The Iranian Situation

News Briefs

Washington-The White House this past week (Nov. 26) acknowledged the comments of Iranian Americans and announced an Immigration Department policy that would help non-U.S. citizens to become American citizens.

Anne Varney, assistant to the President, said, "The President's answer to the Iran issue is concerned with the situation of the Iranian Americans and the United States' policy toward Iran.

The President expressed his concern to a group of governors on Nov. 16, when he said, "This is one of the problems that we face in the world, and it is a problem that we must face responsibly.

Rumors of Iranian Americans being welcomed in the United States were reported in the New York Times.

Iranians have been accepted as "aliens" in the United States, and the President has made it clear that we are not going to act precipitously.

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Assemblyman Mori cleared of TV flap over credit card use

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Democratic Assemblyman S. Floyd Mori of Pleasanton did nothing wrong when he drove his family to Salt Lake City, Utah, in a van leased by the legislature for his legislative business, an Assembly rules committee report said last month.

Mori's use of the van became an issue when he was traveling to Utah by a San Francisco television news crew earlier this year.

Asked by a newsman if he had ever used the van out of state, he replied that he had not. The television crew had film of him doing so.

That resulted in an investigation by Frederick J. Taugher, chief administrative officer of the rules committee.

Taugher's report said, "The trip was for legitimate state business, all necessary authorizations were given in advance, every relevant policy was followed, and Mr. Mori's travel was cheaper to the state than if he had traveled by commercial air carrier."

While in Utah, Taugher said Mori was authorized to meet with five Utah or Salt Lake City officials during the nine-hour trip.

"Moonies' behind war epic movie

NEW YORK — The $18-million movie, "Inchoo," now shooting in Korea and starring Laurence Olivier, Jacqueline Bisset, David Janssen and Ben Gazzara, is "a front for the New Sun Miyung Moon and his Moonies," the New York Post was told by Robert B. Boettcher, former staff director of a House investigation into Korean-American relations.

In a story published Sept. 13, Boettcher further claimed that the government is "Moon's puppet." "Canadian filmmaker Claude Gagnon's "Keitoru" is a sensitive depiction of the lives of five young Japanese in Kyoto starring in a Hiroshima and Aiko Kinomura. It is noted that a foreigner can make young Japanese act like real people, whereas most new Japanese films only manage to show us caricatures," writes critic Ian Buruma in the Japan Times.

Mimijurie Marquex, 25, of the Philippines was crowned Miss International Beauty Pageant at Tokyo. Hideo Harn of Japan was first.

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Portland, Conn. — A national student relocation council is attempting to recognize individuals and organizations that were involved in the establishment of the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council during World War II. The council was formed to help the National YMCA-WyCA, Pacific College Association and other educational institutions, including Robert Gordon Sproul of the University of California, Los Angeles, and Paul Sieg of the University of Washington and Ramon Bird of Occidental College.

The central office of Philadelphia was under auspices of the American Friends Service Committee. A few of the Nisei here who were among those assisted recently met and discussed the possibility of commemorating the humanitarian efforts of the various organizations and individuals. "It wasn’t popular to support Japanese Americans to be back in those days," recalls Dr. Lafayette Noda, a member of the group. "Many of us were able to pursue successful professional careers because of the education we received during the war," he said.

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Only a few days remain to this year and decade. Perhaps it is symptomatic and symbolic that it concludes in a veil of un- easy haze. It remains the work of historians and social scientists, prophets and artists, to reconstruct the sense and shape and soul of this. When I read the chronology of this peri- od, beginning with Cambodia and Laos, it is easy to perceive that the war is over, Iran confirms the shrinking and fragile quality of world geography. As the supply of natural resources de- clines and demand increases, the concept of universal peace becomes even more elusive than ever.

I suppose that is what has been most disturbing during the “70s. That this naive and pic- tacular phrase has been shattered, not only in front-page news, but in ordinary lives. When I attempt to write a cohesive narrative of this period, I all distil are foot-notes. The only certainty is that time passed because I aged from 42 to 52.

If the aphorism is correct, life begins at 40. And the aphorism would support the logic that mid-life holds new promise. The idea did not work for me. I was too tired from looking for lost dogs to be seeking something as strenuous as retrieving. Some of our harder acquaintances were off in full pursuit of the dream. Some have not been seen or heard from since. But word comes through other sources that former executives, now homesteading in the wilds, are happy and well in their pri- vate environment.

Marriages were dissolved among our friends with increasing frequency during this time. When we last entertained, it occurred to me later that five of our guests were recently divorced. The notoriety fact is that divorce has become so common it elicits no comment. Any- more. Not since my ideal of a marriage fell apart. I had considered this the perfect couple. The illusion was reinforced by his all-American Anglo masculinity and her Asian American fast. Last year, he sent me a message saying since we were not a couple. It is not the first such mes- sage I have received. I only wonder why people think of them. And I wonder, too, exactly what “sin”, represents.

During this decade, there was consider- able dialogue about “values” and “priori- ties.” In the word game, “morality” and “credibility”, were losers. After Water- gate, anything seemed possible. The ero- sion of faith in tradition and institu- tions, or more precisely, in the individuals who represented them, was the virus of the “70s. Even an organization as conserva- tive as the JACL, was a victim of the era of the 70s.

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FROM THE MIDWEST: Bill Yoshino

IF SOMEONE in your life deserves a $75 Christmas present of exceeding beauty, significance and permanence, then look no further than to consider a book by Minoru Yamasaki titled "A Life in Architecture." Published by John Weatherhill, Inc., the book is in the familiar large, coffee table display format. But this is a volume whose text you will want to read, and whose 116 photographs (90 in color) you will be admiring time and again.

Yamasaki, as readers of Pacific Citizen should know, is the Seattle-born Nisei who went on to become one of the world's foremost architects. He and his associates, who are based in a Detroit suburb, have designed more than 250 buildings. Two in Chief Yamasaki's own home in Birmingham, Mich., are featured in the book.

Some of the others, and the year they were commissioned, are: St. Louis (Mo.) Airport Terminal, 1951; Dhahran Air Terminal, 1951; Federal Security Pavilion, Seattle World's Fair, 1959; Century Plaza Hotel, 1961, and Century Plaza Towers, 1968, Los Angeles; Bank of Oklahoma, Tulsa, 1972; and of course the World Trade Center.

Each of the buildings treated in the book is a scintillating monument to utility and beauty; Yamasaki is an artist whose canvas is space and he paints with lasting steel, aluminum, glass, and brick. His work has been seen and used by millions each day, and what greater monuments can a man leave for posterity? In his book Yamasaki tells lucidly and simply what he tried to accomplish in each of his projects, and how he achieved the end that he sought.

But equally interesting and inspiring is Yamasaki's personal story, two stories, actually, since the front of the book. He was born to Japanese immigrant parents and some of his earliest memories are of living in a Seattle tenement with an outhouse at the rear of the building.

FROM THE MIDWEST: Bill Yoshino

The Invisible Woman: from Geisha to Feminist

PART TWO

An Address
by Christina Adachi

(Continued from Nov, 30)

My mother and my grandmother cooked and cleaned and waited on my father's every table. My sister and I helped with these chores and learned how to sew and iron and other traditional female tasks, and my brothers never had to bend down to sweep the floor in the summer and shovelled the snow in the winter and took out the garbage when my father yelled at them.

My father and my brothers all drive, of course, and the men learn at 16 like most normal people. My mother, my sister and I drive as well. I learned how to drive, until two months ago, that is, when I got a job where I absolutely had to, and finally, at the un­ tender age of 30, I learned. My mother and my sister still do not drive.

My two brothers are fantasy athletes. Paul and Rich can play any sport and play it well. My sister Pattie and I can roller­ skate and that's about it. I don't think any of us is a ta­ lentant of our athletic prowess. I think, however, that's the way my good brothers are, and the fact that I don't seem to be in­ herently spastic, I might have been good at sports, too, if those abilities had been de­ veloped and encouraged in me in the way they were in my brothers. This is all just to show that there was definitely some differentiation made based on sex in my family, and I think that's typical. So, Japanese American women come from a traditional­ al background, a culture that emphasizes obedience, polite­ ness, and non-assertive behav­

ior. We avoid confrontation at all costs, we try always to please, and never to offend. We possess such an extreme that I sometimes think a Japanese woman de­ fending herself against rapist might actually worry about of­ fending the rapist. We hide our true feelings, especially anger or disappointment.

We walk in the shadow of the Japanese geisha, the sweet, lighting, subservient geisha who massages your back, brings you your food with a smile and low­ered head, and walks ten paces behind her man. And to an indiscriminat­ ed Western society that does not distinguish between different Asian peoples, we are also Suzie Wong or the bar girls and prostitutes the American soldier met in Viet­ nam and other parts of South­ east Asia.

Somewhere in this maze of flickering images from B movies and cultural stere­ otypes and real Japanese women there is a real Japanese American woman, attempting to assert herself as an indi­ vidual, emerging from the sha­ dows and speaking up. Raising her voice for equal pay and equal employment opportuni­ ties and the Equal Rights Amendment and the right to legal abortion and child care centers and all the other wom­ en's rights issues. And the concept of "feminine" or "un­ feminine" is an anachronism.

The quiet calmness of the noisy women's libber.

Not without paying the price of course. Not without offend­ ing some people, and even shocking most. In Yamasaki's "The perfecting of the Invisible Woman" B.Y.

His mother insisted he learn to play the piano and dressed him in Little Lord Fauntleroy clothes which caused him to be regarded as something of a sissy. But I remember him better as a gutty sandbox football player who tucked fiercely and earned the respect of both team­ mates and opponents.

One day his uncle, Koken Ito, who had been graduated in architecture from the University of California, stopped in Seattle en route to a job in Chicago and showed Yamasaki some of his drawings. "I almost exploded with excitement when I saw them," Yamasaki writes. "Right then and there I decided to become an architect, and I have been steadfast in that resolution ever since, except for a few rare periods."

One of those times was after graduation from high school when Yamasaki was offered a job in the office of a Japanese trading firm. He saw it as an opportunity to make some money and buy a car, which he wanted badly, and his father was sweet on. But his father refused to let him take the job and insisted he go to the University of Washington to study architecture. "I have respected and loved my father for this advice, and for being so decisive and firm with me when I really needed it."

But the struggle was only starting. To keep himself in school, Yamasaki worked summers in the Alaska salmon canneries where he was paid $30 a month for a base 66­ hour week, with 25 cents an hour overtime, putting in as many as 126 hours a week.

After graduation in the Depression year of 1933, Yam­ asaki went to New York, where he worked wrapping dishes for $71 a week at an importing firm distributing chinaware, teaching watercolor classes at night before he was offered a job as a draftsman. At last he was on his way, and it is notable that his creative urge was not dulled by the brutality of his experiences.

Yamasaki has a fascinating story to tell, and he tells it well, but you will have to read it for yourself and share with him his sense of beauty.

I came here because your interest was high enough to attract my attention.

ANNUAL INTEREST RATES ON INSURED SAVINGS

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<th>6-month CD Rates</th>
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Aikido

Los Angeles

Located in the Seima or Chintosh district of Los Angeles is Koby's Pharmacy. The owner, Akira Kobayashi, carries more than the usual items found in a drug store since he has things Japanese and Hawaiian.

Beyond the unusual, he carries a complete line of judo and karate outfits (q). Akira is also a life-long judoist, therefore, I was quite surprised the other week when he stated, "John, if I had to do it over again, I would choose aikido over the other martial arts and if you are allowed, you should write about aikido in your column." Naturally, I asked, "Why does someone like you, a lifetime judo person endorse aikido over the other martial arts?" He responded by saying that aikido is the only martial art where you can improve as you grow older. Both young and old can participate. That statement was not earth-shattering but good judo and karate people usually peak out at about 30 and surely not over 40 years of age. I will never see again but my aikido gets stronger daily.

Besides the physical conditioning that aikido provides, it provides a therapeutic outlet of the tensions and pressures that mount up during the workday. It helps the body and, in time, taut-muscles will begin to relax and become stronger. Aikido provides an avenue for developing character. The increase in crime in the streets, at home, is frightening and the knowledge of some kind of self-defense, I am certain, can prove helpful.

The founder of aikido, Morihei Ueshiba, was throwing his students around until he went to his deathbed 80 years ago. I hope I can last that long.

Calendar

* DEC 15 (Saturday)
  New York—Eliot Shiner, Japanese American National Museum, 5 Ave. 3 pm

* CENTRAL CA—Christmas party
  Stockton—Christmas party
  Valence—Pensioner Church
  Kyle—Pensioner Church
  Monterey—Men's club
  Fremont—NYE party
  New Mexico—NYE party
  San Diego—NYE party

* JAN 3 (Sunday)
  Philadelphia—Year's meeting, Winch Moore Cathedral Church, 3 pm
  Baltimore—Year's meeting, New Year, New Year's Day, New Year's Day, New Year
  San Antonio—New Year's Day, New Year's Day, New Year's Day
  Phoenix—SOU, New Year's Day

* JAN 11 (Sunday)
  San Francisco—SOU
  Solano—New Year, Chinese New Year, Chinese New Year, Chinese New Year
  Jan 13 (Sunday)
  San Diego—New Year, Chinese New Year, Chinese New Year

* DEC 30 (Sunday)
  Honolulu—Samurai Shogun, Samurai Shogun, Samurai Shogun, Samurai Shogun
  Honolulu—Samurai Shogun, Samurai Shogun, Samurai Shogun, Samurai Shogun

* DEC 31 (Monday)
  Berkeley—Centre Cultural Oakland Beer Garden, Dinner, 8 pm, Centrum Club, 8 pm
  Cleveland—NYE party
  Fresno—NYE party
  Palm Lake—NYE party

* JAN 4 (Thursday)
  Philadelphia—Year's meeting, Year's meeting, Year's meeting, Year's meeting

* JAN 10 (Thursday)
  Philadelphia—Year's meeting, Year's meeting, Year's meeting, Year's meeting

* JAN 13 (Thursday)
  San Diego—New Year, Chinese New Year, Chinese New Year, Chinese New Year

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6—PACIFIC CITIZEN / Friday, December 14, 1979 —
JACLers Visit South America ... Counterpart in Brazil

We toured the Center, a large four-story building with the entire top floor devoted to a museum depicting historical highlights of the Japanese in Brazil, and the earliest settlement days. I found it extremely enlightening and interesting because I had never been in the United States have anything comparable to this. During the course of our exchange, we learned that a dramatic change took place among the Japanese-Brazilians since World War II. Until then, they tended to remain isolated, and were sometimes afraid to do too little to be handled by the Brazilians in general. Their participation in Brazilian life was almost nonexistent in business dealings. Of course there was virtually no upgrading in marriages. They remained in the rural areas of the state where they boarded with nontypical truck farmers. Since the mid-1940s and early 50s, the Japanese-Brasilians have changed greatly, and their lives in Brazil would be comparable to ours in the United States. The Japanese-Brazilians have a wide choice of occupations with proportionate number in the professional fields. They have entered politics. Japanese-Brazilians sit in the state legislature and in the federal congress.

Was the just coincidental that our lives are so parallel in many aspects although contours apart? Is it because of our common ancestry? (To Be Concluded)

Nisei educator heads national push for "community services'

Yoshio Nakamura

WHITTIER, Calif. — As president of the National Council on Community Services and Continuation Education this year, Yoshio Nakamura of Los Angeles hopes to improve public understanding of "community services" at the community college level as meaning classes for adults, credit-free classes, non-credit classes and extension classes.

Over the past decade, such services have shown an 82% increase and the trend indicates more people are pursuing post-secondary education today than learning for credit, Nakamura said. Hence, college programmers are planning to offer more courses in terms of convenient hours and accessibility despite the passage of Proposition 13.

Nakamura, a USC graduate in 1965, taught in Brazil for a year, and then taught in Chile. He is married to the former Grace Shinoda and has three children, Linda Ohto, Daniel and Joel. The Nakamuras are Selancco JACL members.

Education

Miguel Danker, acting assistant professor in Asian American Studies, will speak on "Race, Class and Political and Foreign Policy: An Exploratory Study of Japanese American Culture." The seminar will be held at the JACL Lounge on Feb. 22 at 6:30 p.m.

Press Review

Mikako Katsuki, a kibyoku in the Los Angeles Times from 1975-1980, will speak on "Women's Empowerment in the Japanese American Community," at the JACL Lounge on March 31 at 6:30 p.m.

WINGS TO CHINA ...

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Nisei educator heads national push for 'community services'...