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AP Photo Courtesy Rafu Shimpō

Nikkei of WW2 Supreme Court cases seek reversal of decisions

SAN FRANCISCO—Charging that U.S. government officials suppressed evidence which could have led the Supreme Court to prohibit the internment of Japanese Americans, the three defendants of those infamous high court cases are now seeking reversals of their convictions.

Gordon Hirabayashi, Fred Korematsu and Min Yasui filed petitions in the United States District Court here Jan. 19 for a Writ of Error Coram Nobis.

Hirabayashi, then a student at the University of Washington, was convicted in Seattle in 1942 both for violating the military curfew orders imposed on persons of Japanese ancestry, and for refusing to report to a civil control station for evacuation. He served a total of two years in county jails and federal prisons.

Yasui, a Portland, Or. attorney, was arrested and convicted that same year for violating military curfew orders.

Korematsu, a San Francisco shipyard welder before the war, was also convicted in 1942 of remaining in a military area which excluded persons of Japanese ancestry.

The U.S. Supreme Court, in 1943 and 1944, had upheld the convictions of all three defendants on the basis of "military necessity." But now evidence compiled by a group of attorneys known as the Committee to Reverse the Japanese American Wartime Cases charges that U.S. government officials suppressed, altered, and destroyed key evidence in order to influence the outcome of these wartime cases.

The finding of "military necessity" by the high court was based upon government representations that Japanese Americans were committing espionage and sabotage by signalling enemy ships from shore.

The Court also accepted government arguments that the loyalty of Japanese Americans was suspect because of the racial characteristics of the population.

The allegations of espionage, sabotage and disloyalty were contained in an official document entitled, "Final Report" and issued by Lt. Gen. John L. DeWitt, who ordered the evacuation and internment.

Dale Minami, who is currently

the lead attorney for Korematsu, noted that these allegations were "repeated often verbatim" in the Court briefs of the Justice Department and the attorneys general of the California, Oregon and Washington.

"The importance of this petition is that evidence for reversing these convictions comes from the government's own files," noted Peter Irons, lead counsel for the attorney group. "Records show that the efforts of government lawyers who objected to the suppression of evidence were rejected by high-ranking officials."

Yasui, Hirabayashi and Korematsu and their attorneys are now charging that the Justice Department and the War Department were aware of high level reports from the office of Naval Intelligence, the FBI, the Federal Communications Commission and the Army's Military Intelligence Division (G-2), which directly refuted the espionage, sabotage, and disloyalty allegations. These reports, which undermined the "military necessity" claims, were withheld from the Court.

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THREE FAMOUS MEN—Fred Korematsu (left), Min Yasui and Gordon Hirabayashi announce plans to seek reversals of their World War II Supreme Court cases which in effect upheld the right of the U.S. government to evacuate and intern 110,000 Japanese Americans. They made their announcement Jan. 19 at the Press Club in San Francisco.

U.S.-Japan trade: no easy answers for this highly complex issue

WASHINGTON—Last week's meeting between President Reagan and Japan's Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone may have produced an exchange of goodwill for their respective countries, but the real work now begins for both leaders in trying to avoid an all-out trade war.

Reagan had pledged Jan. 18 that he would continue to fight against protectionism, while Nakasone assured the President that more measures would be taken to further open Japan's markets. However, the 64-year-old Japanese leader was not specific as to how these measures would be carried out.

Reagan has warned Nakasone indirectly that trade frictions with Japan could contribute to a victory by the Democratic Party in 1984, which would eventually "open the path to protectionism" in the U.S.

But Nakasone has also made a favorable impression on the Reagan Administration. Since Nakasone took power two months ago, he has shown a willingness to take risks and brave criticism from his own country in an effort to strengthen U.S.-Japan ties in the areas of defense and trade.

Prior to his arrival here on Jan. 17, Nakasone has initiated new tariff cuts and market-opening measures; he has managed to secure a larger increase in Japan's defense budget than had seemed probable before he came to office; and he has broken a 16-year-old ban on the export of such technology to the U.S.

Nakasone has also reached agreement with South Korea on long-term Japanese economic aid through a precedent-breaking trip to that country.

More Access to Japanese Market

The Japanese leader has made efforts to improve foreign import access to the Japanese market as well. On Jan. 13, the Japanese government announced a package of new measures, which included:

- The strengthening of Japan's Office of Trade Ombudsman, in order to resolve import-access grievances promptly and fairly;
- An increase in imported tobacco sales outlets;
- More access to promotional facilities for imported goods;
- Reduction of burdensome product safety laws, so that imported products such as roller skates, motorcycle helmets and baseball hats will be judged on nearly the same level as domestic products;
- Revision of product standards and testing requirements so that the Japanese market can be more accessible to imports.

Nakasone had also told Reagan Jan. 19 that Japan was "prepared to listen to American opinions about conditions in the U.S. auto industry..." However, he added that Japan should decide what the numerical limit should be on their exported autos.

Of course, these efforts by Japan have made only a small dent in the record \$20 billion trade surplus which Japan holds on the U.S. from last year.

More Equity Called for by U.S.

And the friction between the two countries certainly won't cool off in the near future. Alan W. Wolff, a former deputy trade negotiator for the U.S., has said that there needs to be a "greater sense of equity" between the two countries, noting that U.S. businesses are constantly complaining about the difficulties of trying to penetrate the Japanese market.

But Nakasone has said that the opportunities already exist for American businessmen to sell their goods in Japan. They just need to make the right effort.

"Japanese businessmen have made great efforts in developing a market in the United States and in promoting their scientific and technol-

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Mansfield may retire in March

WASHINGTON—Mike Mansfield, the former Senate Democratic leader from Montana, is expected to resign in mid-March from his post as ambassador to Japan after a six-year tour under two administrations.

Sources said Jan. 13 Mansfield has advised the White House of his intention.

Information on the proposed retirement is still unofficial. White House and State Department officials available to reporters said no formal resignation has been received, and were unable to confirm the reports.

Mansfield, who will be 80 years old March 16, is said to want to begin work on the Mansfield Center for Pacific Affairs in Polson, Montana, his home state.

The long-time Democratic senator and former Senate Democratic leader has been in the demanding post since 1977, and was the only politically appointed ambassador in the Carter administration asked to stay on by the Reagan administration.

In 1980, President-elect Reagan asked Mansfield to stay on in Tokyo for two years.

The sources said David Abshire, 56, president of Georgetown University's Center for Strategic and International Studies, is in line for the post.

Abshire is a former assistant secretary of state for congressional relations, and is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy.

Abshire, who is also a member of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, was at the White House Jan. 13. He has refused to comment on the reports that he will be chosen, and the usually accessible Mansfield did not return telephone calls from reporters.

Another prospect for the Tokyo job, former National Security Adviser Richard Allen, now with the Heritage Foundation, has been dropped from the list of possible candidates to succeed Mansfield, according to the sources.

Mansfield has been extremely popular in Japanese political and business circles. He announced plans to retire in 1981 at the end of Carter's term, "To move out of the strain of diplomatic life," but agreed to stay on when Reagan appealed to him.

Juvenile is guilty of torching Issei

SAN JOSE—A school boy accused of tossing a lighted match onto the back of an 81-year old Issei woman and setting her afire was found guilty of two felonies Jan. 14.

Scott Morris, 13, could be sentenced to the California Youth Authority until he is 20, should Juvenile Court Judge Reed Embler give him the maximum sentence.

Shina Shigemura suffered third degree burns on her back and on her head in the Dec. 28 incident.

Tim Perkins, a playmate of Morris, testified that the two were walking past Mrs. Shigemura as she was stooped over in her yard pulling weeds.

Scott "asked me if I wanted to throw a match on her," Perkins testified. "We walked right past her and he threw a match on her."

S.F. bill passes

SAN FRANCISCO—This city is hoping to make amends for something that happened more than 40 years ago and is looking for 16 people who were city employees before their internment during World War II because they were of Japanese ancestry.

The board of supervisors, by a unanimous vote, passed an ordinance Jan. 10 that will provide reparation for loss of salary caused by their relocation to internment camps.

Introduced by Supervisor Quentin Kopp, the measure covers the years of 1942 through 1945. It provides \$1,250 for each year, with a maximum of \$5,000.

Armed with a list of 16 names from the Civil Service files, Kopp said that the employee has to file his own claim for the money with the Civil Service. Mayor Dianne Feinstein was expected to sign the statute into law on Jan. 24.

Washington state employee bill urged

SEATTLE—Washington state Sen. George Fleming introduced a bill Jan. 17 to the Legislature which calls for \$5,000 compensation to Japanese American former state employees who were summarily dismissed from their jobs because of the World War II evacuation.

The bill, SB 3163, is similar to the California legislation AB 2710 except that the \$5,000 payment would be distributed over a two-year period, rather than four. Eligible recipients would be those Nikkei employees who were terminated during World War II as a result of the state's adoption of EO 9066 and PL 503. Approximately 38 Nikkei are believed to be eligible; many of them had worked for state agencies, the University of Washington, Western State Hospital, Central Washington College of Education and Washington State University.

In addition to Fleming, the bill was co-sponsored by state Senators Jack Jones, Kent Pullen, James McDermott and Phil Talmadge.

Many community organizations are currently lobbying for or supporting the bill, including the Seattle JACL, the JACL Pacific Northwest District Council, the Washington Coalition on Redress, the Washington Commission on Asian American Affairs, the American Jewish Committee of Greater Seattle, the Asian Pacific Women's Caucus and the Washington Federation of State Employees.

Hayakawa does quiet fadeout, leaves puzzling legacy behind

WASHINGTON—S.I. Hayakawa, now a private citizen, may at best be remembered for his controversial statements and his sleepy, insensitive image, for during his six-year term as the junior U.S. senator from California, he had few legislative accomplishments to claim.

Hayakawa, 76, plans to return to writing and lecturing, and he intends to spend the next three months preparing papers for the Hoover Institution at Stanford University.

A review of Hayakawa's legislative record shows that very few of his proposals even passed the Senate and the causes to which he dedicated his main efforts remain unresolved.

"He's well-liked, but he's considered ineffective," was the polite conclusion of a fellow senator.

Senate 'Instructive'

Hayakawa himself could name few accomplishments to his credit, but he summed up his term in this way: "It's extremely instructive. It makes you less arrogant about criticizing government and what government can do. Serving here makes you realize how complicated it is to do anything."

Hayakawa was a puzzling figure in the political arena. A brilliant

semanticist, he apparently had the potential to be an effective legislator. But many factors worked against him—a weak staff, his inability to grasp important issues, and his own refusal to play the political game.

A former aide to Hayakawa noted, "I certainly think he wanted to accomplish things. His biggest problem is he just didn't know how."

Other Capitol Hill workers said the former Republican senator was of little help in assisting others in getting things done.

Staff Problems

Another aide recalled, "We didn't have much contact with Hayakawa because unless we absolutely had to, we never called on him for help. The staff was so screwed up."

"Along side (Sen. Alan) Cranston's staff there was no comparison," the aide noted. "So whenever we really wanted something done, we went to Cranston."

The former aide added, "I'm not saying the staff was perfect and couldn't have done better, but it was very disheartening for the staff to do the back-up work and have him (Hayakawa) not carry the ball."

Continued on Page 4



JABA'S NEW OFFICERS—Leslie Furukawa, JA CL PSW-DC's Legal Counsel, became the first woman president of the Japanese American Bar Association and was installed at the California Yacht Club in Marina Del Rey, Ca. on Jan. 15. JABA's new officers include (l to r): secretary Gerald Sato; Furukawa; past president Michael Yamaki; vice presidents Carol Matsunaga and Howard Halm; treasurer Judy Otamura-Kester; and president-elect Ronald Ito.

Chol Soo Lee's 2nd charge overturned

SAN FRANCISCO—An attorney for a Korean immigrant acquitted of two murder convictions called the acquittals "amazing" Jan. 16. "Nobody else has ever had the opportunity to have the door reopened like this," Ranko Yamada, Chol Soo Lee's childhood friend and attorney said. "It's so amazing, you know, the odds of this happening—to win that retrial, to win the appeal—that's what's so exciting." Lee, 30, was convicted in the 1973 slaying of a rival Chinatown gang associate and sentenced to state prison in 1977. His second conviction was for the killing of an inmate in the Deuel Vocational Institute in Tracy.

Attorney Stuart Hanlon said he would seek Lee's release on bail.

A San Francisco jury acquitted Lee in September after a retrial on the first conviction. The jury did not believe the caucasian witnesses to the shooting and acquitted Lee of gunning down Yip Yee Tak.

The Third District Court of Appeals in Sacramento, acting on a petition filed in 1981, overturned his conviction for the second murder Jan. 14. The appeal court reversed Lee's conviction in the death of inmate Morrison Needham because the judge failed to make clear to the jury that he could be convicted of a lesser charge such as second degree murder or manslaughter.

San Francisco authorities have petitioned for a new trial in the Chinatown case, and San Joaquin County authorities were expected to do the same in the Deuel killing.

ILWU leader who helped Nisei dies

SAN FRANCISCO—Louis Goldblatt, a leader of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union for more than 40 years, died Jan. 17 at the age of 72. Goldblatt, who had undergone heart surgery more than a decade ago, was receiving cardiac treatment again at the Kaiser Foundation Hospital in Terra Linda when he died.

Bronx-born and Berkeley-educated, Goldblatt was a passionate left-wing activist in the student movement on the Berkeley campus during the earliest days of the Depression.

After two years of graduate studies in economics, he left the academic world in 1932 and soon became a warehouse union organizer. Meanwhile, San Francisco's longshoremen were organizing on the waterfront and Harry Bridges was emerging as their leader.

The two men began an alliance that lasted for decades and were involved with the waterfront labor movement all along the West Coast.

Goldblatt often said that his most significant union contribution was organization of Hawaii's sugar and pineapple workers in 1946 and then winning advantageous contracts for them.

Worker support for his effort was largely made possible by his

own outspoken opposition to the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II—a stand that was politically unpopular but earned him the deep admiration and gratitude of the diverse ethnic groups that still make up Hawaii's main labor force. The ILWU remains a most powerful factor in Hawaiian politics.

Military

Col. Charles H. Moriyama of Danville, Ca., was recently awarded the Legion of Merit for exceptionally meritorious service during a combined active and Army reserve career of 30 years, culminating as Commander, 478th Military Intelligence Detachment (Strategic), Oakland, Ca., from September 1977 to August 1982.



HEROIC STRUGGLES
of Japanese Americans

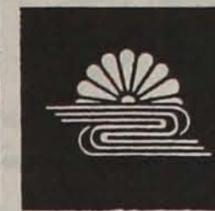


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Goldblatt, who lived in Mill Valley, is survived by his wife, Theresa, and three daughters, Ann Smith of Arcata, Lee Nixon of San Rafael and Lisa Goldblatt, a graduate student at UCLA. #



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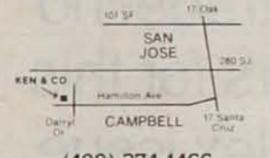
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Asian counseling ctr. opens in N.Y.

NEW YORK—With the introduction of two recently-hired staff members, Rev. Mas Kawashima announced recently that "The Japanese American Counseling Center (JACC) is now in operation," and invited the Japanese community to use the professional services which it will offer.

More than a year in the planning, the JACC is a part of the Asian American Mental Health Demonstration Project funded by the New York State Department of Mental Health and administered by the Hamilton-Madison House, a

private not-for-profit multi-service settlement house operating in New York City since 1898.

Funds for the project have been allocated for three years, and the first year's budget is \$225,000. The money will be divided proportionately among the four participating Asian groups—Chinese, Filipino, Japanese and Korean. Each group will function semi-autonomously out of offices located in various parts of the city, designing programs to meet each community's needs.

The JACC is located at 236 West 72nd Street, between Broadway and West End Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10023.

The two staff members were introduced at a recent dinner meeting of the JACC at the Nippon Club which was presided over by the Rev. Kawashima, who represents JACC on the advisory board of the Asian American Mental Health Task Force.

Hiroshi Suzuki has been named Case Manager. Suzuki is a graduate of Wurzeiler School of Social Work, Yeshiva University, in New York City. He is a trained psychotherapist with many years of experience in counseling.

The position of Community Organizer will be filled by Kimiko Shiomura, a graduate of Tokyo Women's Christian University and of the University of Minnesota School of Social Work. During her last six months at the University of Minnesota, she served as special assistant to Ron Wakabayashi, National Director of the JAACL. In addition, she was associated with Nobiru-Kai, a service for Japanese newcomers.

Both staff members are bilingual, in Japanese and English.

The professional services being offered by the JACC include counseling, both preventive and therapeutic, outreach, education, and referrals.

JACL, NCRP plan 'Remembrance' day

LOS ANGELES—The JACL Pacific Southwest District and the Southern California Regional of the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations (NCRP) will hold a candlelight march on Feb. 19 as part of the "Day of Remembrance" activities.

With the theme, "United for Justice—Remember the Issei," the program begins at 5:30 p.m. at the old Nishi Hongwanji Temple (First St. and Alameda Ave.).

The program will include speakers Mas Fukai, Gardena City Councilman; Rep. Mervyn Dymally (D-Compton); JACL PSWDC Gov. Cary Nishimoto and redress chair Harry Kajihara.

Urban Fellows seeking applicants

NEW YORK—National Urban Fellows, Inc., is seeking applicants for 30 mid-career fellowships in urban administration, and is looking in particular for minority group members with a demonstrated potential for leadership.

According to the organization's president, Luis Alvarez, the 1983-84 fellowships will each carry a tax-exempt educational grant of \$13,000 to \$15,000 for the 14-month program period.

Those chosen Fellows will spend an intensive seven-week residential semester at Bernard M. Baruch College of City University of New York City, beginning this July. They will then be assigned to nine-month mentorships as special assistants to mayors, city managers, county administrators and other urban administrators.

Those Fellows who have not obtained an advanced degree will return to Baruch in June of 1984 for eight weeks to enable them to complete requirements for a Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree. The tuition will be paid by National Urban Fellows, Inc.

To be eligible, men and women should be United States citizens between the ages of 25 and 40 and have more than three years of full-time administrative experience. They should also have a commitment to the solving of urban problems.

Application forms and details may be obtained from The National Urban Fellows, Inc. 1776 Broadway, 22nd floor, New York, N.Y. 10019. Phone number (212) 541-5711. Completed applications must be received by Feb. 18.

Rental referrals offered by LTSC

LOS ANGELES—Due to the present economic conditions and subsequent housing shortage, the Little Tokyo Service Center has announced the beginning of a new feature of the housing information counseling service, which has been one of the services of the LTSC for the past few months.

This new addition is called the Housing Information and Referral Exchange Service (HIRES). The main objective of HIRES is to collect and match available rental units with people who are seeking apartments or houses to rent.

Those interested in being a part of this exchange should call the Little Tokyo Service Center on

Thursday afternoons from 1 to 4 p.m. and ask for Yo Abe at (213) 680-3729.



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Oshogatsu festival set for Jan. 29

SAN FRANCISCO—Japantown's twelfth annual Oshogatsu Festival will be held on Saturday, Jan. 29, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Morning Star School and the Buddhist Church (corner of Pine and Octavia).

The New Year's festival will feature traditional Asian foods, mochi-making, entertainment, arts, and Japanese Sumo wrestling.



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ESL exams offered by Cross Culture Ctr.

LOS ANGELES—The U.S.-Japan Cross Culture Center will administer special qualifying examinations for the certification of teachers of English as a second language (ESL) for native speakers of Japanese.

The certifying organization, the Cross Culture Center of Japan, has been a well-known administrator of ESL teaching in Japan for over 20 years.

Examinations will be administered three times a year. This year exams will be held on the following Saturdays: May 28, July 30, and Oct. 29. The examination fee will be \$20.00.

For more info contact the U.S.-Japan Cross Culture Center, 244 S. San Pedro St., Suite 305, Los Angeles, Ca. 90012; phone number (213) 617-2039.



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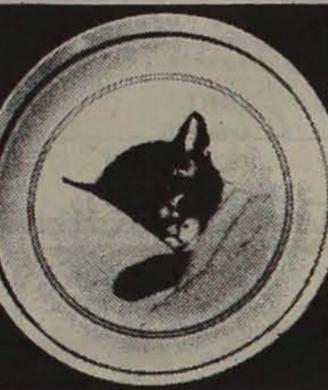
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Evacuation Impact on Law & the Courts

Boston

Editor's Note: Dr. Peter Irons, the lead counsel for the Coram Nobis cases of Gordon Hirabayashi, Fred Korematsu and Min Yasui, had testified before the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians in Boston on Dec. 9, 1981. Here is the paper he presented to the CWRIC:

Generally overlooked, in the stress on the impact of wartime internment on the evacuated Japanese Americans, is the impact of the relocation program on the legal profession and the judicial system. Most of the civilian officials responsible for the evacuation decision, and for the subsequent administration of the relocation program and its legal defense, were lawyers, as were many of the military officials who participated in these events. As the internment program progressed from the initial debate over evacuation through the decisions of the Supreme Court upholding the curfew regulations and evacuation orders, and finally to the decision to end internment and the protracted litigation over citizenship renunciation, government lawyers in both policy-making and litigating roles faced serious questions of ethical and professional responsibility.

Notwithstanding the exigencies of the wartime situation and the perceived need to protect the largely undefended West Coast against a potential invasion, it is clear that the justification of "military necessity" as the rationale for internment lacked any substantial factual foundation. During the debate that preceded evacuation, lawyers in the War Department (including Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson) recognized, as Stimson admitted in his diary, that "we cannot discriminate among our citizens on the ground of racial origin" and that internment would "make a tremendous hole in our constitutional system." In contrast to Gen. John L. DeWitt's unsupported allegations of acts of espionage and sabotage by Japanese Americans, War Department and Justice Department officials had been informed by J. Edgar Hoover that "[t]he necessity for mass evacuation is based primarily upon public and political pressure rather than factual data." That lawyers cognizant of the constitutional and factual infirmities of internment proceeded to urge it on President Franklin D. Roosevelt and to implement the program points up not only an institutional failure but evasions of personal and professional ethics as well.

A second example of both institutional and ethical failure is illustrated by the contents of and the events surrounding Gen. DeWitt's *Final Report* on evacuation. At the time that lawyers in the Justice Department were preparing the government's brief in the *Hirabayashi* case in early 1943, records show that War Department officials deliberately withheld this report from the Justice Department, in order to cover up its factual errors and lack of substance. A year later, after release of the *Final Report*, investigations directed by the Attorney General and conducted by the FBI and the Federal Communications Commission demonstrated conclusively its erroneous foundation. Yet, over the objections of Edward J. Ennis and John Burling of the Justice Department, the *Final Report* was cited to the Supreme Court in briefs in the *Korematsu* case as factual justification for evacuation.

It is clear from the record that internment was decided upon and implemented, and justified in the courts, on the basis of a demonstrably false set of assumptions about the Japanese American community and equally false "facts" to support allegations of espionage and sabotage. It is to the credit of lawyers such as Mr. Ennis and Mr. Burling that they protested these decisions, although they stopped short of resignation from office or public exposure of these facts.

The ethical questions raised by the internment experience, as it involved the legal profession, go to the heart of the balance between personal responsibility and professional demands. These questions are, it should be stressed, not unique to the Japanese American internment case, but have been recurrent in American history. Similar questions arose during World War I, when Alfred Bettman and John Lord O'Brian of the Justice Department argued against the indictment of Eugene Debs on charges of violating the Espionage Act, and were overruled to placate political demands. More recently, congressional and press investigations have shown that prosecutions of Vietnam War opponents, purportedly based on evidence of foreign direction, were authorized in knowing disregard by government lawyers of factual refutation of such allegations.

The internment experience shows more clearly than other

Continued on Next Page

Letters

● 'Offensive Stupidity'

Editor:

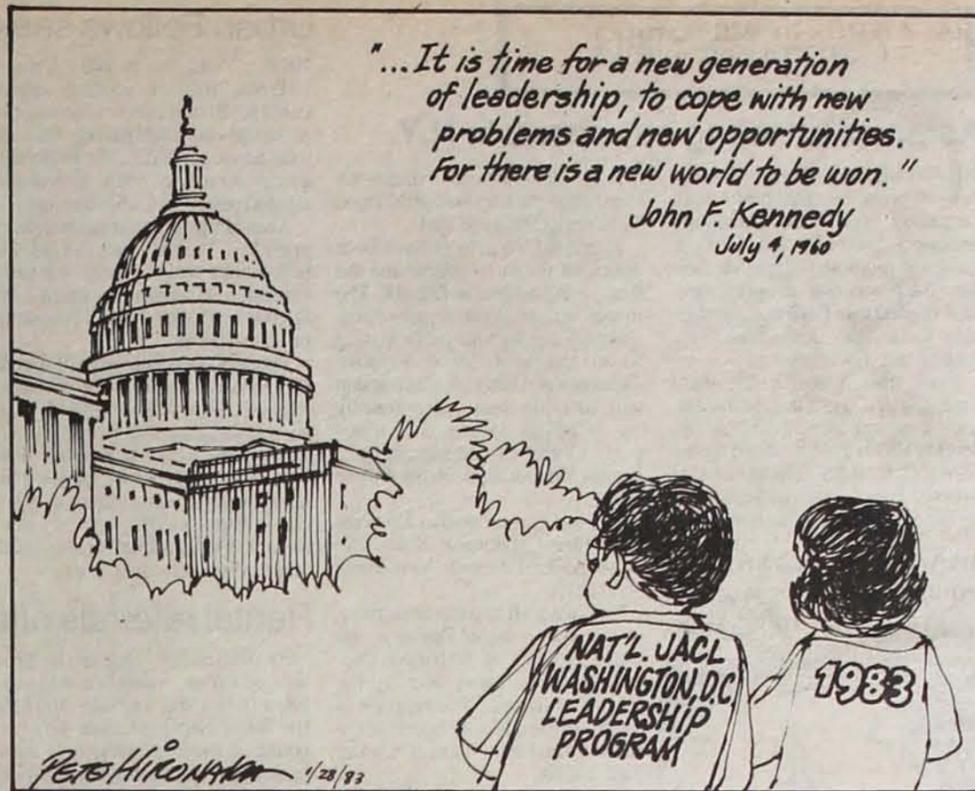
The period of the 1930s and the activities of the JACL is a time that needs a great deal of scholarly attention so I appreciate Mr. James S. Oda's observations (PC Jan. 21) on my article that appeared in the Holiday Issue.

In response I would also like to point out that the article was written for the Journal of San Diego History and so was oriented to Mr. Abe and this area where he did indeed play a major role.

I did not intend to imply in any way that Mr. Abe fought the anti-Japanese fishing bills singlehandedly. In fact I attempted to include the names of as many others as I could establish who were involved.

The suggestion that Sam Yorty introduced his bill at the behest of the State CIO was first suggested by John Modell in his dissertation on the Japanese of Los Angeles. This contention is supported by the minutes of the state Assembly debates of 1939.

DONALD H. ESTES
San Diego, CA.



'Relocation and Redress' confab planned for Utah

SALT LAKE CITY—A three-day conference exploring the various aspects and consequences of the relocation and internment of Japanese Americans during World War II will be held by the Center for Historical Population Studies at the University of Utah on March 10-12. Forty-two scholars and organizational representatives from across the country are expected to participate in the meeting to discuss the internment experience and the current redress movement.

The conference will include a visit to the former Topaz Relocation Center, photo and art exhibits, and film screenings. Discussions will focus on: intermountain camps; the uprooting of communities; the response of churches and the state; economic losses of the Japanese American community; public opinion and congressional reaction; education in the camps; socio-psychological impact; the role of the JACL in the relocation; the Canadian and Latin-American experiences; constitutional issues; the redress movement; and Japanese Americans and politics, 40 years later.

Taking part in the conference will be:

Arthur A. Almeida, President, San Pedro Bay Historical Society, San Pedro, Ca.; Leonard J. Arrington, History, Brigham Young University; Howard Ball, Political Science, University of Utah; Shirley Castelnuovo, Political Science, Northeastern Illinois University; F. Alan Coombs, History, University of Utah; John J. Culley, History, West Texas State University; Roger Daniels, History, University of Cincinnati; Dixie L. Ehrenreich, Laboratory of Anthropology, University of Idaho; C. Harvey Gardiner, History (Emeritus), Southern Illinois University; Asael T. Hansen, Anthropology (Emeritus), University of Alabama; Lon Hata-miya, Cincinnati, Oh.; Gordon Hirabayashi, Sociology, University of Alberta; Lane Hirabayashi, Asian-American Studies, UC-Santa

Barbara, William Hohri, National Council for Japanese American Redress, Chicago; Bill Hosokawa, Journalist, The Denver Post; Toaru Ishiyama, Superintendent, Ohio Department of Mental Health; Thomas James, Education, Stanford University; Alice Kasai, JACL Coordinator, Salt Lake City; Tetsuden Kashima, Director, Asian-American Studies, University of Washington; Mary Kawakami, Business, Provo, Ut.; Mrs. Toyo S. Kawakami, Head Librarian, Ohio State University.

Harry Kitano, Sociology, UCLA; Tom Lansburg, Publisher, Thousand Oaks, Ca.; William M. Marutani, Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Pa.; Amy Iwasaki Mass, Social Work, Whittier College; Spark Matsunaga, U.S. Senator/Hawaii, Washington, D.C.; Herbert B. Maw, Former Governor, State of Utah; Gary Okhiro, Director, Ethnic Studies, University of Santa Clara, Ca.; Dennis M. Ogawa, American Studies, University of Hawaii; Grace Oshita, Salt Lake City; Barry Saiki, Business, Universal Public Relations Inc. Tokyo, Japan; Masayuki Sato, San Jose, Ca.; Floyd Schmoie, Americans Friends Service Comm., Seattle; Floyd Shimomura, National President, JACL; Robert U. Sims, History, Boise State University; Geoffrey Smith, History, Queens University, Canada; John Tateishi, Director, National Redress, JACL, San Francisco; Sandra C. Taylor, History, University of Utah; Dr. James Tsujimura, Past President, JACL, Portland, Or.; Raymond Uno, Judge, Fifth Circuit Court, Ut.; Ron Wakabayashi, National Director, JACL, San Francisco; Minoru Yasui, Commission on Community Relations, Denver, and National JACL Redress Committee Chair.

Funding for the conference is provided by numerous sources, including the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Utah Endowment for the Humanities and the Salt Lake JACL Chapter. Persons interested in attending the meeting should contact: Relocation and Redress Conference, University of Utah, The Center for Historical Population Studies, 211 Carlson Hall, Salt Lake City, UT 84112.

LOS ANGELES—Seabrook, N.J., (Hasuie) Yamanaka, (213) 666-2992; Ann (Tsuji) Yamasaki, (213) 321-9929; or Rei (Ohara) Kasama, (213) 283-7801 for reservations and further information such as accommodations for out-of-towners.

Riding on the tide of reunions that have been taking place since last spring, Fuji Sasaki of Gardena, Ca., affectionately known as "Mayor," called a group of ten people to a meeting last Nov. 13 at which the time, date and place for a large scale reunion were discussed. At its second meeting a month later on December 11, Mas (Hasuie) Yamanaka was named chairman with Mayor Sasaki serving as advisor.

The date for this reunion '83 has been set for Sunday, March 27, at the New Otani Hotel in Little Tokyo. The affair will be an informal luncheon, an 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Friendly Hour, with lunch to follow to enable more Issei to attend.

The cost will be \$15.00 per person, and the reservation deadline is Tuesday, March 15. Interested people in Los Angeles may contact by phone the "Mayor," (213) 532-6426; Ruth and Leo Toyama, (213) 733-3694; Hideko (Kawashiri) and Tom Shono, (213) 323-1983; Mas

Winnipeg, Canada—A national study on how the aged Issei and Nisei in Canada are spending their retirement years has commenced under the direction of Professor K. Victor Ujimoto, University of Guelph, and Professor Harry K. Nishio, University of Toronto.

The study will gather information on how the Issei and Nisei over 65 years of age spend their daily lives in various social, organizational, and leisure activities. Using questionnaires, the study will attempt to examine the various life experiences such as the World War II evacuation, internment relocation, career changes, and other life events that may have influenced how the Issei and Nisei spend their post-retirement days.

The study will be undertaken in the major urban centres of Canada. Because of the rapidly aging Japanese Canadian population across Canada, very wide interest in the project has been expressed by various Japanese Canadian organizations.

giving speeches on the floor. That's not the way it's done, though," he added.

A Canadian-born Nisei, Hayakawa was propelled into the public limelight in 1968 when, while acting president of San Francisco State University, he climbed onto a sound truck being used by protesting students and pulled wires from their loudspeakers.

Continued on Next Page

HAYAKAWA

Continued from Front Page

The poor guidance Hayakawa received from his staff was exemplified in 1977, when the senator went to a strictly social, non-partisan California State Society winter meeting. Hayakawa amazed his mostly Democratic partygoers by giving a partisan speech on how to build the Republican Party into a majority. He later explained that an aide had told him it was a Republican affair.

A former staff member said that in many cases, perhaps, Hayakawa should have been guided better, but the senator was, in part, to blame as well, because he tended to hide in a corner, and did little mingling with people.

"I think the bottom line was that the senator could not make the transition from the academic world to the political world. It's a vastly different thing. When he wrote books, he could research, and think, and ponder, and look at the ceiling. But here, it's bang-bang, and he couldn't handle that. Nor could he handle the wheeling and dealing. Much as he likes to be an exhibitionist, he's really a timid man. He didn't feel as polished as the other senators, and that made him insecure," noted the aide.

"You say, 'Now you've got to call this senator,' and he'd agree to do it, but he'd put it off. He was much more comfortable writing letters to the other senators and



Making The Deserts Bloom

Philadelphia
WHENEVER WE READ of some country being unable to produce enough food to sustain its own populace, particularly within the underdeveloped "Third World" nations, we've wondered whether it might not have been feasible to harness the talents of our retired Issei farmers. These Issei often occupied marginal lands with poor soil, properties that no one else wanted, and made those lands bloom and yield a cornucopia. And they did it without a lot of fancy, expensive farm equipment.

"Yes," we've often thought, "our Government should approach these Issei and have them go to these foreign lands instead of sending well-intentioned bureaucrats."

WW2 CASES Continued from Front Page

They also have discovered the evidence of a heretofore unknown original version of the Final Report which contradicted and undermined the government's position before the Court:

The first version stated that mass evacuation was necessary not because there was insufficient time to make individual loyalty determinations, but because it was "impossible" to separate the loyal from the disloyal no matter how much time was taken in the process.

The Justice Department had consistently argued to the Court that mass evacuation was necessary precisely because there was insufficient time to hold individual hearings. War Department officials were also concerned that the Supreme Court might view DeWitt's position that it was "impossible" to determine the loyalty of Japanese Americans as racist.

The attorneys claim that the report was altered, the original Final Report was burned, and records indicating the issuance of the first Final Report were destroyed to conceal its existence.

Naval Intelligence Report

The Office of Naval Intelligence conducted a two-year study of the West Coast Japanese American population. Authored by the ONI authority on Japanese Americans, Lt. Cmdr. K.D. Ringle, the report concluded that only a small and readily identifiable portion of the Japanese American people were even potentially disloyal. "The entire Japanese problem has been magnified out of its true proportion largely due to the physical characteristics of the people," wrote Ringle in Feb. 1942.

Edward Ennis, director, Enemy Alien Control Division of the Justice Department and the attorney responsible for supervising the drafting of the Justice Department briefs, advised Solicitor General Charles Fahy in April of 1943 that "we must consider most carefully what our obligation to the Court is in view of the fact that the responsible Intelligence Agency regarded selective evacuation as not only sufficient but preferable (to mass evacuation). I think we should consider very carefully whether we do not have a duty to advise the Court of the existence of the Ringle memorandum and of the fact that it represents the view of the Office of Naval Intelligence... Any other course of conduct might approximate the suppression of evidence."

FBI, FCC: No Illicit Signalling

In response to a request by Attorney General Francis Biddle to verify the accuracy of the Final Report, J. Edgar Hoover wrote in Feb. 1944:

"Every complaint (of shore to ship signalling and radio transmissions) has been investigated, but in no case has any information been obtained which would substantiate the allegation that there has been illicit signalling from shore to ship..."

In response to a similar request, James Fly, the Chairman of the FCC, wrote in Feb. 1944: "There were no radio signals... which could not be identified, or which were unlawful."

Other evidence uncovered by the CRJAWC attorneys noted that Ennis and another Justice Department attorney, John Burling, had tried to warn Biddle and other high-level Justice Department officials that DeWitt's Final Report contained a lot of incorrect information and "intentional falsehoods" about Japanese Americans. Yet, this Report stood "as practically the only record of causes for the evacuation..." noted Ennis.

Background on New Petition

The Writ of Error Coram Nobis is a means of obtaining reversal of a conviction, and is used to prevent injustice and to correct fundamental errors that affect the validity of legal proceedings.

The lead attorney for the three Nikkei litigants, Irons, is currently on the political science faculty at UC San Diego. He was also on the faculty of the Legal Studies Program at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Numerous Asian American attorneys are serving as co-counselors for Hirabayashi, Korematsu and Yasui.

Hirabayashi will be represented by Kathryn Bannai and Arthur Barnett of Seattle; Korematsu by Dale Minami, Lorraine Bannai, Dennis Hayashi, Donald Tamaki, and Michael Wong of Oakland, and Karen Kai, Russell Matsumoto, and Robert Rusky of San Francisco. Yasui will be counselled by Frank Chuman of Los Angeles and Peggy Nagae of Eugene, Or.

Korematsu had filed his petition last week in San Francisco; Yasui will file in Portland and Hirabayashi, in Seattle.

During the press conference held shortly after the three had filed the petition, Yasui, 67, noted that his father had "believed in America, and as his son, I too believe in America. I believe as a great country we can rectify the wrongs of the past."

Korematsu, 64, said, "I was not a criminal or an enemy alien. The Pearl Harbor attack was done secretly by the military leaders of Japan. Even the people of Japan didn't know about it—and yet we were to blame for it out here. I think that was wrong."

Hirabayashi, also 64, told reporters that such an event as the evacuation and internment could happen again. "As emotions are aroused, we have a history of doing whatever is expedient... Anything will happen again if citizens let it."

IT WOULD HAVE been a symbiotic relationship benefiting all: the Issei would be engaged in the type of work they thrived upon, making the impossible produce; the host country would become closer to being self-sufficient, thereby bringing stability to the world; the United States' reputation would be enhanced among these emerging nations and less of our tax dollars would be spent in providing continuing "international welfare." It would have been "a natural."

THERE ARE PRECIOUS few of these Issei around; they have reached the evening tide of their lives. Indeed, the Nisei are beginning to enter that tide. But even today, we know of an Issei here and there, still pattering away on their plot of ground, still raising vegetables, fruits and berries—with admirable success. And although time has taken its toll on the body, and the eyes and ears are not as keen as they once were, we continue to be amazed at how industrious and well they are. We know several of them that do not even wear spectacles, use no hearing aids, etc. and are nearing 80 years and yet assiduously work their plot of ground. Daily. Indeed, these good people happen to be our sources of fresh *nappa*, *nihon-nasubi*,

DR. IRONS Continued from Page 4

examples, however, that eminent and respected lawyers holding high office were willing to disregard their own knowledge of the unconstitutionality of internment, and to support its justification on the basis of false and misleading statements. That the Supreme Court was misled by these statements into upholding the legality of the various phases of internment, or that members of the Court responded similarly to the arguments of wartime exigency, hardly condones the failure of lawyers in the government, in whatever role, to resist the political pressures on them and to subject to critical scrutiny the "facts" presented to them by their subordinates.

It seems to me difficult to devise any fool-proof institutional safeguard against a repetition of the failures of personal and professional ethics exhibited during the internment experience. The pressures of politics and patriotism on even the most respected lawyers and public officials can become, during wartime, compelling and overriding. Perhaps the most concrete suggestion I can make is that there be established, within the Justice Department, a staff of lawyers charged with the review before its implementation of every action of the various national defense agencies that would substantially affect the rights of civilians. In the end, however, I think that the oversight of Congress, the scrutiny of the press, and the personal consciences of lawyers and other officials in the government will more effectively deter any recurrence of internment than will any institutional reform.

HAYAKAWA

Continued from Page 4

In addition to his inability to be an effective politician, Hayakawa's chances of re-election in 1982 were also eroded by his controversial public statements and incidents of falling asleep on the job and in important meetings.

One of his most noted statements was made in May 1979, when, after a meeting with President Jimmy Carter and California officials on the oil crisis, Hayakawa offered his own solution to the nation's energy crisis—let gasoline prices rise as much as \$2 to \$3 a gallon. When asked by a reporter, "What about the poor?" Hayakawa responded, "The poor don't need gas because they're not working."

On that incident, Hayakawa noted that he was making "a very important economic statement."

"I said if you permit the price of gas to go up, then the supply will go up, then they said, 'What about the poor?' And I said they don't need gas as much. So that translates into 'Poor Can Walk, Says Hayakawa,'" the senator noted.

"I blurt things out which newspapers take advantage of to caricature me," Hayakawa told the Los Angeles Times. But damn it, I'm the kind of guy that blurts things out as they come to me. And that's been very damaging."

Against Redress

Hayakawa also raised the ire of some Japanese Americans when he testified at the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment hearings in August of 1981, speaking out against redress and

calling the internment a "vacation" for the Issei.

He reiterated those sentiments on the Senate floor last December, drawing an angry response and a demand for an apology from Rep. Robert T. Matsui of Sacramento.

His sleepiness had become favorite subject for comedian Johnny Carson—and the senator became notorious for falling asleep in committee meetings, on the Senate floor, and even in meetings with President Carter.

Yet despite his poor performance while in office, Hayakawa did have a few accomplishments to his credit, at least early in his career. His federal judicial appointments were considered excellent by Sen. Cranston's office.

Hayakawa sometimes showed sensitivity to those who needed it. He eloquently lobbied for pardons for both Iva Toguri (a.k.a. "Tokyo Rose") and Patty Hearst. He opposed the nomination of Attorney General Griffin Bell on the grounds that Bell had been part of an Old South segregationist apparatus that America had rejected.

Hayakawa has returned to his home in Marin County, and he received little fanfare when he left Washington.

As Samuel Ichiye Hayakawa readjusts to private life, he leaves behind a legacy that historians must now evaluate.

"He's basically a pretty deep guy," said one ex-staffer. "I didn't know him then, but people who did said that it's just too bad he didn't come here (to the Senate) 30 years ago."

takana, daikon, kabocha and other delectables.

THE RETIRED NISEI might possibly fill the bill that we had thought of—providing agricultural know-how to these underdeveloped countries. Tanzania, for example, is suffering from yet another food shortage. But the Nisei farmer expanded into exotic equipment that the Issei never knew, and Tanzania would be fortunate to have even hand tractors and tillers.

WE RECALL WHEN we were incarcerated in Tule Lake in 1942 that the inmates of Tule worked some nearby, abandoned, desolate lands; that by the fall of '42, they brought back truckloads of vegetables the likes of which this youth had never seen. To this day, I recall giant *kabu*, gleaming white. We've often wondered what that land, (below Klamath Falls, Oregon) is producing. No doubt, once others saw what the potential of that land was, they eagerly moved in.

THAT BIG EQUIPMENT alone is not enough is demonstrated by the perpetual shortage that the USSR suffers. But we're not suggesting that any Nikkei might be "volunteered" to that land. The Soviets will just have to make it on their own. #

U.S.-JAPAN Continued from Front Page

gical skills. Their successful penetration of the U.S. market is the result of such effort," Nakasone said in a television interview. "We have studied your customs, your social institutions and your consumer preferences. In contrast, American businessmen have not made such great efforts to sell their products in Japan."

But Japan, to an extent, must face responsibility for the trade problem. Wolff noted in a Los Angeles Herald Examiner column on Jan. 18:

"... Japan has achieved a \$100 billion annual surplus in manufactured goods trade with the rest of the world. Its exports consist of high-value goods that create substantial employment at home while its imports are dominated by raw, unprocessed materials that create relatively fewer jobs in countries producing them. This is increasingly resented throughout the world."

"In part, the surplus reflects difficulties that other nations' products encounter when similar domestic products are available in the Japanese market. Foreign electronic components manufacturers find that the principal Japanese consumers of their products are a few large firms that appear to have a marked preference for each other's products. Steel-makers in developing countries find the Japanese market inhospitable. Even Scotch whisky and American cigarettes face a highly protected market. Japan, moreover, has organized its economy to produce and export certain goods with remarkable efficiency—for example, ball bearings, steel-mill products and machine tools. Now the focus is on information-age products."

Real Issues Must Be Clarified

The debate as to who is to blame for the U.S.-Japan trade problem could go back and forth endlessly, but the real issues must be clarified within the imbroglia before any viable solutions can be attained.

Michael Berger, who has reported on Japan for the San Francisco Chronicle since 1967, pointed out a very important aspect of the U.S.-Japan dispute which many more Americans and Japanese should be made aware of: special interest groups in both countries now have political leverage far out of proportion to their importance in the overall U.S.-Japan relationship. These special interest groups include the United Auto Workers and beef and citrus groups in America and agricultural cooperatives and public corporations in Japan.

Public statements by these groups and the politicians and officials they influence, note Berger, often deepen distortions rather than contribute to public understanding of the trade issue.

Hopefully, both Reagan and Nakasone will insist that cooler heads prevail when seeking solutions to the trade issue. Drastic measures can only result in disastrous results for both countries. #

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Lithographs on sale for JACL's redress campaign

SAN FRANCISCO—National JACL Headquarters announced Jan. 21 that a lithograph entitled, "An American Nightmare," by Boston freelance illustrator Roger Leyonmark, will be published in limited edition for a fundraising effort to benefit the National Redress effort. Two hundred and fifty hand printed lithographs, numbered and signed by the artist, will be provided to contributors who donate \$50 or more to the campaign directly to National JACL Headquarters. Contributions should be addressed to JACL HQ, 1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94115.

The lithograph will be unveiled at a Day of Remem-

brance commemoration at National JACL HQ on Feb. 19. The artist will be present to sign and number the graphics, which are being printed by Ikura Kuwahara of San Francisco's Vorpai Gallery.

The illustration was printed by the Cleveland Plain Dealer on June 14, 1981, in conjunction with a feature article on the redress campaign. The artist contributed his artwork to the JACL, and provided permission to reproduce the work.

The lithograph will be provided to contributors on the basis of availability. After the first printing is depleted, the graphics will not be available. For more info call (415) 921-5225.



'AN AMERICAN NIGHTMARE'—This lithograph by artist Roger Leyonmark will be on sale at JACL National Headquarters to help support the League's redress campaign.

Japan Chapter holds fundraiser

TOKYO—A buffet reception was sponsored by the Japan JACL Chapter on Dec. 18 for the third consecutive year, as a combination fundraiser and annual Nikkei get-together.

The function, which gathered more than 300 members and their friends, featured a buffet, a five-piece band, a Japanese drum performance and a raffle. Winning the Grand Prize, a roundtrip ticket for two to the West Coast, were Jack Sakazaki, successful Sansei businessman and his wife, Mayumi. Other top awards included dinners for two at the New Otani's Top of the Tower, Garden Barbecue and Trader Vic's restaurants, a Seiko watch, a Sony Walkman and a

huge stuffed animal. Approximately 80 raffle prizes and 60 door prizes were distributed, with a roundtrip air ticket to Osaka and a night's accommodations by JTB being the most valuable of door prizes.

The entertainment package was provided through the donation of \$450 by Okura Motion Picture Co., Ltd. The raffle netted sufficient donations to cover the Chapter's 1983 Redress assessments, a gift of a wheelchair to the Japan Times' Annual Campaign and a donation to NHK's "Help the Needy" program.

Heading the Program Committee were Sansei, including Len Kiahara, Ann Miyashiro, Roland Nishimura, Richard Kenmotsu and Ken Ishibashi, with prizes being collected by Bert Fujii, Charles Harada, Dick Yamashita, Coolidge Ozaki, Tom Inouye and Barry Saiki.

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LIBRARY GETS GRANT—The Friends of the Little Tokyo Public Library Services was recently awarded a \$500 grant by the JACL's Pacific Southwest District Council through the Hollywood JACL to buy Japanese books for the LT Bookmobile. Shown, PSWDC Regional Director John Saito presents the check to Yo Abe, past president of the Friends of LTPLS (center), and Tomiye Yonemoto, current president.

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WEST VALLEY JACL (Nov. 13, 1982)

James Y. Sakamoto, pres; John Tauchi, 1st vp; Arthur Okuno, 2nd vp; Darci Sakamoto, rec sec; Ruth Sakai, corr sec; Ko Sameshima, treas.

EAST L.A. JACL (Jan. 15, 1983)

Douglas K. Masuda, pres; Dean Aihara, Dr. Robert Obi, Milton Noji, Angela Kato, vps; Yuri Shimamoto, Jeanne Latchis, secs; Lillian Fujimoto, hist; Mas Dobashi, 1000 Club; Mable Yoshizaki, publ; Byron Baba, treas; George Yamate, ins; Larry Fukuhara, Mattie Furuta, Miki Himeno, Edwin Hiroto, George Ige, Sid Inouye, Marie Ito, June Kurisu, Brian Minezaki, Michael Mitoma, Michi Obi, Sue Sakamoto, Grace Shiba, Roy Yamadera, Fuji Yamamoto, Min Yoshizaki, Walter Tatsuno, bd of govs.



Heart Mountain Reunion (Apr. '82) Attendees

All those who were photographed for the Heart Mtn. Reunion Photo Album and who have not yet received their free album, please contact Sachie or Jack for a free copy. (One roll of film was lost by the Photographer.) Limited Albums are available for \$4 (includes postage) at request. Souvenir Booklets are still available at \$4 (includes postage). Contact:

Sachie Sasaki, 2281 College View Dr., Monterey Park, CA 91754
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CANAL CAMP INTERNS

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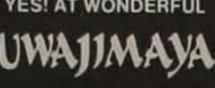
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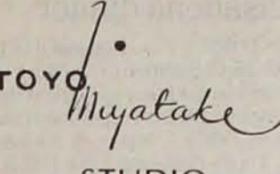
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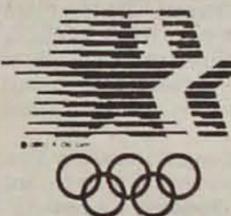
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JACL Reports

Credit Union to hold board meeting

SALT LAKE CITY—National JACL Credit Union Board Chairman Nobe Iwamoto announced that the Board of Directors has selected Feb. 19 as the date for the Annual Meeting of the National JACL Credit Union. The meeting will be held at the Ramada Inn, 999 South Main Street, commencing with dinner at 6:30 p.m.

At the conclusion of the dinner a business meeting will be held to report on the Credit Union's progress for 1982 and to elect two members to the Board of Directors. Entertainment for the evening will be Jack Hart's Incredible Wonder Show of magic and illusion.

Chairman Iwamoto appointed Min Matsumori as chairman of the Nominating Committee. Assisting on the committee are Jeanne Konishi and Noboru Tabata, members of the Board of Directors. All those desiring to be placed on the

ballot for election to the Board should contact Matsumori 48 hours prior to the Annual Meeting. His address is 848 West 12300 South, Draper, Ut. 84020.

Despite the economic situation the Credit Union had another financially successful year with \$279,969.92 credited to members' share/savings accounts. #

Yasui to speak at Pasadena dinner

PASADENA, Ca.—National JACL Redress Committee Chair Min Yasui will be the guest speaker at the Pasadena JACL's Installation Dinner on Feb. 6, 5:30 p.m. at the Velvet Turtle Restaurant, 708 Hill St. in Los Angeles' Chinatown. For reservations call Miyo Senzaki (213) 798-4849; Frances Hiraoka, 681-3125; Ruth Ishii 681-9986 or Mack Yamaguchi 797-7949.

Ventura to host PSWDC meeting

OXNARD, Ca.—The Ventura County JACL will host the PSWDC quarterly meeting on Sunday, Feb. 20, 9 a.m. at the Girl's Club of Oxnard, 701 S. G. Street.

Delegates should send a check for \$7.50 to the Ventura Chapter, c/o Harry Kajihara, 1000 W. Devonshire Dr., Oxnard, CA 93030 by Feb. 13.

'Fast Lane' a hit in Chicago

by JANE KAIHATSU
Chicago JACL

CHICAGO—Over 400 people attended the Chicago premier performances of "Life in the Fast Lane—Requiem for a Sansei Poet" starring Lane Kiyomi Nishikawa. The performances, held on Dec. 10 and 11 at the Latin School, were sponsored by the Chicago Chapter JACL.

Nishikawa's dynamism and unique expressions of Japanese American life captivated the Nikkei and non-Nikkei audiences, many of whom were exposed to Asian theatre for the first time. All notions of a sedate evening of Sansei poetry were quickly dispelled with Nishikawa's opening selections. He told of getting into a fistfight with some white boys for calling him "chink." Just when he is almost overwhelmed, some "black dudes" pull up to rescue him and escort him to safety. He turns to thank them and as they drive away one calls out, "Anytime, Chink."

Other pieces include "Obaachan", a touching tribute to his grandmother with whom he spent many summers in Hawaii. "The Bigot" is a hit-right-between-the-eyes type of confrontation with a parent's thoughts of racism when faced with a child's interracial marriage. The sorrow of the Evacuation and a "No No Boy" are also recounted. To the Chicago audience, Nishikawa was history and hard-hitting drama of the woes and triumphs of Asian America.

Reactions to the performance were no less than enthusiastic by Nisei and Sansei alike. Transplanted Hawaiians were especially stirred and amused by the incantations of Hawaiian life expressed in a perfectly-accented pidgin. "It really moved something in my heart and made me think of home to hear someone talk like that," said Everett Ogawa, a Sansei from Kauai. "I hadn't had that feeling in quite some time."

"I was proud that a Sansei not only wrote the material but gave such an impressive performance," said Rose Kaihatsu, a Nisei Chapter member. Many other attendees had similar feelings.

Because the show received such a positive response, the Chicago Chapter is looking into the possibility of a return engagement when the Sansei Theatre Co. will tour "Fast Lane" in the Spring of '83. #



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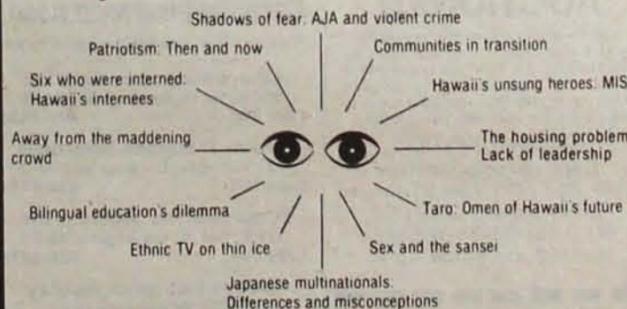
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