



By K. Patrick Okuro

## President's Corner

20,000 Members in 1964

Our goal of 20,000 strong was not realized during the year just completed. However, we did surpass the 1962 total and came very close to reaching the 19,000 mark in 1963. There were 19 chapters surpassing their previous year's total to account for the overall increase.

I wish there is some way we could give special recognition to these chapters. The initial report for this year's drive indicates that we are behind the good start we had in 1962. I strongly urge all chapter chairmen to get down to the business at hand and accelerate the pace for membership. The first report shows the N.C.N.A. District off to a good start and setting the pace again for our entire organization.

If we are to reach the goal of 20,000, every District will have to surpass the 1962 effort. We will need to do this—the largest increase being shown in the PSW area. It was by virtue of a new chapter being organized and the extraordinary fine work by the Arizuna, Downstate and the Valley, Los Angeles and Pasadena chapters.

Another noteworthy achievement in 1963 was the fact that the chapter in the Eastern District surpassed its 1962 total. The four chapters—Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.—were to be commended especially when one recognizes that the potential is so much smaller there than in the other Districts.

## Apt. manager remembering Pearl Harbor terminates occupancy of Nisei tenant

FRESNO—Daily Mail, in a letter to the editor published by the Fresno Bee Jan. 26, urged people to sign the petition which would nullify the Rumford House.

Occupying an apartment on Millwood Ave. and having it terminated with no reason stated, the tenant back and talked to the manager.

The statement he made in one letter will not be forgotten. It said: "I've got friends on the bottom of Pearl Harbor and I'm not going to forget it."

"Being of Japanese descent this tenant has been harassed and persecuted about eight months before I was born, yet today I have to suffer the consequences of this."

## Editorial support given housing initiative

LOS ANGELES.—The Los Angeles Times last Sunday editorialized in support of the initiative to amend the Rumford Act relating to discrimination in housing and the Urban Action League, real estate brokers.

However, it believed the proposed amendment was "defective" in that it did not exempt state-assisted housing not affected by the proposed amendment.

The Times revealed its series of editorials published last June on civil rights, when it urged the initiative of equality in education and employment. But on the third subject, it then said: "One of man's most ancient rights is a free society is the privilege of using and disposing of his private property in whatever manner seems appropriate."

"Moreover, we do not question the good faith of those who would abrogate this privilege. But we do feel, and strongly, that housing equality cannot safely be achieved at the expense of still another basic right."

The Times said it considered it "morally wrong" to deny such housing to anybody regardless of race, color or creed. "But articles designed to hasten the process of social, as distinct from racial, justice can only exacerbate the situation—and, in the opinion of the Times, defeat their very purpose."

The "initiation" will disappear only when human prejudice succumbs to human decency," the editorial declared.

Working of Initiative

The working of the initiative, sponsored by the California Real Estate Association, and being opposed by many civil, religious and minority group leaders



175 JACL wives and friends lunch with Mrs. Henry Maekawa, wife of the Senator at Seattle's Bush Garden. A brother of the Senator was the Jap. Ambassador to the U.S. in 1941. In front are Wendy (Iwami), Mrs. Jackson, Jean Kuroki, Mrs. Sakakura, Mrs. Hara and Mrs. Billie Yashikawa. In back are Mrs. Sakakura, Mrs. Hara, Mrs. Jackson and Mrs. Yashikawa. In rear are Susan and Mrs. Tera Sakakura. In rear are Jackson and Yashikawa.

## Nisei teacher in private school for Negroes relates experiences

WASHINGTON.—Last September, the Negro children of Prince Edward County, Va., denied public education since 1961, began attending private schools opened for their benefit.

Among the teachers recruited under the leadership of Neil K. McMillen, a member of the board of directors, was Hannah Chai Satow, who related her experiences with the school. She said that in the past, she had been a teacher in the Washington, D.C., JACL newsletter, "D.C. News Notes," published last month.

"I was a strange experience during the initial week when I had some 20 Negro children before me," she said. "In the past, my classes have been either all white or slightly peppered with Negro children."

However, as the days progressed, I began to be so absorbed in teaching them the basic fundamentals I forgot about the color of the skin and saw them only as children.

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San Jose JACLer picked for county grand jury

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Mineta, as a member of the San Jose Human Relations Commission, accompanied a police officer during a full shift of duty recently to see how minority groups were handled. It was to investigate charges of police brutality.

The commission this past week announced that the charges were unfounded and praised the police in their manner with minority groups.

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Washington Newsletter: by Mike Masaoka

## Members resigned strong rights bill to pass in House

(Special to the Pacific Citizen) WASHINGTON—By this time, it is quite possible that the Civil Rights Act of 1964 has either been approved by the House of Representatives or is near final passage.

A week ago (Wednesday, Jan. 29), the House Judiciary Committee completed its hearings on this vital legislation. And the House Judiciary Committee held a vote of 10-11 to 10-11, it cleared the measure for House floor debate, amendments.

The House floor debate on this civil rights bill was held on Wednesday, Jan. 29, at 10:30 a.m. It was a historic occasion, it completed a long and arduous process.

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By Bill Hosokawa

## From the Frying Pan

Denver, Colo.

**INFILTRATION** — Just as the ambitions of Japanese meant a quarter century ago altered life's course for some Americans, the Communist bosses of the Peking government may have an indirect influence on Chinese citizens. This is the implication from a warning published by the Harvard Business Review by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover.

Hoover writes that the rift between Peking and Moscow during Communist China into bold steps to become a super power on her own. "We can expect to face active Chinese intelligence efforts in the United States in many areas of national defense," he said, including efforts to learn American secrets by infiltrating the Chinese government.

We know that the Soviet spy apparatus has been extremely active in the United States. This is the first serious warning of Communist Chinese interest in this field.

Back in the years before Pearl Harbor, if what happened in the 72 hours after that event are any indication, Hoover made a detailed study of the structure of Japanese warian communities on the West Coast. Prominent leaders were quickly taken into custody in a series of lightning strikes. This precautionary step, unneeded as it turned out, ended the Justice Department to say the home front was secure and such a drastic move as a mass evacuation, supported by the military, was not necessary. We know of what the military, backed by politicians, won out in a fight.

Presumably the FBI has the Chinese American situation similarly well in hand today. Hardened by the alarms of the old war, we as a nation are much less likely to panic to the extent of taking out our fear of the enemy on Chinese Americans. Or are we? It's something to think about.

**VERSE FROM THE PAST** — A Caucasian business attorney of Dr. Newton K. Wesley in Chicago asked him one day about the ex-convict, DA Wesley, a pre-war resident of Portland, Ore., was trying to explain the anger felt being locked up behind barred wires in his own country when he remembered some verse that Min Yasui had written which seemed to express his feelings. Wesley scoured around his papers and found the original, a copy of which he sent me.

Yasui, now a Denver attorney, remembered the poem right. He recalled that he had written dozens in similar before military service was imposed to him in the freedom of camp life. In retrospect, the verse is more poignant than poetic. However, we reprint, with Yasui's permission his poem, "That Damned Fence."

*They're sunk in pits, deep into the ground  
They're growing old, just the same around,  
And machine guns watch, just ever there,  
And sentries and soldiers everywhere.*

*We're trapped like rats in a wire cage,  
To fret and fume with impotent rage;  
For ever reborn the life of the night,  
But that DAMNED FENCE assails our sight.*

*We seek the softness of the midnight air,  
But that DAMNED FENCE in the floodlight glare,  
Assaults us with its nocturnal quest,  
And mockingly laughs with vicious jest.*

*With nowhere to go and nothing to do,  
We feel terrible, listless and blue;  
That DAMNED FENCE is driving us crazy,  
Destroying our youth and making us lazy.*

*Imprisoned in here for a long, long time,  
We know we're punished but we've committed  
no crime,  
Our thoughts are gloomy and enthusiasm  
is damp.*

*To be locked up in a concentration camp,  
Loyalty we know and patriotism we feel,  
To sacrifice our utmost for our ideal,  
To fight for our country, and die, mayhap;  
Yet we're here because we happen to be a  
"Jap."*

*We all love life, and our country best,  
Our misfortune to be here in the West;  
To keep us fenced behind that DAMNED  
FENCE  
Is someone's notion of national defense.*

*Yamato Spring Cruise to Japan  
Leaving March 23 via P & O-Orient Lines Oriana  
Leaving April 3 via Japan Air Lines*

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## FEP commissioners hear first case under Rumford Act

LOS ANGELES

LOS ANGELES — The state Fair Employment Practices Commission today heard its first case under the Rumford Act.

The commission heard the case of a Negro woman who was denied a house in the San Fernando Valley because of her race.

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## Carnegie Hall Premieres Chihara Music

SEATTLE — Fame has struck the composer of the "Carnegie Hall" premiere of Chihara's music. The Seattle Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of Leonard Slatkin, premiered the music of Chihara's "The Sound of Music" in Seattle.

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## Annual report for Bank of Tokyo made

SAN FRANCISCO

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The annual report, which was distributed to stockholders on Feb. 11, shows that the bank's assets increased by 10 percent over the previous year.

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