

2— Friday, Nov. 1, 1974
● Harry K. Honda
Ye Editor's Desk
1974 PC HOLIDAY ISSUE

Within the week after the Labor Day Holidays, the advertising campaign kits for the 1974 PC Holiday Issue were sent to all JACL chapters and district councils. Several weeks later, our office received its first Holiday Issue ad—from the French Camp JACL chapter. And since that time, reservations for a full-page or two have come.

While chapters are now planning their local campaigns to secure greetings from area businessmen and members, we would like to impress there are two points that all of our chapters and readers need to know:

1—The Holiday Issue "ad rate" has gone up from \$5 to \$6 per column inch. This is the first increase since the PC began operations in Los Angeles some 20 years ago. The one-liner (name and address) greetings remain the same at \$5 per.

2—Chapters taking advantage of "bulk rate" will be paying slightly more than in the past. A full-page will be \$504, three-quarter page \$444, half-page \$324, and for the first time, a quarter-page \$204. When chapters sell all the space reserved at the new \$6 rate, they also stand to earn more—between \$48 and \$504.

Chapters wishing "bulk rate" should reserve space now with the PC office. The annual Holiday Issue Box-score will appear from next week, acknowledging the number of inches received or pledged.

Our goal is to better last year's 3,566 column inches of display advertising and 665 one-liners. (The one-liners within bulk-rate space are not tabulated.)

Unlike our regular issues which is printed off "hot metal", the Holiday Issue is set by photocomposition or "cold type"—providing use of art work or logos without going through the more expensive process of having a metal engraving made. Some of the fancy artwork submitted by chapters was evident last year.

Our production schedule remains about the same as in years past. Deadline for material to appear in the first section is Nov. 30, the second section and reference section Dec. 7. The Holiday Issue will be dated Dec. 20-27. It goes to press around Dec. 18. It should be in the mails the following day.

The stories we try to include in the Holiday Issue will have lasting value. One already set is a historical account of Manjiro Nakahama—a young Japanese rescued at sea by a New England whaler in the 1840s, educated in Massachusetts, eventually returned to Japan (when the country was still in isolation). Because of his knowledge of English, he quickly translated documents for the Tokugawa government. Commodore Perry had submitted—though the Americans never realized Manjiro was working behind the scenes in shaping the first U.S.-Japan treaty of amity and commerce. His skills in navigation found him returning to America aboard the Kanrin Maru as the "acting" captain. We are now inquiring with an Issei history buff on Manjiro for additional material and pictures.

Chapters which have a particular project of the year they would like to see published are urged to submit the story with pictures as soon as possible. Short stories (not over 10 pages, typewritten, double-spaced) are always welcome, be they vignettes of people, a personal experience or fictional.

We are continuing the "JACL-Holiday Issue" project where contributions in excess of \$10 for a one-unit space in the Reference Section, are earmarked for the Abe Hagihara Memorial Fund for student aid. The contribution should represent the sum a member spends in sending Season's Greetings to his JACL friends—and that in lieu of sending the cards, spending all that money for postage, etc., the JACL-Holiday Issue project says it for them and also benefit a JACL project as well. Deadline for this is Dec. 10.

NEW BALL GAME FOR URBAN RENEWAL
The plight of San Francisco Nihonmachi (and other Nihonmachi) can be noted in the preamble to the resolution offered by the Committee Against Nihonmachi Eviction (CANE) and adopted by the National JACL Council several months ago. The resolution calls upon JACL to have Congress review nationwide urban renewal and to stop further destruction of any Nihonmachi.

It now appears Congress has already reviewed and President Ford has signed a law which, the President said, "marks a complete and welcome reversal in the way that America tries to solve the problems of our urban communities." It's the \$11.9 billion Housing and Community Development Act, taking effect Jan. 1, 1975. The money will be spent over three years, consolidating several urban grant laws.

Intent of Congress was that low-income housing and urban renewal be given high priority by communities receiving funds. San Jose Mayor Norm Mineta, who had been pushing this bill through, puts it this way: "So that all people can enjoy a high quality of human existence." He had just been witnessed the signing of this law at the White House and gave his insights to the legislation in a speech delivered Sept. 12 at a farewell testimonial for Kango Kunitoku as Little Tokyo Redevelopment Project manager.

It may be that to implement the CANE resolution, JACL can consider the Housing and Community Development Act, which builds on previous experience in Model Cities, Urban Renewal, Neighborhood Facilities, Open Land Beautification, Water and Sewers, etc.

As a block-grant program with priorities set at the local level, it makes allowances for individual conditions (such as Nihonmachi). Federal "red

tape" which often frustrated local efforts has been unveiled by the new law. It's a new ball game for cities seeking federal assistance to alleviate urban problems. No local matching requirements exist in this program.

Strong provisions are also included for citizen participation in the development and execution of the program. Cities will be required to maintain a high level of accountability for assuring that citizens are involved in the decision-making process.

It also demands substantial work in planning, such as in data collection, analysis, establishing goals and objectives, sorting out program approaches and determining priorities. (This might remind JACL delegates of the proposals they had to prepare to secure JACL funding.)

CANE is to be commended for its work and compassion. JACL nationally has become involved. It means people must help city governments examine and plan whole programs to improve the quality of life. At the same time, as Mayor Mineta declared, "the challenge to the cities and their residents is how we take limited resources, develop an executive planning and management capacity that establishes need, sets priorities, allocates resources and facilitates the implementation of effective systems in a complex set of inter-governmental relations—so that ALL people can enjoy a high quality of human existence."



The Burning Issue

● From Our 60,000 Readers
PC Letter Box

CANE resolution

Editor:
A JACL resolution calling for a Congressional review of urban renewal programs and pledging a commitment of JACL resources to stop the destruction and dispersal of any Japanese American community officially went into effect on Sept. 27.

We—the Committee Against Nihonmachi Eviction (CANE) of San Francisco—had the resolution introduced from the floor of the recent JACL National Convention in Portland, because we believed that the largest national Japanese American organization should take positive steps to stop destructive redevelopment in our community.

In San Francisco Nihonmachi, we have watched more than 2,000 of our friends and neighbors driven out of our community by so-called urban renewal during the past two decades. We have watched our community destroyed as a residential and small business neighborhood and turned into a commercial tourist trap under the domination of large corporations from Japan. We have watched our culture and our heritage turned into saleable items to enrich the coffers of these corporate giants.

At the Portland convention, JACL delegates from across the nation spoke out in favor of the resolution, pointing out the destructive effects of redevelopment within their own communities. Delegates from Seattle, Salt Lake City, Sacramento, and Los Angeles strongly condemned the effects of "urban removal" in their own home towns.

Our resolution, thus, was amended to call for a commitment of JACL resources to stop the destruction and dispersal of not only San Francisco Nihonmachi but all Japanese American communities. The resolution passed by a 68-3 margin.

The resolution passed at the convention also included an amendment establishing a 60-day period (July 27 to Sept. 27) during which time any interested party could approach CANE with suggestions concerning wording changes in the resolution. This amendment was proposed because during floor debate, certain delegates opposing the resolution objected to the "harsh" language of the resolution. Under the terms of the amendment, these individuals could approach CANE with suggested changes. However, if mutual agreement between CANE and the persons with suggested revisions could not be reached, the wording of the resolution would stand as passed at the convention.

On Sept. 24, three days before the termination of the 60-day period, CANE was approached by George Yamazaki Jr. of the National JACL board who suggested changes in the resolution to eliminate "inflammatory" words and make it more palatable to JACL. He said his suggested revisions were "changes in wording, not in content."

The CANE coordinating committee and cabinet met two evenings with Mr. Yamazaki and decided that we could not accept his revisions. The wording he suggested were in fact changes in content. We cite three specific examples.

(1) In the sixth whereas clause, the original resolution as passed stated:

Whereas the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency has evicted many residents and small businesses with threats and illegal tactics not conforming with the guidelines of the Housing and Urban Development Manual.

Mr. Yamazaki had proposed: "Whereas the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency has evicted many residents and small businesses by improper tactics."

The suggested revision is not merely a change of wording but a change of content, and a major one at that. Specifically, his revision omits all mention of threats and illegal tactics used by the Redevelopment Agency.

Under federal law as delineated in the HUD manual, the Redevelopment Agency is required to provide assistance to those it is evicting. In actual practice, the agency has many times ignored these guidelines, more intent on driving people from their homes rather than meeting their needs. CANE has documented several cases where residents and small business owners in Nihonmachi have been harassed with intimidating eviction notices and threats of bodily eviction by agency staff members.

Under HUD guidelines, the Redevelopment Agency is required to provide to those it is evicting adequate relocation referrals and benefit payments. CANE has documented instances where these referrals weren't provided at all or where benefits were paid only after the tenants initiated legal action against the agency.

In 1973 CANE representatives testified before the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and cited examples of how the Redevelopment Agency had failed to meet its legal responsibilities as defined by the HUD manual.

Agency cause great discomfort and dislocation to the people it should be serving."

Completely omitted from Mr. Yamazaki's revision is any mention of a violation of public mandate and misuse of tax dollars. We believe these points are extremely important.

In San Francisco Nihonmachi, the Redevelopment Agency has used our tax dollars to destroy low-cost housing and small business space, to seize property through "eminent domain," and finally to turn this land over to large private developers, such as corporations from Japan, for their own profit-making schemes. We find this process a gross misuse of our tax dollars.

But not only is this a gross misuse of our tax dollars, it is also in violation of the public mandate. The public mandate behind redevelopment called for the destruction of substandard housing and its equal replacement by decent, safe, low-cost housing. This has not happened in Nihonmachi or in San Francisco as a whole. In fact, statistics compiled by the League of Women Voters indicate that 27,000 low-cost housing units have been destroyed or will be destroyed by redevelopment. The agency will build only 14,000 units to replace those it has destroyed. Of these, only 1,200 to 3,000 will be low-cost housing units.

This is why we describe the Redevelopment Agency's policies as a violation of the public mandate and a gross mismanagement of our tax money.

(3) In the eighth whereas clause, the resolution reads:

Whereas the growing resentment against unjustified manipulations and atrocities by the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency led to the formation of CANE, the Committee Against Nihonmachi Eviction Inc., in early 1973 to fight for the rights of Japanese Americans.

Mr. Yamazaki proposed to strike out the words "manipulations and atrocities" and substituting "acts." He said the word "atrocities" was inflammatory and inappropriate.

CANE disagreed. We recognize that "atrocities" is a harsh word, but we feel it is an accurate description of the kind of actions that have taken place in our community.

● David Ushio
Dialogue

FEDERALLY INSURED STUDENT LOANS

San Francisco
The coming of fall means that scores of Japanese American students will be attending colleges and universities in California. Their attendance is made possible largely by the help given by The Sumitomo Bank of California and The Bank of Tokyo of California and the Federally Insured Student Loan Program. As a result of these banks' participation in this program, Samsel is making personal investments in their future by paying for their own schooling, often saving their Nisei parents from having to go deeply into debt for their children's education.

Although members of a minority, many Nisei do not qualify for financial aid programs for minority group members because their Nisei parents have too many assets. Being of Asian heritage is not enough to get many of these grants; there are minimum income requirements also. Yet,

the past two decades under redevelopment, it is no exaggeration to state that people have become ill and died because of the harassment and threats from the Redevelopment Agency.

Last year, one CANE member suffering from high blood pressure received an eviction notice. Shortly thereafter, she was "evicted" regularly by a redevelopment staff member who harassed her to move. The woman was eventually hospitalized and died several months later. Almost immediately, the agency began to harass her husband. He too began to develop high blood pressure. Eventually, he ended moving out of Nihonmachi, away from the community where he had lived almost all his life.

Presently, an elderly Japanese-speaking couple is facing eviction. The wife is very ill. And yet for many months, they have been harassed by an agency representative who has been more intent on moving them out than in assisting them secure relocation benefits which they need in order to move. The agency representative has threatened to call the sheriff to throw the elderly couple and their belongings out on the street.

The chilling effects of receiving a 30-day eviction notice are best summed up by a grocer: "I could only lie awake all night wondering what I should do. In 30 days I would have to close down my business. Where could I go? What could I do?"

For the reason cited above, we could not accept Mr. Yamazaki's proposed revisions in the resolution. We felt his suggestions were not mere changes in wording but in fact changes in content.

We informed Mr. Yamazaki that now that the 60-day period has elapsed, we look forward working with JACL members in implementing the resolution. We must transform what is now a policy on paper into a program of action. We must put an end to destructive redevelopment and the exploitation of the many for the profits of an elite few.

GLENN OMATSU
CANE Secretary

San Francisco

many Nisei, although not economically disadvantaged, have not reached the level which permits them to support two or three students in college at the same time.

It is ironic, then, that the fruits of Nisei diligence and hard work are used to disqualify their children from the many attractive aid programs that would help them finance the high cost of college.

In response to this problem, the National JACL passed several resolutions urging ethnic banks to provide Federally insured student loans. Last summer, The Bank of Tokyo of California and The Sumitomo Bank of California undertook just such a program under the progressive leadership of Masao Tsuyama and Ichio Kumagai, presidents of their respective banks. JACL Nisei members of the boards of directors of the two banks wanted to see the programs get under way. These staunch and loyal JACL members arranged for me to meet with officials of their banks so that I could propose that the banks undertake the guaranteed loan programs; once approved, these same JACL members worked in their respective institutions to assure that the programs were properly carried out.

The Bank of Tokyo of California and The Sumitomo Bank of California are to be highly commended for instituting these programs and for demonstrating their sensitivity to the needs of the communities they serve. To the Nisei members of the boards of directors and the Nisei and Samsel employees of both banks who showed their interest in this project and in helping assure the future of Japanese American young people goes the deep thanks of the JACL. Positive action such as this clearly illustrates the strength we have when Japanese American workers work together to make JACL an effective and constructive organization.

Incidentally, a decade ago, I benefited directly from a loan program similar to this one. My university days might not have been possible without it and I am grateful to the bank and the Federal government for the education I was enabled to acquire.

The Federally Insured Student Loan Program is an important undertaking, both for the Japanese American community and for The Bank of Tokyo and The Sumitomo Bank. Japanese American youth will benefit from their foresightedness for decades to come.

The assistance that JACL members, particularly Nisei, gave this student loan project was crucial. JACL appreciates their help. Nisei can help JACL in many ways other than in banking. And in the years ahead, JACL will ask increasingly for their assistance. As a group, Nisei are a reservoir of talent, experience and influence in many fields. JACL hopes to call on Nisei members to lend their strong helping hands and good words when they are able. Japanese Americans will be the beneficiaries.

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