

Congrats, Cleveland

Cleveland was the theme of the joint EDC-MDC Biennial Conference held at Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio on Aug. 22-24 hosted by the Cleveland Chapter and under the chairmanship of Past National President Henry Tanaka of Cleveland. Over 150 delegates at the conference gave real meaning to that theme as they focused more on what can be done and how to get things done rather than on what ought to be or what someone else should be doing.

In the workshops, the discussions and resulting recommendations were addressed to how chapters and individual JACLers can more effectively participate in the political decision making process at the local level; work towards increasing the awareness of school children to Japanese Americans and the concept of multi-culturalism; deal effectively with the mass media to assure relevant, fair, honest and non-racist depiction and representation of Asian Americans in the media; and deliver social services, directly and indirectly, to members of the respective communities.

At one point in a plenary session discussion of the problems and issues relating to the resettlement of Indo China refugees, Cleveland Chapter President Tetsu Ishiyama injected the question "What can we do?" in such a way that the participants could not help but address their thoughts to what we as JACL and as individual JACLers can do to help our Southeast Asian friends to find their place and role in American society. After a full and frank airing of the problems and difficulties faced by JACL and JACLers in their efforts to provide meaningful assistance to the refugees, an ad hoc committee was formed to identify ways in which National JACL and



California Tri-District JACL Conference, which opens Sept. 12 at Anaheim's Grand Hotel, has scheduled former White House counsel John Dean III as its principal Saturday banquet speaker on the topic, "Reparations." Meeting with him are (from left) conference co-chairman Henry Sakai; Gail Nishioka, national JACL youth director; and Mitsuo Sonoda, TDC meeting hostess.

—Photo by Toyo Miyatake Studio

● From JACL Nat'l Headquarters

Communication

More Japan flight seats available

San Francisco available on Flight 4, according to Steve Dol, travel committee chairman. JACL passengers from JACL Chapter Flight No. 4 (Oct. 6-27 from San Francisco) to their own group (Oct. 7-28, also from San Francisco) has made a limited number of seats available (921-5225).

Whaling Committee gets IWC report

Whaling issue committee chairman Dr. Clifford Uyeda, in his Aug. 15 report, summarized the International Whaling Commission annual meeting held in London June 23-27.

- 1—All oceans are under IWC quota system for the first time. Previously the North Atlantic and land-based whaling stations in Brazil and South Africa were free from IWC regulations.
- 2—The 1974-75 season quota was 87,000. Actual kill was over 41,000 when kill figures from formerly omitted areas are included.
- 3—The 1975-76 season quota is 32,578—about 8,500 less than last season. Quotas, however, are only for IWC members.
- 4—New rule adopted automatically cuts off hunting any species whose stock falls 10 percent below Maximum Sustainable Yield, defined as a point at which a balance is struck between rate of reproduction and rate of kill. Problems are (a) whale population statistics are little more than guesses; (b) raw data comes from whalers; (c) possible erroneous assumptions concerning population dynamics.
- 5—Ten-year moratorium to gather data and allow population to recover was tabled in favor of the Australian selective moratorium. U.S. knew this was acceptable to all members. Concern of conservationists is that MSY may be merely a fancy name for killing maximum whales possible without arousing public protests.

PCYA applications sought

National JACL youth director Gail Nishioka should know by Sept. 15 whether a local chapter will sponsor a student for the 1976 program of Presidential Classroom for Young Americans, which begins in the Nation's Capital in January instead of February as in the past.

JACL regional directors and chapter presidents were sent detailed information sheets outlining registration procedures through National Headquarters, thus eliminating some paperwork confusion of previous seasons.

Coet of the PCYA program remains the same, \$245, for a week in Washington, D.C., that includes housing, meals, transfers on arrival and departure, transportation around the city, instructional staff, materials, health and accident insurance.

Chapters were urged to offer full or partial scholarships. Designation of candidate is expected to be completed by Dec. 1 or earlier.



Sacramento sets '76 Nat'l JACL convention dates

Mark your calendar for June 20-26, 1976—dates for the 24th biennial National JACL Convention being hosted by the Sacramento chapter at the Sacramento Inn and the fabulous Convention Center in California's capital city.

Outstanding events are being programmed by the energetic Sacramento JACL Convention Board for delegates, their family and guests. Details will be forthcoming.

For planners, a fun-filled day is planned for Monday, June 21, for golfers and hikers, for tennis buffs and Reno Jackpot seekers.

Convention gets underway on Tuesday with the first of many National Council sessions. And the best place to get acquainted with old friends and meet new friends, of course, will be the Delegates Mixer and Monte Carlo Night scheduled Tuesday evening.

'76 JACL bowling meet planned for San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO—The 1976 National JACL Bowling Tournament has been tentatively scheduled here at the Nihon-machi Bowl, now under construction, during the annual Aki Matsuri Festival in September, according to Stan Kiyokawa, JACL staff liaison to the bowling tournament.

JACL—NATIONAL TRAVEL PROGRAM Some flights in '76 confirmed

SAN FRANCISCO—Confirmation was received from Japan Air Lines this past week (Aug. 27) by the National JACL Travel Committee on six of its 11 charter flights requested for 1976. All dates are subject to change, committee chairman Steve Dol said.

Space for 100 passengers on a Group Affinity basis (GA/100) has been allocated and confirmed by Japan Air Lines for the following National JACL charter flights to Japan next year.

- Flt 1—Mar. 29-Apr. 17 from Los Angeles.
- Flt 2—Apr. 5-26 from San Francisco.
- Flt 3—Aug. 7-Sept. 4 from San Francisco.
- Flt 4—Oct. 2-23 from Los Angeles.
- Flt 5—Oct. 2-23 from San Francisco.
- Flt 6—Nov. 1-22 from Portland-San Francisco.

Japan Air Lines was not certain as to the immediate availability of charter aircraft. It may be that these GA/100 spaces may be changed to a charter aircraft. Then the dates may be slightly altered, Dol advised.

Following charter flights are still on request and pending.

- Flt 3—June 29-July 20 from Chicago.
- Flt 4—July 10-Aug. 1 from Cincinnati.
- Flt 5—July 24-Aug. 14 from Los Angeles.
- Flt 7—Sept. 27-Oct. 20 from San Francisco (San Jose).
- Flt 10—Oct. 4-27 from Chicago.

Meantime, the JACL Travel Committee guidelines for the 1976 program are being prepared for chapter travel committees and travel agents.

New CAB rules won't hit JACL travel program

SAN FRANCISCO—The new Civil Aeronautics Board regulations will not have immediate effect on the National JACL Travel Program, announced Steve Dol, Chairperson of the National Travel Committee.

Recently, the CAB announced plans to authorize "one-stop inclusive tour charters" and "special event charters" to become effective Sept. 13. Under these new programs, charter passengers would no longer be required to be members of a club, church, or an affinity group such as the JACL.

In the case of the "one stop inclusive tour charter", passengers would pay for a package of air fare, hotel accommodations and tour arrangements. Travellers to Japan would be required to spend a minimum of \$15 per day per adult on ground arrangements, and stay at their destination at least seven days and six nights.

According to an airlines representative, this particular new program would have little effect on JACL's regular charters, as the majority of JACL travellers are mainly interested in the low cost flight to Japan.

"This new program requires the group to tour Japan in a single group, and would allow very limited free time," Dol explained. Passengers would be required to pay for hotel accommodations and ground arrangements. The program will be ideal for certain organized and cohesive groups that want a planned itinerary, said Dol, and added that the JACL may also set up such groups if the demand for such a program warrants it.

The CAB ruling is being challenged by Trans World Airlines, which petitioned the federal appeals courts in New York to block the CAB order and to review it. Until a conclusion is reached, however, the new CAB rules will be in effect until March 31, 1980, when the authorization will be terminated or renewed.

"The future of this new program is not certain," said Dol. "We are going to keep abreast of the latest developments to give our JACL members the best possible service and savings on overseas travel."

"One-stop inclusive" charters will also cover trips within the United States, Canada or Mexico, which would have to be at least four days long.

As for "special event" charters, it would include air travel, ground transportation, a ticket to the event and hotel room if overnight stay were needed. This has been designed for sport fans, conference delegates and others visiting a city for a short stay.

Both scheduled airlines and supplemental carriers said the

proposals of open production once again coalesced around the youthful fourth-term congressman from Arkansas, Bill Alexander. Opponents sought Breunx of Louisiana and Sisk of California.

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The other consumer groups, however, are not as divided. They include the League of United Latin American Citizens, National Congress of Hispanic American Citizens, National Black Consumers, Harlem Consumer Education Council, Organization of Chinese Americans, and Chinese American Restaurant Association of Greater New York.

The consumers have once again allied themselves with the commercial users—food processors: Connell Rice & Sugar, General Foods, General Mills, Gerber Products, Kellogg, Ralston-Purina, Rivalina Foods, Stouffer Foods; and brewers: Anheuser-Busch and Adolph Coors who use

PACIFIC CITIZEN

Membership Publication: Japanese American Citizens League, 725 Weller St., Los Angeles, Calif. 90012; (213) MA 6-6936
Published Weekly Except First and Last Weeks of the Year—Second Class Postage Paid at Los Angeles, Calif.

VOL. 81 NO. 10

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1975

Subscription Rate per Year U.S. \$7. Foreign \$10

15 CENTS

Rice bill seeks lower prices

By LESLIE HIRAOKA

(Special to The Pacific Citizen)

New York After a bitter battle to bring it to the floor of the House, the Rice Act of 1974 died on an evening in late December during the final days of the last Congress, while food-aid proponents of the bill were attending a Christmas party at the White House.

Congressional opponents from the rice-growing states of Texas, Louisiana, and California charged that the new legislation would cripple the livelihood of rice farmers with a torrent of new production; proponents sought open production as a means of reducing consumer prices and as a way of offering hope to millions throughout the world afflicted by drought and starvation. The lines were drawn, and the conflict has spilled over into the new Congress.

In January, no less than four bills were introduced on rice production. Hearings were held on April 30 before the House Subcommittee on Rice and Oilseeds.

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rice in beer fermentation. Aligned with these are two food aid groups, World Hunger Year and Action Committee on Hunger.

The rice bill is embodied in HR 8529 and is entitled the Rice Production Act of 1974 (to distinguish it from the 1974 bill). It was reported out of the Subcommittee on Rice and Oilseeds under the sponsorship of the chairman, Mathis of Georgia.

Chairman Foley of the full Agriculture Committee is surprisingly enough scheduling hearings on the bill ever though testimony was taken in Subcommittee. This is an indication of the battle to come along with the stalling action which await most bills in the House Rules Committee.

New veterans of such skirmishes, the consumers are actively seeking congressional stalwarts in the form of Norman Mineta and the Burtons of San Francisco.

Congressman Alexander has indicated that Mineta may be "key" because of his leadership of the freshmen Democrats, his high standing among urban ethnic consumers, and his denunciation of the archaic congressional structure. It is further critical that a California legislator actively support the rice act in order to counter the strong opposition by rice growers in that state.

Appeals are consequently being made by the ethnic consumer groups. Last year, Rep. John Burton, whose district includes parts of Chinatown, became a supporter of the bill after realizing: "My constituents eat rice. They don't grow it."

Gratified by this statement, the Chinese American consumers are looking for more action from their "San Francisco treat."

JACL concerns Rice eaters of JACL have also become more vocal. The rice act has been endorsed by both the Eastern and Mid-west District Councils, and its ad hoc committee has enlisted the aid of the Washington representative, Wayne Horuchi; two tigers from the active Chicago chapter, Ron Yoshino and Alvin Hayashi; and Ruby Schaar, Tam Ogata, and Haruko Muranaka from New York.

Let them and your Congressman know if you're getting burnt by the high price of rice.

If the economic issues elicit no response, think of the humanitarian aspects of a million starving rice eaters, a lot of them in Asia. The need for rice grows by about 5 million tons per year. How will they be fed? Through open or restricted production of rice?

Because marketing quotas were suspended during the last two growing seasons, farmers (particularly in Arkansas and Mississippi) began rice on land ideally suited for the crop. If acreage limitations are re-imposed, these new farmers will lose all of their two-year investments. They are currently pleading only for the freedom to grow rice and are willing to forsake any government support (in terms of support prices which are guaranteed to the old farmers in the bill). It was conditions such as these which led the Secretary of Agriculture to refer to the old rice farmers as "vicious little monopolists."

Millers and food processors are also worried about the imposition of acreage limitations. These industrial concerns are planning capital investments to handle the increased production which will fail to materialize if the rice bill is not enacted.

The forces of reform stand at both ends of the spectrum, from consumers to new rice farmers.

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The announcement was made jointly by Masao Tsuyama, president of the San Francisco-based Bank of Tokyo of California, and Richard T. Silberman, president of the San Diego firm.

Also approved by state officials was a proposal to change the post-acquisition name to California First Bank.

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During the week ending July 6, they drove some 2,200 miles covering southern Colorado, New Mexico and the El Paso area. At some lonely cemeteries along the way, they simply offered prayers at the gravesites, shot their film and at other sites, they were welcomed and accompanied by local church members.

In Trinidad, they were guests of Bob Ogawa and Sam Uyemura. In Albuquerque, Sam Yonemoto hosted a service attended by more than a dozen people. At Las Cruces,

Hatsuki Tashiro was their host. At El Paso, a colonel from the Japanese Self-Defense Force accompanied them to the gravesite of the late Issei pioneer physician, Sadakazu Furugochi.

From El Paso, the Buddhist priests drove to Lovington, visiting with Robert Uyemura and other families. Back in Colorado again at La Jara, they were guests of Roy Inoue. In Arkansas Valley, they visited the cemetery at Swink and at the Amache WRA relocation center before returning to Denver.

Filming the gravesites at Heart Mountain, Omaha and Rio Grande Valley in Texas still remain. They will also return to Santa Fe because they were unable to locate the cemetery where several Issei interned during World War II are buried.

The film report will be a part of the Tri-State Buddhist Church report to the BCA conference.

As 1975 Nisei Week parade grand marshal, Jerry Enomoto rides in a convertible Cadillac for the first time in his life. Seated are his nephew and niece enjoying the spin around Little Tokyo where an estimated 15,000 viewed the Ondo parade.

—Tovo Miyatake Studio

Tajiri Awards fete DENVER, Colo.—The 11th annual Larry Tajiri Memorial Awards dinner will be held Sept. 8 at the Denver Athletic Club. Program this year will feature a \$500 presentation to the winner of the first annual Tajiri script writing competition in addition to the annual Tajiri awards to persons promoting theater in the Rockies.

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The commission pointed out dredging up the past, "complete with bad memories and embarrassment at the Asian figures we saw in the movies (made in the 1940s as were the bulk of Chan films)" to an entirely new generation of Americans cannot be condoned, presenting them with "a complete set of anachronistic stereotypes of Asians."

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Shigeki J. Sugiyama, National JACL President
Alfred Hatate, PC Board Chairman
Harry K. Honda, Editor

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rates (payable in advance): U.S. \$7 year; Foreign \$10 year.
Note: 1st-class delivery available upon request, ask for rates.
\$3.75 of JACL membership dues for one-year subscription
through JACL HQ, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, Ca 94115.

2- Friday, Sept. 5, 1975

● Harry K. Honda

Ye Editor's Desk

JACL'S TAX-EXEMPT STATUS

Our Washington rep Wayne Horiuchi has been bird-dogging items concerning bills in Congress along the lines of giving tax relief to volunteers working without pay for nonprofit organizations. Congressman Wilbur Mills had one in the last session that allowed volunteers to declare the number of hours volunteered as an income tax deduction with the amount based upon the minimum national per-hour wage scale.

Wayne has now sent us a page from the Aug. 1 Congressional Record, H-8172, detailing Rep. Richard Ottinger's bill (HR 9256) that removes lobbying restrictions from the Internal Revenue Code relating to tax-deductible organizations.

Ottinger notes that business organizations are permitted to deduct lobbying expenses if it's for legislation that may affect their private interest. Conversely, nonprofit, charitable organizations cannot retain their tax-exempt status if a substantial part of their activities is influencing legislation. Furthermore, individuals cannot take a tax deduction gifts given to an organization that, in substantial part, attempts to influence legislation. JACL is policing its own activities to maintain tax-exempt status.

The congressman points out they hear most often from organizations with a vested or financial interest. He doesn't think tax laws should discourage nonprofit organizations from making their views known either in the interest of encouraging the widest possible promotion of information. Ottinger sees his bill as one providing "a greater and more balanced dissemination of information to Members of Congress."

How far this measure introduced by the freshman New York Democrat sails remains to be seen. But nonprofit organizations involved in the protection of the public interest should generate enough wind and power to keep the so-called Lobby Equalization Act of 1975 afloat.

The National Center for Voluntary Action, Washington, D.C., has noted two volunteer-related bills in this session: (a) HR 6460 by Rep. Stewart McKinney of Connecticut, which provides tax credit to individuals performing voluntary service through charitable organizations engaged in care of physically handicapped or the mentally ill; and (b) HR 5725 by Rep. James Burke of Massachusetts, which provides income tax deduction for services performed through any organization referred to in Sec. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. National JACL is considered within this particular section—hence, gifts to JACL are tax-deductible.

It's nice to know NCVA is there to look after the interests of all volunteer organizations.

A LUNCHEON WITHOUT RICE

The other day, we were luncheon guests of insurance man George Omatsu at a Little Tokyo restaurant—among the five present, three of us abstained from eating rice that came with the meal. There was nothing wrong, I'm sure, with the rice—but we're on a no starch diet have been since January and consequently shed some 20 pounds and holding.

We mention this now—since the loss of the mid-section bulge is so noticeable to our many acquaintances they wonder "what happened?" During the first four months, we ignored the candy in the PC office. It's like a post-Lenten treat each time we chomp one now in lieu of cheese that had been recommended with the diet. Cheese we still nibble.

Omatsu treated us to lunch, wanting to learn how we did it. We didn't go to a sushiya for sure.

25 Years Ago

In the PC, Sept. 2, 1950

Aug. 19—President Truman signs JACL-ADC backed legislation; Soldier Bride Bill.
Aug. 23—Congress adopts \$13-million budget for Evacuation

Claims program in FY 1951; only \$250,000 set aside for administration. JACL-ADC says limited budget will drag out program for 15-20 years.
Aug. 28—Right of Nisei to appear as witness in own citizenship case upheld by federal appellate court in San Francisco.
Aug. 28—Sen. Lucas (R-Ill.) drops objections to reconsider joint conference report on Walter Resolution, asks President Truman to sign.

NC-WHDC - CCDC - PSWDC
1975 TRI-DISTRICT JACL CONVENTION
JOIN US!
Sept. 12-14

Testimonial Schedule
• Fri., Sept. 12
7:00-8:00 p.m.—Registration, Grand Hotel, Anaheim
8:00-11:00 p.m.—Welcome Mixer, Sky Room - Grand Hotel
• Sat., Sept. 13
8:00-9:00 a.m.—Registration
9:00-9:15 a.m.—Breakfast
9:15-11:15 a.m.—1st Workshop
11:30-1:30 p.m.—Lunch, Representative speakers from UAW & Japanese Corporations on "U.S.-Japan Trade Relations"
1:45-3:45 p.m.—2nd Workshop
4:00-8:00 p.m.—3rd Workshop
7:00-9:00 p.m.—Dinner, John Dean III, speaker, "Reparations"
9:30-1:00 a.m.—Dance
• Sun., Sept. 14
9:00-12 Noon—Open House
12:00-1:00 p.m.—Dinner

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● Don Hayashi

Potshots

HARD WORKING CHAPTERS

San Francisco found that over 40 Vietnamese families in the county alone are now on public assistance or welfare. Much of this phenomenon is a direct result of breakdown of sponsorship, the lack of clarity of the federal government to deal with long-range problems, and the inability of states to work with government regulations.

Recognizing that many of these families cannot identify basic resources and are not self-sufficient, Contra Costa is gathering clothing, food, money, furniture, and household items to assist. To overcome societal barriers, the chapter is seeking to assist the Vietnamese obtain drivers licenses and medical care, learn English, find employment and housing, and locate needed resources to meet their own personal and religious needs.

Tom and the Southeast Refugee committee composed of Dan Uesugi (chapter president), Kaz Ide, Jerry Irei, Elbert Yip and Glenn Onizuka are coordinating chapter efforts.

The Vietnamese have participated in the chapter picnic and soon the chapter will host a gathering for Refugee Sponsors and the Vietnamese families to discuss mutual problems, long term goals, and seek ways to enable the Vietnamese to help themselves.

The county social workers are grateful for the JACL efforts as many of the situations they find are not being covered under the current government assistance program. This sensitive understanding, cultural awareness, and personal interest can only serve to enable self-sufficiency at the earliest possible time.

Lastly, I recently met with the Sacramento Convention people as they plan for next year's National Convention at the Sacramento Inn, June 21-26. Alan Oshima, Jerry Miyamoto, Tom Okubo and numerous committee chairpersons are planning a full array of convention activities plus many tours and special events to attract golfers, tennis buffs, and wine tasters. For those interested in a chance, there's a trip to Reno in the offing.

Across the Bay the Contra Costa Chapter is dealing with the numerous perplexing problems facing the newly arrived Vietnamese refugees. The chapter became acutely aware of the complex problems when Tom Kawaguchi, an active member of the chapter, sponsored a Vietnamese family which he has known for over 18 years.

Checking around it was

● Gail Nishioka

Hikari

LETTERS FROM TOKYO

Two letters have been received from Tokyo from two of the JACL-JAL Cultural Heritage Fellowship recipients. While these are addressed to me, the personal asides are open to the membership. The other two recipients' letters will follow in our next column.

From Joanne Fujita

Greetings from Nihon:

Impressions of Japan?

Weatherwise it is hot and humid. I understand that August is THE hottest month of the year but come September it should cool down Gail,

where do all the people come from? It is always crowded.

The number of people boarding subways and trains or even shopping during the day is totally overwhelming.

With combined efforts we have not had too difficult a time with the language. People on the street are usually willing to help us out but if they can't answer our question they in turn ask someone—group effort.

The first few days we just oriented ourselves with Tokyo's subway and train system. We've been in and out of Shinjuku, Akasakamitsuke, and the Ginza. We met a group of college age girls who are studying to become tour guides. They took us up to Ueno, a northern district of Tokyo. The Ueno Zoo was just super! We saw the two panda bears which adds to the specialness of the zoo along with the fact that it is the largest zoo in the country. A few days later we went back to Ueno to see their Bon Odori. Of course we joined in too! Such fun—it reminded us of the Bon Odori we missed in Seattle.

(Joanne has signed up for courses in Japanese theater and literature.)

Sophia has planned many afternoon tours and excursions for us. This week we went to the Ichijo School of Ikebana. Another afternoon was spent touring Tokyo, which involved an exploration of the Imperial Palace, several landmarks and to Asakusa in which we visited the Kannon Temple.

We also saw a Kabuki play at the Kabukiza. Although the dialogue was very difficult to understand, we focused more upon the stage props, costumes of the performers, their singing and dancing. The famous theater was just beautiful.

We are really enjoying ourselves! So many people are eager to speak English and so they practice on us, while we in turn practice our Japanese on them. We have made so many friends this way.

I've got to do some reading for tomorrow so I will end here for now. Hope things are well with you—odaiji ni (shite) kudasai.

JO

P.S. It's just beautiful, Gail. No doubt that it will be a growing experience for me!

From Takashi Fujii

Hi from Tokyo! We arrived at S'phia on Sunday the 20th (July) and Mark and I have the 5th floor of the Jochi Kaban Ryo (Sophia Dorms). The summer session students were given a room to ourselves, about 8-9 tatami size with futon, a sheet, and a blanket. We have an electric fan to help cool down the strong summer heat and humidity. Also, they just put in a new window that lets in the evening breeze.

On the first day, the student guides assigned to us called a meeting to introduce ourselves and explain to us the program. Though we didn't know it ahead of time, there were other JAL students from Hawaii and the S.E. Asian countries. We have met many already living in the same place and having the same classes. The girls' dorms are a little farther, 25 minute walk or a 10 minute (trip) by walking and the train. This hasn't stopped the four of us and a few others from getting together almost every day.

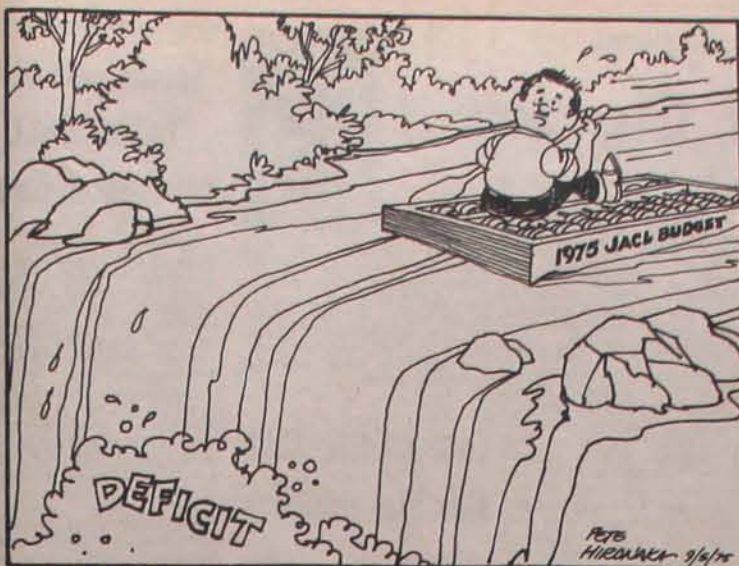
At our dorm, we have two student guides who have been friendly and helpful. They speak English and have gone out with us to see the various spots in Tokyo. So far we've been going to Ginza and Shinjuku as a group, had birthday parties for Theresa and Torasan (a guide), went to see the kabuki and sightseeing. They know the good spots for shopping also. We usually eat together and talk.

As they are our guides, they go with us to the afternoon activities as part of the summer session program. So far, we went to see film, teach and flower ceremony. Today we visited the Institute of Developing Economics, a semi-governmental group who does research on the SE Asian countries and how it relates to Japan.

So far it's been a lot of fun traveling, visiting relatives and friends, and talking with the Japanese people. I learn a little more of Japan each day. I can relate to the spirit in the people; the hard working industrious life of the Japanese and how they can adapt things into the Japanese context is amazing. Though I love Japan and I can feel with the people, the Japanese American experience has its own merit and values—many an extension of Japan but in an American setting.

We have 3 1/2 weeks before school ends and one more week of travelling for me.

TAKASHI



FROM THE FRYING PAN: Bill Hosokawa

The Other China

Taipei, Taiwan

In 1949 the Chinese Communist armies chased the Chiang Kai-shek Nationalist government off the mainland and into exile on Taiwan. The Nationalists continue to maintain that they are the legitimate government of China, a contention that is accepted by a dwindling number of countries. Hardly a month goes by without another nation abandoning Taipei and recognizing the Communist regime in Peking.

Yet it is undeniable that the Nationalists have built a prosperous economy on Taiwan and brought to the people a living standard that is second only to Japan in all Asia. The markets here are loaded with food and the shops with all manner of goods. The restaurants are jammed and there is an undeniable air of prosperity about Taipei even though the lights do not burn as brightly because of the energy crisis.

We were in Taipei shortly after Japan and Taiwan signed an agreement restoring air traffic between the two countries. Third nations had provided services between them, but that wasn't quite like Japanese planes and Chinese planes calling on each other's countries. Service had been disrupted more than a year ago in a mutually peevish outburst after Japan had recognized Peking. Now with characteristic Oriental face-saving, it was agreed to restore a mutually profitable and necessary service.

The hotel owners were smiling at the thought of a renewed influx of Japanese tourists and businessmen. So were the shopkeepers who advertise in Japanese, "Omiyage no mise," meaning "store for gifts." And, although I couldn't confirm it first-hand, so were the girls at Peitou, the hot springs resort outside Taipei who have found the pickings slim since GIs from Vietnam quit coming on R&R leave.

As a matter of fact, vacations in Taiwan are said to be less expensive for the Japanese than vacations in distant parts of their own country. Even while we were there we noticed many Japanese visitors and businessmen, many in the company of local girl-guides and companions.

The older Taiwanese, of course, speak Japanese as a heritage of the years of Japanese occupation. Many were educated in Japanese colleges, and some still consider themselves more as Japanese than as Chinese.

The Taiwanese hotel room boy on our floor said he was learning to speak, read and write Japanese from his parents, apparently in the hope of getting better tips from Japanese guests. His accent, like those of some American Sansei I know, left something to be desired but he was an engaging sort and we had an interesting discussion in Japanese, a language alien to both of us.

Still and all, Taipei is a Chinese city, as witness this next anecdote. One noon our escort suggested a light lunch at the One Dragon, a popular native restaurant featuring Peking cooking. (The food wasn't all that good—"We had a five-course lunch," one of the Americans told a friend later, "and the second course was garlic.") Part way through the meal I felt something tugging at my foot.

It was a woman, and she was pulling at my shoe. "What does she want?" I asked our escort in some apprehension. "She wants to shine your shoes," he explained.

"Should I let her?"

"Yes," he said.

So I raised no more protest while she took possession of both my shoes without any help from me, placed slippers over my stockinged feet and disappeared.

"Does she work for this restaurant?" I asked.

No, I was told. She works out in the street and comes in the restaurant looking for customers. We finished the meal and still she hadn't returned with my shoes. I was becoming just a bit apprehensive.

Then she showed up with my shoes gleaming as they'd never gleamed before. It was a real GI type spit and polish job. It most me 15 Taiwan dollars, which is about 35 cents in U.S. money. Not cheap, but well worth the investment.

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