

# California has one more Nikkei mayor

The number of Japanese American mayors in California has risen to eight, with the recent appointment of Kenichi Nishino as the chief executive of Hemet, a suburb in Riverside County.

Nishino, a 62-year-old nurseryman-florist, is a two-term incumbent on the Hemet city council and is the first non-white to serve in an elected position in the city's government.



Ken Nishino

He was unanimously voted in as mayor by fellow councilmen March 14. Previously, he had been the city's vice mayor four years.

Nishino was first elected to office at age 57, his campaign coming on the heels of a heated public works debate. He finished with the second highest vote count of any council candidate.

In 1976, he won re-election, again finishing with the second largest tally.

An active community member, Nishino founded the Hemet YMCA in 1966, served as president of the Hemet Chamber of Commerce in 1966 and is presently involved with the Odd Fellows, Elks and Rotary Clubs.

Nishino, looking forward to his mayoral term, is hoping to maintain a peaceful atmosphere in the community, made up primarily of retirees. He noted that income brought in by senior citizens has attracted some 23 banks and savings and loan institu-

tions to the city.

In other mayoral action, accolades were bestowed again on Carson mayor Sak Yamamoto, who broke tradition by becoming the first councilman selected to consecutive terms as mayor.

Yamamoto, owner of Paradise Trailer Lodge, said Nikkei elected officials should put forth an extra effort in paving the way for younger



Sak Yamamoto

politicians to succeed.

Elected as one of the city's first councilmen, Yamamoto served as mayor in 1973 and would have an unbroken elected service record of 10 years, were it not for a narrow defeat in 1970.

Carson, which lies between Torrance, Gardena and Long Beach, has a population of 85,000, is one of the more lucrative cities in Los Angeles County and has no city property tax. It was incorporated in 1968.

In Oxnard, Councilman Nao Takasugi will assume the post of Mayor Pro Tem, following unanimous selection by the city council. He joins mayor Dr. Tsujio Kato as the top two leaders in the community.

On the council since March 1976, Takasugi was active in various other phases of government. He chaired the Oxnard Planning Commission, served on the

Continued on Next Page

## Berkeley postmaster charged with racial stereotyping, slurs

BERKELEY, Calif.—Deteriorating postal service, low morale and charges of racial stereotyping have prompted employees of the Berkeley Post Office to call for an impartial investigation of postmaster Harry McGannon.

The action, taken by both craftworkers and supervisors at a recent press conference, is unprecedented in the history of the city's postal system.

Supporters of the investigation include the National Assn. of Letter Carriers, University Branch 863; American Postal Workers Union of Clerks and the National Assn. of Postal Supervisors, Local 218.

Grievances against McGannon include his alleged use of racial slurs and stereotyping. An Equal Employment Opportunity Report, for example, cited his use of the term "Japs". His attitude toward blacks has also been questioned.

Employees charged he referred to black workers as "boy" and "gal" and had answered them with the phrase "I's a comin'."

Since his appointment in 1976, McGannon has fired 12 letter carriers and two supervisors. Presently, five Japanese American postal employees feel the postmaster is harassing them.

Spokespersons asking for the investigation and McGannon's dismissal report a deterioration in delivery services and demoralization among employees due to inconsistent work procedures.

Angered employees have charged the U.S. Postal Service's Western Region Office of protecting McGannon. This prompted the request for an impartial investigation by an appointed congressional committee or a management team higher than the Western Regional Postmaster General. □

# PACIFIC CITIZEN

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## Hibakusha ask for gov't help

By PAT TASHIMA

LOS ANGELES — Congressmen and spectators at the atomic bomb hearings held here last Friday felt the whole trauma of the survivors' plight when Kuniko "Nickie" Jenkins of San Francisco was assisted to the speaker's platform—her portable green oxygen tank beside her.

Testimony, before Rep. George Danielson's House Judiciary subcommittee on administrative law and governmental relations, was being heard on HR 5150, pending legislation co-sponsored by Edward Roybal and Norman Mineta which would make A-bomb survivors eligible for federal assistance in medical treatment.

Jenkins was one of 13 individuals presenting testimony, including California Lt. Gov. Mervyn M. Dymally and JACL National Executive Director Karl Nobuyuki.

Unable to speak for herself because of the presence of reporters and TV cameras, Jenkins' prepared statement was read by another A-bomb survivor, Judy Aya Enseki.

Enseki told the nearly 300 people present that, when excited, Jenkins' breathing and eyesight is impaired.

In the statement, Jenkins told how many survivors hide their identities as A-bomb victims, so as not to be discriminated by employers or when obtaining medical insurance. Some employers refuse to hire survivors, fearing they will miss too much time on the job, she said.

While testifying on behalf of those yet silent survivors, Jenkins said she is not truly representative of them—for, having married a retired military officer, she is, unlike them, eligible for ample medical aid.

Her struggles were sympathized by the congressmen in attendance—Daniel-

son, Mineta and Roybal, who called her testimony the most "moving I've ever heard" of the nuclear holocaust.

The height of her frustration was evident when Enseki told how Jenkins was not permitted to fly down from San Francisco because the airline would not let her carry her oxygen tank on board. Instead, she had to drive down.

Six years in planning, HR 5150 has been a constant endeavor of Roybal, who said he's been requesting such a hearing in Los Angeles for a long time.

Basically, the bill provides U.S. citizens with federal financial assistance for "reasonable charges for medical services and treatment for any physical illness or injury" sustained in the Hiroshima or Nagasaki blasts or from radioactive fallout.

Dr. Thomas T. Noguchi, Los Angeles County coroner and chief medical officer was instrumental in organizing the hearings. He said the reluctance of survivors to speak up prior to now was because "these Americans of Japanese ancestry had lived in such manner to give proof of their loyalty to America, and any remembrance of the war was best forgotten."

"They preferred to suffer," he said. "But after many years, clinical symptoms appear and in bringing these to the attention of the family, friends and doctors, they come to be viewed as chronic complainers. Many have lost communication even with the family circle."

According to medical testimony given by Dr. Mitsuo Inouye, president of the Japanese American Medical Assn. in Los Angeles, survivors suffer most greatly from a preoccupation of death and psychosomatic illnesses.

Other ailments found in a survey by a Japanese medi-

cal mission discovered survivors had numerous complaints of rheumatic disorders, fatigue, insomnia and hypertension.

Women survivors had a relative high rate of gynecological surgery and had low counts of white blood cells, Inouye said.

Representing JACL along with Nobuyuki were PSW regional director Glen Isomoto and secretary Kathy Chono.

In his testimony, Nobuyuki confirmed JACL's support for passage of HR 5150 and said, "Many of us can afford to put the war behind us

and start anew. For these survivors, however, the horror of the atomic bomb holocausts of 1945 cannot be easily forgotten for they are victims of long-term radiation sickness."

Nobuyuki noted the U.S. government has spent \$81.5 million since 1948 to provide medical research for Japanese nationals who were A-bomb victims. That American victims are not eligible for any assistance "is a sad fact," he said.

Kanji Kuramoto, president of the Committee of

Continued on Page 7

## Wirin memorial in L.A. April 9

LOS ANGELES—Memory of the late A.L. Wirin, regarded as the first full-time civil rights lawyer in this country, will be honored this Sunday, April 9, 7:30 p.m., at the First Unitarian Church, 2936 W. 8th St.

The public tribute is being co-sponsored by the Japanese American Citizens League, American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California, ACLU Founda-

tion and the First Unitarian Church.

Distinguished leaders who knew the late ACLU legal director best will be among those who will speak including:

Roger Baldwin, ACLU founding director; Harry Bridges, pres. emeritus, ILWU; Karl Nobuyuki, JACL director; LaRee Caughey, ACLU bd mem; Phil Kerby, L.A. Times editorial writer; Rev. Steven Fritchman, pastor emeritus, 1st Unitarian Church; and Sam Williams, pres., L.A. County Bar Assn.



Peik Lindberg Archives

Attorneys A.L. Wirin (left) and Saburo Kido (right) appeal in the federal district court at Los Angeles in September, 1944, for Dr. George Ochikubo, Oakland dentist then at Topaz WRA Center, Utah, for an injunction to restrain the military authorities from preventing his return to his prewar home. Three months later, the U.S. Army revoked its west coast exclusion orders for all persons of Japanese ancestry.

## Nikkei public defender faults judge

SEATTLE, Wash.—During a court hearing last Dec. 6, Lewis H. Nomura of the public defenders office was seeking a continuance in the case for his client. The motion, which King County Superior Court Judge Horton Smith denied, was based on the expectation that one of the defendants would make a change of plea but the new plea had not been entered.

"No tickee, no washee," Judge Smith was alleged to have told Nomura.

The judge added, "But,

this is today and we are going on today's matter. Tomorrow is Pearl Harbor Day, at least the anniversary of it, and we will wait for tomorrow" to reconsider the motion.

Thus sprang the controversy which is now before a three-judge committee which has investigated the incident and submitted to a judicial ethics and grievance committee. The findings are not expected to be released any earlier than April 14, when this committee next meets.

In the meantime, the Seattle JACL has condemned the racial slur in a letter to the Washington State Bar.

Judge Smith this past week (Mar. 17) was amazed "this thing has carried this far" as he repeated he bore no prejudice toward persons of Japanese ancestry because of Pearl Harbor and World War II. "From my heart, I don't," he said.

Judge Smith also acknowledged it wasn't necessary for him to refer to Pearl Harbor Day. He said, however, the subject was very much

on his mind that week since he was making a number of speeches as a rear admiral in the U.S. naval reserve.

Nomura, an internment camp "baby" in California, reportedly said he was not accusing the judge of prejudice but that the remarks showed a "lack of sensitivity".

The judicial probe was conducted by a panel headed by Clark County Superior Court Judge John Skimas. The ethics committee could issue a censure or reprimand. □

KENJI NAKANE

# Builder of Community Bridges

By SHIG WAKAMATSU  
(Chicago JACLer)

The City of Chicago and the Japanese American community have indeed lost one of their truly valuable citizens in the passing of Kenji Nakane. (He passed away Feb. 7—Ed.)

In recalling his activities during the past 3 1/2 decades of his life in Chicago, an

immediate characterization that comes to mind which would capsule his overall impact is "community service." This characterization would be true enough but for the fact that it misses an intangible quality that one can recognize only in retrospect.

All of us serve the community in one way or another, but Kenji's service had an uncommon compo-

nent in that he was indeed a human bridge between so many diverse groups within the community. That he so ably performed such a function whether consciously or unconsciously, I believe, is his unique legacy—something that we can deeply cherish.

We can list his varied accomplishments as a community leader and servant—and he was both with unflinching energy and fidelity—from the early days in the '40s when he first organized Americanization classes for the Issei before any concrete hope was evidenced for the passage of the Walter-McCarran Naturalization Act of 1952; his monumental task following the passage of the Act of personally conducting naturalization courses for over 1,700 Issei to become naturalized U.S. citizens; his years as director of the JASC and, following that, his invaluable services to complete the difficult and complex Issei questionnaire for JACL's Japanese American Research Project in the Chicago area, which documents are now a part of the irreplaceable treasury at UCLA.

But all of the above cannot compare with the intangible value of the bridges of understanding that he had built

during his involvement in the community. The bridges between the pre-war Chicago Japanese residents and the newcomers after relocation, between the Issei and Nisei, between the war brides and the community, between churches—he was the common denominator between Christians and Buddhists.

For years he was the only link with Chicago's cultural activities, such as "Christmas Around the World" at the Museum of Science and

Industry and more recently as an able interpreter of lifestyles and values between the Japanese Americans and Japanese national business people.

The one bridge that he had built over the years was not generally known until it was revealed at his funeral. The string quartet of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra was there to perform in respect of his contributions to that organization. What a beautiful way to be conducted over the Abyss and safely to the Beyond!

## POLITICS

Continued from Front Page

Oxnard Social Action Committee, Flood Zone II Advisory Commission, Board of Review and chairman of the Ventura County Planning Conference.

A past president of the Ventura County JACL, he is a member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church board of trustees, a charter vice-president of the Oxnard Noontime Optimist Club and member of the Oxnard Jaycees, Trade club and Chamber of Commerce.

In other political developments, eight Asian Americans have been placed on the state's June 6 primary ballot.

In his second try for public office, Republican Masaru Odoi, a Gardena television repair technician, will vie for the 31st District Congressional seat now held by Democrat Charles H. Wilson.

Odoi first ran for public office in 1976 in an unsuccessful bid for a Gardena City Council post. He is a member of the Gardena Valley JACL.

Alfred H. Song, incumbent in the 26th State Senate district, will again seek the Democratic nomination.

while Eleanor Kim Chow, of Montebello will run for the Republican ticket.

Assemblyman Paul T. Bannai (R-Gardena), will be unopposed in the primary in the 53rd District. Elected in 1972, Bannai is seeking his fourth term. His last three victories have come despite an overwhelming Democratic registration in his district.

In races for Municipal Court seats, Richard Hanki is a candidate for Office 1 of the Los Cerritos Judicial District; Judge Jack B. Tso, incumbent in the L.A. Judicial District Office 13, will seek office while Benjamin Louie battles in the Glendale Judicial District.

Alvin H. Matsuno of Torrance has declared his candidacy for the fourth district supervisor's office in the proposed South Bay County. He faces six opponents, including Torrance mayor Ken Miller.

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## Kaz Mayemura, 58, dies of leukemia

GLENDORA, Calif. — Former San Gabriel Valley JACL president Kaz Mayemura died Mar. 28 of leukemia. He was 58, survived by widow Kayoko, three sons and a daughter.

Born in Utah and educated in Japan, Mayemura had been active in the San Gabriel Valley Japanese American community. He contracted the disease about a year and a half ago. JACLers around the country responded to the JACL-Pacific Southwest District call for blood to assist him.

Mrs. Mayemura again acknowledged the help of JACLers in the call for blood.

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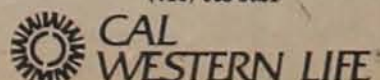
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# Civil rights group seeks Evacuation data

ESTES PARK, Colo. — The foremost civil rights agency of the U.S. government was urged to undertake an official study to ascertain how much was lost during the 1942-46 Evacuation by persons of Japanese ancestry now seeking reparation.

A resolution introduced by Minoru Yasui of the Colorado State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission was unanimously passed during the Mar. 19-21 conference of Region VIII advisory committees, covering the states of Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota.

The Civil Rights Commission was further urged to coordinate a national informational effort to make its findings known "as a matter of simple, fundamental justice".

Yasui, executive director of the Denver Commission on Community Relations, said he still believes that the U.S. government should re-

spond to all Japanese Americans as a group "because the government treated us as a suspect group in 1942" and added for that reason he disagrees with the concept of individual reparation.

Chiz Ishimatsu of Salt Lake City of the Utah advisory committee was among the 26 delegates present at the three-day conference.

Text of the resolution follows:

**Japanese American Reparation**  
Whereas, during 1942-1946, 71,000 American citizens and 42,000 legal residents of Japanese ancestry were incarcerated under military detention by the United States government, guarded by military police, surrounded by barbed wire fences, watchtowers and machine gun posts all without any formal accusations or charges of any crime, and without trial or judicial process, all because of national origin or ancestry; and

Whereas, the financial losses, over and above the indignities, loss of livelihood, human dignity and freedom, incurred by these internees have exceeded \$400 million according to tabulations by the then Secretary of the Interior, Harold V. Ickes, of which approximately \$30 million, or 8 1/2%, have been compensated under the Evacuation Claims Act of 1949; and

Whereas, the United States prides itself as a leader of the free world in the maintenance of justice and democracy, but yet has never rectified this historic injustice, while the Republic of Germany has authorized payments of \$85 billion as compensation for the Jewish holocaust in Europe, and the Government of Japan has acknowledged and paid more than \$700 million as reparations to families of prisoners of war and nationals of ravaged countries; and

Whereas, the people of the United States must establish as a matter of principle the doctrine of monetary recompense as assurance that such governmental injustices shall never again be repeated;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the regional conference of advisory committees of the U.S. Civil Rights

Commission, assembled as the Rocky Mountain regional advisory council at Estes Park, Colorado on March 19-21, 1978, that the U.S. Civil Rights Commission be urged to undertake an official study to ascertain statistical data and monetary figures related to such reparations to persons of Japanese ancestry who suffered losses during the Evacuation of 1942-1946;

And, Further, Be It Resolved that the U.S. Civil Rights Commission be urged to coordinate a national informational effort to make sure factual data in regard to this matter be known throughout the United States, as a matter of simple, fundamental justice.

March 21, 1978  
Estes Park, Colorado

## New guidelines to determine employers who discriminate

WASHINGTON — "Internal guidance" criteria in deciding what employers to charge with race and sex discrimination in hiring were issued Mar. 21 by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Though general in wording so as to leave the EEOC considerable leeway for selecting targets, the guidelines reflect an effort by commission to arrive at a "systemic pattern of practice" in discrimination cases as well as help reduce the stress of checking out thousands of individual complaints filed by workers who believe they have been victims of bias.

Eleanor Holmes Norton, the new EEOC chairman, expected the new approach to result in a sizeable number of class action suits.

Systemic discrimination is described as "institutionalized employment practices which, although often neutral in intent, operate to keep minorities and women from job opportunities available to others".

Under the new guidelines, proceedings may be brought against employers who:

—Maintain hiring policies that result in "low utilization of available minorities and women".

—Employ such persons at a "substantial lower" rate than do other employers in the same labor market using workers with the same type of skills.

—Employ substantial numbers of minorities and women but at "significantly lower" rates in the higher-paying positions.

—Maintain recruitment, hiring, job assignment promotion, discharge and other work policies that have an "adverse impact on minorities and women and are not justified by business necessity".

—Have had employment policies that deter minorities and women and who are likely to serve as models for other employers because of their size, impact on the local economy or competitive position in the industry.

**APAFEC Chapter formed**  
WASHINGTON—The Asian and Pacific American Federal Employees Council announced a Foreign Affairs Chapter was organized with most of its members from the State Dept., Agency for International Development, ACTION, Agriculture Dept. and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.



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# Comments, letters & features

## Political Roots Taking Hold

What's happening in California? Eight Japanese Americans are now mayors of their respective cities: Carson—Sak Yamamoto; Fowler—Tom Nagata; Hemet—Kenichi Nishino; Marina—Robert Ouye; Oxnard—Dr. Tsujio Kato; Salinas—Henry Hibino; Union City—Tom Kitayama; and Woodland—John Kimura. We shall include San Joaquin County Supervisor Richard Yoshikawa of Stockton in this political spectrum that has become resplendent this spring of 1978.

Who would have thought 20 years ago, when the first Nisei mayor in the U.S. was elected, James Kanno of the newly incorporated city of Fountain Valley in Orange County, there would be a roster of over a dozen Nikkei mayors following in so short a time. Additional Nisei mayors in California history are Ken Nakaoka of Gardena, now Congressman Norman Mineta of San Jose, now Assemblyman Floyd Mori of Pleasanton, Kiyoshi Matsuo of Foster City, George Ige of Monterey Park, and the late Harry Iseki of Parlier.

With 15 cities out of some 400 in the state having had or currently served by a Nikkei mayor, it appears a basic JACL principle to be politically involved has taken solid root.

JACL's first call was twofold: (a) to be of service to the country, state and community and (b) encouraging Nisei to be registered voters. After the Evacuation, the Nisei learned the truth of eternal vigilance being the price of liberty and understood only organized opinion had any influence in a democracy.

If memory serves us correctly, the number of successful Nikkei candidates in an elective post should outnumber those who have run and lost. But this ratio or percentage is fragile and may not keep. Then again, we go back 20 years when we didn't dream there would be 15 Nikkei mayors being elected. This eminent percentage may prevail as community minded Japanese Americans expand their horizons to see that more Americans become better Americans in a greater America.

*Letters are being set in slightly larger type from this issue. Hence, they should be limited to 250 words or be subject to condensation.—Editor.*

*tion of loyalty to the U.S. in time of war.—Ed.)*

Editor:

It wasn't nice of Nobuyuki Nakajima (PC Letters, March 24) to intimate that a 442nd veteran like myself opposes "reparation" because of my "fossilized Japanese feudalism".

In a letter to the PC two years ago, I suggested \$1,000 for every evacuee, including Issei and children, because such a measure can be passed by Congress and be administered expeditiously.

My primary objection to the present program is the tremendous waste of time and energy, which can be better used on constructive programs for our youth and senior citizens.

Clifford Uyeda and others should be commended for their painstaking efforts to help victims of Evacuation.

But we are on the eve of a historic Silver Anniversary National JACL Convention. As aptly stated by National Director Karl Nobuyuki on the same page, let us "promote a pro-active JACL."

Each of us should do all we can in our local chapters to help Judge Raymond Uno and his staff make this convention a resounding success!

MASARU ODOI  
Gardena, Ca.

*Am sure no personal offense was intended by reader Nakajima in the March 24 letter.*

—Editor.

### De-ethnification

Editor:

Bill Hosokawa very delicately mentioned that while JACL has committed itself to supporting the Regents of the Univ. of California, there might be value in examining the Bakke side. Frankly, as a JACL life member I wonder what caused JACL to go all-out and overboard in the anti-Bakke onslaught in the first place. In such a controversial matter, in which "both sides are right", the JACL should not have automatically sided with the minority side, just because Jps. in the U.S. are a minority. This is not a clear-cut case of right against wrong, and in our land where liberty and justice for all is our lofty ideal, Alan Bakke has his rights, too.

As Senator Hayakawa points out, Americans have traditionally been required to be color-blind, ideally. It should not matter what color, sex or creed we are. De-ethnification of hiring, promoting, etc., should be the goal, but affirmative action puts more and more stress on ethnicity, and such statistics in so many cases are far from accurate.

Who can say of a given group of employees, students or population, that such and such percentage is Hispanic, Caucasians other than Hispanics, indigenes, blacks, or Asians when self-identification and apparent racial identification (with no penalty whatsoever for misrepresentation) are the criteria?

Moreover, the whole classification system is racist and divisive. My nature revolts against it. It's discriminatory against Spanish-speaking whites and they retaliate by ignoring the Hispanic category and checking the Caucasian block even if the surname is Spanish. Asian Americans check Asian, but many other Asians don't check Asian, so how accurate are the statistics?

Before we of JACL give hell to Bakke, we should put ourselves in his position. Is he being a good American by standing up for his rights, and how good are we in trying to deny them to him? Is more stress or less stress on race for the good of our country? I would hope the answer is de-ethnification, not more prying into one's genealogy and what ethnic strains you have in your family tree.

TARO J. KAWAKAMI  
San Gabriel, Calif.

### Nova Academy

Editor:

We are not satisfied with the letter that Nova Academy wrote to Mrs. Funato (PC, Mar. 24). I have never read anything so evasive and incidentally, Mrs. Funato said she has not received the letter.

Read the letter which was supposedly sent to Mrs. Funato and see if you think that it has any definiteness.

GEORGE KONDO  
No. Calif.-W. Nevada  
JACL Regional Director  
San Francisco



## Real Identity Crisis

PART XX

By CLIFFORD I. UYEDA

This has more to do with the manner in which the public perceives us than in our own understanding of ourselves. The public in general does not distinguish Japanese Americans from the Japanese nationals, not just in appearance but more significantly in their concept.

We are Americans. The Japanese part of our definition is an accident of ancestry, a second identity retained by all Americans. We are more at a loss in Japan than in the United States. The language, the food, the customs, and more significantly the manner in which we think identify us as Americans, distinct from the Japanese nationals.

Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau went to Japan and apologized to the government

officials there for the manner in which Canada treated their Japanese Canadians during World War II!

A public official in the San Francisco Bay area, a long time friend of Japanese Americans, said that the injustices suffered by Japanese Americans here in the United States had been more than repaid by the generous American contributions and aid to war devastated Japan!

There appears to be no consciousness on the part of many Americans that the expulsion and the incarceration of Japanese Americans were acts not directed against enemies but against their own people.

There is an incredible identity crisis in America which we thought had disappeared for good but which we now learn is very much alive and kicking. □

Editor:

Nobuyuki Nakajima's letter (PC Mar. 24) refers to Masaru Odoi's opinion (for not accepting reparation) he infers the self-denial of our basic human rights—again, this is so reminiscent of fossilized Japanese feudalism. Until I see reparation bill in Congress, I don't see where the Japanese has changed.

JACL leaders asked the Japanese to cooperate with the government and go into camps. As I recall there was to be restitution later. I never dreamed it was going to be 35 years later.

Pete Hironaka's cartoon (Reparation Special) lays it all out very clearly. A long waited train, some JACLers purchase tickets, but no one gets on the train. What really bothers them is that they may be on the right train, but the wrong track.

SAM HONDA,  
White Bear, Lake, Minn.

*(Evacuees, it must be remembered, did not go obediently to the camps, but had cooperated as a measure to help the war effort—a nonviolent demonstra-*

## It's now up to U.S. business to boost sales in Japan

Following article is based upon a speech delivered March 9 at the U.S.-Japan trade conference at San Francisco, sponsored by the Council of California Growers.

By SEN. S.I. HAYAKAWA

Special to the Pacific Citizen

AMERICAN manufacturers and producers can increase their sales in Japan by doing a better job of market research and by becoming more aggressive salesmen. This is the conclusion I reached after visiting Japan briefly in January 1978 to meet with business leaders, government officials and agricultural experts.

"You asked for it. You got it," is the slogan for one of the Japanese automobiles sold in the United States. But it also tells us why the Japanese have been so enormously successful at selling us everything from cameras to motorcycles and binoculars to television sets.

Americans developed the techniques for market research and mass merchandising. Now the Japanese are using those very techniques to sell us billions of dollars worth of their products. But we have not yet used these techniques to increase the markets in Japan.

True, there is a resistance in Japan to American and other foreign products. There are several understandable reasons for this resistance, and it can be overcome with the proper approach.

Some of the resistance to manufactured products is based on design. We design for Americans, and for Europeans who are very

much like Americans in size and taste. The Japanese people are smaller, their homes are smaller, and their tastes reflect a different culture. Our refrigerators simply won't fit in a Japanese home. They use the smaller size, similar to those we find in offices and hotels. Much of our furniture is too large and too bulky for the typical Japanese house. They need smaller pieces, designed to meet Japanese tastes. Few Japanese homes could find room for the standard size American washer and dryer, but they would love to have a smaller model. Japanese need right-hand drive automobiles. We make only left-hand drive cars.

Resistance to imported agricultural products stems from a different source. The Japanese have an urgent psychological need to feel self-sufficient in the production of food. While most of the world views Japan as a big, powerful industrial nation, many Japanese view themselves as a tiny country with few resources, unable to feed itself in times of emergency.

I tried to convince the few people whom I met in January that the Japanese should be more like the British about imported food: relax, sell manufactured goods all around the world and import the food they need from the United States and other friendly countries. But it will take time, patience, and a far-reaching educational campaign to dissolve these fears about food self-sufficiency.

The story of Kikkoman soy sauce illustrates how well the Japanese have done a

market research job in the United States, and what we might do in reverse to sell American products in Japan.

In 1957, the only market for Kikkoman soy sauce in the United States was among the Japanese Americans living on the west coast. But the producers knew that these Nisei would adopt American tastes in time, so a larger market was needed. Their approach was to make soy sauce an integral part of the American diet—something which it had never been. For most Americans, soy sauce was something found in Chinese restaurants, and often referred to as "bug juice".

The Kikkoman people used television very effectively to "define" soy sauce as something deeply American. In commercial after commercial, they showed Americans using soy sauce on their hamburgers and other American foods. It took time, but now you can find Kikkoman soy sauce in supermarkets in almost every state in the Union.

That's the kind of market research and selling we have to do in Japan.

Japan is a prosperous country. Despite producer resistance to agricultural imports, Japanese consumers are enthusiastic about American products. The people have money to spend, in spite of horrendously high prices of some items like beef, leather, wood, and other products which are not in large supply in the country. This suggests two things to me. One is that the introduction of more American products might bring the prices down through the normal process of compe-

dition. The second is that we can find a market in luxury goods. This might start with luxury automobiles, especially with a right-hand drive. But it can extend to the very large gift-giving market.

Japanese love to give gifts to one another when they visit. It is part of their tradition. At airports and railroad stations you can see counters and counters of beautifully wrapped gifts. Fruit is very popular, but terribly expensive. A single melon, gift-wrapped, will sell for \$10, \$12, or more. Americans could enter this gift market, provided, of course, they chose items the Japanese want and wrapped them according to Japanese tastes.

Early in March I spoke in San Francisco at a U.S.-Japan trade conference sponsored by the Council of California Growers. It was very encouraging to see all of those American agricultural producers meeting with their Japanese counterparts to increase trade between our two countries.

I know that similar meetings are being held by other industries in other cities. I know that a Japanese buying team has recently been traveling from one end of the U.S. to the other, looking for fashion items, food products, liquor, housewares, and apparel to import.

This, I believe, is the first essential step toward increasing U.S. exports to Japan. The next step is up to American business, to use their proven market research and mass merchandising to create new markets in Japan. □



FROM HAPPY VALLEY: Sachi Seko

## Pilgrimage for Truth

Salt Lake City

I must have been less than four years old, since I was not yet in school, when my curiosity about truth began. An Italian fish peddler used to regularly come to the California neighborhood where I was born. His arrival was announced by the sound of a horn attached to his truck. At that signal housewives hurried to the corner where fish was sold from the smelly van.

One morning, I heard my mother and grandmother complaining that the peddler tried to pawn off less desirable cuts, particularly tail ends, on them. Both women in my family represented the genteel characteristics of Japanese females.

They never shoved their way past other customers. Instead they let others push past them, quietly waiting to be served last. Even when an occasional considerate soul insisted that they have their rightful turn, both were quick to politely demur.

So that day, being a child and wanting to be helpful, I hurried down to the corner on hearing the peddler's signal. Although I was there first, somehow I found myself wedged between a mass of immovable flesh.

Indignant, I shouted over the heads of the customers, "We don't want any bad fish. Don't sell us any more tails."

For this helpful contribution, I was severely punished. Leaving Grandmother to purchase the fish, my mother pulled me home. As I tried to keep up with her long-legged athletic pace, she scolded me in no uncertain terms.

Sometimes, reaching the limit of her exasperation, she let loose with a hard

spank. Humiliated by this uncommon public display, I kept hoping that my young friends weren't watching from their houses.

Each time I tried to protest the indignity and illogic of her reprimand, my mother put her hand across my mouth. In the privacy of our home, she continued her scolding.

I had disgraced the family, spoken out of turn, was disrespectful of my elders. "You talk too much," she said. "And you are always asking questions. Everyone will know how dumb you are."

I screamed angrily, "I was only telling the truth."

My retort was unappreciated. Because my mother continued, "Why can't you be like other children. They don't bother their mothers with the crazy ideas you get in your head. There's time enough when you grow up to learn about truth."

Her answer did not wholly satisfy me. It seemed contradictory that a family which coveted honesty as an exemplary value, qualified truth. But with the innocent heart of a child, I thought that possibly truth was earned with age. Perhaps it had something to do with the mystery of girls changing into women.

It seems now that I never grew old enough, in my mother's eyes, to know the truth. At least truth as I saw it, sometimes ugly and brutal. When I was entering mid-life, past spankings, she persisted in telling me I talked too much, asked too many questions, sounded dumb. It was her favorite put-down, a way to avoid confrontation.

Five years ago she was hospitalized for the last time. I knew she was dying, slipping in and out between secret dreams. One day she made a complete and abrupt return.

Thoughtful friends had sent flowers and plants. There were so many the overflow was kept in the hospital hallway. She had seemed content to acknowledge each gift and sender, never protesting when the plants were whisked away.

On that day of sudden interest, she asked about a pot of blooming hyacinths. When told they were in the hallway, she insisted they be returned to her bedside table. "How could you have removed my favorite flowers?"

We were enjoying our visit, a conversation of news and trivia, when she interrupted to ask, "What are you thinking?"

I had heard that question since I can remember. So my answer was usually an automatic, "nothing important," or whatever it might have been.

My mother was a person of rare intelligence. She was a prolific writer, a devotee of language. Even into her painful arthritic years, perhaps because of the pain, she wrote into the early morning hours, kneeling on a chair by her desk.

But people, particularly the disadvantaged and the infirm became her prime concern after the war. She combined a rare humanity with her poet's sensitivity. But for some reason, she denied this understanding freely given others, to her own children.

And so the matter of "truth" always existed between us. Sometimes it was thick as fog, other times as sheer as a curtain. But it was always there.

Truth had acquired a different image and importance to me since the recollected scene about fish tails. It became associated with my identity. And so that day, I had to ask, "Were you the only one who knew the truth? Or did I know, too?"



FROM THE FRYING PAN: Bill Hosokawa

## Taiwan Today

Taipei, Taiwan

Over the last 20 years or so I have been on this island five different times, and the economic progress being made here is startlingly visible. What struck me most forcefully this time, however, is the change in the social atmosphere, particularly the apparent healing of the deep rift that existed between the natives and the Chinese mainlanders who sought refuge here about the time the Communists took over the mainland in 1949.

Only a generation ago Taiwan was split by bitter and deep-seated prejudices. The Taiwanese resented the sudden influx of the mainlanders. Nearly two million escapees from the mainland poured onto the island within a period of months. They were looked upon as carpetbaggers competing for shelter and jobs, opportunists and city slickers.

The situation was exacerbated by the attitude of many Nationalist government officials who acted more like conquerors than liberators. Their arrogance upset the Taiwanese, and many said they wished they were back under Japanese rule which, also, was callous and sometimes savage.

The ill feeling was intensified by the provincialism of the Chinese who speak many different dialects and eat different kinds of food, a situation that causes some of them to look on strangers—even other Chinese—with suspicion if not loathing.

But time, education and a calculated government program have done much to eradicate the hostility. All this was evident on this trip, the most significant manifestation being the choice of a sixth generation Taiwanese, Shieh Tung-min, as vice president.

The young people of both groups were the ones who took the lead in breaking down the barriers. Sharing the same classrooms, they found differences melting away. The government replaced the native Taiwan dialect similar to Fukien-

ese, with Mandarin as the official language taught in the schools, and now almost everyone speaks it. In time there was intermarriage between young people from mainland families and young people from Taiwan families, although some of the matches were made in the face of strong opposition from the more conservative elders of the families.

The differences are less important now thanks in part to the government's attitude that everyone on Taiwan is Chinese and the island is the repository of Chinese culture. Almost everyone, that is. There are still several hundred thousand aborigines who trace their origins to Polynesia, and who were driven into the hills by the first Chinese immigrants.

They began to arrive about 1,400 years ago with the largest number making the move between 300 and 400 years back. The latest arrivals are still coming from the mainland, a few at a time, by way of Hong Kong and Macao, or to the offshore islands.

The migrants never abandoned their culture based on Confucianism. When the Japanese took over Taiwan as a prize of the Sino-Japanese war, they imposed their language on the schools but not necessarily in the homes. The Taiwanese stoutly refused to become Japanese.

Today there are still Taiwanese—mostly outside the country—who are working for independence of their island as a separate nation. But there are many more who have become members or backers of the Koumintang, the ruling party, and have accepted important leadership roles in national and provincial government. The new vice president has been governor of Taiwan since 1972. The city council of Taipei is overwhelmingly Taiwanese.

Nativity means less today than at any time in Taiwan's return to Chinese rule. These days, few seem to inquire whether a person is a Taiwanese or a mainland. From their point of view, they're all Chinese. □

EAST WIND: William Marutani



## And let the rest of the world go by

Philadelphia

There's a restful tune, known to most all of us, the refrain of which is the topic of this week's column. It's a soothing tune, a reassuring song, a sedative. My concern is that it does not become JACL's theme song by default. All-too-long perhaps, we have been hypnotized in self-introspection: even in that, I suggest, we haven't been doing a commendable job. For example, even on something that is close to home to us as Nisei—the issue of reparation—we do not appear to be able to get off the ground; we apparently cannot seem to get our act together, although the subject was raised by Edison Uno many bienniums ago at a national convention.

Perhaps the time is long overdue for JACL to move out of the sophomore stage of continued introspection, to march to a new drumbeat,

to dare to look at the horizons.

Oh, granted: this is easier said than done, for too long have too many of us been mesmerized by the comfort of the tried-and-true (but tired) topics of the past—conducting business in the same old way at the same old stand. But if we continue to clutch to the perspectives of the '50s and the '60s when we are in the '70s, and in the dawn of the '80s, we can only be regressive and stagnant.

I've frequently wondered why JACL and our nationally-elected leaders may not, do not, speak out on matters that concern us as Americans, to speak out as Nisei. For instance, you ask?

Well, for instance, just to pick out a few topics that come to mind: the Bakke case in which JACL apparently has assumed a position that appears to be at variance with our American brethren of the Jewish faith; the critical balance-of-trade deficit of our nation and Japan's tariff on our goods; the effect of "Koreagate," the

proselytizing by Rev. Syung Moon, on racial attitudes toward Orientals in the United States; restrictive emigration policies not only of Russia but also of the Philippines, Korea, etc.; Mideast peace and Israeli settlements in occupied territories.

I could go on, but I suspect that already a number of you are already disturbed by a mere recital of this superficial list.

Of course, there will be controversy, reactions—some of them perhaps vehement. If for no other reason, it is human nature to be upset when aroused from slumber. But in slumber, our vital signs also remain in hibernation. While the rest of the world goes by.

To be frank, I'm not at all sure that JACL is ready to move out of the past and into the now, and then cast our gaze to the horizons. On the other hand, there have been signs that all is not hopeless. That JACL dared, albeit be-

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# Salt Lake's Great in 78!

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## Student, faculty attitudes challenge Sacramento City College president

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—Recently, Sacramento City College president Jack Fujimoto told a group of faculty proudly that his surname, translated means "home of all prosperous warriors."

Shortly afterwards, he was approached by a faculty member who told him, "You're the man they brought in to be the 'hatchet man'."

The retort was definite. "I'm not a hatchet man for anybody. I want a happy experience too," Fujimoto said.

Appointed to the SCC presidency last July by the Los Rios Community College District Board of Trustees, Fujimoto was dean of the college and dean of instruction at Los Angeles Pierce College before coming to Sacramento.

He is also an active Sacramento JAACL member.

After a little more than half a year as SCC's chief executive, Fujimoto's major efforts have been directed toward improving communication between instructors and non-teaching employees to ease a situation where he sees "splinters here, there, everywhere... little cliques all around."

"In a sort of quiet, slow-moving way, I just want to get to meet people as people, not just as president and 'somebody' else."

The first few months as president were clouded with budgetary problems resulting from a reduction in the number of classes students took in the fall.

Though enrollment topped

14,000, state and federal government aid diminished because the class load dropped.

It became necessary to assign many regular daytime instructors to evening classes, often against their will, to remedy the problem, Fujimoto said.

In a further effort to counter the downturn in course sign-ups, Fujimoto proposed a recruitment drive, named "Project 2,000" to entice 2,000 or more students to take more courses before next fall.

Linked to the recruiting campaign are new television spots, intensified efforts to reach disadvantaged persons, joint counseling of high school students with other

## HIBAKUSHA

**Continued from Front Page**

Atomic Bomb Survivors in the U.S.A. (CABS) agreed with Nobuyuki.

Because the Japanese government provides for the care, treatment and twice annual check-ups of its A-bomb survivors, Kuramoto said American victims were traveling overseas to seek aid.

"The survivors need something," he said after his testimony. "The Nisei are left out and forgotten."

Kuramoto twice has written President Carter, asking financial assistance for another Japan medical mission to the U.S., similar to the one in Spring 1977.

His second letter was forwarded to the State Department, in the mistaken belief he was a Japanese national. The department explained that giving aid to victims of military strategy was inconsistent with American policy.

Kuramoto said the plea

should have been answered by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. "It was the Japanese section of the State Department," he said, "and I consider that an extreme insult. I am an American—not a Japanese national like they thought."

"To me, JAACL should protest this—that the government confused Japanese Americans with Japanese nationals. I kept hoping," he said of his correspondence to the White House. "Now, I am only disappointed."

Though four years ago he was met with intense negative reaction from the general public, Kuramoto said efforts to pass HR 5150 are met very favorably now.

He, together with Kaz Suzeishi, vice president of CABS, has vigorously pushed for the bill's passage. In all, they have located and recruited 392 survivors to the organization.

Other witnesses at the hearings included:

Kats Kunitsugu, representing Tsuyako Munehane, a CABS member who was ill; Dr. Joe Yamamoto, direc-

tor of UCLA's Adult Ambulatory Care Services; Dr. Mamoru Iga, sociology professor at CSU Northridge; Dr. Sam Horowitz, immediate past president, L.A. County Medical Assn.; Dr. John Auxier, director of Health Physics Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Tenn.; and Max Mont, vice president and chairman of the committee on legislation, Community Relations Conference of Southern California.

Acknowledged supporters of HR 5150 include:

L.A. County Board of Supervisors; L.A. County Medical Assn.; Japanese American Medical Assn.; California Medical Assn.; American Medical Assn.; Community Relations Conference of Southern California; Japanese Welfare Rights Organization; Service for Asian American Youth; National Group of United Buddhist Churches of America; Asian American Students Dept., UCLA; World Friendship Committee; Manzanar Committee; Japanese American Chamber of Commerce and JAACL.

Nobuyuki also presented resolutions from San Francisco Mayor George Moscone, Supervisor Gordon Lau and the UC Board of Regents.

## SEKO

**Continued from Page 5**

My mother's mind was always quicker and better than mine, so I prepared for an evasive answer. But she said, "What a peculiar thing to ask. But of course, you always knew the truth."

"Then what about you? Did you know the truth, too?" I asked.

A familiar, enigmatic smile crossed her face. "I knew the truth, too." Then, "I'm tired," she complained suddenly. And, "Why is that important now? What's past is past."

Some instinct said there would be no future opportunity to press my point. So with the last merciless claim that the surviving make on the dying, I had her repeat that I had known the truth. My mother never had an

other day of sustained alertness or energy again. She died a few weeks later at the age of 69.

I raged at the lateness of my life, for I was 45, before this backward pilgrimage for truth could begin. Or is it another law of man's nature that freedom comes to sons and daughters only on the death of a parent?

And how does one find the road home so late? Already I have discovered that there is no direct freeway. Yet as a child, I imagined streets as always being straight. Perhaps they were once upon a spring.

But time has twisted and turned the roads. Memory and myth meld a mystique. And then I think, what was and is the truth? And is it so important?

### MARUTANI

**Continued from Page 5**

lately, to undertake seeking some sense of fairness for one who was considered a pariah and who unquestionably was a target of unrelenting, vicious persecution, Iva Toguri—such gives a ray of hope that JAACL has not lost its backbone.

The question is whether that backbone can, will be firmed up by JAACL leadership before it atrophies beyond recovery.

"Are ye able?"

**Art exhibit**  
LOS ANGELES—Forty Asian-American artists will display their works at UCLA's Ackerman Student Union, April 12-14, as part of Asian Perspectives, a week-long series on Asian and Pacific Island peoples in the U.S.



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## chapter pulse

Continued from Previous Page

ter 7 p.m. for sorting and pricing. Those wishing an earlier pick-up are to call: Ko Ichiji (234-2689), Dennis Yotsuya (526-7822) or Kimi Sato (524-6338).

Volunteers are needed to price, sell and monitor during the sale. They should call Mary Otani (524-5818).

The Issei senior citizens group meets the first and third Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Fairmont Clubhouse. An extended services program, such as transportation and escort services for senior citizens, was being planned.

The chapter's Issei appreciation night April 9, at El Cerrito Community Center will start with a potluck supper (Japanese food preferred) at 5 p.m. and a program emceed by Ben Take-shita as the finale. Grace Goto and John Hiramoto are co-chairpersons; Eiko Sugihara is in charge of the supper committee.

### ● Fremont

"The History of the Japanese in Southern Alameda County" will be the topic of guest speaker, George Kato, Wednesday, April 12, 8 p.m. at the Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church in Union City (Alvarado-Niles Blvd.).

Kato is a well-known Fremont grower with an equally well-known fruit and vegetable roadstand at the corner of Stevenson and Mission Blvds. He has not only grown up in this area, but has also done research on the history and immigration of the Japanese in this area.

Kato's talk is jointly sponsored by the Fremont JAACL and the Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church.

### ● Fowler

A turnout of 65 was present for the Fowler JAACL dinner meeting at Holiday Inn last month to hear Ken Winslow of Kingsburg speak on inheritance and estate planning. He was introduced by chapter president Makoto Mukai.

Noting that state inheritance tax is now one of the highest in the nation, Winslow urged it would be wise to have a plan prepared now in the way of estate planning, trusts or wills as after the death of a spouse (usually, the husband passes away before the wife), there will be tax problems. The attorney or certified public accountant can assist minimizing taxes, he added.

### ● Livingston-Merced

Springtime events for Livingston-Merced JAACLers began April 1 with a gala Issei recognitions dinner at

Livingston High School, which included the Chidori Band of San Jose as the featured entertainment, an exhibit of bunka embroidery and the potluck dinner. Frances Kirihara and Sherman Kishi co-chaired the program.

Buichi Kajiwara will be in charge of the annual spring picnic scheduled for Sunday, April 30, at Henderson Park starting from noon.

Doug Frago and Kishi will co-chair the program for the May 20 general meeting.

George Yagi will chair the graduation outing June 17 at Seacliff State Beach.

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