Protesters, supporters demand justice in race-related 'murder' of Vincent Chin

by Jon Takasugi

LOS ANGELES—Asians from local community groups have banded together in protest over the handling of the Vincent Chin murder displaying unprecedented public solidarity and political protest.

"The Vincent Chin case has generated the most interest from around the United States of any case—civil rights case—of this present administration," said Assistant Attorney General William Bradford Reynolds, head of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division. "In all my cases I have never seen such public interest or political pressure as in this case."

Vincent Chin, the victim in the case, was an American of Chinese ancestry who was beaten to death with a baseball bat by Ronald Ebens and Thomas Kostelnick June 19, 1982, by two auto workers who blamed Chin for the unemployment of Americans. In a manner of speaking, Chin was stalked, assaulted and assaulted which eventually led to his death. In court, Wayne County Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman accepted the manslaughter plea and released Ronald Ebens and Michael Nitz with $3,000 bail and three years probation.

American Citizens for Justice, a Detroit-based group seeking justice for Vincent Chin, is trying to prove that the incident was racially motivated thereby giving the federal government justification to prosecute for violation of civil rights.

In response to the lack of justice in the Vincent Chin case, hundreds of people throughout the city have engaged in protestation.

State of California March Fong Eu demand that federal charges be filed. "We will not stand by and permit this incident to be forgotten," Bradley said. "We will call upon the attorney general of the United States because if this government stands for anything, it must stand for justice." Continued on Page 8

UNANIMOUS SUPPORT—(above) Councilman Art Snyder (14th District) presents Vincent's mother, Lily Chin, with a Resolution passed by the Los Angeles City Council petitioning the Attorney General of the U.S. to commence an investigation into the murder of Chin. (from left to right) Irvin Lai, president of the American Chinese Citizens League; Art Snyder; Lily Chin; Yuen Sing Wong, president of the Chinese Consolidated Broth­ erhood Association; and Ken Yee, president of American Citizens for Justice.

FIGHT FOR JUSTICE—(left) Lily Chin: "I promise you that as long as I am alive, I will want to do whatever I can so that no other mother will suffer what I have gone through."

The Rally

A "Day of Remembrance" rally for Chin was held on June 18 in a protest march from the Alpine Recreation Center in Chinatown to the steps of City Hall.

Over 500 participants met outside to hear such speakers as Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley and Secretary of State of California March Fong Eu demand that federal charges be filed. "We will not stand by and permit this incident to be forgotten," Bradley said. "We will call upon the attorney general of the United States because if this government stands for anything, it must stand for justice."

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"The Commission report vindicates JACL's original decision years ago to support legislation in Congress to create this independent body," Matsui said. "At that time the JACL wisely supported this establishment of a broadly constituted national commission to produce the authoritative history of this sad chapter of American history. Only through such a nationally recognized body could the strongest case be developed for action to redress the injustice of the internment," the Congressman added.

The JACL properly rejected the precipitous course of action by the JACL; the Los Angeles City Council; and the Los Angeles Board of Education, said President Matsui in referring to the closure of the JACL office in Los Angeles. "This board was an impetus for the American Citizens for Justice," said President Matsui.

The Board thanked Vernon for his outstanding work in bringing the Vincent Chin case to national attention and in keeping JACL informed on the status of the case. In addition Mr. Tanii reported that the American Citizens for Justice (ACJ) organization has been asked to present its case to the Missouri Democratic Caucus later this month.

The Board went on record to recognize Jim Shimoura for his outstanding efforts and to support the Vincent Chin case. President Shimoura stated that JACL has been able to help the Detroit Chapter of the JACL.

Matsui praises JACL for approach to redress issue

WASHINGTON D.C.—Congressman Robert T. Matsui (D-Calif.) today strongly defended the recent statement by James R. Jarvis, national commander-in-chief of the VFW, as an evidence of the "racist mentality based on sheer ignorance that brought about the tragedy of the internment in the first place."

Jarvis, in a VFW news release on June 23, declared that there should never be "reparation paid or an apology offered to the West Coast Japanese Americans relocated from their homes in the early days of World War II."

Jarvis's statement went on to criticize both the findings and recommendations of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, and to lay the principle blame for internment at the feet of the Imperial Japanese government.

"Mr. Jarvis's statement unfortunately represents a vast ignorance of what actually happened in those days, as well as a convoluted understanding of the basic American principles at stake in this issue," Matsui said.

"The assertions of Mr. Jarvis's statement are frankly outrageous and insulting," Matsui added. "I hope that his remarks, based on myth and prejudice, are not representative of others in the VFW leadership."

"Americans can ill afford to repeat the errors and tragedies of the past. The lesson of the internment camps is not that we have the determination to learn from them. If we fail in this, we have failed in our effort to build a nation where injustice and fear become things of the past," Matsui added.

"I call upon members of the VFW, through their local posts and commanders, and through direct letters and other contacts with the national VFW in Washington, to repudiate these remarks by Mr. Jarvis in the strongest terms."

"His statement can go unchallenged if we are to be true to the cause of truth and justice and the cause of basic justice in our society," Matsui concluded.

Statement by VFW chief condemned by Congressman

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Australia plans to restore ‘Zeke’ found in South Pacific

Tokyo (The Daily Yomiuri) - A Zero fighter, ‘Zeke’ guide, by Saburo Sakai, an ace of aces in the Imperial Japanese Navy during the Pacific War, is being preserved in Australia, it has been learned recently.

A letter Sakai received from the Australian War Memorial Museum said that the plane was found with another Zeke by natives near Gasmata in New Britain Island in the South Pacific.

Although it is in considerable damaged condition, the marking ‘713’ on the front-engine mixer is legible, the letter said.

The museum was asking Sakai's technical assistance in the repair of the aircraft and the recording of its history.

On reading the letter, Sakai shouted, "I also have one similar!"

During the Pacific War, Sakai, now 67, piloted many Zekes but he said the ‘V-173’ was the one he flew longest and was in the best condition.

‘V’ indicates that the plane belonged to the Tainan Wing, ‘173’ means that the plane was a fighter; ‘73’ is the production serial number.

Sakai, who was a subleutenant when the war ended, said that at least 46 enemy planes as a Zeke pilot.

The Tainan Wing arrived at Rabaul on New Britain Island in April 1942. With Rabaul as its base, the wing engaged in fierce combat with American and Australian air forces every day.

NZ Bomber HB

On June 9, 1942, Sakai encountered a plane which was carrying Lyndon B. Johnson, a Texas Congressmen who later became president.

Johnson had been taking part in a bombing mission of B26 bombers from Port Moresby to Lae, an advance base of the Tainan Wing. He had been inspecting the Pacific fleet with two military officers.

The U-S. command had opposed his participation in the bombing mission due to the great danger, but Johnson had insisted, saying that he wanted a firsthand observation of the enemy's strength, and was given a ride in one of the B26's.

The U.S. command had been right. The bomber formation encountered a fierce Zeke attack squad, and the B26 carrying Johnson had to make a U-turn in the face of enemy fire.

It became known after the war that it was Sakai's Zeke that had attacked Johnson's B26.

Sakai said that Gasmata, hidden from Port Moresby, became his favorite base.

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JAPANESE ZERO-Wreckage of a Zero fighter found as shown at Gasmata, New Britain Island in the South Pacific, is being restored in Australia. It is believed to be the one flown by Saburo Sakai and it has been requested for technical assistance to have the aircraft repaired.

Japan unveils instant, 2-way translation system

TOKYO—Two-way automatic English-Japanese translation system has been developed by Nippon Telegraph and Telephone (NTT), it was reported here by the Japanese press May 24.

It represents the first step toward a computerized system capable of not only translating scientific and other data, but also serving as an interpreter for telephone conversations, according to the NTT research and development communications laboratory.

NTT's eventual aim is to develop a highly sophisticated, large-scale system with full voice recognition and voice synthesis devices, which can be used for international telephone conversations and debate at international conferences. This will obviate the need for simultaneous interpreters.

Programmed translation system

The automatic two-way translation system will be incorporated into the information network system (INS), a highly advanced information transmission network NTT plans to set up throughout the country in the future.

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Nobuo Osumi, Curator

BOMBER HB

Today, NTT's experimental system is a small-scale device combining a microcomputer and a program language called LISP.

Its memory capacity is 760 kilobytes.

Efforts to develop automatic translation systems are going on in various countries to cope with the increasing amount of scientific and technical data and other information, and to eventually translate language as it is spoken.

In Japan, such systems are also being developed by the electronical laboratory of the Industrial Science and Technology Agency and computer makers, including Fujitsu Ltd., Hitachi Ltd. and NEC Corp.

When a Japanese sentence is fed into NTT's experimental system, the English translation appears on a display screen or via a printer.

The computer does this by using various "dictionaries" in its memory bank, containing such information as Japanese and English words, the grammar of the two languages, information on people's names, places, and concepts for two-way translation between Japanese and English.

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Continued from Page 2

ZEKE ZERO

From Page 2

under coconut trees, had been a secret, empty landing place for the Raulhil wing. Its runway was only 900 feet long.

He said he could not imagine having found the place.

The Australian War Memorial Museum plans to rename the V-I-II Zeke in two or three years by using parts of other incomplete Zeke. Sakai says he wants to fly to Australia and identify his plane with his own eyes.

Amache Memorial reunion fete and dedication Sept. 3-4

DENVER, Colo.—Thousands of pamphlets describing the Amache Memorial Project and its dedication after the Sept. 3-4 reunion here at the Regency Hotel have been distributed nationwide, it was announced by Susami Hidaka, chairman, and Denver Central Optimist club, project sponsor.

The reunion begins with the trip Saturday to Amache by chartered bus leaving Denver at 6 a.m. and returning by 8 p.m. The trip fare is $25 with additional $5 for luncheon.

Sunday reunion dinner-dance, also $25 per person, starts at 7 p.m. at the Regency, 3000 Elati St., Denver, CO 80202. Room rates for September are $40.00; $40.00 the complimentary cocktail included, payable to the hotel for Amache Memorial guests.

Separate checks should be made for the Saturday trip, Sunday dinner, and contributions to the Fund and forwarded to Amache Memorial Fund, Nobuo Furuyama, treas., 2800 Eppinger Blvd., Thornton, CO 80229. Closing date is July 31, 1983.

552 FA, 232 Engr, 442 Anti-Tank Co. diorama depictingWW2 action put on display

SAN FRANCISCO—Brian Bahl, who has created dioramas depicting military history for the San Francisco Presidio Army Museum, has completed his sixth diorama, one depicting the WW2 combat action of 442nd Anti-Tank Co., 522nd Field Artillery and 232nd Engineers. It was recently

Kawada plays at 1st Annual Taiko Matsuri

Celebrating its 50th anniversary, the San Francisco Taiko Dojo followed the L.A. group by 30 minutes and the dojo began with the traditional Japanese lion dance, which is a highlight of the Taiko Matsuri's style results from combining both Osawa and Tokyo Kurenai Taiko. As a finale, the two male groups joined together with over 15 people excitedly beating into rhythm of the music.

Also a brief intermission came the highlight of the performance—Kimiko Kawada leading the Miyarabi Taiko of Osaka. Kawada, founder of the group, is a famous taiko performer having been presente

The NCRR (WCRR), which began on September 9, 1942, with its charter signed by Lt. Col. Lloyd Grayce, Nat'l JACL Vice-Pres., also the NCRR's charter, and Col. Jerald DeGaetano, National JACL Board Chairman.

The NCRR has expressed a strong desire to unify the Nikkei community on a single bill in Congress, and emphasized an imperative to include heirs as eligible recipients in any redress legislation. NCRR expressed willingness to form inclusion of an heirs provision's production when explained by JACL/WCR such provision would "kill" any
The Custom of "Bargaining"

Philadelphia

As the youngest of the family brood, it was my lot to be in tow whenever my parents went on shopping trips. This arrangement was prolonged, not so much for this "kooz" protection as it was simply to keep an eye on me. It was, however, and he seemed to have a magnetic affinity. With such early and vast exposure to shopping trips, we readily learned the value of the subject and we can report that it is a surprisingly boring experience, going from one store to another, from front to the back, and within a department covering counters A to Z. And then ending up buying almost next to nothing.

As so perhaps it may be understandable that when this workhorse of the household on her shopping tours, it can be the prime source of whatever strains as may arise in marriage.

RISKING THE DISTINCT repercussion of being labeled a "male chauvinist," we are nonetheless moved to suggest that there seems to be something in the female psyche that impels her to wander, at times seemingly aimlessly, in a store-touching this, turning over that, often including objects that no way in the world will she ever buy. On these shopping safaris, the futility and drudgery of it all is more than clear. They've done it. We've done our home-work and plowed through tens of thousands of primary historical documents and done months of legal research. Most importantly, we've defined the injury and the remedy in clear and comprehensive terms. There is an amount of money that will redress this particular injury. Should we demand less?

WILLIAM HOBRI
Chicago, Ill.
energies seem boundless, whereas her spouse (at least this one) is stricken with aching arks and hardening calves after a short while. (It's an interesting phenomenon: on the other hand, we think almost nothing of hiking for miles through the woods to reach a fishing hole.)

But returning to that Issei woman: she often "bargained", whether it was buying a fish or a frying pan. And often as not, she succeeded. (We've often wondered whether our mother was the only Issei who engaged in this "old world" custom of bargaining over price. We must confess that a bit of this custom was absorbed by that "koro" and whether we're in Tokyo or New York, we look for "wari-biki" and, more often than not, also succeed. For reasons not quite understood by us, exercise of such custom seems to be a source of embarrassment. For today's lady-of-the-house and she immediately places an alien distance between us, at times walking out of the shop altogether. Our efforts to convince, if not convert, her to the benefits, and some of the practices, fail upon defeat.

In much later years, my mother's "old world" custom would become a source of bit of embarrassment to her "bargaining" child. In her older years, we'd visit her and take her out on shopping trips, forgetting those early morning trips. She would never have learned to bargain.

But the difficulty was that even in the established department stores, she would—generally—seek to "bargain" with the counter clerk. My efforts to explain to her that the clerk was merely an employee, that the store was not expecting to be negotiating the price with a department store clerk. She would be so much to the easier for it, or that we can expect more compromises. Though her energies seem boundless, whereas her spouse (at least this one) is stricken with aching arks and hardening calves after a short while. (It's an interesting phenomenon: on the other hand, we think almost nothing of hiking for miles through the woods to reach a fishing hole.)

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Redress legislation. Ron Wakabayashi, as Nat’l JACL Director, was also a participant in such meeting, along with Berry. Carole Hayashi Admin. Assist. Redst Staff, Colleen Darlington.

WASHINGTON ACTIVITIES:

John Tateishi and Ronald Okaji reported in some detail concerning several press releases made in Washington, D.C., on the prior approval of $2,000,000 of CWRIC’s recommendations by the Senate. Short notice of an additional $900,000 was also given to the press. During the June 16, 1983, press conference, the San Jose Mercury News and Fresno Bee newspapers in California, on June 16, 1983, questioned the Senate’s approval of $2,000,000 and made a legislative challenge to call a news conference on June 16, 1983, disputing and indeed canceling media arrangements originally set up for June 22, 1983. Chairwoman Joan Z. Keller was a participant in such news conference.

Continued

Supplemental Request

Although the National JACL Committee for Redress urges the National JACL Board to endorse the CWRIC recommendations as basis for redress legislation, the Committee does further request that the National JACL Board, also adopt, as a supplement to the CWRIC recommendations, the following:

IV. SUPPLEMENTAL REQUEST

1. Consideration of 120,000 individuals. Because 120,000 individuals did suffer the consequences of the enforced evacuations, evacuation, relocation, and removal from the West Coast during 1942-1944, the figure of $29,000 should be allocated for all such persons.

2. Eligibility of Heirs. Similarly, the legislation of heirs being eligible to claim the share allocated to their antecedents should be similarly raised, for the reasons above stated.

3. Number of Days. It is urged in the drafting of redress legislation the number of members of the Board of Trustees for the Trust fund be specified as not less than 20 persons (or 14, if an optimum number can be agreed upon, it is suggested that such number be explicitly set forth in the legislation.

The foregoing should be set forth as a separate document, and be considered as operational instructions to the redress staff.

To clarify considerations and discussions of the National JACL Committee for Redress, it is noted that consideration was given explicitly to:

1. $20,000 individual payments. It was recommended that consideration of CWRIC Recommendations be made, based on the fact that the $20,000 figure as shown in the CWRIC’s recommended payments be a formula of the amounts received from the West Coast. But since the Senate did not accept this plan, it was not made an individual payment. Thus the lower figure of $20,000 was voted to be acceptable.

2. $1 billion aggregate amount. Considerable discussion was had on the issue of whether $20,000 per individual could be allocated to the total 120,000 persons excluded, the total of which was, therefore, $2,400,000,000. It was also recognized that multiplying $20,000 times 120,000 individuals would be an indirect way for benefitting heirs, since such sums would be paid into a trust fund which would benefit Nikkei communities—and thus heirs and dependents. However, after prolonged discussion it was concluded that JACL should accept the CWRIC recommendations, with the proviso that a supplemental request would be made.

3. Board for Trust Fund. Complicated formalities for appointments to the Board was rejected by the Committee, and Presidential appointments, with confirmation by the Senate was accepted.

4. Geographic representation. Geographic regional representation was rejected as being too complicated and extremely difficult to effectuate. Nomination process would be informal, without specific provisions—because it is well accepted and understood that Nisei would certainly exert informal influence and suggestions. It was suggested, however, that the number of members of the Board be held to no more than 14 members.

5. Eligibility of Heirs. It was felt that the JACL could not formally reject the concept that the Board should make determination of the qualifications, because the Nikkei community had long expressed a strong feeling that heirs should be so eligible.

It was pointed out that no one in Congress with any expectation of successful enactment would sponsor any kind of bill which would include heirs—because of the potential of opening it in Congress. As it is, it is suggested, that the Japanese American redress, but the whole gamut of other claims involving the U.S. government.

Because of the realities of such legal consideration, it was urged that although JACL adopt and approve the CWRIC recommendations, a good faith efforts be made at a later time to have serious consideration given to such issue—especially as to making an issue of whether the total of 120,000 individuals, whether living or deceased, would be specified, and amounting the total amount to be requested of Congress as appropriations.

5. Trust Fund Amount. Some discussion was generated in regard to a provision to establish a "fund" as to make possible the funding for the proposed trust fund. It was suggested that not less than $50,000 be designated for the trust fund.

However, upon discussion, such proposal was not formally accepted.

6. Supplemental Request. It was strongly felt that JACL owed an obligation to the Nikkei community to make good faith efforts to have the matter of 120,000 individual losses and heirs considered, it was proposed:

Monoru Yasui, Chairman Nat’l JACL Committee for Redress.

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CHIN
Continued from Page 1

"We insist that the murderer of Vincent Chin receive their day in court to be truly judged and punished by the same standards applied to other murderers," said Eu.

"We insist that the U.S. Department of Justice file charges and prosecute these perpetrators of this heinous act against humanity." The crowd cheered and shouted support as all the 15 speakers urged an end to racial scapegoating and blasted the judge Charles Kaufman who failed to impose jail terms on the two. Other speakers at the rally were: Yuen Sang Wong, president of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association of Los Angeles; Assemblyman Chuc Tran of Monterey Park; Assemblyman Charles Calderone; Dr. Dan Wong, mayor of Cerritos; L.A. City Councilman Alex Snyder; and Fred Fujioka, vice-chair of the Pacific American Round Table.

"In my lifetime in Los Angeles, this is the first time that I think such a broad coalition has come together," said Stewart Kwoh, director of the Pacific American Legal Center.

The Reception
Three weeks later on July 9, a reception was organized for the mother of Vincent, Mrs. Lily Chin. Held at the Garden Restaurant in Chinatown, the reception attracted over 400 people raising about $13,000.

Kim H. Yee, president of the American Citizens for Justice, speaking for the group said, "Seeing so many people here makes us in Detroit want to work harder for this Vincent Chin case.

"It started out as seeking justice for Vincent Chin, but it's no longer that," said Eu. "It is for the future of all Asian Americans."

A haggard Lily Chin rose to speak. In a solemn voice she said (translated from Chinese by Dr. Marisa Chuang):

"I want justice for my son. What happened to him could happen to any of us. We cannot let the killers free on probation—we cannot allow the justice system to do whatever they want. If we do, where is there justice? If we do, where do we have protection of our own?"

"...if this govern't stands for anything, it must stand for justice"—Mayor Bradley

"I promise you that, as long as I live, I will work harder than ever so that no other mother will suffer what I have gone through. I will work hard for justice and appeal to all of you to continue our quest for justice for all." Followed Mrs. Chuc, Mrs. Marisa Chuang talked about two ways of obtaining justice for Chin.

"If there is evidence of racism in the killing then there will be a federal case," she said, "If the killers are found guilty, they will be subjected to life imprisonment guilty of civil rights violations.

Another hope lies in the state court of appeals. Chuang said, "We have engaged not only a lawyer who is a former state supreme court justice, his name is Thomas Brennan, she said. "I think his willingness to accept this case renders lots of strength and hope to us.

"There is no question in my mind that racism killed Vincent Chin," said March Feng. "The most fitting tribute to him and his family and to his mother is to dedicate our lives to ensuring that it kills no other," the Secretary of State said. Councillor Gilbert Lindsey (Special District) described a "sad thing about minorities." When the reds and the blacks and other minorities were having their separate discrimination problems, none of the other minorities groups cared about it as long as they themselves were not affected.

"This should teach us a lesson on..." said Mrs. Chin with a Resolu­tion from the City of Los Angeles. "On the 21st (June) I present this Resolution (and the City Council) and the City Resolution not only adopt it, but commit all five members to speak in support of the Resolution.

"The Resolution..." throughout the nation, Americans have rallied in protest to this gross miscarriage of justice which carries within it a challenge to the rule of law and the human rights guaranteed by our Constitu­tion and the laws of the land. City Councils and other govern­mental bodies of the United States are being called on to conduct an investigation into the murder of Vincent Chin and the events pre­ceding and following it, and should appear that the laws of the United States of America have been violated, then to prosecute the murderers to the extent the law allows.

Closing the program was Fred Fujiko, vice-president of the Marina Chapter JACL. He said: "The problem that we face in this community and this society is that there's still racism and there's still people willing to crawl out from under their rocks and take advantage of a bad situation. They come out of the shadows because they think the promise of a Chinaman is only worth $3,000 and if they know that the full weight of the system will come down on them and the community will band together and we won't rest until justice is done; they won't come out from under their rock. They'll stay where they belong."

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