House Judiciary Committee votes to retain 5th preference

WASHINGTON—Continuing its session marking up the Simpson-Mazzoli immigration bill, the full House Judiciary Committee last week (Sept. 16) approved a proposal and added final five visa preference categories of alien admissions.

The fifth preference had been called for by Asian American organizations, since those aliens are used frequently by Asian immigrants (70% of the backlog of fifth preference applicants are from Asian Pacific countries).

The proposal allows a U.S. citizen, 21 years of age or older, to petition for preference to any alien spouse and children. The JACL and other Asian American organizations to lobby for its retention.

Norman Mineta (D-Calif.) congratulated the Asian American groups which worked to press for existing laws (P.C. Sept. 17).

“The fifth and second visas are integral part to the U.S. policy of family reunification,” declared Mineta. “It would have been a tragedy to wipe out these important preferences.”

The motion to retain the five preferences was made by Rep. Peter Rodino (D-N.J.) Judiciary committee chair. He had the two preferences removed, Mineta said he was prepared to introduce legislation to retain them.

Trade hearings open: U.S. warns Japan to ease curbs

WASHINGTON—Leaders of Congress, the Reagan Administration and American agriculture warned Sept. 14 that Japan may face problems in maintaining barriers to imports from the United States unless curbs on imports are eased.

“If there is no other way to get these products across...then we are going to have to go the route that my colleagues and I have advocated,” said Sen. Charles Percy, R-Ill., chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

David R. MacDonald, deputy U.S. trade representative, told the committee that the United States remains committed to resisting pressures for protectionism but added, “We must convince Japan of the strength of those pressures, and of the necessity to take the kinds of actions that will deliver or diminish them.”

Robert B. Delano, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, said that on recent visits to Japan he cautioned Japanese business leaders and legislators about pressures that are building in our country to limit the sale of our automobiles, their motorcycles, their radishes and radish seeds—just as they have restricted what we are allowed to sell in their country.

Percy, MacDonald and Delano spoke as the Senate Foreign Relations Committee opened hearings on U.S.-Japanese trade, in which the United States rates Japan as an ally.

Percy said that delano would begin a trip to Japan toward the end of the month. He stressed that recent steps by Japan to ease import restrictions, most notably in 1981, have been welcome, but have not gone far enough.

“Many in the auto industry have said that new tariffs on Japan may not be enough to save the jobs. The way to do that is to increase the size of the market for American products,” Percy said.

Seattle Sansei dies in three-car crash

SEATTLE---A three-car collision on Interstate 90 Aug. 4 resulted in the death of Thomas A. Egashira, 21, of South Seattle. Several other passengers were also injured in the pileup, which started a fire in one of the vehicles.

Egashira’s car collided in a travel lane on the bridge. He was reportedly thrown out of his car and killed. His body was found on the roadway.

His death is being investigated by the Seattle Police Department.

A local community can certainly keep foreign cars out of this country and it can probably create at least temporarily some additional jobs in the American automobile industry. It could also create those jobs at the expense of other Americans’ jobs in the export industries,” he said.

Wash. Post against local content bill

WASHINGTON—The Washington Post Sept. 9 came out against a local content bill requiring a high percentage of U.S.-made components on imported vehicles, particularly Japanese vehicles, terming it unfair.

The paper said in its editorial: “Protectionist legislation can shift jobs from one country to another and from one line of work to another. But it can’t increase the total number of jobs.”

A local content rule can certainly keep foreign cars out of this country and it can probably create at least temporarily some additional jobs in the American automobile industry. It could also create those jobs at the expense of other Americans’ jobs in the export industries,” he said.

101-year-old Issei survives ordeal in forest

The son added, “He did comment that he didn’t see any bears. Smith of the sheriff’s department said the older Minagawa wore a Motorscooter, bike overcoat, and rubber boots. He lost five feet tall and weighs about 115 pounds. Smith said that Minagawa had ridden a car in a family with members to a spot on the side of the road near their home where they often had gathered to harvest mushrooms. The last time he was seen was last around 6:30 p.m. Aug. 31 by his family. He was also seen near a mountain road.

“Whenever searchers found him, he would be out and he just kind of nodded and smiled at them,” Smith said. “He indicated he was happy he was found.”

“Every time I see a mushroom, I think of him. He never spent the night in the woods before,” Smith said. He has never spent the night in the woods before."

JapaneseCanadians seek redress forWW2 relocation

VANCOUVER, B.C.—Canadians of Japanese ancestry plan to seek redress for the forced removal of thousands of families from the coast area of British Columbia during World War II.

Leaders of the 45,000-member Japanese Canadian community are preparing to ask Parliament for financial compensation, in light of the recent avalanche of legislation for redress of wrongs for persons of Japanese descent.

Community leaders are hoping to reach a consensus of Japanese Canadian organizations in 16 centers across the country this fall before approaching the Canadian government with a plan for restitution.

The Japanese Canadians are considering filing a class action suit including direct compensation, plus compensation for the forced removal of tens of thousands of families from the coastal area of British Columbia during World War II.

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Community leaders are hoping to reach a consensus of Japanese Canadian organizations in 16 centers across the country this fall before approaching the Canadian government with a plan for restitution.

Chinese protest in L’ti Tokyo against Japan history books

LOS ANGELES—Chinese and Korean American groups protested “distortions” in new Japanese textbook histories of World War II by staging a peaceful march in the streets of Little Tokyo Sept. 15. Hundreds of protesters carried placards and marched from City Hall rally to the Japanese consulate two blocks away.

Their demonstration stemmed from the Japanese government’s decision last July that it would revise the history textbooks used in Japanese schools (PC Aug. 6). The new books play down Japan’s aggression of Asian immigrants and the Chinese invasion of China in 1931 as described in an “advance” and the deportation of Koreans by Japan into forced wartime labor is toned down as well.

The Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association and the West Coast Chinese Professionals Society were among those protesting.

But the protesters in Little Tokyo demanded that the textbooks be withdrawn by 1985. Otherwise, the march threatened a boycott of Japanese goods if the changes are not made away.

The demonstration, held on the 51st anniversary of the Japanese invasion of Manchuria, was planned by six Chinese organizations which formed the Southern California Alliance Against Japanese Distortion of History.

The Japanese government said it was expected to participate as well.

The Chinese Consul General in Los Angeles told the demonstrators that he did not see them.

“I have been told by the Foreign Ministry and the South Korean foreign ministry that they have been carrying out an investigation of the people not to eat Japanese food or purchase Japanese-made automobiles.

The organizers of the march stressed that the protest was not aimed at the Japanese people, but rather the Japanese government and the issue of how textbooks are taught in those countries.

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Noguchi hearings draw to close but coroner does not testify

LOUISIANA—Former county coroner Dr. Thomas T. Noguchi decided not to testify at his trial in the Civil Service Commission hearings at which he is appealing his dismissal. Noguchi's attorney, Godfrey Isaac, made the announcement after the eighth week of hearings which heard more than 500 witnesses. County attorney William Masterson expected this week (Sept. 20) to present a "brilliant" defense of the defense testimony as the hearings were to be concluded on.

Noguchi was deposed last April from his post as Chief Medical-Examiner Coroner by the County Board of Supervisors on charges of mismanagement and misusing his department.

Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, the lone board member who voted against Noguchi's dismissal, said, "It's a shame that the other four, released figures from the County Auditor Controller showing that as of Sept. 10, the Noguchi hearings have cost county taxpayers $174,728 in legal and legislative fees. Hahn had predicted last July that "Dr. Noguchi will win this case," adding that it was "regrettable that the money being spent on attorneys (for the county) is not instead being spent on meaningful improvements in the coroner's office as recommended by Dr. Noguchi."

During last week's civil service hearings, Dr. Cyril H. Wecht, a former coroner and now a Democratic nominee for the U.S. Senate in Pennsylvania, praised Noguchi for having earned a "well-deserved reputation as top leader in forensic pathology." He added that under Noguchi's guidance, the Los Angeles Coroner's Department had become "the best known in the world."

"He is a leader as opposed to being a practitioner or student in the field," said Wecht. He also challenged critics who claimed Noguchi sensationalized reports on the deaths of celebrities, contending the cases handled locally were the "most exciting and dramatic cases of the century." and "...the coroner's findings were public record.

Dr. George Genther, coroner for the City and County of St. Louis, testified that he and Noguchi had "put together a proposal in 1979 for a new, electronic data processing system". Genther, whose own office is one of the few in the nation that is currently computerized, added that the new system would have improved the conditions for which Noguchi's office had been criticized. But the study was "put on hold" because of lack of funding.

Nathan Dembin, a New York attorney and former assistant district attorney for the Bronx, told of a "1978 tragedy" in which Noguchi's office had "missed" a chance to save a human life. Dembin added that to the detriment of the cases, Noguchi's office had also misused money, "...and the Korean American National Association of Japanese Canadians (NAJC) reported to the Japanese government."

"In 1964 there were 13,835 Canadian citizens among the 23,648 Japanese living in Canada—of whom 21,066 were in British Columbia."

In February 1964, two months after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the Canadian government ordered Japanese Canadians to evacuate the coast and save the interior of Canada. In many cases, homes, farms, fishing boats and other property were confiscated and sold at greatly reduced prices.

Kadota added that the backlash against Japanese Canadians during the war was engineered by B.C. Members of the United States Military Government.

"Mackenzie King badly needed support of liberals in B.C.," Kadota concluded. "...and the support of liberals in B.C., brought the King government."

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Former Nisei queen responds to rift over ‘mixed ancestry’

LOS ANGELES—In response to the recent controversy stirred up in the Rafu Shimpo newspaper over the topic of “Eurasian” or “mixed ancestry” claims by certain Nisei women and queens and candidates (PC Sept. 10), Hedy Posey, a former queen, penned her feelings in a letter to the Rafu’s editor.

Posey, the 1980 queen and Gardena Valley JACL candidate, wrote Aug. 10 that “it was about time that one of the subjects of this controversy voiced her side” on the issue.

“First of all, I may be only 50 percent Japanese, but I’m as proud of that race as I am of any other. In my case, I believe if I were 100 percent, I’d be proud of that too. Of course I am proud of my Caucasian half as well. But I don’t feel that anyone should be embarrassed or ashamed of their mixed ancestry.”

She added that she grew up in a Japanese neighborhood here with a Japanese family, but that “at the same time, Japanese culture and language was not something I knew. I was also taught very few things about the Japanese culture, but I have always been inspired by it.”

“It’s a funny thing, because although I have Japanese blood, instead of ‘melting’ into the Asian community, I sometimes feel like a drop of oil in a glass of water,” she noted.

The daughter of Caletv and Akiko Posey noted, “During World War II, Nisei fought to be accepted as Americans. Isn’t it ironic that in this day and age, that I have to fight to be accepted as a Japanese American.”

“Since she had represented the Los Angeles Japanese community, I sometimes feel more of a struggle,” added Posey.

“It breaks my heart to think of the people who have been so proud to represent aren’t proud that I’m representing them.”

Acquited Chô Sôo Lee thanks Asian American support groups

SAN FRANCISCO—Chô Sôo Lee, the Korean immigrant who was acquitted in his retrial Sept. 3 for the 1957 Chinatown murder of Yee Yat, offered his praise of the Asian American groups who supported him, reported Asian Week (AW) recently.

“It was tremendous. Every day I would go to court and feel strong and very encouraged that I was not on trial alone. People from all over the country, from all over the country, would send me support and encouragement.”

Lee and his wife Sarah Lee are now in the process of rebuilding their lives, he told the San Francisco Examiner.

A member of the committee to Free Chô Sôo Lee, which was created to raise the possibility Lee was not guilty, Yee Yat, offered his praise of the Asian American groups who supported him, reported Asian Week (AW) recently.

“It was tremendous. Every day I would go to court and feel strong and very encouraged that I was not on trial alone. People from all over the country, from all over the country, would send me support and encouragement.”

Lee said he still loves San Francisco, which he called “our second home.” He has not yet decided where he will live.

Sôo Lee remains in jail, but his wife Sarah Lee is not. She said she is happy to be reunited with her husband.

Berkeley after school program scheduled for Sept. 30

BERKELEY—An after school program scheduled for Sept. 30 at the Berkeley Youth Center has slated its 5th Annual American Asian Film Festival from Sept. 30—Oct. 1. The film was held at the urging of an organization known as Media Artists Against Discrimination, which seeks to reform the affirmative action policies of television and motion picture corporations.

The commissioners heard testimony from representatives of various industry guilds, unions, and companies. Among them was Sumi Haru, National Recording Secretary and Ethnic Equal Opportunities Committee chair of the Screen Actors Guild, who commented that some companies have taken steps to address the issue.

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Friday, September 24, 1982 / PACIFIC CITIZEN—3

Entertainment industry bias probed

LOS ANGELES—Hearings on the state of minority employment in the entertainment industry were held last week in City Hall here, conducted by the Human Relations Commission. The sessions were held at the urging of an organization known as Media Artists Against Discrimination, which seeks to reform the affirmative action policies of television and motion picture corporations.

The commissioners heard testimony from representatives of various industry guilds, unions, and companies. Among them was Sumi Haru, National Recording Secretary and Ethnic Equal Opportunities Committee chair of the Screen Actors Guild, who commented that some companies have taken steps to address the issue.

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The book ($10 each for Calif. residents, $14.50 outside of Calif.) can be ordered from the Tule Lake Committee, 1716 Ocean Ave, Box 200, San Francisco, CA 94118.

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YE EDITOR’S DESK: by Harry Honda

For 30 Years
This shall be our finale under this title. “Ye Editor’s Desk”, which first appeared as a column in the December, 1962 issue of the Pacific Citizen, as we were starting our sixth year, sitting literally over millions of dollars (the new San Francisco Bank occupied the ground level of the Miyako Hotel where the JACL and PC had offices). But PC was pinching pennies in those days as we had asked our regular contributors—Bill Hoshokawa, the late Larry Tajiri (PC editor, 1942-1952), Henry Mori covering Southern California, and the late Elmer Ogawa who kept the Pacific Northwest in the PC pages with his photos and columns—to write every other week as long as they could. We would select the best of those columns to push the “Nisei angle” to the world. We have seen it again in Beirut, by a single nationally circulated publication with a Japanese American perspective.

With Imamura handling editorial reins, we believe PC had waited for superpowers—the United States and the Soviet Union. We are extremely slow to learn from history. Or, if we learn, it is not necessarily with regret. The Nisei began to develop their own leadership, and we have seen it again in Beirut, by a single nationally circulated publication with a Japanese American perspective. We have seen it again in Beirut, by a single nationally circulated publication with a Japanese American perspective.

As for news and events, we would be at a loss to tell you what is going on in the 11 chapters, internationally or locally. Editors, please keep us informed of what is happening in your chapters. (Ye Editor’s Desk), which first appeared in the November 24, 1982 issue of the Pacific Citizen, is a regular feature to keep our readers informed of what is happening in the chapters.

Letterbox

• Canadian Nisei Vets

Editor: In reviewing Prof. Roger Daniels’ book, “2/32” (PC, 7/22), you stated that Canadian Nisei veterans were accepted by the military when war came to Canada in 1939. Whereas the U.S. military (not the Navy) was open to the Nisei except for a few chapters.

Your statement is basically correct. For the sake of completeness, we should mention that 200 Canadian Japanese were later accepted for linguistic intelligence training. Our sources are the Canadian National Archives and the Japanese Canadian Association of British Columbia.

• Masaoka Videotape

Editor: Enclosed is a check for $50 for a videotape recording of Mike Masaoka’s activism at the Gardena convention (PC, Aug. 20, Hoshokawa’s Column). I.G. Hideyo, Horibe, Oregon.

As far as we know, the videotapes of the Convention and Mike Masaoka’s address are still in the process of duplication. More information will be published as soon as possible. Our understanding is that a copy will circulate among the chapters. Individuals wanting a copy should make arrangements with some local individual.

What does Nishinaga think of “Ye Editor’s Desk” anyway? The people of Japan are descended from a multitude of races; including migrants from Korea, China, Manchuria, Mongolia, Okinawa, Taiwan, Philippines, Indonesia, Polynesia, plus the indigenous Ainu, Jomon, and Yawo whose origins are still unknown. Thus, Japanese people are bound together by a common nationality, language, culture, and history—nationally as well as internationally—while people of different nationalities live in peace.

• Eurasian? Queens

Editor: I do not much care for beauty contests, but the “Miss Japan America” was not the best in that competition. More on your part, but it was the best of your showing.

Chiaroscuro

Editor’s Note: The following statement by Livingston-Merced JACL was distributed throughout the floor of the JACL National Convention in an attempt to persuade the delegates to “table” the resolution calling for National JACL’s support of Fred Honda’s candidacy for Congress. Members of the JACL-San Francisco Office have monitored the activities and efforts of various chapters, and are always on the alert to take issue with any discriminatory practices.

By PAUL OKUYE
President, Livingston-Merced JACL

Members of the Livingston-Merced JACL are active in all chapters of the United States. Members are employed in public agencies and in the private sector. The Nisei are active in Lions and Rotary Clubs, League of Women Voters, Chamber of Commerce, churches, political parties as well as in elected office of elementary, high school and college boards of trustees. The Nisei served in a very important position to make things happen in our communities and are always on the alert to take issue with any discriminatory practices.

Livingston-Merced JACLers were Livingston School Board members when the decision was made to initiate dismissal proceedings against Ms. Takahashi. The board chairman and many others of the Nisei community were, and are, committed to good education for all children of the Livingston community.

Takahashi Case: A Statement

Members of the local chapter have monitored the administrative hearings pertaining to the dismissal proceedings against Karen Takahashi. We have accepted the decision as being fair and no action was taken by our chapter in her behalf. Currently the case is pending in the Court of Appeals and in the State Fair Employment Commission. The chapter will continue monitoring activities relating to the case.

As for the content of the resolution we wish to make the following comments:

1. The school district’s dismissal proceedings were not arbitrary. Senate Bill 777 which established the SB-777 act sets guidelines for teacher evaluations and the dismissal procedure. The SB-777 act was enacted in 1972 to help school districts (taxpayers) provide quality education for their children by defining evaluation procedures which would upgrade teacher performance and to protect teachers from unfair employment practices.

2. We have no questions regarding Ms. Takahashi’s character and knowledge of subject matter. She has many strengths but unfortunately was unable to remediate her inability to establish good classroom environment essential for learning. The school district provided her the tools to remedy this, but unfortunately the community population became more mobile, less middle-classed and families less oriented to academic achievement.

3. The school district could be charged for “reverse” discrimination for permitting a situation whereby children were denied appropriate learning opportunities, but the district hesitated to take action fearful of community reaction.

4. The National Education Assn. and Calif. Teachers Assn. backing does not in any way reflect the merit of the case. These organizations are obligated to protect their members with legal service and financial aid.

The Livingston-Merced JACL chapter at the JACL recommends that all aspects of Takahashi vs. Livingston Union School Board be carefully assessed by the National JACL Council before taking any action. We urge, therefore, that the resolution be tabled.
A Glimpse Behind ‘East Wind’

Mitsue Takahashi

The case of fired Livingston Intermediate School teacher Mitsue Takahashi (PC Sept. 3) is a much more complex issue than it appears at first glance.

My personal feeling is that this case is very important, and one with which the JACL membership should be concerned. The National Council has recognized the importance and significance of this case by passing a resolution in support of Ms. Takahashi. Because it was the Fresno chapter, and not Takahashi’s chapter (Livingston-Merced), that introduced this resolution, a shroud of controversy surrounds this issue.

The Livingston-Merced chapter circulated a statement on the convention floor urging the Takahashi case to be tabled.

The resolution passed by the National Council states (among other things) “It’s a bit of a ball” in alluding to the number of facts of the case. I don’t believe this is important, but my personal feeling is that Ms. Takahashi is/was an intentional victim of the system she once worked for six months in Hawaii,shima’s best friend. The case of fired Livingston Intermediate School teacher Mitsue Takahashi (PC Sept. 3) is a much more complex issue than it appears at first glance.

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My personal feeling is that this case is very important, and one with which the JACL membership should be concerned. The National Council has recognized the importance and significance of this case by passing a resolution in support of Ms. Takahashi. Because it was the Fresno chapter, and not Takahashi’s chapter (Livingston-Merced), that introduced this resolution, a shroud of controversy surrounds this issue.

The Livingston-Merced chapter circulated a statement on the convention floor urging the Takahashi case to be tabled.

The resolution passed by the National Council states (among other things) “It’s a bit of a ball” in alluding to the number of facts of the case. I don’t believe this is important, but my personal feeling is that Ms. Takahashi is/was an intentional victim of the system she once worked for six months in Hawaii,shima’s best friend. The case of fired Livingston Intermediate School teacher Mitsue Takahashi (PC Sept. 3) is a much more complex issue than it appears at first glance. 

Mitsue Takahashi
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WLA Senior Citizen Appreciation Day set

LOS ANGELES—The Annual West Los Angeles Senior Citizen Appreciation Day will be held Sept. 25, 1:30, at the Japanese Institute of Sawtelle, 218 Cornish Ave, featuring a chicken dinner prepared by the WLA JACL and Auxiliary. The Visual Communications film "Waterbond" will be shown. For more info call Sid Yamazaki (213) 477-3064.

Oliver Sportsmanship award winner named

MONTEREY PARK, CA—Jon Rocki Yamada, a June graduate from Downey High School, was named the winner of the 1982 Oliver's Sportsmanship Award at a banquet held Sept. 11 in Paul's Kitchen.

Yamada, a swimmer, was the recipient of over 100 other awards and trophies and holds the school's 100-yd. butterfly record.

Downtown LA JACL sells theater tix

LOS ANGELES—Tickets for the play, "The Music Lesson" on Oct. 9, 4 p.m. are available through Downtown JACL L.A. Chapter members.


Tickets at $10 can be obtained by contacting Grace Shibata, (213) 663-1234, J.D. Hohoyama, (213) 763-6946, Mark Tsuzuki, 628-1365, Dennis Kunitani, 972-5318 or Frank Hiraoka, 972-5474.

WDC 1st chapter paying up pledge

WASHINGTON—A check of $3,280 to National JACL was authorized by the Washington, D.C. JACL chapter board Sept. 15 to meet its initial pledge based on its 1981 membership total toward the JACL Redress Campaign. It was announced by J. Patrick Okura, chapter president.

Obituary

Margaret E.B. Fleming, 91, of Pasadena, died Sept. 3. Actively pursuing racial integration here since the 1930s, she pressed for integration of swimming pools and dances in Pasadena through Eugene Carson Blake's Pasadena Interracial Commission, minority hirings in department stores and served on boards and supported the NAACP, JACL, Hadassah and also helped abolish sweatshops and passing child labor laws in her native Pittsburgh, Pa., in the 1920s. She had joined JACL in 1965 when the JACL opened its regional office and later became a 1000 Clubber in 1976.

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SEWARD, Alaska—Kushiro City mayors expressed hope the agreement would herald many years of "mutual prosperity , and its rightful place as the port of Alaska."