

Nisei farm problems aired

By HARRY HONDA

Anaheim, Calif. The voices of Nisei farmers in Central California appearing before the recent JACL California Tri-District Conference here called for clear understanding rather than blind acceptance of the facts surrounding the farm labor controversy.

"If the labor problems facing the small farmers are not equitably settled, it's the consumer who will be hurt ultimately," Central California District Governor Mikio Uchiyama declared in opening the discussion before the delegates assembled Sept. 13 at the Grand Hotel.

Even more basic is the constitutional question of the "access rule" which the new California Agricultural Labor Relations Board implemented, the delegates were to soon realize. It permits a person to enter private property without the owner's permission to organize farm workers, the farmers explained.

Uchiyama served as moderator. The panelists were Fred Hirasuna, a Fresno shipper long involved with the farm labor problem, and Harry T. Kubo, president of the Nisei Farmers League.

The two hours allotted each district council for presentation of workshop issues quickly passed for the CCDC panelists. Of the three panel discussions, Central Cal's was described by some as the best organized.

Hirasuna's presentation

Lion's share of the presentation was carried by Hirasuna, who found by a good show of hands from the audience that most Japanese Americans have their roots on the farm and therefore have some understanding of what we are talking about.

A primary consideration Hirasuna stressed was that there are all kinds of farm workers as there are farmers and consumers.

Hirasuna said there are three kinds of farm labor: members of the United Farm Workers, those who belong to the Teamsters and those who don't care to belong to any union, "which we think is the largest group." He added there are also many farms which never make the press because their workers have not asked for an election as provided by the California Agricultural Labor Relations Act of 1975, which became effective Aug. 28.

The law provides any worker on any farm currently employing 50% of its peak harvest field force can petition for union recognition elections, provided a majority requests it. The state then has seven days to conduct the election by secret ballot for a union to gain certification.

While recognizing unions have generally served its purpose to get reasonable wages, decent working hours and better working conditions, Hirasuna cited abuses also existing in the labor movement.

"Our exposure to the unions has not been very good," Hirasuna said, referring to the UFW and more recently with the Teamsters.

Farmers in general

Another stereotype Hirasuna sought to squash was the caricature of the farmer, visualized by many as "one who rides around in a Cadillac pickup, has a whip in hand and hustles his workers to the last ditch, pays them little as possible and cares nothing about their welfare."

But there are many more farmers who are really concerned for the welfare of their workers, Hirasuna countered. There are many workers who have worked for one grower from 5 to 20 years. "They are like a member of the family. They are on a first-name basis," he said.

PC Board convenes

LOS ANGELES—Meeting for the first time, the new National Pacific Citizen Board of Directors dialogued all day Sept. 13 at Grand Hotel in Anaheim and came through with 15 recommendations—bulk of them dealing with editorial and business policies of the JACL paper, it was announced this week by board chairman Alfred Hatate.

Two are addressed to National Headquarters and one is a proposal to amend the Constitution, providing the PC Board Chairman the right to vote on the National Board of which he is a member.

At the same time, it was decided that the mandate of the 1974 National JACL Convention to publish a supplemental publication if feasible may see a repackaging of the Holiday Issue in 1976 as an intermediate step.

The new PC board, comprised of representatives from the eight district councils, reaffirmed the PC editorial-business policies adopted by the National Convention in 1966 and that as JACL's publication, it would print what the organization wants expressed.

Editorial policy

Generally, the policy is broad enough to include both JACL-oriented and general Nikkei news as well as to report on issues which affect Americans of Japanese ancestry. News of JACL or national interest prevail over purely local interest matters.

On letters to the editor from either member or nonmember, contents whether favorable or unfavorable to JACL policies determine its publication. Hatate reminded. Because of space, a 250-word limit will be imposed.

Furthermore, articles in the PC do not represent any consensus of beliefs within JACL nor should views expressed be identified with JACL or the PC except for the National Director's report and the re-instituted editorials.

The 1966 editorial policy also allows for divergent

Continued on Next Page

Shigeki Sugiyama

To the Point

CIVIL SERVICE JOB BIAS

Washington

Seeing the "Matterhorn" from a distance satisfied my curiosity about Disneyland when I attended the Tri-District Convention at Anaheim three weekends ago. Renewing acquaintances with the delegates from the three California districts and the members of the PC Board was much more pleasing.

As the convention has been covered I won't report on the proceedings, but the Orange County JACLers and Chapter President Mike Ishikawa are to be congratulated for a job well done. I look forward to the three district councils continuing these periodic meetings as a means of identifying common concerns and, eventually, for deciding joint courses of statewide action.

On my return from Anaheim, one of the first matters of concern were several complaints of employment discrimination. Most of the week was devoted to looking into two complaints from California and one case here in Washington, D.C.

Without going into details, the available facts in the cases indicate that the employers (all Federal agencies) might have been legally or technically correct (except in the Washington case).

But it is also clear in all of the cases that the human rights and dignity of the persons affected have been totally disregarded. The managers and personnel staffs involved haven't followed good employment practices.

At the same time, there is more than a suspicion that lack of sensitivity to and possibly even outright prejudice against Japanese Americans has been involved. We'll follow up on the cases with hopes of satisfactory resolution, although the harm already done cannot be undone.

Our experience is that the kinds of discrimination faced typically by Nikkei and other Asian Americans frequently are not of the type which can be handled adequately through existing mechanisms for dealing with employment discrimination.

New strategies for dealing with these more insidious types of discrimination need to be developed.

Surfacing of the kinds of incidents which would have only festered in our breasts in the past is now giving us the information needed to develop more adequate means of combating this aspect of discrimination against Japanese Americans.

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is, and there could be nothing more rewarding than the relationship between the worker and the farmer."

Of the 40,000 workers Cesar Chavez claims to be in his union, Hirasuna examined how UFW got their members. "He didn't get them by an election on the farm. He got them because his union in 1970 mounted an effective boycott," which Hirasuna said was "something you have to hand to Chavez and his union."

Chavez had drawn strong support for the boycott from the people in the cities who, Hirasuna said, probably knew nothing about farm conditions today. "They believe Chavez and are not objective enough to divorce their emotions from the actual realization of what the facts are."

Citing instances during the grape boycott mounted by the UFW, Hirasuna reported one store removed grapes from shelves because its workers were intimidated and customers threatened. The Safeway in Delano was hit when they found sacks of flour slit open, cans of oil punctured, frozen goods left to defrost in carts—"and that was supposed to be nonviolent," Hirasuna said unamused.

(Knowing Hirasuna, he undoubtedly has documentary evidence of the cases mentioned.—Ed.)

Effect of boycott

With the boycott effective, growers were forced to negotiate with Chavez and sign a contract. "The workers were never consulted on that," Hirasuna pointed out. "There never was an election."

When the grower signed, his farm then became a "closed shop," which meant that anybody who wanted to work on that farm had to eventually join the union. "That is how he got the bulk of his members," Hirasuna concluded.

To union proponents who claim 55 or 56 elections had taken place, Hirasuna held these were ratification of union agreements already made and besides, "What choice had the worker had?"

The Hubble case was even more severe, Hirasuna said. The conglomerate which includes liquor interests, Kentucky Fried Chicken, A-1 Sauce, etc., was told by the union if they didn't sign, a nationwide boycott of all Hubble products would be pushed.

The conglomerates are more vulnerable to boycotts, Hirasuna pointed out, "because they can't afford to soil their public image" and Hubble signed. "Now, where was there any semblance of consultation with the farm workers," Hirasuna rhetorically asked.

United Vitners, a small part of Hubble Corp., turned to Allied Grape Growers, a cooperative of 1,700 grape growers, for its supply, agreeing with the UFW 35% of the total grape crush would be picked by union labor the first year and in greater percentages in subsequent seasons. If any worker who wanted to work for any of those 1,700 grape growers, he had to join, Hirasuna declared.

UFW film, 'Huelga'

Of the UFW film, "Huelga," which includes scenes of a dilapidated farm which defies description, deplorable, turn-of-the-century buildings, abominable outdoor toilets and kids walking about in rags, the people showing that film could not tell Hirasuna and other Nisei farmers where those scenes were taken. One migrant minister later confided the scenes were taken in the 1950s.

"How can you judge what is happening on the farms today

U.S. resettles 100,000th refugee

WASHINGTON — The Intergovernmental Task Force announced the 100,000th Indo-China refugee resettled by U.S. efforts has left Ft. Chaffee, Ark. Remaining 35,000 in U.S. resettlement centers are expected to move to new homes by the end of the year, officials said Sept. 18.

Refugees are being resettled at the daily rate of near 700. The program to relocate 135,000 Indo-Chinese refugees was launched April 30, shortly after the fall of South Vietnam.

The refugee camp at Eglin AFB, Fla., was closed after its last refugee departed Sept. 15. There are some 9,991 remaining at Camp Pendleton, Calif.; 5,985 at Indiantown Gap, Pa.; 16,431 at Ft. Chaffee; and 1,800 in Guam wishing to return to Vietnam or Cambodia.

So. Calif. JACL Office to protest MGM film

LOS ANGELES — The So. Calif. JACL Office was asked this past week by several members to protest the use of the title, "The Night the Japs Attacked," which Herb Jaffe and John Millus have selected for their next film with MGM.

L.A. Times writer Mary Murphy in her Movie Call Sheet column Sept. 24 hung the "Bad Taste Award" around the title.

Los Angeles—A survey of prospective tenant interests and requirements is being conducted until Oct. 10 by Gary Gessard of Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co., 555 S. Flower St., for the new retail and office building complex adjacent to the New Otani Hotel presently under construction on Los Angeles between 1st and 2nd Sts.

The complex is expected to be ready for occupancy in late 1978. The hotel is to be completed by April, 1977, according to East West Development Corp., project developers.

Continued on Next Page

with what you see was taken 20 or 25 years ago?" Hirasuna definitely asked. There are no such labor camps in California and dared anyone to "find me a camp like that."

Turning to the Nisei Farmers League and how it evolved, Hirasuna recalled that in 1970 when the grape boycott was effective Chavez spared the little growers at the time. The following year in June, however, his union started after the little growers picketing 17 farms and 14 of them belonging to Nisei.

Nisei growers hit

One Sunday morning on the Hamada ranch, fires on tractors were found slashed, irrigation pumps started so workers couldn't enter to harvest the area. The culprits were never known.

On the Ohara ranch with about two acres of plums, 150 pickets (about one picket per tree) appeared, threatening they would get him next year. Hirasuna noted Ohara was also a strawberry grower so when they said, "we'll get you next year," he didn't plant any strawberries and hasn't since.

"So, those are the things we have to say about union tactics," Hirasuna blasted.

One more union tactic was mentioned, the so-called "slowdown" or Tortuga, which in Spanish means "turtle." One grower complained to Gilbert Padilla of the UFW office in Selma it was escalating his labor costs to where he couldn't make any money. Padilla was reported to have said: "Management is not supposed to make money."

Hirasuna appealed if management can't make a little money, "how is he going to pay the workers... unions should understand that."

Reviewing another case, Hirasuna told of Jimmy Toy who planted bok choy that requires hand work on your knees. The union showed no interest, telling him to get other workers. It did get workers accustomed to that and were making about \$6 an hour on a piece-work basis. When the union saw that, it was told to replace the nonunion workers with union members and did, but they not being used to that couldn't even make \$2 an hour.

Hirasuna said it was asked to renegotiate so the work rate could be raised.

"These are the kind of things the unions constantly made upon the growers, harassing them to the point that some of the larger companies hired a person to do nothing but negotiate with unions, try to settle these little arguments," Hirasuna added, to where the labor bill became more and more expensive.

Union hiring Hall

Hirasuna faulted the union hiring hall, calling it "a weapon to maintain absolute control over its members." Till the recent change, the UFW hiring hall worked on the traditional principle of union seniority so that it resulted in families being split in carrying out their work assignments. A worker who had been with a grower for years couldn't get back, though this has been changed.

During peak seasons, the hiring hall couldn't supply the labor, Hirasuna said. "So they told the growers to find their own workers." The growers did but the workers had to join the union. It exerted no effort in getting those workers. Then when an oversupply of labor existed because of short work, the grower who asked for 10 men would be sent 20 and told he had to hire them, Hirasuna revealed.

So after the end of the first three-year contract with UFW, none of the growers signed again, Hirasuna said. "Their experience with the union was that bad. Some signed with the Teamsters, not because they loved the Teamsters, but they figured it was a choice between two evils."

Even the Teamsters were rough, Hirasuna continued. Just before the California Agricultural Labor Relations Act was passed, they mounted a calculated drive to sign up more growers. They signed 15 growers in Oxnard after following their trucks to the market and then refuse to unload them. They also followed these growers' goods to the stores and threatened the stores they wouldn't deliver any other goods. Growers had their tires slashed, sprinkling systems damaged, tomato stakes buried "to the point where they had to sign."

One grower told Hirasuna he could have saved at least \$20,000 in damages if he had signed before.

Labor costs climbing

Hirasuna feared the cost of labor will spiral as both unions vie with each other to secure a better package for the worker. He said it's up to \$2.95 per hour now and with fringes \$3.50. What California agriculture faces, then, is the competition in other states and countries which grow the same product but where labor is cheaper. Several years ago, it was \$1.50 per hour in Mississippi. Hirasuna recalled, while it was about \$2.40 in California. "You can't escalate wages here if you want California in competition with other states that don't."

Hirasuna called for elimination of the harvest time strike in the new state farm labor law. The unions argue that it's the only time. On the

Continued on Next Page

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Judge Kanemoto gracefully accepts criticism from bar

SAN JOSE, Calif.—Presiding Municipal Court Judge Wayne M. Kanemoto delivered a public apology to area lawyers Sept. 10 as a result of the criticism leveled against him in a recent County Bar Association poll here.

In a surprise, impromptu statement before the court, the Nisei jurist pledged to mend his ways. He had been rated next to bottom among the county's municipal court judges, receiving the lowest ratings for characteristics of temperament, courtesy, sense of humor, humility and compassion.

Allowing that he considered his rating "less than flattering," Kanemoto declared he "accepted the criticism that was inherent in the report." He said he often didn't realize that at times his "bark might be taken as a bite."

In further remarks, Kanemoto said that he realized "in my zeal to get the calendar moving along, at times I became pretty abrasive." None of these occasions, however, was motivated by any disrespect for a particular attorney. "I will try to be less abrasive," he emphasized.

Kanemoto has served as presiding judge twice in recent years (1965 and 1968). He said he would continue to operate the court as "a tight ship" and not tolerate laxness or delay caused by unprepared attorneys. "The court has a responsibility to the public to dispose of cases without delay," he emphasized.

Because of the fiscal austerity program, Gov. Jerry Brown has rejected a request for an additional judgeship. "Therefore it remains doubly important to maintain an efficient court and maintain our record of keeping calendars current," he solicited the cooperation of attorneys to help him meet this goal.

Kanemoto was appointed to the bench in 1962 by Gov. Pat Brown.

A total of 564 attorneys out of the estimated 1,500 responded. Findings rating 53 jurists were published Sept. 5 in the local press.

CONG'L RECORD PRINTS

USHIO'S PARADE ARTICLE

WASHINGTON — Rep. Spark Matsunaga inserted into the Congressional Record (Aug. 1) the recent article concerning the Vietnamese refugees written by David Ushio for Parade Magazine.

Ushio discussed the problems of racial bigotry among Asian Americans, what the Japanese American has had to face and the role of JACL in combating anti-Japanese discrimination.

Mineta balks at public works meeting to allocate 4-cent federal gas tax

WASHINGTON — How the \$7.3-billion highway trust fund should be allocated became a three-way battle Sept. 11 in the House Public Works subcommittee, according to San Jose Mercury's Washington reporter Gil Bailey, with freshman Rep. Norman Mineta and four others co-sponsoring a more flexible plan.

Mineta's bill would allow states, urban and rural areas to use the bulk of highway trust funds for mass and rapid transit projects. It runs counter to proposals by President Ford and highway-oriented senior members of the House public works committee.

The struggle is over the 4 cents federal gasoline tax, which nationally raises about \$7 billion per year. Mineta proposes one cent to the states, two cents to a liberalized trust fund and one cent to urban areas.

The President has suggested one cent to the states that collect the funds, two cents to the federal general fund and one cent to the old highway trust fund.

New office-shop complex planned in Little Tokyo

LOS ANGELES—A survey of prospective tenant interests and requirements is being conducted until Oct. 10 by Gary Gessard of Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co., 555 S. Flower St., for the new retail and office building complex adjacent to the New Otani Hotel presently under construction on Los Angeles between 1st and 2nd Sts.

The complex is expected to be ready for occupancy in late 1978. The hotel is to be completed by April, 1977, according to East West Development Corp., project developers.



The 1942 view of the main street in Parker, Ariz., railroad for the Poston WRA Center

Nikkei back at Poston for look

PARKER, Ariz.—Several hundred Japanese Americans from Los Angeles re-populated what was the Poston WRA Center during World War II over the Sept. 26-28 weekend.

The first organized Nikkei group pilgrimage to Poston mingled with the Colorado River Indian tribes who were celebrating National Indian Day with a parade Saturday morning here and program at Manatoba Park.

Of significance was the cultural exchange between Japanese Americans and the Native Americans comprised of folk dances by both groups, talk and martial arts demonstrations. In the exhibit area Saturday night, the Manzanar Committee/Poston Project presented films and speakers on the evacuation experience.

Los Angeles Mayor Bradley lauded the exchange in his message to the Manzanar Committee. "Mutual respect and full understanding of the cultures that make up America bring the true practice of democracy into our daily lives," he noted. The intercultural exchange "is surely a giant step in that direction."

Indian Day festivities opened Friday night with a message from Gov. Raul Castro.

On Sunday, the pilgrimage assembled at Poston Camp I with Buddhist and Protestant

ministers conducting a memorial service. Some of the pilgrims camped at Hatch Center, adjacent to the Camp I auditorium, one of the standing remnants built by evacuees.

Poston history

During World War II, nearly 18,000 Japanese American evacuees lived in the three camps comprising Poston WRA Center in the heart of the desert mesquite forest. Almost overnight, it was the third largest "city" in the state. The camp was named after Charles D. Poston, first territorial delegate and often called the "Father of Arizona."

Complex of three camps, spaced three miles apart and about 17 miles south of Parker, was built over a 71,600-acre—the largest of the 10 WRA centers. The army engineers dubbed the three camps Little Tokyo, Little Osaka and Little Kobe when they were being built. Poston, the first to be completed in June, 1942, was built by the Del E. Webb Construction Co.

At incoming roads, the U.S. Army military police detachment of 500 strong kept guard—certainly not enough to picket the Center.

W. Wade Head, with the In-

dian Service on the Papago (Ariz.) reservation, served as the first project director. Marvel Maeda was his secretary. Isamu Noguchi, noted sculptor who voluntarily came to Poston from New York, was the landscape planner. Tetsu Iwasaki, a Cal-tech graduate, was the city's electrician.

Continued on Next Page

Manzanar plaque found defaced

MILL VALLEY, Calif. — The state landmark at Manzanar was found defaced Sept. 10 by John Korty, who is currently producing a two-hour film for television based on the book, "Farewell to Manzanar" by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston. His film crew noted the landmark was intact when they checked the campsite earlier in the month but upon return 10 days later for actual filming, the plaque had been damaged.

Word on the plaque stirred wide controversy in 1973 because it contained the words, "concentration camps," which some still want eliminated.

Wade Head, with the In-

Koi kill aftermath pleasing

SAN JOSE, Calif.—Two San Jose parks and recreation workers who were reprimanded for causing the death of 245 valuable koi fish in the city's Japanese Friendship Gardens in Kelley Park have been cleared of any wrongdoing.

Parks director Gene Saalwaechter had recommended the employees, gardener Al Kawabata at Friendship Gardens and manager Fred Avilez of the Coyote Creek Park chain, have letters of reprimand placed in their files. City parks chief Dick Reed, however, held the department should shoulder the blame for the "koi kill" and said recently (Sept. 4) the letters have been removed and no disciplinary action will ensue.

Death of the 245 fish and subsequent death of 292 more—including three Kabuto koi valued at \$50,000 apiece—from parasitism were the fault caused as much by the lack of skilled care the fish received as by anything Avilez and Kawabata did, Reed said.

When the tragic news broke July 31 in the press, the department tried to pass off the incident and reprimand but the news media and several Asian American groups would not let the issue die.

JACL concern

According to Mike Honda, San Jose JACL president, the chapter became involved because of the insensitive remarks affronting Nihonjin that were attributed by the press to Saalwaechter and fish specialist Grace Blasola. JACL, however, primed itself to investigate the Kawabata reprimand and secure positive action.

Honda said the reprimand was premature, prejudiced and exploitive—premature because investigation of the koi kill had not started, prejudicial because judgment was passed on Kawabata as the sole culprit, and exploitive since the director used Kawabata's admission of miscalculating the pond drainage to fix the final blame.

While Kawabata admitted the miscalculation to JACL also, he did not feel the action against him was justified

Continued on Next Page

Nisei head nurse dismissal stopped

NEW YORK—Demand for the resignation of Grace Matsunaga as director of nursing service for the City's Health and Hospital Corp. was dropped, the New York Nichibei reported Sept. 11.

While reasons to dismiss or to resign were never clearly defined by Dr. Gilbert Ortiz, senior v.p. for professional services with HHC, the HHC board is expected to review the circumstances that drew immediate support for the Nisei nurse from both the professional groups and community.

Mrs. Matsunaga rose from staff nurse at Bellevue in 1946 to her current position in 1971. Nursing groups more recently felt she was vice-presidential timber on the HHC board.

When the bill came to the floor for a vote, she worked with others to eliminate counting aliens. This boosted the participation rate in Honolulu to 51.2% and thus not affected by the foreign-language requirement.

Hawaii used to print ballots in English and Hawaiian but that requirement was eliminated in 1970.

Voting Right Act impact in Hawaii may affect Kauai only as officials wait

HONOLULU—The 1

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October 3, 1975

EDITORIALS

Emperor Hirohito Comes to U.S.

As this week's issue goes to press (Sept. 30), the Emperor and Empress of Japan are winging their way to the United States for an official two-week visit in response to an invitation extended them by President Gerald Ford on his visit to Japan last fall. A historic similarity is that it is first state visit of America by a reigning Japanese monarch as it was for Mr. Ford, the first incumbent U.S. president to ever visit Japan.

The Emperor's itinerary will include Williamsburg, Va., and Washington, D.C. (Oct. 2-4); Cape Cod, Mass., and New York City (Oct. 4-7); Chicago (Oct. 7-8); Los Angeles (Oct. 8-9); San Diego (Oct. 9); San Francisco (Oct. 9-10); and Hawaii (Oct. 11-13).

Scheduled are a number of official receptions, dinners, sightseeing trips and ceremonies, including a wreath-laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery and inspection of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute in Massachusetts and the Scripps Institute of Oceanography at La Jolla, Calif., for the Emperor is an ardent and respected marine biologist.

The royal couple, accompanied by Japanese government officials and a large press corps, will also meet with representatives of the Japanese American communities in Washington, New York, Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Speaking at a press conference for foreign newsmen at the Imperial Palace earlier this past month in anticipation of the U.S. visit, the Emperor said he was looking forward to the trip and regarded it as one of the great highlights of his 50-year reign as were his visit of seven European countries in 1971, Expo '70 in Osaka and the Tokyo Olympics in 1964.

Recognizing the Japanese Americans in his comments, the Emperor hoped American citizens of Japanese ancestry would continue to work for the benefit of the United States for it would best contribute to furthering friendly relations between the two countries.

What the Emperor will have to say here to the Issei pioneers, whose numbers are dwindling, can be a highlight for this feisty group of Japanese immigrants who have spent the majority of their years in America, raising their children to appreciate their cultural heritage, though the results are somewhat dubious.

As Americans welcome and extend good wishes to the Emperor and Empress, it is well to remember the constitutional status of the Emperor in Japan. Under the 1947 Constitution, in which some sections are said to be "exotically American", the Emperor has been stripped of all "powers related to government".

He is the symbol of the State and of the unity of his people, deriving his position from the will of the people who have sovereign power. The Japanese Constitution states that the Emperor acts with the advice and approval of the Cabinet on certain matters of state, such as in the appointment of the Prime Minister designated by the Diet, appointment of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court as designated by the Cabinet and in promulgation of laws, treaties and cabinet orders. Ceremonially, the Emperor receives foreign ambassadors and ministers, awards honors and presides at certain state functions.

Presence of Their Imperial Majesties during the first two weeks of October will certainly focus American interest on Japan and where that nation will go in the new era that lies ahead. It has been 30 years since the end of World War II during which time Japan recovered remarkably on an economic scale. Politically, Japan is at a crossroad. Its government is now striving to promote the welfare of its people. Foremost, of course, is that Japan continues to live in peace for its industrial survival and narrow the gap between the rich and poor.

JACL shall be watchful of the demonstrations being planned during his visit, such as those being initiated by environmentalists on behalf of the whales. While JACL recognizes the right of free speech, any deceptive or hollow manifestations intended to embarrass the visiting royalty may prove to be counterproductive.

Inside JACL, the subject of "U.S.-Japan Affairs" has been discussed pro and con over the years. Some have held we should not be regarded as apologists for Japan but think and act as Americans first. Others have assumed that status as Americans and address the issue on an international plane, insisting productive enterprise and trade between the two nations are enhanced by mutual understanding and respect, through exchange of ideas, cultural and artistic, technological and scientific. But both agree that when the welfare of Japanese Americans is threatened as a consequence of U.S.-Japan problems, JACL does not sit by idly and let the Japanese Americans become the scapegoats.

Koi Kill -

Continued from Front Page

them and built some more parks."

The decision to drop disciplinary action against the two employees "really pleased" the JACL chapter, Honda said. However, it hoped an apology be made to Kawabata for in the letter relating the incident to the Mayor of Okayama, the parks department reported "a gardener of Japanese descent" was involved. Okayama, San Jose's sister city, presented 4,000 koi to the city and about 300 remain in the three ponds.

Since the incident, the city launched a training program for park workers in the care of fish.

The Kabuto koi are distinctive because of the warrior's helmet marking on their heads and are highly prized.

Honda added the incident allowed the Japanese to find

and use the channels necessary to publicly communicate its grievances. City Hall was also commended for being open enough to reverse its decision and take steps to prevent its recurrence.

25 Years Ago

In the PC, Sept. 30, 1950

Sept. 19—Army in Japan drops ban on GI marriages to Japanese nationals. (GIs permitted to bring Japanese spouses to U.S. if married before Feb. 18, 1951 with passage Aug. 19 of Soldier Brides Act.)

Sept. 22—Former Colorado Gov. Ralph Carr dies in Denver, was only chief executive of western state in 1942 not opposing resettlement of Japanese evacuees from west coast.

Sept. 25—Mile-Hi JACL president Toshio Ando declares urban redevelopment plan will affect 125 of Kikkai population.

Sept. 28—Natl. JACL's first mail election results announced at Chicago convention: nearly 3,000 out of 10,000 participate, electing Dr. Randolph Sakada national president over Minoru Yasui by near 2-1 margin.

LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

Brief letters (about 250 words) are preferred in the PC Letterbox. They are subject to condensation and require signature and address of the writer. Please double-space typewritten copy.

Scholarship

Editor: I want to let you know how pleased I was with your editing of the Majlu Uyesugi Memorial Scholarship article (PC, Sept. 12).

I was quite touched with the Mrs. Uyesugi story as it could be the base of a beautifully sensitive short story. It gripped me with the first reading because it was so much the story of the great majority of Issei I knew—including my own parents. Their epic struggle in a strange, hostile new land has yet to be told.

To this day, I tell my Caucasian friends here that I did not know until I was quite grown that there was any other way of telling butcher "pis poke" when my mother sent me on the errand with 25 cents to feed our family of nine.

Yes, Samsel do want to hear the stories. Our eldest son, now 27, said to Hiro and me a few years back as we shared family stories, particularly about his grandparents and their painful experiences that somehow he feels he has missed out on life. He almost sounded jealous that he didn't have such exciting stories to tell his children some day.

GRAYCE UYEHARA
 Philadelphia JACL

Concentration Camps

Editor: Mark D. Peters (Aug. 29 PC) expressed an opinion that the Japanese American "relocation centers" were not and still should not be referred to as concentration camps. I can not agree with him. The camps had barbed wire and sentry guards. And those sentry guards had guns.

I personally know of a Nisei girl, when she was a little girl in one of those "relocation centers" had a shot fired over her head because she was playing too close to the barbed wire. Evidently the sentry felt that they were too close to the fence which separated them from the "free-er" America. No, they were concentration camps.

A great percentage of people tend to confuse the concept of a concentration camp with Hitler's "final solution" Tule Lake and Manzanar were not concentration camps with the same physical gas chambers. The internees, however, all suffered irreparable

Tri-District -

Continued from Front Page

other hand, the struck farmers sees the fruit rot while facing the loss of an entire year's income. Harvest time labor also loses. Hirasuna preferred compulsory arbitration —"compulsory on both the grower and union".

In the summer of 1974, Nisei farmers met with Chavez at the Fresno Hilton to try to resolve the labor problem. He then saw no need for legislation, just sign up with his union, the farmers were told. But as more growers failed to renew their contracts with UFW and Teamsters got a foothold, Chavez decided he wanted elections. Hirasuna observed. At an earlier hearing, Dolores Huerta with UFW remarked the Mexican worker "doesn't understand democracy or know anything about elections". Now they know everything about elections, Hirasuna added, "which is a study in I don't know what".

Farming syndicates were also incongruous to Hirasuna. Taking advantage of tax laws where they can expense out growing costs and later take a capital gains, the syndicates are created by city people who want to save on income tax. What happens, Hirasuna said, was an oversupply in the market, forcing the price down and "these are the same people who holler about farm workers being mistreated".

Mexican Americans

Migrant workers in Central California were described by Hirasuna as not among the poorly paid but local, permanent residents. Approximately 100,000 Mexican Americans live in Fresno County—80% working on the farm but the younger ones like some Samsel who regard farming as a "demeaning sort of occupation" are not dropping out of school to make a livelihood elsewhere.

Even the older Mexican Americans are starting farms of their own, 10 to 20 acres, and making a go of it. Hirasuna added. He predicted as Mexican Americans enter other forms of business, that type of farm labor will become more scarce.

Unions have argued against farm mechanization because it takes away jobs. Hirasuna's comment was that the same would apply elsewhere if typewriters and computers were eliminated in the offices. "These arguments that union use won't stand very much search or investigation."

In closing, Hirasuna quoted Howard Margolis, head of a big conglomerate, who found farming does not lend to big scale operation as in manufacturing. They found that anything requiring hand labor also requires too much supervision and the kind of attention an individual grower on his own farm can only supply.

"So when they tell you the conglomerate is going to chase out the small farmer, take it

damages and mental agony. The name "Relocation Center" is merely a euphemism. The bitter and scarring effect cannot be erased—it is part of Asian American history. Any attempt to minimize its effect on the Asian American people serves only to make history the way one wants to hear it... not the way it happened.

MARY L. OKUMURA
 Chicago, Illinois

PC Board -

Continued from Front Page

views in the PC to help guide public opinion. The editor has the sole discretion and responsibility of the editorial contents of the Pacific Citizen, the PC Board stressed.

Business policy

In order to accomplish its objectives, a newspaper must be financially solvent. To this end, space is available for general advertising. The 1966 business policy provides PC the right to decline adverse copy not within requirements of the family-type publication. Refusal of copy is not to be a reflection against any particular advertiser but rather the manner in which the offer is made.

Serious efforts to boost advertising revenue will be made by board members upon their return to their districts. It was also suggested a study be made to raise the rates and a search be made for an advertising manager.

Recommendations were also made to improve the appearance of the paper. The four-member PC staff was also commended for its loyalty, dedication and efficiency.

Lines of cooperation between Headquarters and the PC office are expected to be strengthened. National Director David Ushio as well as national president Shig Sugiyama and president-elect Jim Murakami sat in during portions of the PC board meeting to review the question.

Minutes are in the process of publication and will be distributed to the National JACL Board, PC Board, all chapters and JACL staff before the end of October, according to Harry Honda, PC editor, who also serves as secretary to the PC Board.

PC Board members are: Al Hatate, chmn.; Ed Tsutakawa, FWDC; Steve Doi, NC; WNDG; Fred Hirasuna, CCDC; Kango Kunitaigo, PSWDC; Ted Matsushima, IDC; Bill Hosokawa, MPDC; George Wakili, MDC; and Ruby Y. Schaar, EDC.

with grain of salt. The small farmer in Central Cal is going to be there a long, long time."

Nisei Farmers League

Kubo related the legislative role of the Nisei Farmers League, now comprised of 1,300 growers with nearly half (580) being Nisei. Name has been retained in recognition of the founding members.

A bit more relaxed than Hirasuna who had a broader scene to cover, Kubo told how the Aug. 28 law was pushed through a concurrent special session of the State Legislature.

Called to Sacramento to discuss the legislation, Kubo's group told Gov. "Jerry" Brown they wanted a bill that would relate to the entire agricultural industry and not favor any sector: grower, union or worker. Areas which the Nisei Farmers League (NFL) felt should be in the bill, the Governor assured an impartial, even-handed board he was going to select with Senate confirmation could handle.

Kubo said he was pleased the NFL had the opportunity to make its input with the Governor.

But when it became evident the bill was stalled, Gov. Brown approached the unions. A concurrent special session was called to push the bill through, the advantage for UFW being that once the bill was signed, it was immediately effective. As Kubo explained, it had the law been enacted through the normal course of events, it would have been after Jan. 1, 1976 and the UFW would have lost the advantage of the 1975 grape harvest and eligibility of its member workers in calling for elections.

Amendments, which the Governor promised Kubo would not be made, were proposed. Kubo returned to Sacramento, speaking against the amendment and charging the Governor had broken his promise.

Kubo said the law not only affects the 275,000 farm workers in the state but the growers and the entire population. It affects the state's No. 1 industry, which has generated \$8½-billion with national and worldwide ramifications. "This was a bill that was to pass in a total of 30 days."

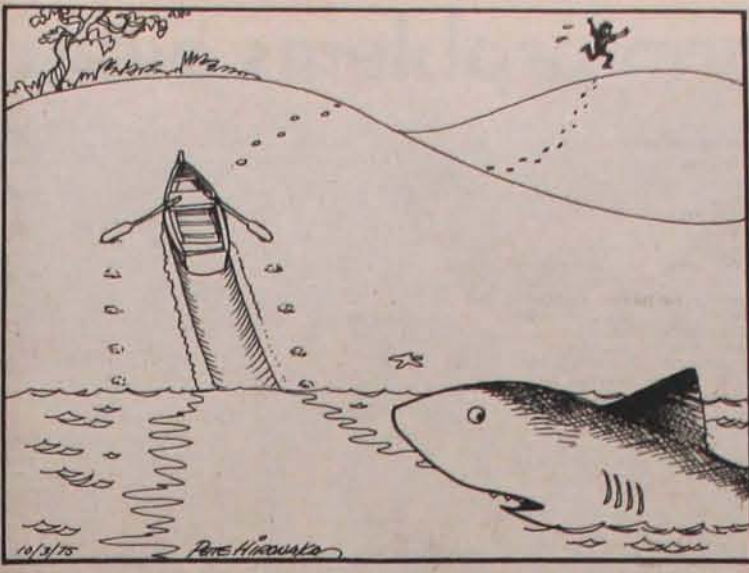
'Access rule'

Shortcomings inherent in a speedily-passed legislation of major importance are being exposed by how much it is working since it became law Aug. 28, Kubo said.

Continued on Next Page

Minority Week

United Nations has added a sixth language—Arabic—to its official languages for translations available over earphones for delegates and visitors. On a limited basis last year, it became a full service for the first time this past month.



'Gee whizz—I just wanted to remind him that it's Holiday Issue time!'

FROM THE FRYING PAN: Bill Hosokawa

John Dean on Redress

The Japanese American audience applauded warmly, but with characteristic reserve no one made a move to approach the head table when John W. Dean finished speaking. But after a few moments some courageous young woman stepped up to ask for an autograph and soon they were standing four deep around the speaker thrusting programs for him to sign.

John Dean, the man who blew the whistle on the Nixon gang, of which he was a prominent member, was an unlikely sort to be featured at a JACL function. Flashing a friendly, toothy smile, he in person was even more boyish than he appeared on television.

He speaks with disarming frankness about his notoriety, as well as he should, for he is one of the few of the conspirators around Nixon to have confessed his transgressions and paid his court-imposed debt to society. In fact, he has a small cult of admirers. He went a long way toward winning his JACL audience when, on being introduced, Dean mentioned that he had just met the national JACL's Shigeki Sugiyama and allowed as how it was nice to meet a president who had survived an impeachment.

One primary reason for John Dean's appearance was his professed interest in the JACL's effort to seek some sort of "reparations" for the evacuation experience. Dean himself said he preferred the term "redress." While the two words have much the same dictionary meaning, redress would seem to carry fewer overtones of monetary compensation.

It remains to be seen whether those most concerned with "reparations" will buy the concept of "redress." There are many, it would seem, who would demand recompense from the government in cold cash which in turn is an idea repugnant to others.

Poston -

Continued from Front Page

while Shig Imamura, Imperial irrigation district employee, was watermaster of the Poston irrigation project. Mabel Peston during the first year,

Dean also touched on the inability of JACL members to agree on just what it is that they want. Congressional contacts, he said, describe JACL as an organization that is "not together," and not agreeing on what it wants, seems destined not to get whatever it is that the members seek. Some older heads were seen nodding in agreement as Dean offered this frank appraisal.

Dean himself indicated that he considered the form of redress simply a "mechanical problem," presumably meaning it was an unimportant detail. Whether some JACL members will buy that idea is also a matter of conjecture. Dean seems to feel that the greatest value of the drive to seek redress is in the education it will provide the American people—people who know little or nothing about the Evacuation tragedy, people who are unaware of the fragility of human rights in our nation, people who must be made aware that under certain circumstances the outrage of Evacuation could be repeated against some other minority.

In a separate workshop held in connection with the California JACL Tri-District Conference, on-the-Washington-scene observers like Kaz Oshiki and Wayne Horiuchi warned that a campaign to see reparations would be long, costly, likely to stir up bitter opposition, and holds no assurance of success.

These potential obstacles do not concern Dean. He feels Japanese Americans owe it to themselves, and to all other Americans, to dredge up the distasteful past as a purging experience. Dean assured his audience that a campaign for redress would succeed because "no fair-minded American can quarrel with your search for redress."

This is admirable idealism on Dean's part. But he certainly knows as much as any contemporary public figure about Americans with unfair minds.

Ota organized the camp libraries. Frank Kuwahara pampered 55,000 baby guayule plants for test plantings. Water came underground and Parker Dam to cultivate the produce for use by evacuees... Such was Poston during the first year.

Stone Ishimaru, movie projectionist at Poston and now with the L.A. Unified School District as teacher and media adviser, is presenting his exhibit of nearly 100 pictures he had taken inside camp through the month of October at Nishi Hongwanji.

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• Stan Kiyokawa

Honto-Ni

TO BETTER REPRESENT JACL

Portland
During the past year JACL has been plagued by philosophical and ideological differences which have polarized our organization. I have seen objectivity and

the founding fathers of JACL wanted?

JACL today represents only 19.6% of the entire Japanese population in the U.S. according to the statistics compiled from the 1970 Census. This statistic can be used to determine the effectiveness of our organization and the limited scope of programming that we offer; that could be one of the factors influencing our current problems.

We are no longer a one-issue oriented organization, and our strength comes from the grassroots and what they think and feel. This is a justification to seek our new and different ideas and philosophies for the betterment of JACL.

If we fail to listen to the criticisms of our organization, are we not assuming the role of a tunnel-visioned bigot who only listens to himself?

Have we not fought to give ourselves the opportunity to be heard within the white majority?

Freedom of speech and thought are fundamental in a human rights organization such as JACL. Can we continue to use that label of human rights if we block the process of true communication within JACL?

Are we not obstructing its growth?

We have yet to actually give a close and objective look at the many issues which have been voiced throughout the country. We have labeled districts such as PSW as troublemakers and dissidents; but have we truly educated ourselves with their problems and issues, have we taken the time to at least understand the motivations behind their actions?

I have felt that need to educate myself, to better represent JACL. I believe that we, as staff and officers of JACL, owe that much to our membership.

It has been apparent that the nitty-gritty of all issues never gets to the grassroots membership and many decisions are made from gossip and what a few of us believe is right. That attitude must be eliminated, so that we can begin relating to what our organization truly stands for, a truly representative human rights organization.

It is with this common attitude that we can begin to correct our mistakes and begin representing a broader spectrum of our community. We can resign ourselves so easily to the fact that we cannot truly work with the many generations of people, their ideologies, philosophies and traditions to form separate groups, but is this truly what



JAL's four Japan Air Lines cultural receive certificates of merit at a Sayo-hera party from Tono Senda (seated in the middle), managing director and JAL vice-president for public relations and associated companies.

Pulse

Installation

● Gard-na Valley JACL announced its 1976 officers will be installed on Saturday, Nov. 22, at Gung Hay Restaurant. Tickets are \$10 per person, according to Tak Kawaguchi, president.

October Events

● With summer vacation over, Salinas Valley JACL steps up its activities for the last quarter of the year and culminating with an installation dinner in January.

Opening the season will be the annual Issei appreciation Night program Oct. 11, 6 p.m. at the YMBA Hall. Issei elders will be honored guests at the potluck supper with Akira Aoyama as chairman. A San Francisco minyo artist will entertain.

Plans for a scholarship benefit movie the last week of October are to be detailed.

● San Jose JACL will honor the Issei at its annual Keirokai dinner Oct. 4, 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Buddhist Betsuin. Dale Sasaki is chairman. Community Senior Services and other groups are co-sponsoring the program. Tickets are \$4.50 per person.

The chapter is also holding its fifth annual golf tournament Oct. 25 at Municipal Golf Course. Tad Sekigahama and Dale Sasaki are handling entries.

● Fremont JACL hosts its annual Issei appreciation dinner on Saturday, Oct. 18, 7:30 p.m. at Cathay House, 36659 Fremont Blvd.

● East Los Angeles JACL will stage a Japanese variety show on Sunday, Oct. 19, 1-4 p.m. at the Japanese Retirement Home, 325 S. Boyle Ave., featuring Miss Komori's dance group, the Dream Band, singers, comedians and a magician.

Program is for the community Issei, according to Mable Yoshizaki, in charge of the annual Issei appreciation day affair. Walter Tatsuno will be emcee. Refreshments and door prizes are scheduled for intermission.

No admission is being charged. Those in need of transportation may call George Yamate (283-0066 evenings).

September Events

● South Bay JACL held an informal tea reception Sept. 28 at Summito Bank in Torrance for its Nisei Week candidate Dulcie Ogi who was selected to reign at the 1975 coronation festivities in August.

Miss Ogi is currently attending El Camino College taking Japanese and gymnastics and will be in the reception line greeting the Emperor and Empress of Japan when they visit Los Angeles. She and her family will then fly to Japan to participate in the Nagoya Festival.

● National JACL Youth Director Gail Nishikawa was guest speaker at the Salinas JACL general meeting Sept. 27 at

Cerritos College. She spoke on the role of the JACL.

Elections were also held with plans discussed for installation.

The chapter board continues to meet each month on the second Tuesdays at Trico Investment Co., 6855 Western Ave., Buena Park—but chapter president Clarence Nishizu said the October meeting is being cancelled because he's going to Europe on a three-week vacation.

The annual Dec. 27 mechi-tsuki will be held again with proceeds going to support the PCYA project.

June Events

● Issei and Nisei elders were honored by the Detroit JACL June 8 at International Institute before 250 people. The gratitude expressed by the 28 honorees attested to the immense success and was a rewarding surprise to Dr. Kaz Mayeda, chairman, and his committee.

Honorees were introduced individually and presented a plaque commemorating the occasion during the first half of the program. Remainder consisted of Japanese dinner prepared by the committee served by the JACLs and Sansei-Yonsei talent and the Enbu dance troupe.

Committee principals were: Mrs. Hifumi Sunamoto, food; Mrs. Tochi Shimomura, inv.; Mr. and Mrs. Art Morey, arr.; Mr. and Mrs. Joe Berger, JACL coordinators; Keri Fujii, Karen Yoshikawa, JACL co-chair and Keirokai coordinators.

CALENDAR

Oct. 4 (Saturday)

San Jose—Keirokai, Buddhist Betsuin.
San Francisco—Keirokai Outing, Angel Island, IV Fisherman's Wharf, 10 a.m.

Oct. 4-5

Dayton—Octoberfest booth, Art Institute.

Oct. 5 (Sunday)

West Valley—Box Social-Fun Night, Grace Methodist Church, 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 8 (Wednesday)

San Mateo—Mt. Sturge Presbyterian Church, 8 p.m.

Oct. 11 (Saturday)

Berkeley—Fashion show luncheon, Spenger's Restaurant, 12n.

Salinas Valley—Issei Appreciation, YWBA Hall, 6 p.m.

Oct. 12 (Sunday)

NC-WNDYC—Mt.

Fremont—Issei Appreciation dnr., Cathay House, 7:30 p.m.

EDC—Girly session, New York.

Oct. 18 (Saturday)

East Los Angeles—Issei Appreciation Day, Japanese Retirement Home, 325 S. Boyle Ave., 1-4 p.m.

Oct. 21 (Tuesday)

Salinas Valley Bd Mtg. Bank of Tokyo, 8 p.m.

Oct. 25 (Saturday)

MDYC—Mt. Chicago JACL Office, San Jose—Golf tournament, Muni course.

Sequoia—Issei testimonial, Philadelphia—Issei testimonial.

West Valley—Mt. Tak Takel, state dir. of consumer affairs, spkr.

Oct. 31 (Friday)

Philadelphia—Gen Mtg. Bryn Mawr College, Seminar on Aging.

Nov. 1 (Saturday)

West Valley—Teriyaki dnr. San Mateo—Monte Carlo Night

Nov. 7 (Sunday)

NC-WNDYC—Girly Session, San Francisco.

Nov. 10 (Wednesday)

San Jose—Golf tournament, Muni course.

Nov. 15 (Monday)

San Jose—Golf tournament, Muni course.

Nov. 20 (Saturday)

San Jose—Golf tournament, Muni course.

Nov. 25 (Monday)

San Jose—Golf tournament, Muni course.

Nov. 30 (Saturday)

San Jose—Golf tournament, Muni course.

Dec. 5 (Monday)

San Jose—Golf tournament, Muni course.

Dec. 10 (Saturday)

San Jose—Golf tournament, Muni course.

Dec. 15 (Monday)

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Jan. 20 (Saturday)

San Jose—Golf tournament, Muni course.

Jan. 25 (Monday)

San Jose—Golf tournament, Muni course.

Nisei geologist views Oroville area

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—While government experts are trying to establish why earthquake activity continues with such force in the Oroville area when, historically, it should be diminishing in numbers and intensity.

Perry Amimoto, geologist with the State Division of Mines and Geology, told the Sacramento Bee there were 338 after shocks of a magnitude of 3.0 or more on the Richter scale logged after the Sylmar earthquake in San Fernando Valley several years ago.

About 35 shocks emanating from the Oroville area since Aug. 1 have been recorded. "It is unusual that we are having such strong after shocks," Amimoto said, "and it prints out our limited knowledge in trying to type quakes." He also questioned theorists who said the dam caused the recent tremor because of a 1940 jolt with a force of 6.0 was centered 20 miles NE of Oroville.

Investigated violence on the farms but the defendants were released on plea bargaining.

Regarding the claim that UFW is nonviolent, Hirasuna recalled a Santa Maria case where UFW members shot two Teamster pickets. It was settled out of court when Chavez signed a \$6,000 check. He also recalled the Blanco case when his grapes were pulled out from a store after a laboratory found a certain pesticide had been used. Blanco showed he had never used it for three or four years and sued. The laboratory paid damages but Blanco was hurt and went broke as a corporation.

Nisei Farmers League members have about 40 acres on the average. Their commitment is to fight unfair laws.

Regarding rundown labor camps, Uchiyama noted state laws have been in existence for 10 years, calling for certain health standards. Pressure came from the farm workers themselves — before the unions.

One delegate felt JACL should check on the access rule and "come up with a policy we can all push". Uchiyama agreed and encouraged both sides be heard.

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Wayne Horiuchi

Plain Speaking

PEOPLE AT THE TRI-DISTRICT

Washington

I just wanted to dedicate this column to all of those gracious and generous JACLers who were so kind to me during my visit to the Cal Tri-District several weeks ago.

I must thank: Soichi Fukui for putting me up for the night and the delicious lunch at a sushi bar. Jerry, Soichi's son for picking me up at the airport. Craig Shimabukuro for showing me through the regional office. Kats Kunitugu for briefing me on the progress of the Japanese American Community and Cultural Center Betty Yumori for driving me to the convention site in Anaheim. Tom Shimasaki for buying me the scotch and water at the mixer. Paul Tsuneishi for inviting me to participate on the reparations panel. Steve Nakashima for the encouraging words after the reparations panel. Hank Haratsuka for buying me the scotch and water at the dinner. Tak and Helen Kawaguchi for giving me a book of Disneyland tickets. David Ushio for introducing me to John Dean and George Takel. Judi Ushio for the dance. Wes Doi and his wife, Toy for taking Dave, Judi, and I to Disneyland. Edison Uno and Chuck Kubokawa for lending a sympathetic ear. Bill Hosokawa for the inspiration. Roy and Alice Nishikawa for just being beautiful people. Hank Sakai and Mike Ishikawa for conducting the first convention which was run on time (and indeed, well). Harry Honda for putting up with me. Kaz Suyeishi of the Committee for Atomic Bomb Survivors for giving me the lovely picture which she painted. Shig Sugiyama and Jim Murakami for the support that they gave to National Staff.

I hope that I didn't miss anybody. If I did, it's just because there were so many kind and thoughtful people who saw to it that the Cal Tri-District was a wonderful experience for me.

Some people grumble and say that JACL is dying. BALONEY!!! Not with the kind of people that I saw in Anaheim.

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• Kats Kunitzugu

On Margin

'THE CHICKENCOOP CHINAMAN'

Los Angeles
Frank Chin reminds me of Thomas Wolfe—they both are like cinders released in a sea of words, splashing, leaping, diving, wriggling, joyfully ecstatic in their element of words, words that are not just words but words rich in meaning, enmeshed with imagery.

Chin's first play, "The Chicken Coop Chinaman," opened last week at the East-West Players' Theater, 4424 Santa Monica Blvd. It is his second play, however, to be presented by the Asian repertory troupe. His "Year of the Dragon" was not only the hit of the East-West Players' 1974 season but of their entire 10-year existence.

"Chicken Coop Chinaman" shows Chin's fascination with words in all its glory—so much so that it rather overwhelms even a very good actor like Dana Lee (I remember his poignant father in "Year of the Dragon"). It is Tampax Lum, played by Lee, that has all the lines, it seems, and delivered at a pell mell pace with little allowance for dynamics, it is often difficult to understand what Lum is trying to say specifically, but such is the strength of the play that Lum's identity crisis comes through in spite of the words, words, words.

There is Tampax Lum's bravura, for which the words are a convenient camouflage. There is his self-loathing which takes the form of lashing out at anyone and anything within range—the gentle Japanese friend from childhood, his friend's white female "guest," her precocious son and finally Charley Popcorn.

In the hands of veteran actor Stan Miller, Charley Popcorn is a marvelously fleshed-out character. The father and one-time man-a-ga-fer of the black fighter about whom Lum is making a film and hoping to find a reason for living at the same time, Charley with simple realism insists he is only "a small businessman, trying to make a buck by running a porno theater," shattering Lum's dream. "I ain't his father, never have been," he says, and Lum feels the walls of his "chicken coop" closing in.

One would like to say that there is at last some understanding and acceptance of his roots by Lum, but Chin, too, is a realist who does not tie



Michael Herman (Lone Ranger) and Dana Lee as Tam Lum.

up all Lum's hang-ups neatly in the third act.

No matter. If there is no end to the journey of finding himself, there is at least a lot of laughs (for the audience, if not for Tampax) along the way.

Chin has a sharp eye for human foibles and failings, the little pretensions that we put up to get us through the day. He certainly contacted the first night audience with the barbed interchanges between Lum and his friend Kenji's white female "guest" Lee, who has her own identity problems.

"Why are you acting like you're black?" she digs. "Why do you try to keep on making connection with yellow men?" he counters in effect.

And if a nightmare can be said to be touching, then the Lone Ranger sequence is such a scene. In search of a childhood hero, Tam innocently identifies with the Masked Rider, because he alone among the comic book heroes has black hair. He wears a red shirt for good luck, just like the Chinese do. He must be wearing his mask to hide his slanted eyes.

"The Chicken Coop Chinaman" is a play that an actor can sink his teeth into. Once Dana Lee can bring his bucking bronco of a role under control, it will be a memorable play for the East-West Players. Sheri Emond seemed to me to be a little too cool and collected for the role of Lee. Roberto Isaac was just right as the precocious youngster.



Harry and Teruyo Hirakawa

RESIDENT MANAGERS PICKED

Li'l Tokyo Tower interviews underway

LOS ANGELES—Some 100 elderly residents in the Little Tokyo area have been interviewed for placement in the Little Tokyo Tower, which is scheduled for occupancy in November, according to Harry and Teruyo Hirakawa, recently-appointed resident managers.

The 550 applicants who live outside the project area are

also being called for interviews at the Little Tokyo project office in the Merit Savings Bldg.

The Hirakawas were selected from a field of 40 applicants, according to Mae Sakaki, LTT board president, and Dr. Kiyochi Sonoda, personnel committee. Harry had been from Sacramento, while his wife is from Beppu, Japan.

New York firm loses contract bid to Japan to supply cable to L.A. DWP

WASHINGTON—After learning the City of Los Angeles has an ordinance entitling a contract to the low bidder, Rep. Peter Peyser (R-N.Y.) called the Los Angeles Times saying the situation was "very frustrating . . . outrageous."

Peyser apparently was unsuccessful in his appeal to Mayor Bradley this past week (Aug. 1) for a company in Peyser's district, Phelps Dodge Wire & Cable Co. of Yonkers, whose bid was slightly higher than Sumitomo Co. of Japan.

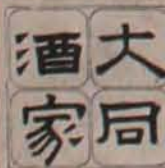
The Japanese firm had submitted a bid of \$1,301,000—only \$6,000 less than the Phelps Dodge bid—to supply 35,000-volt copper cable to the Los Angeles Dept. of Water & Power for next year's needs. Phelps Dodge had won the contract the past two years.

Peyser also protested that only Phelps Dodge and not its Japanese competitor, had to meet the cost of the city's recently enacted equal employment opportunity requirements for suppliers. And that, Peyser said, made the difference. Failure to win the contract may mean layoffs for the firm's 560 employees, he feared.

Peyser indicated municipalities and other jurisdictions should put American firms on

equal footing with foreign competitors in the contract bidding process by given Americans a special credit for costs of antibias efforts.

The Times asked a Los Angeles official if he thought equal opportunity costs for Phelps Dodge made a difference. He replied, "Hell, no. They just missed the bid mark and are looking for ways to rationalize it."



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PC's People

Churches

A recent Nisei lay participant at the 1975 conference of "Theology in the Americas" at Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit was Violet Masuda of Livingston, Calif., member of the United Methodist Church, who was invited because of her article on Liberation Theology of Ethnic Minorities for a religious journal in December, 1973. Majority of the 200 present were theologians and social scientists from North and Latin America attending the week-long session sponsored by the National Council of Churches-Latin American Working Group, and the U.S. Catholic Conference-Latin American Division.

Seattle JACL board member Charles Z. Smith, associate

dean and professor at the Univ. of Washington School of Law, was elected president of the American Baptist Churches, in the U.S.A., a 1.5-million denomination, at its recent national convention in Atlantic City, N.J. Smith is the second jurist to head the body since 1908 when Charles Evan Hughes was president of the Northern Baptist Convention . . . The Rev. Dr. Paul M. Nagano, pastor of the Seattle Japanese Baptist Church, assumed the responsibility of national director of Asian American Ministries for the American Baptist Convention.

Deaths

Haruo Murakami, 72, Los Angeles, died of heart attack Sept. 28. A native of Kansai and veteran newspaperman, he was Japanese section editor of the Kashi Mainichi since 1958.

Join the JACL

Sheraton Newport Sept. 28 on the Nikkei history of Orange County.

Fresno

An overnight trip from Fresno to San Francisco to coincide with the Emperor's visit is being planned by the JACL Issei Service Center (237-4006) and Central Valley Christian Community Project (291-8139). Accommodations will be at the new Kyoto Inn at \$12 per person on a double occupancy basis and meals. Sign ups are being accepted until Oct. 6. Group will leave from the Fresno Buddhist Church on Oct. 9, 10 a.m., and return Oct. 10 at 3 p.m.

San Jose

Chi-Am Circle celebrates its 10th year with a Winds of Fashion benefit Oct. 18, 11:30 a.m., at Cabana Hyatt House in Palo Alto. Proceeds go toward the Asian American physically and mentally handicapped children at Agnews Residential Facility. Chi-Am Circle is a nonprofit, social-service group in Santa Clara County. Adalene Roas of Bullock's will be fashion coordinator.

• Richard Gima

Aloha

HAWAII TODAY—Chief Justice William Richardson ruled UH for its law school and cited its need in Hawaii because of the special concern with development and land-use law, international and comparative law for use in Pacific trade and inter-ethnic relations . . . An agreement between ILWU and the stevedoring industry averted a dock strike Sept. 5 as federal mediator Robert Castey, Associate Justice Bert Kobayashi and Wayne Minami used "shuttle peacemaking" in their dogged efforts to settle the dispute.

NAMES IN NEWS—Supt. of Education Teichiro Hirata has submitted his letter of resignation, effective Oct. 31. It was accepted by the board on a 6-3 vote . . . Attorney Jon Chinen, author of several books on Hawaii land laws, urged Hawaiians and part-Hawaiians to fight for their land rights if they don't want them "stolen." He wrote "The Great Mahele" and other books . . . Leatrice Mirikitani is president of the Japanese Women's Society . . . Board chairman James Morita of City Bank was elected president of the Western Independent Bankers Assn., made up of 368 banks in nine states . . . The Republic of Korea posthumously honored former Delegate Joseph Farrington (1942-54) with the Order of Civil Merit Mugungwha Medal.

CRIME FILE—Sholchi Torrice, 47, operator of Paradise Tours, was arrested at Tokyo International Airport on charges of smuggling pornographic films in candy boxes into Japan, police said . . . First Hawaiian Bank's \$5,000 reward has failed to uncover

any clue about Mrs. Nanette Ford, millionaire Waikiki landlady missing since December, 1972.

COURTROOM—Police applicant Jennie McAllister, 29, who is 5 ft. 4, is suing the Honolulu Police Dept. on grounds its 5 ft. 7 requirement is unconstitutional . . . ACLU has filed a lawsuit in Washington, charging the Honolulu Police Dept. and eight mainland police agencies with sex and racial discrimination . . . An NLRB administrative law judge has ruled Polynesian Cultural Center violated the law when it fired six Fijian contract performers last summer.

SPORTS SCENE—Univ. of Wisconsin athletic director Elroy Hirsch has decided not to apply for the UH athletic directorship. He was the top choice of a committee seeking a successor to Paul Durham, who retired in June . . . Texas A&M routed Univ. of Hawaii 43-0 in the Sept. 13 grid opener at the new Aloha Stadium. A total of 32,247 attended.

ENTERTAINMENT—Alvin Ing, now acting in New York, said in a recent Honolulu interview, "Let Asians play Asians; why hire a hawke to enact the role of a Japanese or a Chinese?" and added it's not easy for Asians to get decent roles . . . Ukulele whiz Herb Ohta is seriously planning to quit the music business to go into farming soy beans, which he sees has a great future.

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