



Bill Hosokawa

From the Frying Pan

ZADANKAI, U.S. STYLE—The Japanese have an institution known as "zadankai" in which a panel of persons more or less knowledgeable about a subject get together around a table and discuss it. Such a seminar on U.S.-Japan relations was held here one recent weekend, and the shame of it is that more persons couldn't have listened to the lively discussion. For the record, the participants, in alphabetical order, were Prof. Hans Baerwald, department of political science, UCLA; Prof. Harumi Befu, department of anthropology, Stanford; John K. Emmerson, Hoover Institution, Stanford; Bill Hosokawa, Denver Post; Prof. Robert S. Ozaki, department of Economics, California State, Hayward; Prof. Herbert Passin, East Asian Institute, Columbia University; Prof. Seizaburo Sato, department of liberal arts, University of Tokyo; Prof. Masakazu Yamazaki, department of literature, Kansai University; Prof. Hiroshi Wagatsuma, department of sociology, University of Pittsburgh.

Without reference to source, and in no particular order, some of the comments made at the seminar are being related here:

➤ Racial discrimination exists in both the U.S. and Japan, but a large part of what appears to be racial discrimination by Americans against Japanese may be more the result of lack of understanding of cultural differences. For example, in the U.S. it is customary to say what one means. In Japan one must understand what is not said, and a person who speaks too bluntly may be ostracized. Americans, being from many backgrounds, obviously are a heterogeneous people. The Japanese, being racially homogenous, look like a rock-solid nation. Thus it is easy to conjure up images of Japan Inc., a country united in its efforts to expand economically, whereas in truth Japan is a nation of many facets with many shades of political and economic opinion. One of the great difficulties is that the Japanese do not see themselves as homogenous.

➤ Understanding each other is difficult. Japanese visitors usually see only the downtown areas of U.S. cities, which often present the worse face of America. In Japan, downtown is the most attractive, most exciting, most interesting part of the urban scene. Japanese homes are likely to be crowded and drab; suburban American living, which the Japanese visitors rarely see, best reflects the high standard of life in the United States.

➤ Americans are having difficulty ridding themselves of the "Superpower Syndrome" which they acquired unwillingly through victory in World War II, even though that status is eroding rapidly. One racist aspect of the Superpower Syndrome is the feeling among many Americans that Japan must never catch up with the white world in terms of prestige and standard of living, whereas there's really nothing wrong with Japan trying to achieve economic, social and political equality with the white world through hard work.

➤ The deterioration in U.S.-Japanese relations dates to 1971 when the American domestic economy faltered. Japan resents being made a scapegoat for U.S. domestic problems like inflation and unemployment when imports from Japan account for less than 0.5 per cent of the U.S. gross national product.

➤ The U.S. and Japan are racing toward head-on competition for the world's raw materials and energy resources, to their mutual disadvantage. Both are heavily dependent on petroleum, for instance, and Japanese purchases of U.S. timber is being blamed for the soaring cost of lumber at the same time that the U.S. wants Japan to buy more from us. The time is coming when natural resources will have to be regarded as a world pool rather than national possessions, and the two nations would be wise to lead a global cooperative search for new energy technology like utilization of the seas and solar energy.

➤ And one final observation without comment: Nisei and Sansei are not likely to play a significant role in Japanese-American relations. Aside from the relatively insignificant numbers of Nisei and Sansei, both Caucasians Americans and Japanese

STATE AGENCY FUNDS EASTBAY ISSEI CENTERS

To Help Work at Mt. Eden, Set Up One at El Cerrito

RICHMOND, Calif. — The East Bay Japanese for Action was successful in getting a \$19,285 grant for the California Commission on Aging to establish senior citizen centers for the Issei of the Mount Eden area in southern Alameda county and in the Richmond-El Cerrito area in Contra Costa county.

Credit has been extended to the groundwork effort of such people as Dennis Yotauya, Grace Nagata, Tomi Okamoto, Yo Kasai and many other EBJA members for securing the grant.

The Issei center for the Mt. Eden area has been in operation for about a year. The center here is yet to open.

June 2 Open House

At the previous community meeting to establish an Issei center here, it was decided to set up an Issei center at the American Savings & Loan Assn. building in El Cerrito. An open house is scheduled for Saturday, June 2, noon-3 p.m. with the regular program for Issei seniors planned for the first and third Saturdays of each month from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., commencing June 16.

Meantime, applications for a program coordinator (\$180 a month) and a senior aide (\$150 a month) of the Issei center here are being accepted by Jerry Irel, personnel committee, 5861 Arlington Blvd., Richmond 94805 (415-237-1220). The senior aide must be at least 62 years of age.

The program coordinator will be primarily responsible to coordinate and develop programs for the Issei participants at the center.

Through efforts of EBJA members of Berkeley, interested members of the Richmond-El Cerrito area who belong to various organizations such as the Contra Costa JACL, Bay Area Richmond Free Methodist Church, Seacombe Church, Nichi and Higashi Hongwanji Buddhist churches of Berkeley, Berkeley Methodist United Church and many other organizations, were called for a community meeting to discuss the feasibility of establishing a senior citizens center for the Richmond-El Cerrito area.

Further information about the new center may be obtained from Ko Ijichi 233-8419 or Ben Takeshita 235-8182, both with the area code (415). Volunteers for transportation or telephone work are needed.

Tokyo's dry year

TOKYO—The meteorological agency said 1973 brought Tokyo its driest March since the start of the century, with only four inches of precipitation.

would prefer to deal directly with each in business rather than through the Nisei. In the U.S., Nisei ambivalence regarding Japan continues to create problems for them.

Points of Interest in Southern California



Long Beach. In the Bixby Knolls Shopping Center, 4500 Atlantic Ave.



Seal Beach. In the Rossmoor Shopping Center, 12501 Seal Beach Blvd.



Fountain Valley. 2 blocks north of San Diego Freeway, 17400 Brookhurst St.



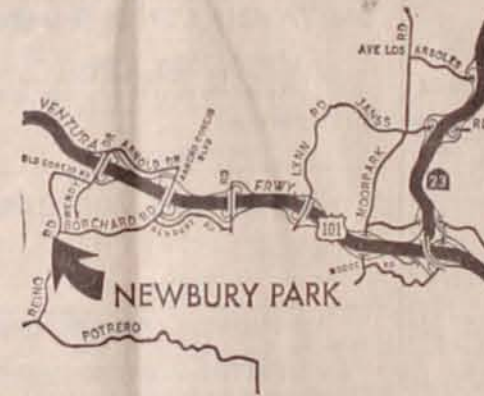
Gardena. 1 block west of the Memorial Hospital of Gardena, 1275 W. Redondo Beach Blvd.



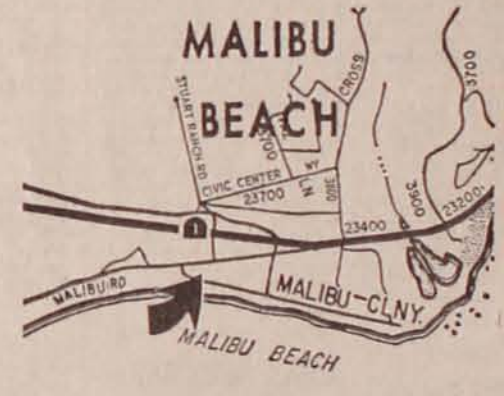
Silverlake. Intersection of Fletcher Drive & Glendale Blvd., 2522 Glendale Blvd.



Downtown L.A. Between 4th & 5th on Spring across from Title Insurance, 426 South Spring St.



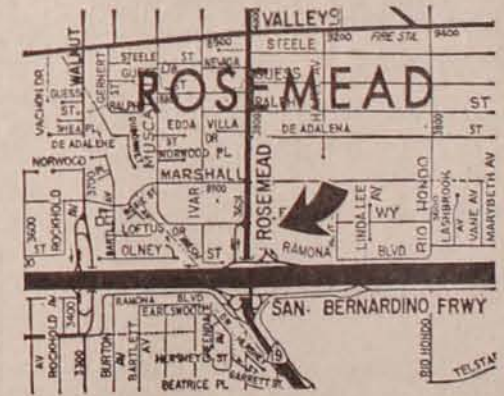
Newbury Park. In the shopping center across from Newbury Park High School, 115 N. Reino Road.



Malibu. West of the entrance to the Colony, 23700 West Malibu Road.



San Bernardino. Across from National Orange Show grounds, 590 South E Street.



Rosemead. Coming soon, Rosemead Blvd. at the San Bernardino Freeway.

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