Will group legal insurance be popular? Yes, No in JACL

By PAT TASHIMA

Two years ago, a couple of Orange County lawyers came up with an idea and apparently still is, a novel idea among JACL chapters.

Based on the old theory that the more resources you have, the more you can do, the lawyers enacted a group legal aid plan which essentially provides quality legal representation at lower costs.

It was one way to offer JACL chapter members an additional benefit, which is a major concern of the national JACL itself.

"We have a lot of opportunities, mixed marriages from Japan who have no other legal means," said Shiman who, with lawyers Tom Ku­magai and Jim Okasaki, was initially involved in the group.

"We haven't been getting too many calls lately. Japa­nese, you know, are reluc­tant to get involved and have their picture in front of the general public. It's the basic policy and bringing people... But there's got to be more publicity," Shiman said.

While group medical in­surance has caught on quickly in the JACL group, legal practices—particularly the relatively new concept of group legal insurance—are still being knocked around.

The Orange County JACL chapter, while not offering an insurance-type plan, has the nearest thing to a group legal endeavor to survive be­yond the planning stages.

Basically, the chapter has available to members a panel of attorneys who agree to provide services under a re­duced fee schedule. As an example of savings, the Group Legal Services charge $25 per hour for consil­tation, in comparison to the prevailing commercial rate of $60 per hour.

Still this, in Orange Coun­ty at least, has not been enough to lure potential cli­ents. As Shiman said, Japa­nese are reluctant to bring legal problems on the open.

This feeling, in fact, may be one reason legal aid has not become much of a JACL concern. More and more, however, other organizations nationwide have tuned into the idea of pre-paid legal insurance.

One Honolulu attorney has gone so far as to form a net­work of 100 lawyers nation­wide who are paid monthly insurance premiums in return for legal services. Such services include the handling of divorces, bankrup­

continued on next page

PACIFIC CITIZEN
Publication of the National Japanese American Citizens League

Vol. 85 No. 20
Friday, November 11, 1977
20c Postpaid U.S. 15 Cents

Affirmative action compliance means changing racial stereotypes on jobs

LOS ANGELES—Because Japanese Americans have been saddled with numerous racial stereotypes, employ­ment opportunities for them have been confined to only a handful of departments in the county government, ac­cording to Michael Ishika­wa, director of the newly­formed County Office of Af­firmative Action Compli­ance.

"There is a clear stereo­type of what jobs Japanese will fit into," he said. "It's one of our biggest frustra­tions. You find that all Asians in the accounting, engineer­ing and road departments, but very few Asians in man­agement and supervisory positions.

"Up until now there's been a lack of sophistication regard­ing the hiring of Asians. Japanese Americans have been strapped with the stereo­type that they are hard­working, but are not good material for management positions. The majority of the statistics show that Japa­nese are generally found at entry level and clerical jobs."

Overcoming these stereo­types and bringing Asians into a better employment picture will be one of the first major thrusts of the Af­firmative Action Office. Presently, Asians comprise 5% of the ethnic working force in Los Angeles County. Ishikawa said. Only the American Indian at 1% has a lower rating, with blacks hold­ing 29% of the jobs and His­panic, 13%.

"Japanese are your most ex­cluded minority," Ishika­wa said. "There's that auto­matic assumption that when you talk about minorities, you're talking about blacks and Chicanos. We've got to stress, especially in Los An­geles, that Asian Americans are a significant cultural group to consider."

Appointed last November to head the affirmative ac­tion program, Ishikawa was among approximately 200 applicants for the position. After a grueling five-month screening process, the job after the field was narrowed to four finalists and became the second Asian American to head a county office. (Medical Ex­aminer-Coroner Thomas No­guchi was the first."

At 33, Ishikawa is well ac­quainted with the existing affirmative action guidance lines. He formerly was the chief field representative here for the U.S. Commiss­ion on Civil Rights and the current governor of the JACL-Pacific South­west Dis­trict Council.

The county affirmative action program is believed to be unique in its status na­tionwide, Ishikawa said. Every city has affirmative action personnel, but Ishika­wa's office is "probably the only operation created that has a direct access to policy­makers."

The office gained a foot­hold when an ordinance authored by Supervisor Ed Kederman was approved by the county Board of Super­visors in late 1975. After a year's preparation, it of­ficially inaugurated last month and has gained sub­stantial support from the county.

"We've been sitting down with department heads and seeing what realities there are for promotion and for in­creased hiring," Ishikawa said.

"We're also making sure there is a commitment that if vacancies should come up, minorities and women will be given an opportunity to compete."

Besides special admissions programs under the Univ. of California system, the coun­try affirmative action pro­gram does not operate on a quota basis, Ishikawa stressed. Rather, county em­ployees are asked to try to provide a strong outreach program to ensure minori­ties will be considered "in good faith" for jobs, he said.

"It's a very important dis­tinction to make," he said. "Affirmative action in em­ployment talks about goals and timetables. We say there should be X percentage in every class or if you hire, say three people, that one would be a minority."

The task ahead will be a challenging one in an area that is often riddled with controversy. Still, for Ishika­wa, the operational plan is basic.

continued on next page

Asians show most schooling in federal white collar force

WASHINGTON—Asians in the federal civil service lead in educational attainment among the General Schedule employees, according to an August 1974 survey of some 1.2 million General Schedule (GS) workers, it was announced by the Civil Service Commission report.

Minority group employ­ees comprise but 17% of the full time permanent "white collar" workers in govern­ment. Asians are 5% among minorities but less than 1% overall.

Asian employees led the other minority groups, and in fact the nonminority groups, in educational attain­ment: 79% of Oriental men and 56% of the Oriental women had attended college. Nonminority employ­ees stood at 68% and 37% respectively.

However, the report noted that "because of the relatively small number of Oriental Americans, their high educational attainment has little influence on the figures for all minority em­ployees and even less influ­ence on the overall totals."

continued on next page

Enomoto apologizes to Chicano group

FRESNO, Calif.—Bristling over charges it has supported groups with ties to prison guards, the American Correctional Association (MACA) accepted an apology from the head of the state Dept. of Corrections.

The group also urged the Dept. of Corrections that "steps be taken to insure in such charges are not repeat­ed."

Ending its sixth annual conference here in Oct. 29, the members sent a letter to Jerry J. Enomoto, head of the state prison system, ac­knowledging the apology be made at the opening session earlier in the week.

"Though the director (Enomoto) personally apolo­gized for statements issued by a department official re­cently... MACA would ap­preciate it if the director would issue a memorandum to all institutions directing them to ignore any (such) statements..." said Charles Pineda, state president of the 4,000-member group.

Enomoto apologized in the letter for his prompt action disavowing con­tents made by a depart­ment official during a train­ing session.

The offer, according to Larry Romero in the Fresno Bee, allegedly said there were some possible illegal connections between MACA and prison guards and to certain organizations.

Pineda said Enomoto's apology was accepted but there are some groups who want to pursue legal ac­tion. "Their feelings were not accepted," he explained. "It was absurd to think MACA had any ties to organized crime.

Judge rules out minority quotations

LOS ANGELES—A provi­sion in the federal Public Works Employment Act of 1977 requiring that 10% of government-allocated funds be spent with minority busi­nesses was declared uncon­stitutional this past week (Oct. 31) by U.S. District Judge A. Andrew Hauk.

But the judge decided not to halt pending allocations of some $57-million in feder­al funds allocated for work projects in the county under the minority hiring provi­sion. Construction on 57 projects must start before Dec. 31 or the federal fund­ing would be lost.

Former Japanese servicemen and Allied POWs cross the bridge on the River Kwai, Thai­land, at the first reunion in October, 1976, to end WW2 hatred. Holding the U.S. Bag is Dennis Rolland, of Astoria, N.Y.; women await in mour­ning kimono are war widows. (This week, his letter recounting that experience and what it meant to him is published in the PC.)
Iwama, like Shimazu, noted that the legal aid plan may not be beneficial for everyone, claiming it is merely a safety net to ensure that legal aid is available in the event of need. He stated, "The only person who needs legal aid is the one who can't afford it."

When it comes to the insurance plan, the JACL president argued that it's not a necessity but rather an insurance policy that could be beneficial for those who can afford it. Iwama said, "You've got to set the service up in such a way that you're not demanding the service for those who can't afford it."

Regarding the insurance plan, Iwama explained that it was designed to provide legal services to those who cannot afford them. He emphasized that the plan was not intended to replace the legal aid program but to complement it by offering a supplementary service.

"The only person who needs legal aid is the one who can't afford it."

He pointed out that the insurance plan would be available to everyone, but the choice to use it would be left to the individual. The plan was designed to be flexible and accommodate the needs of different members of the community.

Iwama concluded by saying, "If you don't have the money, you don't have to use it. But if you do have the money, you can choose to use it."

The debate on the legal aid plan vs. the insurance plan continued with other JACL members, each presenting their perspectives on how best to serve the community. The question of whether to continue with the current legal aid program or to implement a new insurance plan remained at the forefront of the discussion, reflecting the ongoing efforts to provide effective legal services to the Japanese American community.

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**Nisei among most powerful L.A. women**

Los Angeles—Two Japanese American women were cited by the Los Angeles Herald Examiner as among the “most powerful” women in the city.

Toshiko Yamamoto and Ruth Watanabe were commended by the paper for their contributions to the field of social equity and civil rights.

"They are two of the most dynamic women in the city, and their work has been instrumental in advancing the cause of civil rights and social justice," the examination noted.

Yamamoto and Watanabe have been leaders in the fight for equal rights and opportunities for the Asian American community, working tirelessly to ensure that their voices are heard and their needs are met.

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**Renew Membership**

The JACL membership continues to grow, with more and more individuals joining the organization. The JACL is committed to providing a variety of resources and support to its members, including legal aid, political advocacy, and community events.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the JACL, please visit our website or contact us directly to learn more about how you can get involved.

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First 1978 member signed by Whisner
SAN FRANCISCO—National JACL Headquarters last week revealed Miyeko May Yamamoto from Los Angeles as the first JACL member to be enrolled for 1978. Meanwhile, the membership campaign kits are being delivered from the printers.

The Sept. 30 membership summary indicated 30,695 members signed up during the 1977—topping the previous all-time high of 29,775 as of Dec. 31, 1976. Over 60% of the 104 chapters exceeded previous year membership.

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Army chaplain active in family life education

SAN DIEGO, Calif. — Col. Bill Nagata, a chaplain with the U.S. Army Ground Forces, spoke on the subject, "Great Demonstration and Grand Experiment" at the 70th Anniversary of Ocean View United Church of Christ last Saturday.

Born in Honolulu, Nagata is a minister in the United Church of Christ and has a special interest in family life education.

The chaplain has conducted family life enrichment programs for churches, para-professionals, college students and preachers over 8 years and has held various workshops nationally.

Nagata works with the U.S. Army in the area of human resources. The assignment takes him on consultation visits throughout the country, visiting military and civilian agen­cies tasked with developing preventive education programs for family and community living.

He received his master of divinity degree at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena and doctorate of ministry at San Francisco Theological Seminary. He is also a graduate of the American Institute of Family Re­lation's post-master's intern­ship.

D.C. panel on retirement set

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Overall goals of the National Nisei Retirement Conference, held a year ago in San Francisco and funded by the National Institute of Mental Health, were to explore both the general and unique retirement concerns of the Japanese American. It's purpose was to identify successful interventions which respond to their concerns and needs.

How aging Nisei of metropolitan Washington, D.C. area differ from those residing on the West Coast will be aired at a panel discussion during the Washington, D.C. JACL general meeting Nov. 26, 7:30 p.m., at the First Unitarian Church, Bethesda.

This will be the first of a series of meetings or work­shops to consider Nisei assets and liabilities related to retirement, according to the program chairman Pat Oku­ra. Printed material and re­ports will be available. Meet­ing is open to all interested.

Similar conferences were also scheduled on the eastern seaboard: Oct. 15 at Bos­ton and Nov. 11-12 at Phila­delphia.

Property tax deferred for aged

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Most of California's older homeowners can postpone payment of their property taxes under recently enacted legislation, Assemblyman S. Floyd Mort (D-Pleasanton) announced.

The legislation, co-authored by Mori, allows low and moderate income homeowners over 62 to defer payments of all or part of their residential property taxes, beginning with payments due Dec. 10. Highlights are:

1. Claimants must be 62 or older
2. Claimants must have lived in the property for at least one year prior to the tax due date
3. Owner must have a home­owner's exemption

To receive the postponed taxes, the claimant must pay 10% of the property for the amount postponed.

For more information, call the nearest Franchise Tax Board Office.

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MEMBER FDIC

November 11, 1977—Pacific Citizen
International Terrorism

The recent rush of international terrorism certainly tells us something about the times in which we live, but just what is the meaning?

The question is less perplexing when the objectives behind the violence can be identified. For example, in Northern Ireland, extremism is being waged in at least two contexts, the first being directed against the people and the State of Israel. The second type of terrorism is not as clearly articulated, although war, sabotage, and destruction are among the tactics being employed by a "powerful fuel: boredom."

A more basic understanding on the use of torture often depends on the government, whether official or revolutionary, but it can be recognized by the concentration camps of the totalitarian states. There is no neat formula to explain the mysterious phenomenon of international terrorism. We should be chastened by the realization that innocence does not necessarily define the good life, nor have technological revolution and modern sciences of the mind explained away the destructive instincts in a human being.

The friend said the other day (which prompted this week's commentary): "The same folks that brought you the permissiveness also produced Auschwitz."

The HH1-B Building

A new federal building has been named for Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey—first time person honored for acts committed for a living person. The gesture is entirely appropriate for the compassion the Minnesotaan has exemplified during his political life will be one to emulate by the people who work in it—the Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare.

The Humphrey name for Japanese Americans goes back some years when as mayor of Minneapolis he was among the first to espouse the JACL cause to eliminate the white-only clause in the American Bowling Congress.

Over 1,000 Hallers

Mailers call them "headures"—tags that direct a batch of ZIPped mail to its destination. The IC currently pays $20 to 900 of them. This may be of little significance to the average reader, but "headurers" help speed the mail. We also found PC readers are needed in only three states: South Dakota and West Virginia. During WW2, there were many in Arkansas (because of the WRA concentration camps). It's hard to get a headure. Many of them are small in size, but we shared the same experiences in one form or another. Further decision in race, and even less in medicines or medical care, was the objective.

JACL Reparations Committee: Clifford Uyeda

Wiedergutmachung

Salt Lake City

It is over 32 years since leaving Heart Mountain, Wyo. Although the lapse of so many years has dimmed my memory of events there are significant occurrences which I recall vividly. Just last left the camp yesterday.

The death of my father in January of 1943, Block 27 in that home (almost four years), my classmates, friends and neighbors often feel the painlessness of my younger years of incarceration, indeed enticed in the camp. Releasing from Heart Mountain to view the camp site, walking over the terrain to which I operated for my home, remembering at the doorstep of years with my childhood, philosophizing about the war and its consequences have rung through my head for many years, and that we have not succeeded in setting the clock back to make the journey to what was so long ago.

I would like to do so because Salt Lake is so close and the concept of reparations to the victims of Nazism does not diminish the righteousness nor the justice of the reparations act. The Federal Republic of Germany's offering to pay..."
The eel was quickly transferred into Kyoko's freezer and there it waited the proper occasion, which was the other night. The Kitas invited the Hosokawas as well as Don and Joanne Cebra, who are aficionados of Japanese cooking. In fact, Don's ample girth attests to many pleasant encounters with the cuisine of various cultures over the years.

So our feast was the combined result of Kyoko's cooking, Koji's thoughtfulness and Masako's willingness to be imposed upon, plus of course the heartfelt appreciation of the guests.

Fresh eel, or fresh-frozen, is a matter of course unknown to me. Steak boyhood. But for a price canned eel was available. Canned eel is not as good as fresh, but eel is eel. Because it was so expensive, it was used sparingly, usually "maki-zushi" which is rice flavored with vinegar rolled with various goodies like a jellyroll inside a sheet of seaweed.

As we relaxed after the feasting, I recalled a sweet-sad story about a particular can of eel which was packed in a supposedly flat container like those used for sardines. When World War II came, it was obvious that canned eel would be used, and we expected to be served with nylon stockings, automobile tires and other victims of the war effort. We were fascinated and before leaving the house last can of eel was slipped into the duffel bag of personal effects that accompanied us into exile.

There was little opportunity to open it that can and in time I forgot about it. Then came a particularly cold and windy winter week at the Mountain View WRA camp. The messhall food was more miserable than usual. My wife Alice was in the camp kitchen being treated for some mysterious ailment. I was left with the care of Mike, our toddler. One night he couldn't sneak the messhall chow, but when we returned to our barracks room Mike complained he was hungry. I rummaged around in the orange crate that served as our pantry and found a box of soda crackers. They weren't very good without something to go with them. But there was no butter, no jelly, no cheese, no nothing except a flat, unlabeled can.

Well, I figured, crackers with sardines was better than just plain crackers, so I opened the can. It contained the funniest looking sardines I'd ever seen. Then I remembered the cherished eel and nearly wept.

Mike and I had crackers and eel. It was a strange combination in a strange setting. It was the first and last time we ate eel and crackers.
calendar

Nov. 11-13 MPOC—Mt. Vernon Tower, 14th & Curtis (Denver)

Nov. 12-13 Riverside—Thanksgiving dir., First Christian Church
San Gabriel Valley—In-Door, Great Wall Restaurant, West Covina

Nov. 12-13 CCDC—Diet Committee, Sherman Inn, Fresno. See S I Hayakawa, San bang 195

Nov. 13 (Sunday)
PSIDC Fall qrry ses. East Los Angeles JACL Insts. Little Tokyo Towers, Los Angeles, 9:30 a.m.
Peazzle—Chow mein dir. JACL Hall, noon-6 p.m.
Nov. 14 (Monday)
Los Angeles—Mtg. Osaka Restaurant 8 p.m.

Nov. 18-20 Tulare County—Las Vegas trip "Cincinnati—International Folk Festival. Nov. 19 (Saturday)
Sonoma Country—JAYA Appreciation dir for over 65. Hannah Hall, 5:30
Contra Costa—Kasumigai Kai org. 650 Stockton, El Cerrito, 10:30-3 p.m.
West Los Angeles—Inst dir. Airport Motel, Manchester & Lincoln Bl. 8:30 p.m.
George Knae Roth, eirk. Nov. 25-26
DCDC—Dir Cocktail. Wakefield Point North JACL Insts. Holiday Inn, Ogden; Sen Orens Dir ( Mormons)
Chicago—Asian American Art Fair, Millennium Bank Temple. Nov. 26 (Saturday)
Sacramento—Inst dir-dance, Red Lion Inn, 6 p.m.
Washington, D.C.—Gen org, River Rd Unitarian Church, Bethesda

Chicago

George Wakiji, Acting Di­
rector of Public Affairs of
Action, has been announced
as the featured speaker for
the Chicago JACL’s 33rd an­
nual Inaugural dinner-dance
Saturday, Dec. 3, at the Case
and Cover of the American
Furniture Mart, 666 N. Lake
Shore Drive.

The keynote address will be
followed by an “Action”­
packed finale featuring a
visual presentation of mem­
orable people, places, and
events in Wakiji’s varied career.

Dancing will be provided
by Dave Romaine’s combo.
Cost of the event, co-chaired
by Mrs. Tsuru Nakagawa and
Mrs. Jean Salamato, is $17.50 per person. Reserva­
tions can be made with the
Chicago JACL office (728­
7100).

7:30 p.m: Panel: Nisei retirement.
San Diego—Inst dir, Tom Ham’s Lighthouse, Harbor Is, 7 p.m.;
Hurry Kuby, eirk.

Riverside

The annual Riverside JAC­
L Club thanksgiving dinner will be held Nov. 12 at
the First Christian Church,
Jurupa and Brockton, start­
ing at 4 p.m., followed by
bouffet. In the past, the com­
mittee affairs has served
to introduce this American tra­
dition to foreign students
from Japan in the Riverside
area.

The board chair has voted
to send $50 to the Okubo-­
Yamada fund. Three have been nominated to the chap­
ter board. They are Doris Hi­
ga, May Kanatani and Nancy
Takano.

San Diego

Harry Kubo, president-

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November 11, 1977

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Loans

Furniture

8,500,000

$8,500,000

1,000,000

$1,000,000
Spartan Beat: Mas Manbo
A Tearful Parting

TOKYO—Hawaiian Wally Yonamine bowed out as manager of the Chunichi Dragons after the team swept a doubleheader from the Tokyo Whales to wind up the Central League baseball season in Nagoya Oct. 18. After a bad start this year, the Dragons pulled up to a respectable third place in the Yakyu Swallows and the pennant-winning Yomiuri Giants.

It was a tearful parting for Yonamine, now 52, and his mates whom he steered to the league championship three years ago.

The Dragons had hard luck when veteran major leaguer Willie Davis, the top add-on to Japanese baseball in the 1977 season, broke his wrist. Davis, one of the Dragons' two American players, suffered the injury when he hit the fence while going after a long fly in a game against the Hiroshima Carp on Aug. 2. Davis had hit his 25th home run earlier.

Yonamine was manager of the Dragons for six years. In his playing days, mostly with the Yomiuri Giants, he won three batting titles and compiled a lifetime average of .311. Before he got into Japanese baseball in mid-1961, Wally, an all-around athlete, was the first Nijikei to play top-rate professional football in the United States. A native of Lahaina, Maui, Yonamine was a halfback of the San Francisco 49ers back in the late 1940s. This was when Frankie Albert was the 49ers' quarterback.

Yoko Gushiken, Japan's sole world boxing champ at present, certainly pleased viewers in his televised title defense on Oct. 9 in Beppu, Oita Prefecture.

He chilled his Thai foe Montanyarm H. Mahachai with a right hook in 2:17 of the fourth round to retain his World Boxing Association junior flyweight championship for the third time.

The abrupt finish to the 15-round bout seconds after 8:01 p.m. enabled fight fans who also wanted to see the final installment of "Roots" to make a quick switch in channels and not miss anything.

"Roots" was broadcast at 8 p.m. in eight parts and had a high viewer rating in the country. On the final day, it got a Nielsen rating of 26.0 in the Kanto area and 41.0 in the Kansai area. The .296 percentage meant that 2.8 million families watched the program in the Kanto area alone, according to the Asahi Evening News.

For the whole series, beginning Oct. 2, the rating in the Kanto region was 23.4.

Pres. Jim to be in Denver

DENVER, Colo. — National JACL President Jim Murakami will be keynote speaker at the Fall Mountain Plains District Council conference, being held Nov. 11-13 at the Executive Towers, addressing the Saturday evening banquet.

Okubo-Yamada fund drive starts

SAN FRANCISCO — The Okubo-Yamada Fund Drive committee, in its first report on returns, decided to acknowledge contributions by three categories: a—$1-25, b—$26-99, and c—$100 or more. No aggregate total was made of the first 27 contributions.

A (28) Bill Matsumoto, Sec.; Henry Tanaka, Cev.; Raymond Uno, Salt Lake; Thomas Yamada, Salt Lake City; Lewis Masuda, Chicago; Buddy Iwata, Mrs. Sai Yagi, Leonard & Tamara Kinoshita, Livermore; Martin Honda, Tulare City; Eugene Omi, Lee & Son, Santa Monica; Yuriko Yamashita, Berk; Harry Arata, Alice Ash, Frank and Alice Sakata, Frank Arima, Stockton; William Yoshizawa, Philadelphia; Mary Harada.

b (43) Kenji Yamashita, George Baba, Stockton; John & Grace Kanda, Polyvalley; C—$100 or More Helen Kanai, Ow; Mike Masuda, WDC; Tom Shimada, Tulare; Shig Watanaka, Chicago.

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For more information please see JACL administrative fee info.

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