chieko lida, George Iwasaki, Shigeru Kaneshiro, Sumiko Kobayashi, Ed Kubokawa, Al/Betty Kubota, Riley/Fumi Kumagai, Louise Maehara, Charles/Mary Matsubara, Meriko Mori, JS Muto, Satoshi/Toshi Nakahira, Martha Nakamura,

Noboru/Masaye Nakamura, Dwight Ken Nishimura, Norman/Rose Oda, George/Tomoko Oga, Orange County JACL, Heizo/ Hide Oshima, Ben/Grace Oshita, Pat/Marg Patterson, Philadelphia JACL, Hisaji/Jean Sakai, Sam/ Yaeko Sakai, Kay/George Seno, Robert/Fran Smith, George Tabuchi, Nancy Takagi, Alfred/Mary Tsukamoto, Shigeko Uno, Madge

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Following are excerpts from testimonies at the Apr. 28 House hearing on redress bill H.R. 442. continued from last week.

#### Constitutional Issues

A panel on constitutional issues offered testimony from Edward Ennis, representing the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU); William Robinson of the American Bar Assn.'s Section on Individual Rights and Responsibilities; and Eugene Rostow, a professor at National Defense University.

Ennis was on the staff of Attorney General Francis Biddle at the Justice Department on Dec. 7, 1941. Shortly after, he was assigned to head the newly created Alien Enemy Control Unit. In his opening statement, Ennis said, "History has shown that war is seldom a congenial time for civil liberties; and that in time of war, truth is frequently the first casualty."

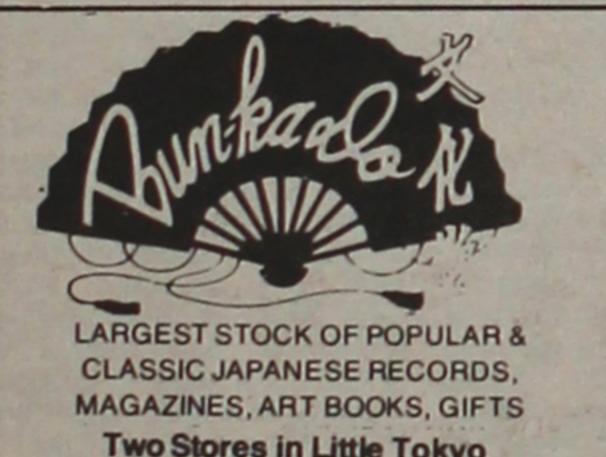
Ennis fully supported financial compensation "for the victims of so massive an injustice as the wartime internment."

#### American Bar Assn.

Robinson spoke on behalf of the over 320,000 members of the American Bar Assn. The organization's House of Delegates in 1984 passed a resolution urging Congress to provide appropriate legislative recognition to those denied equal justice. Robinson argued that "willful historical intentional inaccuracies and falsehoods" were contained in the final report of Gen. John DeWitt.

Robinson concluded that the prospects for full relief through litigation are still speculative and time-consuming, and asked that Congress provide appropriate redress, including monetary compensation.

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# More Highlights of H.R. 442 Hearing

Eugene Rostow, former dean of Yale Law School, wrote as early as 1945 in the Yale Law Journal that the wartime opinions of the Supreme Court on the Japanese American cases were a disaster, and urged then that "the basic issues should be presented to the Supreme Court again, in order to obtain a reversal."

He disagreed with Rep. Sam Stratton (D-N.Y.), who testified earlier that the suffering from the relocation was the same as all other deprivations which occur during wartime. It is not enough poses. that Congress simply apologize for the evacuation, said Rostow, because the evacuation was unconstitutional—a special deprivation of rights which deserves special treatment.

#### Opponents' Panel

Testifying against the passage of H.R. 442 were writer Lillian Baker of Gardena, Calif., and former National Security Agency official David Lowman.

Baker faulted the report and conclusions of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC), stating that the Commission's research was sloppy and used only secondary sources. Waving sheets of paper, she said she had lists of names of people who were documented as disloyal.

Baker contended that the removal of those people of Japanese descent was not racist, for the order affected only those on the West Coast, and said that hundreds of Japanese residing in the 44 other states unaffected by the order voluntarily came to reside in the WRA centers. She said the

evacuees' lands were leased, not lost, for the duration of the war.

#### 'Doubtful Loyalty'

Lowman's testimony focused on 1941 and 1942 intelligence reports which warned of massive disloyalty and espionage operations, controlled by the Japanese government, on the West Coast. He said the reports indicated that more than 25% of all JAs—about 30,000—were of doubtful loyalty and that some were serving in the U.S. armed forces or working in factories for subversive pur-

#### Main Sponsor Speaks

House Majority Leader Jim Wright (D-Texas), prime sponsor of H.R. 442, testified that the relocation and internment constituted violations of basic constitutional rights, and said he was proud to be associated with this legislation. This issue is what America is all about, he said.

Wright refuted Lowman's remarks about those who were of "doubtful loyalty" and discussed at some length the issue of the "potentially disloyal." The law does not accuse a person of potential disloyalty, he said. "It's whether he or she has violated the

Wright did not accept Baker's conclusion equating dual citizenship with disloyalty. He said that the Emperor's claiming Japanese Americans as citizens of Japan does not alter the fact that they were citizens of this country. He also could understand why some of the internees did not volunteer for the armed forces.

#### **Arguments Rebutted**

The JACL and LEC panel of

Frank Sato, national president; Minoru Yasui, LEC Board Chair; and Grace Uyehara, LEC executive director testified on remedies, particularly the compensatory payment remedy. This recommendation of CWRIC has drawn the most objections. Sato summarized JACL's many years of work on redress and closed by saying that Elliot Roosevelt had called the relocation of Japanese Americans the biggest mistake his father ever made as president, and that he would like to see redress made to these people.

Yasui, who departed from his prepared testimony, said, "I am an American and a lawyer. know that a wrong has been done. In this country, the way a wrong is righted is through compensation."

Uyehara refuted the assertion that the American Japanese Claims Act of 1948 made amends for the damages of exclusion and detention. She said the Act was settlement for a small portion of real or personal property losses that was not a fair settling of accounts and provided nothing for the deprivation of liberty.

The payment of \$20,000 will not open up a flood of similar claims, for this payment is to be made only to those individuals who actually suffered the deprivation of freedom, she added.

Subcommittee chair Dan Glickman (D-Kan.) asked the panel about the number of JAs who support the redress provisions. Uyehara answered that polls of the community showed an overwhelming majority to be be in favor of compensation. Glickman also asked whether there should

be different categories of eligibility among the aliens. Sato said this change would be misguided.

Yasui, in response to a question about barring further judicial action if a bill is passed, said that he would not like to see any possible future remedies foreclosed.

#### Masaoka Testimony

Mike Masaoka, former JACL executive secretary and Washington representative, testified on behalf of Go For Broke, Inc. He submitted a 72-page document summarizing the background and history of the Japanese American experience.

Masaoka offered amendments which would also provide compensation for those who were confined in camps not designated as relocation camps, and those who "voluntarily" evacuated at the urging of DeWitt.

Wartime photographs refuting statements that there were no guard towers, armed military personnel or barbed wire fences around the camps were submitted to the subcommittee by Masaoka.

#### 'Political Opportunism'

Karl Bendetsen, former Chief of the Wartime Civil Control Administration and Assistant Chief of Staff, Civil Affairs Division of the Western Defense Command, testified as an opponent of H.R. 442. He quoted from the 1984 testimony of Ken Masugi of Claremont (Calif.) College, who said the CWRIC report was full of "historical inaccuracies, moral posturing and political opportunism."

When asked for figures to back up his statement that many JAs came to the camps voluntarily from throughout the U.S., he gave no answer. Asked about his state-

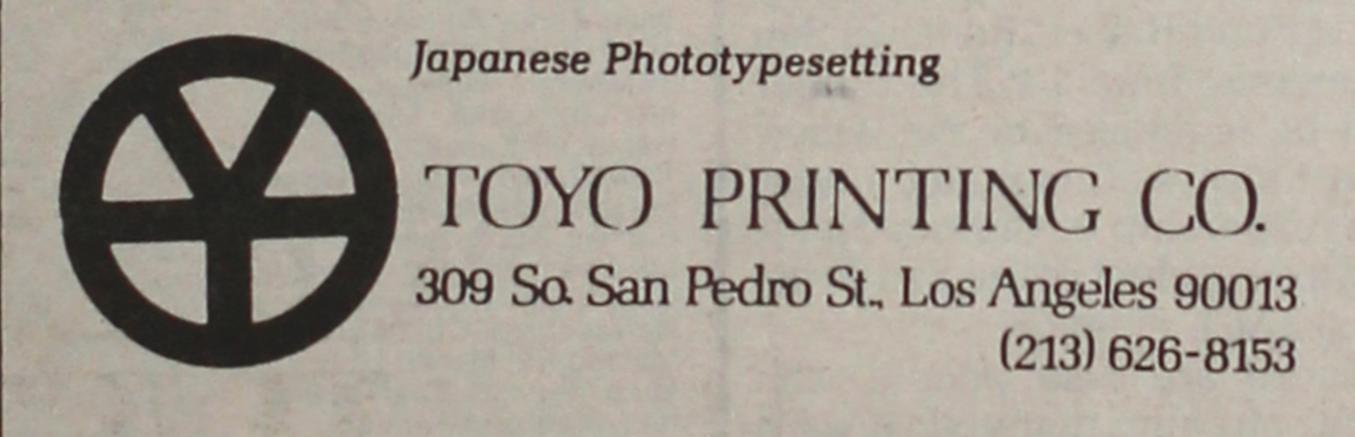
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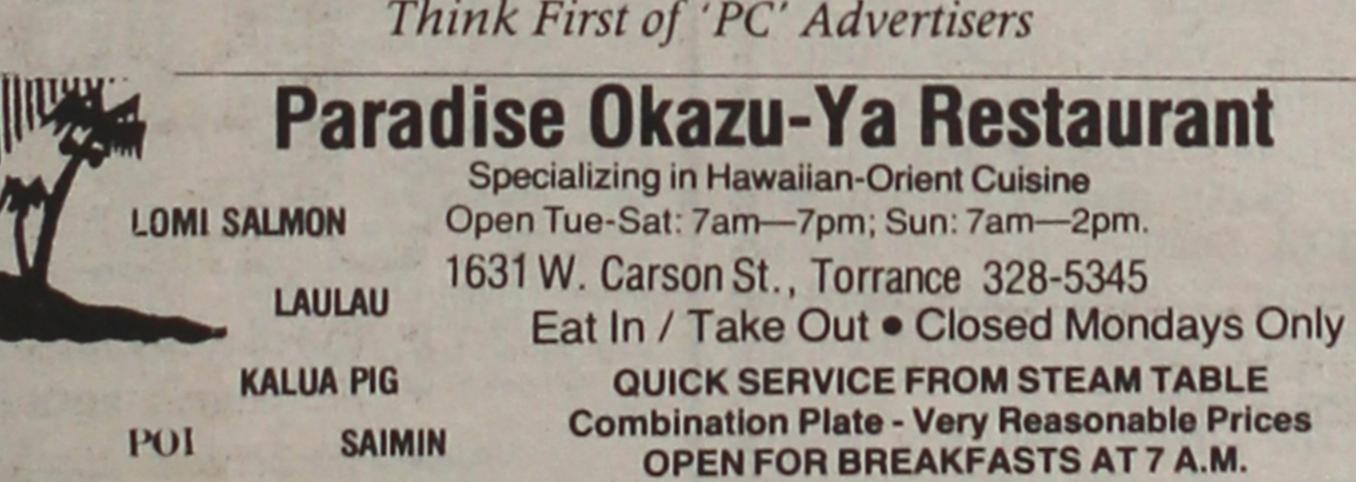
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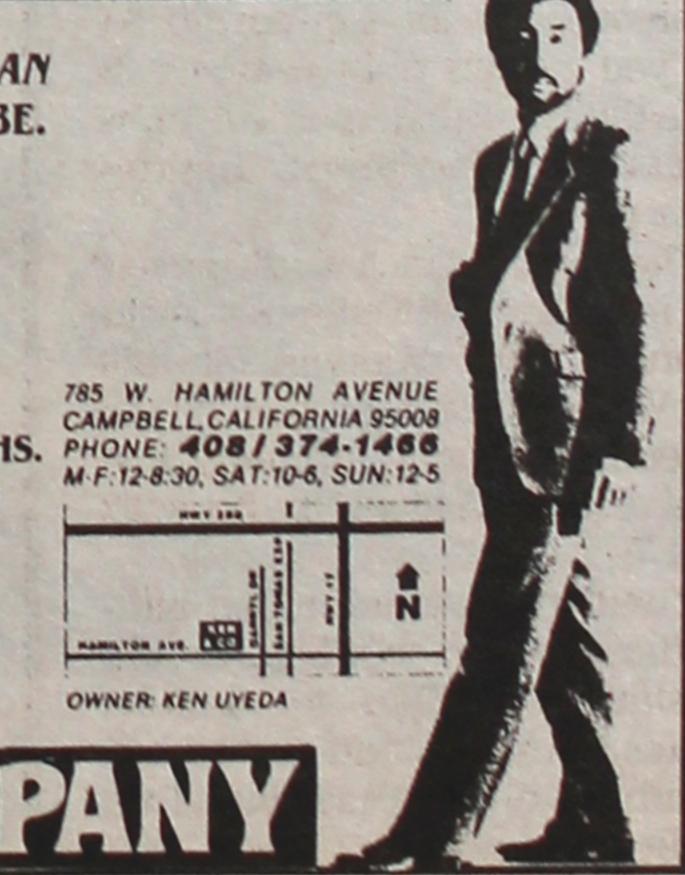
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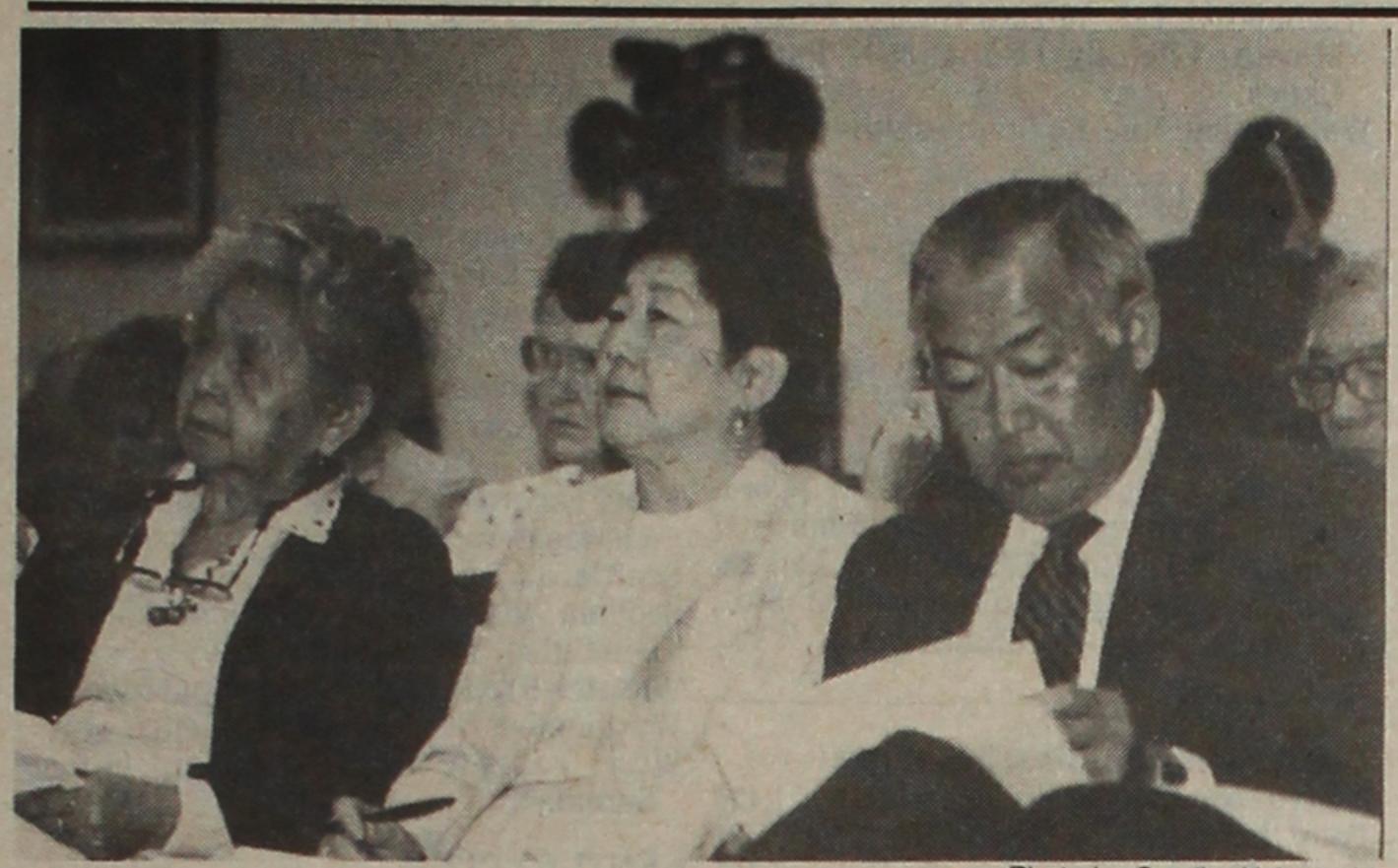


Photo by Sumiko Kobayashi

lost their business because of the

internment and that neither she

nor her sisters could establish

experience of a 10-year-old boy

who was imprisoned in an Amer-

ican concentration camp, the de-

vastation of his feeling of self-

worth and the impact of camp

Redress Organizations

American Legal Defense & Edu-

cation Fund in New York, Tim

Gojio of Wash. Coalition on Re-

dress in Seattle, William Hohri

tified in support of redress.

Philip Tajitsu Nash of Asian

life on his father.

Moteki recalled the emotional

practices until after the war.

Testifiers included (from left) Dr. Yoshiye Togasaki of Lafayette, Calif., LEC executive director Grayce Uyehara, and JACL president Frank Sato.

## REDRESS HEARING

**Continued from Previous Page** 

ment that there was no mass internment, he replied that internment was the Justice Department's procedure used only with aliens. He also stated that there was no loyalty review process.

#### Panel of Evacuees

Testimony was heard from a panel of former internees consisting of Mary Tsukamoto of Sacramento, Dr. Yoshiye Togasaki of Lafayette, Calif., and Robert Moteki of Brooklyn, N.Y.

Tsukamoto presented her painful recollection of the days before the Florin community's break-up to depart to four different relocation centers. She described Florin a once-thriving, close-knit, strawberry and tokay grape growing community which had to abandon the berry crop at the peak of the harvest season. She said the community she knew died on May 29, 1942.

Togasaki related her family's experiences. Her father and brother operated a large import/ export business which supplied many Japanese stores on the West Coast. She and two of her sisters were physicians; another sister was a registered nurse. She said that her father and brother

#### LEC Continued from Page 7

waii) and Reps. Wright, Sala Burton, Norman Mineta, Robert Matsui and Mervyn Dymally (all D-Calif.), and Mike Lowry and Tom Foley (both D-Wash.).

When we announced the cosponsorship of Rep. Barbara Kennelly (D-Conn.), we failed to note that Nobu Hibino and others had contacted Kennelly. The grassroots lobbying is the foundation of the redress program. After you report your contacts to us in the Washington office, there will be follow-up here by appropriate people.

The next district work period for members of Congress is the Memorial Day weekend, May 23-28. We suggest that you try to schedule an appointment. The next district visit will be June 28-

July 7. It will be a tremendous help to those of us working in the Washington office to receive copies of the letters written to members of Congress and of the

replies received. Let's take off.

charges should be brought against them.

He also said that surveys done in the Japanese American community show that more than 90% favor redress.

#### Closing Remarks

In closing the hearing shortly after 6 p.m., Glickman said that it was unusual to have a hearing of this length in one day, but that he wanted to focus on the hearing without having breaks for members who had to vote in the House.

The record of the hearing will be kept open until May 19 so that any others who have a pressing need to submit testimony can do so. Another hearing will be scheduled for Aleut internees.

Glickman said that the bill needs 218 votes in order to pass. "I don't want to take a bill to the House that will be defeated."

### PULSE

Continued from Page 6

saharu Seto): David Oda, Sacramento H.S.: Nisei Post 8985 VFW: Ryo Ueda, C.K. McClatchy H.S.; Nisei Post 8985 Auxiliary: Lisa Kuramoto, Rio Americano; Kazuma Fujita Memorial: Kristle Honda, John F. Kennedy H.S.; Noboru Shirai Memorial: Gail Tsujita, C.K. McClatchy H.S.; Sumitomo Bank of Calif.: David Yomogida, Hiram Johnson H.S.; Henry Oji Memorial: Scott Yomogida, Hiram Johnson H.S.; Calif. 1st Bank: Tonia Hashimoto, Hiram Johnson H.S.; Golden St. Sanwa Bank: Martin Fujitani, Luther Burbank; Hiroshima Nikkeijinkai: Clifford Shiomoto, C.K. McClatchy H.S.; Sac'to Gardeners Assn.: Robin Satow, Sacramento H.S.; Sac'to Chapter JACL Community College Scholarship: Ann Okamoto, Cosumnes River College.

Scholarship committee members include Ruby Matsuhara, Henry Taketa, Warren Kashiwagi, Hideko Seto, Shig Shimazu and Frank Hiyama.

#### San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO—The Nisei Memorial Day service will be held at Golden Gate Cemetery in San Bruno on May 26 at 10 a.m.

The San Francisco Chapter and No. Calif.-W. Nev.-Pacific District Council of JACL will participate in the memorial service, along with Golden Gate Nisei Memorial Post 9879 and Military Intelligence Service Assn.

Speakers include Cressey Nakagawa, who will introduce the Gold Star parents and veterans' wives, and Dr. Clifford Uyeda.

#### San Jose

SARATOGA, Calif.—San Jose JACL sponsors its annual doubles tennis tournament June 21 at West Valley College. There will be men's A-B-C and women's B-C divisions. Fee: \$14 per team. Info: Yoshi Deguchi, (408) 295-6457; Harry Kiyomura, (415) 343-7856; or Sayeko Nakamura, (408) 267-9032.

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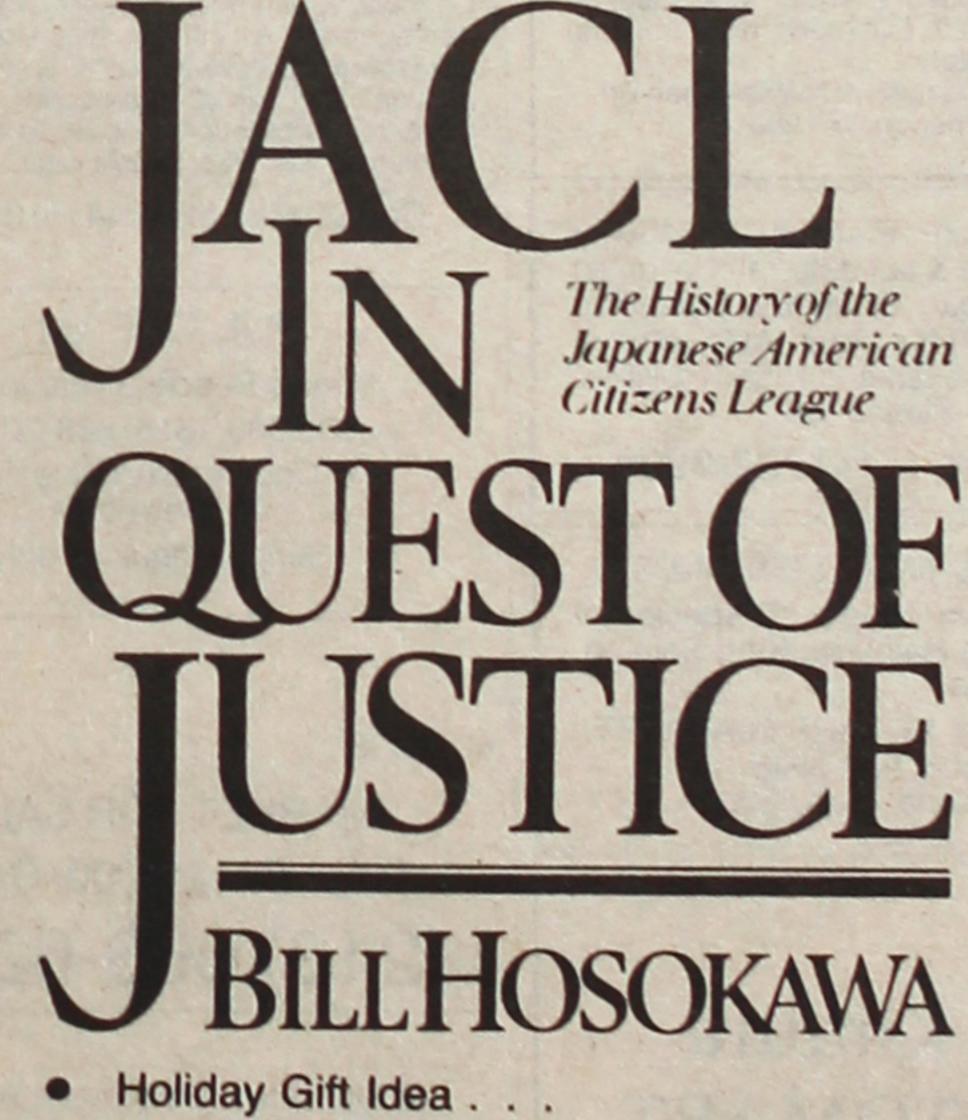
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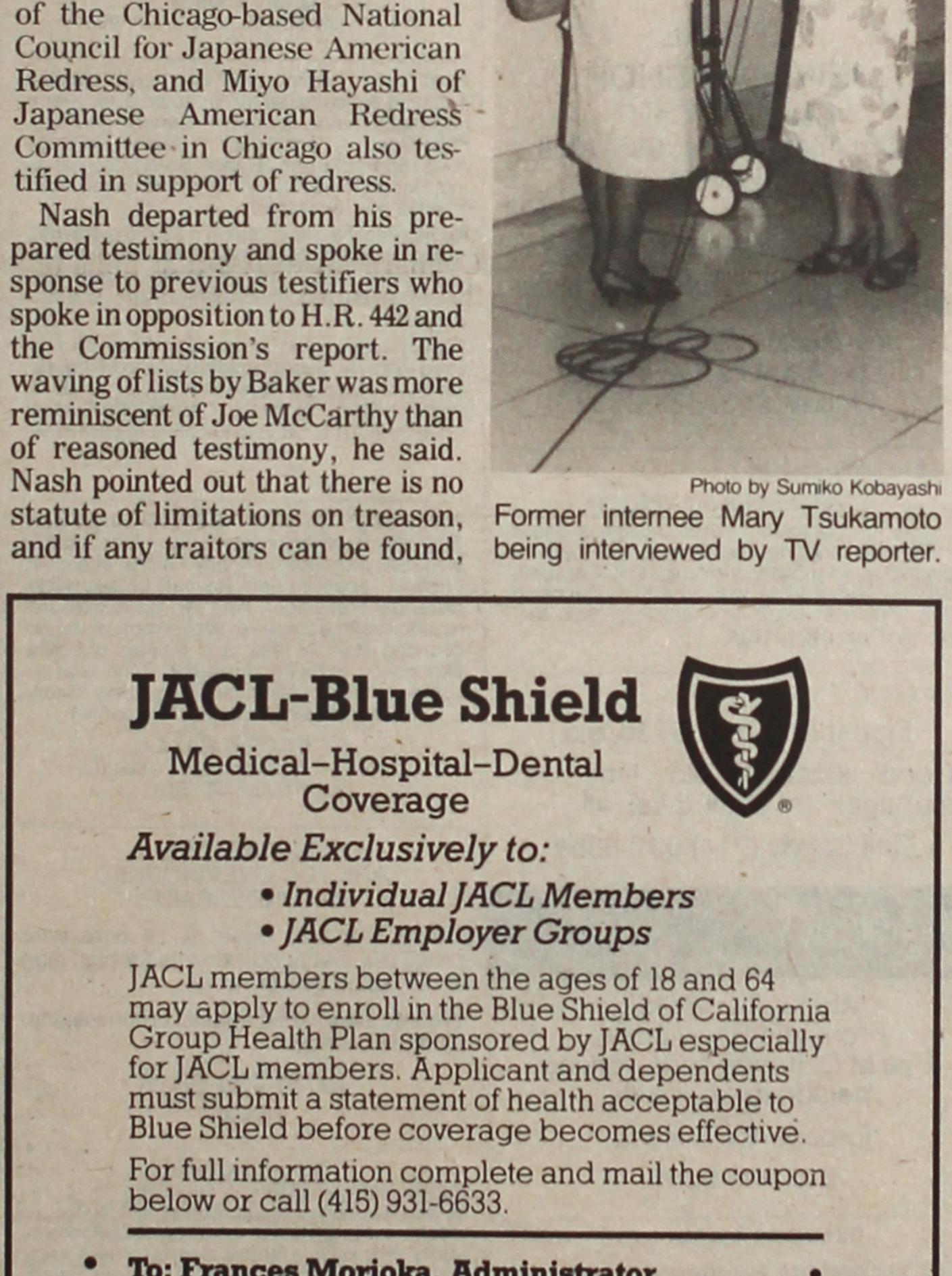
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# Yearlong exhibit on JAs launched

#### by J.K. Yamamoto

LOS ANGELES—"Ethnic LA: Japan," a yearlong exhibit at the L.A. Children's Museum, was officially opened May 9 by the museum staff and members of the exhibit's Japanese American advisory committee.

Museum director Jack Armstrong noted that the first 'Ethnic L.A." exhibit, which was put together with the help of a Mexican American advisory committee, had just ended two weeks earlier. He called the JA exhibit "another big step forward" that would "build bridges of understanding among kids from different communities."

The exhibit includes displays on notable achievements by JAs and on aspects of Japanese culture that have been retained by the JA community. Advisory committee chair Lani Sakoda said that "trying to design one room that would reflect a typical Japanese American atmosphere" was "a real interesting and difficult task."

"Some of our meetings became all Japanese and we forgot our American roots, and then the meeting would flip-flop to be all American in our attempt to watch out for over-stereotyping, and then we forgot our Japanese roots. Over a period of a year... we finally developed a blend."

Calif. Secretary of State March Fong Eu congratulated the museum for "sharing the ethnic diversity of this community with the rest of the children."

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\* Century; \*\* Corporate; L Life; M Memorial; C/L Century Life Summary (Since Jan 1, 1986) Active (previous total) .....1,068 Total this report: #16...... 52

(Year of Membership Shown)

APR 21-25, 1986 (52) Alameda: 6-Tatsuya Nakae. Chicago: 12-Shim Kawaguchi, 13-Keiko

Actor/comedian Pat Morita performed the traditional kagami biraki, the breaking open of a taru

Noma.

(sake barrel). Also taking part in the opening ceremony were Sue Antebi, president of The Inner Circle, which provided major funding for the exhibit; Mary Worthington, the museum's director of exhibits and programs; and Morris Pynoos, president of the museum's board of trustees. Festivities included a performance by Kinnara Taiko and origami demonstrations by Daniel Nakamura.

Cincinnati: 1-Charles Longbottom. Cleveland: 31-Joe G Kadowaki, 1-Shigeru Kanai, 3 Mary Obata, 1-Koro Yatsu.

Dayton: 17-Ken D Looker.

Detroit: m1-Gene H Amano, 2-Sayuri Mae Fujiwara, 1-Kiyo Gearns, 3-Lawrence K Iwaki, 27-Wallace K Kagawa, 2-Masako Kondo, 1-Tak Matsui, 1-Dr Gerald Shimoura, 31-Shizue Tagami, 1-Scott K Yamazaki, 2-Kathleen I Yee, 3-Ronald C Yee. Gardena Valley: 2-Sue Shizumi Okada. Gresham Troutdale: Life-Ted Hachiya. Lake Washington: 15-John Y Sato. Livingston Merced: Life-Fred M Hashi-

Marina: Life-Shirley Chami, 5-Ernest M Hiroshige, Life-Chiyoko Takahashi. Mile High: 26-Dr Mahito Mike Uba. New York: Life-Yaye Togasaki Breiten-

bach.

Pan Asian: 4-Seiji Kasai. Pasadena: 28-Rev Ken Yamaguchi. Philadelphia: 15-Ben Kimura, 11-Akira Yoshida.

Portland: Life-Edwin Hideo Sasaki. Sacramento: 30-Ardevan Kiyoshi Kozono\*. San Francisco: 25-Kayo Hayakawa, 5-Dr Saburo Kami, 2-Beth Renge.

San Jose: 5-Mary Ewing, 19-Karl Kinaga. Seattle: Life-Miki Kawaguchi-Tan, 2-Tim K Otani, Life-Philip H Schmidt, Life-Ruth L Schmidt.

Sonoma County: Life-Ed Nomura. Stockton: Life-George J Nakashima. Washington, DC: 16-Toro Hirose, 7-May Y Mineta, Life-Lily Okura, 35-K Patrick Okura. West Valley: Life-KoSSameshima.

5-Ardevan Kiyoshi Kozono (Sac).

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Summary (Since Jan 1, 1986) Total this report: # 17...... 31 

APR 28-MAY 2, 1986 (31)

Alameda: Life-John S Towata, Jr, Berkeley: 20-Goro Endo, 34-Tad Hirota\*, 15-George Kondo.

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#### ANTI-ASIAN

Continued from Front Page

fighting discrimination against Asian Americans.

Mineta urged conferees to continue to work together to educate the public, noting that racism "in its most basic and familiar form surfaces as the failure of a few Americans to distinguish us, their fellow citizens, from Asian nationals."

As an example, he referred to the Apr. 28 House hearing on redress bill H.R. 442, during which "one senior member of Congress testified that although he was opposed to redress, he spoke Japanese and had many friends in Japan."

Mineta urged the audience to be proactive as well as reactive. "We cannot react only after violent acts have occurred. We must erase the attitudes and prejudices that fuel violent acts. We must make sure that the current trade tensions never escalate to an explosion of racial animosity... we must make forever unacceptable anything less than our full rights under the law and our Constitution... We have a responsibility to speak out with firmness and outrage."

#### **Growth of Violence**

Dr. Allan Seid of Asian Pacific American Coalition traced the historical roots and development of anti-Asian violence and discrimination. The socio-economic and foreign policy forces which existed in the past are still operating today, he commented.

Stanford Law School professor Bill Hing said that the dramatic increase in the Asian population coupled with the economic downturn in the U.S. is one major factor in the resurgence of anti-Asian violence. Basing his figures on the 1980 census, Hing stated, 'Today, three out of five Asians is foreign-born. In 1960, the majority were Americanborn. The increase in population has been substantial. As of September 1985, our population is estimated at 5.1 million, compared to 1.4 million in 1970."

The speakers felt, however, that the increase in numbers alone does not account for the increase in acts of racial vio-

lence. Other factors mentioned included negative perceptions of Asians resulting from international trade conflicts and media stereotypes.

Wilma Chan of Chinese Progressive Assn. pointed to movies as a source of negative perceptions, saying that the repetition of a narrow range of caricatures molds the general public's image of Asians. She cited the 1985 film "Year of the Dragon" as an example of negative stereotyping.

The relationship between racial and sexual stereotypes and violence against Asian women was discussed by Asian Law Caucus director Peggy Saika. While violence can result from attitudes toward Asian women perpetuated by the media and the military, she said, another area of concern is domestic violence that occurs within Asian American communities. According to Saika. increasing numbers of such cases have been reported in Los Angeles, the San Francisco Bay Area and New York

#### 'Model Minority'

Ironically, the image of Asian Americans as a 'model minority' was identified as a contributing factor in the growth of negative sentiment. The perception of Asians as successful in education and business has generated a backlash, said conference presenters.

Census figures show that Asians have a higher median family income than the national average. But further analysis of the date would yield a different picture, suggested UCB Asian American studies professor Amado Cabezas, who said that Asian families have a higher number of workers per household and work more overtime hours than the national average.

Another variable Cabezas presented was the population distribution of Asians, who are concentrated on the West Coast. The West Coast population as a whole has a higher income than

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the national average, he said.

At the same time, said Cabezas, a comparison of persons living in the same area and with comparable education and work experience will show that Asian American income levels are below those of their white counterparts.

Because Asian Americans are viewed as overrepresented in institutions of higher learning, they have been omitted from financial aid and special admissions programs—to the detriment of disadvantaged immigrant groups, according to conference speakers.

#### Symbolic Attacks

Henry Der, director of Chinese for Affirmative Action, characterized the movement to make English the nation's official language as an attack on the Asian community. He accused U.S. English, the lobbying group chaired by former Sen. S.I. Hayakawa, of creating greater division and animosity in American society.

Five states have adopted English as their official language, and California may have such an initiative on its November ballot. Community organizations fear that the measure would have an adverse impact on bilingual education and other services that utilize languages other than English

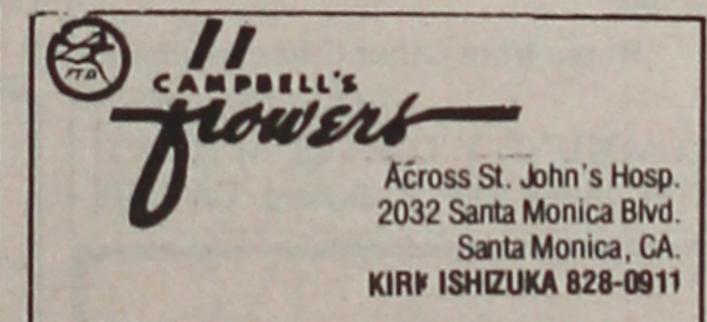
Wakabayashi stated that he had no quarrel with the concept senters.

Census figures show that Asians have a higher median family income than the national average. But further analysis of the date would yield a different picture, suggested UCB Asian

Wakabayashi stated that he had no quarrel with the concept country, but that the concept would exist with or without the initiative. "The danger in the initiative is its symbolism, discriminating against language minorities, newcomers," he said.

The low numbers of Asian Americans in decision-making governmental positions was also seen as a problem.

The conference concluded with an afternoon of workshops allowing futher discussion of the issues presented in the morning. Organizers announced that a follow-up meeting was scheduled to develop future strategies for dealing with anti-Asian violence.



# Nikkei members of Congress circulate JACL report on anti-Asian violence

WASHINGTON—Sens. Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga (both D-Hawaii) and Reps. Norman Mineta and Robert Matsui (both D-Calif.) have sent copies of the JACL report "Anti-Asian Violence in the United States" to members of Congress.

In a letter to their colleagues, Inouye and Matsunaga wrote, "We believe that the findings of the report should serve as a compelling reminder of the ugliness of any and all forms of racism in our society. Hopefully, we will all resolve to do whatever is necessary to preserve the American ideal for all Americans, regardless of race or ancestry."

Mineta and Matsui, in a letter to their fellow House members, wrote that "the recent rise in anti-Asian sentiment and violence is at least in part rooted in ignorance."

"The findings of the JACL re-

port lead to the incontrovertible conclusion that anti-Asian activity is on the rise," said Matsui. "Distribution of the report will serve to heighten public awareness of the problem and highlight possible solutions."

Mineta said that the report "accurately illustrates the emerging issue of violence involving Asian Americans. The Asian American community has continued to voice their alarm at the rise of violent incidents and climate of anti-Asian sentiment. We in Congress must continue to insure that the civil and human rights of all Americans must be upheld."

JACL national director Ron Wakabayashi expressed appreciation for the "continued leadership" of the four Nikkei in Congress. "Their efforts in this issue should be acknowledged and applauded by our community," he said.

#### **ENGLISH**

Continued from Front Page

time expulsion and incarceration of Japanese Americans, which he labeled "tyranny of the majority."

Bilingual ballots have brought about participation in the political process by those who otherwise could not have participated, he said.

Diamond's statement that U.S. English supports bilingual education was challenged by members of the audience. He made it clear that he was referring to ESL (English as a second language) classes, which are conguage)



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ducted entirely in English, as opposed to bilingual education, in which the student's native language is also used.

Diamond admitted that the language of the initiative is very broad and that local legislators would be the ones to provide the details of interpretation and implementation. There is also a provision enabling local citizens to sue the state "to enforce" the measure.

California is the key state in U.S. English's nationwide campaign, he said, because of its large population of recent immigrants.

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# Concerns about Asian representation raised at hearing on L.A. redistricting

LOS ANGELES—The Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC) will soon file a brief in federal court in order to give an Asian American perspective on the current controversy over the redrawing of the city's council districts.

Redistricting is seen primarily as a Latino issue because of a suit filed against the city in November 1985 by the Justice Dept., which alleged that the city's 1982 redistricting plan diluted the voting power of Latinos by dividing the downtown-area concentration of Latinos among seven council districts.

The suit orders the city to redraw the boundaries; the city council has agreed to do this by the end of July. The Mexican American Legal Defense & Education Fund (MALDEF) became a co-plaintiff in the suit in March and has submitted its own remapping plan.

In April, the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and attorney Ron Low, representing China-

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town-area plaintiffs, also became involved in the suit.

At a City Hall hearing held on Apr. 21, statements were presented by APALC, Pacific Southwest District JACL, Chinese American Citizens Alliance, Korean American Coalition, Confederation of Philippine-U.S. Organizations, Nayong Pilipinas, and Asian Pacific Legal Defense & Education Fund.

APALC's position was that "the Asian Pacific American communities of interest should not be ignored in the process of redistricting...communities of interest should not be fragmented as they are now."

These communities include the Chinese and Vietnamese population between Silverlake and downtown, the Korean pop-

JAPAN SUMMER

ulation along the Olympic corridor, the Filipino population along Temple St., and the Japanese population in Little Tokyo.

"By dividing the Asian population ... into 6 districts, the electorate of Asians is kept down to no more than 5% maximum in any one district" despite the fact that Asians make up about 10% of the county's population, stated APALC director Stewart Kwoh.

"Any proposed plan that divides these communities ... would dilute the voting strength of a significant and growing ethnic group in contradiction to established laws and principles."

Representatives of MALDEF, NAACP and the Chinese American plaintiffs announced at a May 1 press conference that they will seek a plan that is beneficial to all three communities.

Kwoh told the Pacific Citizen that APALC's legal brief will probably be filed by May 16.

## SOH BROTHERS

Continued from Front Page

indications of greater political tolerance by the government of South Korea," the letter reads. "We hope they will be followed by other measures to strengthen political freedoms and promote the democratic principles to which both our nations subscribe.

"In that regard, we urge you to review the cases of Soh Sung and Soh Joon Shik and to give serious consideration to releasing them

from prison...Such an act would be favorably received by the American people, and thereby contribute to the continued amicable relations between our two countries."

Joining Mineta in signing the letter were Reps. Stephen Solarz (D-N.Y.), Jim Leach (R-Iowa), William Gray (D-Pa.), Tom Lantos (D-Calif.), Patricia Schroeder (D-Colo.), Sam Gejdenson (D-Conn.), William Lehman (D-Fla.), Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), Robert Torricelli (D-N.J.), and Howard Berman (D-Calif.).

Continued from Page 3

cilman Winsole "Windy" Mata with 1,032 votes.

In Reedley, retiring City Councilman Ron Nishinaka delivered a farewell speech to colleagues and city staff at a recent council meeting.

When first elected in 1978, he

promised his wife that he would serve no more than eight years.

Friends from the Japanese American community showed their appreciation by raising a banner in the council chambers. Participating were Ken Sunamoto, Harry Inn, Rev. George Shibata, Hideo Shiine and George Ikemıya.

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