JACL testimony focuses on compact between government and individual

In addition to statements from national president Floyd Shimomura, redress director John Tateishi, and redress chair Minoru Yasui, the Japanese American Citizens League submitted the following testimony into the record of the hearing held July 27 by the U.S. House Judiciary Subcommittee on Administrative Law and Governmental Relations.

An account of the hearing will be carried in next week’s Pacific Citizen.

The national Japanese American Citizens League

Son calls internment FDR’s ‘worst mistake’

WASHINGTON — Elliott Roosevelt, son of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, told a nationwide television audience June 27 that monetary compensation to the Japanese Americans “has to be made, even though you can never really make it up to those people who were in those camps.”

Roosevelt said his father, in issuing Executive Order 9066, which authorized the wartime exclusion, “was given the wrong advice.”

“The incarceration decision was done principally upon the advice of the military commander on the West Coast,” he stated. “It was caused by a hysteria that developed on the West Coast in 1942, not on the basis of any charges against them, but solely on the basis of their Japanese ethnicity. It would compensate the 60,000 survivors of that exclusion with $20,000 each.

A bill of this nature will be enacted only if there is a thorough understanding and recognition of the importance and magnitude of the events of the Second World War and — most importantly — of the nature of the American government.

It is worthwhile to reiterate the basic precepts of the Bill of Rights, because the Japanese American exclusion and internment both killed and injured the American people.

The Constitution of the United States — Article I, Section 8 — says that Congress shall have power...

Verdict in Chin trial: one guilty, one innocent

DETROIT — A federal jury found Ronald Ebens, 45, guilty on one count of violating the civil rights of Vincent Chin, a Chinese American whom he bludgeoned to death with a baseball bat two years ago. Ebens’ stepson Michael Nitz, 26, was acquitted.

The jury, made up of whites and one Black, gave its verdict June 28 after hearing arguments from federal prosecutors that Ebens and Nitz killed Chin because he was Asian and counter-arguments from defense attorneys that the killing was simply the result of a barroom brawl that had nothing to do with racial animosity (see last week’s PC).

Sentencing is expected sometime in July. Ebens, who is out on personal bond, faces a maximum of life imprisonment. Speaking of Ebens, attorney Frank Raman said the verdict would be appealed and called the trial “a public humiliation."

Attorney James Shimoura of American Citizens for Justice, the civil rights group that has been monitoring the Chin case, said thatalthough there was no doubt that Nitz was a participant in the killing, the jury was apparently not convinced of racial motivation on his part.

Lily Chin, the victim’s mother, was not satisfied with the verdict. “This is not fair — they both killed my son,” she said at a press conference. “Why is the son (Nitz) not guilty?”

However, ACJ members are “satisfied with the results, for the moment,” Shimoura reported. “We had an opportunity to have the case heard in open court. The first case failed to bring to light the racial nature of the killing.

Prosecutor Theodore Merritt expressed satisfaction with the outcome. "There is no Zia of ACJ concurred, saying, “We are hopeful that today’s outcome will send a message across the country that it is not acceptable to harass and kill people of Asian heritage.”
Communicating visually — John Esaki and Takashi Fuji (from left) demonstrate features of the half-inch video camera to Chef Yamatofu family. The two held a workshop July 21 at one of Japanese Cultural Institute in Gardena.

BEGINNERS CAN LEARN VIDEO TECHNIQUES

LOS ANGELES — Visual Communications, a media resource and production organization, offers “Home Video for Beginners,” a workshop to be held Saturday, July 21, from 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Japanese Cultural Institute, 1621 S. Granery Place, Gardena. The workshop is designed to familiarize participants with the technical features and capabilities of home video equipment and to teach the basics of production. Participation includes “hands on” experience with videotaping and recording equipment.

CONFERENCE TO EXPLORE ‘NISEI ISSUES’

LOS ANGELES — Workshops in Alzheimers and care, home care, and conference materials and conference arrangements, and will be held at Union Church, 1621 S. San Pedro St., downtown Los Angeles, July 14 at Union Church, downtown Los Angeles.

ADVERTISING RATES

Effective July 1, many newspapers including the Pacific Citizen are converting to the new American Newspaper Publishers Assn.’s expanded standard advertising unit (SAU) system. Because SAU columns are wider and fit across 5 columns per tabloid page, the display ad rate has been adjusted. In addition, the number of Classified columns per contract will be converted from six to seven columns per page starting this fall.

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PACIFIC CITIZEN

By Harry Honda

Yamatofu Hall

Yamatofu Hall on Jackson St. facing No. Central Ave. is a colorful memory to oldtimers hereabouts and to the curious whenever the subject is raised — Yamatofu Hall had shops and a newspaper on the floor, a theater with a balcony on the second floor, and the Tokio Club frequented by Littl. on the top floor. Generally speaking, there are several items in our files covering the activities of Tokio Club: (1) Larry Yama’s column in the Sept. 19, 1949 PC, “Little Tokyo’s Underground.” (2) Kats Kunitagawa’s guest column in the Oct. 11, 1968 PC when Yamatofu Hall was being demolished. (3) Passages from three fairly popular books on the topic, Kali Hosokawa’s “Nisei, the Quiet Americans,” p. 122-126; Dr. Harry Kitano’s “Japanese Americans, 24 Ed.,” p. 146; and James and Oda’s “Heroic Struggles of Japanese Americans,” p. 275-274.

Having heard these standing references, more research needs to be done on what Kitano regards as one of the two most common Japanese offenses in federal crime statistics— gambling (the other was drunkenness) between 1940-70. Looking at it as a sociologist, Kitano adds that these two offenses appear to be culturally based, that is, both are tolerated in Japan. He also notes gambling was the No. 1 offense in Japan from 1907-1981.

Hosokawa’s account is laden with names of those who were in charge of Tokyo Club. Chojiro Itami headed the club from 1919-1927. Yasutaro Yasuda, president from 1927-1931, died violently under mysterious circumstances and allegedly said to be connected with an internal power play. This was during the Prohibition era. Last of the gambling bosses was Hideo (Hideo) Yamatofu, who took over in 1935. That may be a wrong date, however, since Judge Fletcher Bowron, who swept Mayor Frank Shaw from office in 1937,4, mistrust the police, gambling joints, prostitution, houses and protection rackets, according to JU Oda (who is also off one year). Actually, Shaw was recalled Sept. 17, 1938, in a special election.

Yamatofu and Oda both relate their own tale of the final days of the Yamatofu club. The "Quiet American" version says Yamatofu (quoting from "Jerry Giesler’s Story") was set free after being charged with the murder of a local gambler by the name of Namba, whose body was never found. Giesler, the famed Hollywood defense attorney, was able to have the conviction of manslaughter reversed. Yamatofu eventually went to Japan and was killed there during the war, Giesler added.

The Oda version is more bizarre. Reportedly taking refuge in Mexico, Yamatofu was tried in absentia. A U.S. naval intelligence officer appeared in his defense, claiming Yamatofu was an active soldier who lacked evidence of political intelligence. Oda also writes that a high-ranking Japanese naval officer had approached him while working under the MacArthur command and expressed that a Japanese submarine had picked up Yamatofu and his Mexican wife Wanda off the California coast before the war. As a consequence, Oda thinks Yamatofu was probably a highly successful double agent.

AND KUNITAGAWA, QUOTING THE LATE TOYO MIYATAKE WHO GREW UP IN THE AREA, MENTIONS THE CLUB AS HAVING ITS ZENITH AROUND 1930 UNDER LEADERSHIP OF TWO BOSSES — YAMATOFU AND KUNITAGAWA, WHO WERE EMERGED ON AN IRONCLAD OPERATION SO AS NOT TO BRING EMBARRASSMENT TO LITTLE TOKYO. SHE NOTES ALSO THAT THE CLUB WAS ORIGINALLY CALLED YAMATOFU CLUB WHEN IT WAS FOUND IN 1916.

Tajiri’s recall of Little Tokyo’s underworld is studded with even more statistics. He was actively editing the English-language Kashu Mainichi during the early 1930s and had a prodigious memory of Little Tokyonana. For instance, an Nisei businessman was assassinated in 1948 and charged for murder in 1924. But investigation proved it was a case of a police error and the Nisei was released. The 1924 victim had been a gambler. Then citing U.S. Justice Dept. figures for 1924, it was found that the Japanese American community was one of the least behaved in the nation with a crime rate of 4.5 per 1,000 persons. Of the total 570 offenses charged, nearly one-half was for gambling and drunkenness, 5 criminal homicide, 5 robbery and 35 sex offenses.

Tokyo Club was a coast-wide operation, operating during the Prohibition era of the 1920s as fixers, liaisons with corrupt police and civic officials, and dealing in dope and prostitution. The club was most active on pay-days in the fishing and labor camps towns like Guadalupe and Walnut Grove. The club was a factor in community affairs supporting worthy causes and maintaining a chauvin line during the Depression years. Nisei help at local Japanese markets were able to take a peek inside while delivering boxes of food to Tokyo Club, but details have been dimmed by time.

Tajiri also remembers the murder of a Tokyo Club official in San Francisco in 1934 which was never solved. He speculated that it may have been an East Coast attempt to move in.

What I remember (but not the date) is the night the Tokyo Club was raided by the LAPD. We were on the ground floor of Yamatofu Hall, locking up the Sango Nippo English page when loud crashes of shattered windows and gambling paraphernalia tumbling into the alley were mixed with people yelling upstairs. Since then, Tokyo Club never re-opened.

One of the problems researchers will have checking out the gambling story in the Little Tokyo press is that the club’s influence was strong enough to intimidate them. Rare was the editor who would raise his pen against the Tokyo Club.

P.S. — Some may remember a pachinko parlor at 235 E. 2nd St. in the mid-70s when the popular vertical pinball machine was imported from Japan. The operation lasted about two months when the police padlocked the place. An Army veteran in Sacramento was also trying to sell reconditioned machines to homes through discount houses. But pachinko never caught on.

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Inherent differences, JACL must continue in the forefront of efforts to assure that justice, freedom and equality for all are concretely advanced.

The quality of life for all of us must be enhanced if humankind is to survive in peace, prosperity and happiness. JACL must be actively involved in the myriad complex issues confronting us today.

To advance towards the attainment of such objectives, if elected as national president of the JACL, I pledge my best efforts.

Minoru Yasui was born in Hood River, Oregon, in 1916. He was graduated from University of Oregon Law School in 1939 and was admitted to the Oregon Bar that year. He practiced law in Portland until 1942.

When the military imposed a curfew on all Japanese Americans in the Pacific Northwest, Yasui deliberately violated the curfew laws in order to challenge their constitutionality. While his case was pending, he spent four months in the North Portland WCCA detention center and was then moved to the WRA camp in Minidoka, Idaho. He was taken back to Portland to stand trial and was found guilty.

Yasui spent 9 months in solitary confinement at the Multnomah County Jail while his case was being appealed. In 1943 the Supreme Court ruled against him, but since the time he had already spent in jail was deemed sufficient, he was sent back to Minidoka.

In 1944, he was released for employment in Chicago. A few months later he moved to Denver, where he attended law school, passed the state bar examination, and was admitted to the Colorado Bar in 1946. He was appointed as a commissioner on the Denver Commission on Community Relations in 1959 and served as executive director of the commission from 1967 to 1983. His responsibilities included dealing with problems of the elderly and the disabled.

Since moving to Denver, Yasui has served in various capacities in civic organizations, including the Colorado State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, the Denver Public Schools Career Education Center, Boy Scouts of America, the Commission on Youth for the City and County of Denver, Denver Native Americans United, the Denver Anti-Crime Council, the Interfaith Forum, the Mayor's Task Force on Refugee Affairs, and many others.

He has also written for and edited such Nikkei vernaculars as Nisei View, Rocky Shimpok, Colorado Times, Mountain-Plains AJA News, and Rocky Mountain Nippon.

As a former member of the U.S.-Japan Council of Philadelphia, Yasui was active in the 1955-1958 period in the organization to improve U.S.-Japan understanding and mutual respect.

Join the JACL
The Duo: East and West

EVEN ALLOWING for some expansiveness that passage of years tends to lend to one's perceptions, there's much to be said for many of JACL leaders of yesteryear. We do not claim to be any authority on the subject; we did not "work in the trenches" in those early years with these leaders -- we were too young.

But upon our entrance into the JACL in the mid-50's, we were to hear much and experience some of the likes of Masao W. Satow and Mike M. Masaoka. Mas and Mike.

BACK IN THOSE days, Mike was JACL's Washington representative, being paid a pittance -- while performing miracles. From those who worked with him in those early years we gleaned an insight: how their apartment bedroom was, in effect, the Washington office with wife Etta, the secretary and Everything-Girl-Friday. Thiers was a not job; it was a commitment. No one in their right mind would keep a job at that pay-scale. We all know Mike as the spell-binding orator who, without notes, renders a message that would take anyone else just hours to put together -- and then not nearly as well. (As a young lawyer, when I first heard him as a dinner speaker, I was absolutely amazed.) I still am. But one of his early staff people told this writer of Mike's going up to Capitol Hill to present testimony on behalf of some bill to benefit the Issei-Nikkei, and being so convincingly tied that upon his return he would, at times, vomit from over-emotion.

THERE ARE SOME who may perceive Mike as conceited or arrogant. This was not this writer's experience. We recall in the mid-50's when we held some lower-level office in the district, Mike -- busy as he was (and very important, we thought) -- came to the train station to meet us, and then personally drove us back to the station. We never forgot that.

Flattered by this kind attention and mindful that we were but some low-level factotum (not even a national officer) we remember "kinodoky-ing" to him. The reply of the Washington representative with a national reputation: "But I'm only staff!"

NATIONAL DIRECTOR MAS was similarly self-effacing. Similarly he, too, was being paid a pittance. He, too, had his Everything-Girl-Friday, Chiz, by his side, sharing in his sacrifices. When Daisy Uyeda was lured away by husband-to-be Yone Satoda, Chiz had to fill some big gaps. And for Mas, it was not a job; it was commitment. As it was for the Washington representative some 3,000 miles east. Again, there were many "kinodokus" situations with Mas: his going out of his way, far beyond regular working hours, late into the night, weekends. To which he'd reply: "But you're a volunteer; I get paid to do this.

Yes, what "pay" it was. Monetarily, at least.

WE'VE REPORTED BEFORE that Mas watched that JACL treasury like a trusted charged with the obligation of overseeing someone else's monies. Not a penny was misspent: no frills, no extra, no bending of authority, no questionable expenditures. In fact, when the treasury was tight (and most often it was) as national director, Mas tightened expenditures even more. We'll never -- but never -- forget one national board meeting which was held for two days in Los Angeles at the Hayward Hotel on Spring Street -- not one of the finer hoteleries of the City of Angels.

FEW WILL EVER know the sacrifices that these two made for the welfare of their fellow beings, particularly the Issei and the Nikkei. We all have one heckuva debt that can never be repaid. And neither ever did it to be paid. That's the nobility of it all.

L.A. county commission releases findings on anti-Asian bigotry

LOS ANGELES — Following a public hearing last year, the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations has concluded that anti-Asian bigotry is on the rise and that steps must be taken to deal with it.

The commission based its report on testimony heard Nov. 9, 1983, at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in Little Tokyo (see Nov. 18 PC). Twenty-two people, most of them Asian community representatives, gave their views on the problem of bigotry.

The commission found that:

- The local Asian community has been alarmed by an increase in physical attacks, hate graffiti and bumper stickers, vandalism, religious discrimination, discrimination by immigration officials, stereotyping in the media, and restrictive housing and business practices.
- Testifiers cited examples of local violence an assault on Japanese American youths by whites who told them to "go back to China," vandalism of Chinese movie theaters, and the arrest of a Chinese newspaper building — all in Monterey Park.
- Historical American prejudice against Asians has been brought to the surface by the current economic climate and substantial recent Asian immigration into the area.
- There also exists a high level of anti-Japanese feeling due to strong competition from Japan in the auto, steel and electronic industries. All Asians are likely to suffer as a result, because non-Asians do not differentiate among different Asian groups.
- With the increasing Korean business ownership in the South Central area, there has been expression of anti-Korean feeling by Black residents. It was charged in the Los Angeles Sentinel, a Black newspaper, that Asians receive preferential treatment from lending and business assistance programs and that Korean shop owners are rude to Black customers.
- Stereotypes about Asian customs, food, hygiene and ethics are widespread. Because of language and cultural differences, recent immigrants and refugees are more likely to suffer from bigotry than Asians who have lived here for a longer period.
- One testified that construction of a Buddhist temple in Hacienda Heights was blocked by area residents who believed that "Asians look funny," "eat dogs," and "have weird diseases."
- Because Asians are easily identified as a racial group, their concentration in certain areas (such as Monterey Park and Alhambra) has exacerbated anti-Asian feeling despite the fact that they make up only 6% of the total county population.

Historical contributions made to the U.S. by Asian peoples, as well as the potential contributions of Asian newcomers, are overlooked when fear and ethnocentrism arise, despite the fact that this country has always been a land of immigrants and refugees.

Recommended Steps

The commission also heard several recommendations on what should be done about the situation and formulated the following steps:

- The commission will continue to report on racially or religiously motivated vandalism or violence. It will also increase outreach to the Asian community through its racial and religious violence prevention network to assure support for victims and monitor the level of such acts.
- A pool of Asian resource persons in the west San Gabriel Valley (the Monterey Park/Alhambra area) will be developed to improve intergroup relations.
- An interreligious council will be formed to share information and discuss issues arising from common problems of discrimination.
- A Black-Asian dialogue in the South Central area will be developed to resolve the problems between the two groups.
- The commission has recommended to the county board of supervisors that every February 19 be proclaimed a Day of Remembrance of the injustices endured by Japanese Americans as a result of Executive Order 9066.

It was noted during the hearing that redress has been decried by some as "a special privilege," largely because the facts about the internment are not well known.

The commission does not have the authority to make laws but serves in an advisory capacity to the board of supervisors.

BY THE BOARD: Miki Himeno

More Effective Assertiveness

JACL's national women's concerns committee held a workshop on "Effective Assertiveness" on June 16 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in Los Angeles.

Leading the workshop were Irene Hirano, national JACL women's concern chair; Dr. Sarah Miyahara, director of USC's counseling service; and Sau-wah Chuan, intern at USC counseling center.

Behavior is generally classified as Assertive, Aggressive, or Non-assertive. Dr. Miyahara explained behavioral definitions for the workshop. A self-assessment inventory was taken by participants. Large and small group workshops were held to discuss assertiveness for personal benefit and in an organizational setting.

Assertiveness can be conveyed non-verbally through behavior and body language. Various characteristics of each behavioral component were pointed out. These became the basis of the role-playing in another segment of the workshop, where practical application was made of assertiveness training.

Assisting as group leaders were Midori Watanabe, founder of Greater Los Angeles JACL Singles Chapter and counselor at El Camino College, and women's concern committee member J.D. Hokoyama, who handled refreshments and arrangements.

Many PSW chapters were represented by the women attending the workshop. More effective participation on the local level will be possible through the support of this workshop and through the resulting networking from having made new acquaintances.

Packet material with bibliography will be filed at the national headquarters with program director Lia Shimamura to be made available to interested chapters in the near future.
In China were different breed from Japanese American who despite their logical to expect something similar to happen in the United States and locking up Japanese military invasion of that country it was only in the Japanese television series "Sanga Mou." Hemphoee takes the position that because Japanese civilians in China aided the Japanese military invasion of that country, it was only logical to expect something similar to happen in the United States and locking up Japanese Americans was a justifiable precaution.

What he does not seem to understand is that the Japanese in China were a different breed of cat from Japanese Americans who despite their American citizenship were treated like enemy aliens.

Hemphoee cites an authority to the effect that when units of the Japanese army landed in Shanghai in 1932 they were greeted by crowds of banzu-shouting local Japanese. He finds this to have been a sinister warning as to what might be expected in the U.S., but some other facts need to be considered. There were troops from many nations, including U.S. Marines, stationed legally at the time in Shanghai's International Settlement. The Japanese contended they were reinforcing their garrison to protect their interests. Whether this was a justified action is another matter.

The position of the civilians who hailed the arrival of these troops was totally different from that of Japanese Americans. The Japanese in China were carpetbaggers who never pretended to be anything other than Japanese. The Japanese Americans were Americans by birth, education, political and cultural loyalty and by any other criteria. If their loyalty to the United States were to be suspected on the basis of their ethnicity, which Hemphoee and many others consider proper, then the same suspicions should have been directed toward German Americans, Iranian Americans, Cuban Americans, Libyan Americans, and so on.

The thrust of Hemphoee's column is that Japanese Americans who were imprisoned by their own government should not be given monetary compensation because their incarceration was necessary. There are others who agree for this and other reasons.

But we as the victims of that wartime action, no matter what our position on compensation, have an obligation to see that opposition is based on grounds other than the false and racist contention that Japanese Americans were indeed a security risk and that their imprisonment was a military necessity.

Whether Japanese Americans deserve compensation for the injustice they experienced will be debated for a long time to come. But there should be no debate whatever about whether they were wronged. There is no question any more that they were terribly wronged, that basic American principles were violated in the hysteria of war. That wrong is perpetuated when, out of malice or ignorance, the canard about military necessity is repeated.

Nikkei senior citizens learn to cut back on meat and salt intake

By Joe Oyama
(Special to the Pacific Citizen)

OAKLAND, Calif.—Using charts and a blackboard, Diane Yasuda, marketeer for a UC-Berkeley research group, "Nutrition and Good Health." The presentation was held June 9 at the Berkeley JACL/Nikkei Drop-In Center.

Stressing the need for positive dietary goals, Yasuda recommended the following: eat more fresh and whole fruits, eat more fibrous food and starch, and try maintaining an ideal weight.

"Avoid eating too much fat, sugar or starch, and drink alcohol in moderation. The more different kinds of food you eat, the more likely you may get all of the nutrients," she emphasized.

What Americans Eat

"To see how Americans are eating, a nationwide survey was conducted by a UC-Berkeley research group," Yasuda said. "This is what they found: Americans eat 50-85% processed foods. Some of it is O.K.

Between 1910-1976, beef consumption increased by 72%; cheese by 388%; and chicken by 176%. Between 1945-1976, the consumption of eggs decreased by 22% and between 1970-1976 fresh fruits by 33%. However, the consumption of processed fruits increased by 200%.

Japanese Diet Consists of

Japanese diet consists of a fat content of 19% as compared to 40% in the American diet," said Yasuda. However, her chart disclosed that Japanese consume twice as much salt as the Americans.

She agreed with a member of the audience that there is a correlation between the intake of salt and heart attacks. One member of the audience wondered whether the greater consumption of imported beef in Japan contributed to their greater salt consumption.

Although eggs are listed as a food very high in cholesterol, Yasuda thought that it was all right for Issei (first generation Japanese) to eat eggs, because the1 their overall consumption of fat is low.

"There is saturated fat in meat—hard fat. Cholesterol is one kind of fat in red meat. In America since the 1960's, however, the average cholesterol is down," said Yasuda.

A perfect t-shirt for the "Sushi" craze...
against the law, not because people like him have or may have transgressed. It goes without saying that among the basic freedoms that we all possess, the right to work wherever we choose in the United States and to follow lawful pursuits without interference from the government.

Discriminatory Laws

In 1940, people of Japanese descent in the United States were only partially admitted to this basic compact. First, no immigrants from Japan could become a citizen of the United States. Nor did those in the United States have full rights. The exclusionary laws could override the compact. Second, years or more in this country were absolutely prohibited from becoming full-fledged members of the community and society in which they had lived. Third, the Western states had erected laws against land ownership by Japanese nationals and practices of segregation and discrimination against all ethnic Japanese were routinely followed by many people in the Pacific states. This was a vicious and ugly history in California and elsewhere, but it was not entirely successful in depriving people of Japanese descent of the benefits of American life.

The very core of the bill before the committee today is the recognition that even a claim of military necessity could not override the basic compact that they, as individuals.

In the second World War, the federal government took the view of "military necessity" could not override the basic compact that they, as individuals.

In the second World War, the federal government took the view of "military necessity," resulting in the detention of 120,000 people forced to leave their homes and become full-fledged members of the community of which you are a part and treated as if you are in all likelihood an enemy. The stigma of that treatment is painful and indeed runs counter to our central understanding of what it means to be American. It is a painful and collective stigma which Japanese Americans have had to endure for over forty years.

Rights of Individual Discarded

These basic facts have been well known for 40 years. What has been much less obvious until the publication of Personal Justice and the Wartime Exclusion and Internment of Citizens was the failure of the federal government to recognize that even a claim of military necessity could not override the basic compact that they, as individuals.

Compact Between Government and Citizen Was Broken

The very core of the bill before the committee today is the recognition that even a claim of military necessity.

West Coast (see Exhibit A). Nevertheless, the exclusion continued for another eighteen months.

Legislation for Individuals, not Group

This history illustrates the fact that the damage of the exclusions has been done. The act of exclusion, the detention, has been recognized - 120,000 people forced to leave their home and to become full-fledged members of the community of which you are a part and treated as if you are in all likelihood an enemy. The stigma of that treatment is painful and indeed runs counter to our central understanding of what it means to be American. It is a painful and collective stigma which Japanese Americans have had to endure for over forty years.

Precedents for Redress

There are many precedents for the breach of trust between the Japanese Americans and the federal government and who will regret it, but will still ask why anything should have been done about it at this late date. First, there must be a clear recognition that the government has in the past recognized breaches of trust and undertaken to correct them. The remedies proposed by the Commission are not new.

Most obviously, the federal government has allowed the Indian tribes to bring claims against the United States for the loss of hunting lands and the destruction of particular individuals. That determination could and should have been made during the early days of exclusion and detention. However, there was no attempt in the assembly committees to determine if there were facts justifying the incarceration of particular individuals. There was no recognition of the right of those ethnic Japanese to bring claims against it.

Open to anyone, citizen or non-citizen, who becomes a member of the JACL.
Studies find refugees in camp suffer psychological damage

LOS ANGELES—A new study on refugee camps by a Univ. of Southern California researcher confirms what many Japanese Americans of America’s second generation long suspected: “resettlement” camps can impair the mental health of those interned.

Most of the world’s refugee camps were meant to be temporary stops on the journey to settling in another country. But all too often, detainment in the camps is prolonged by host countries’ strict immigration quotas and exhaustive background checks, says Robert W. Roberts, dean of the USC school of social work.

His study is the first to have assessed problems of social and psychological adjustment among refugees still in camps. The research was conducted at the assistance of USC social work alumni Kenneth Chau and Mak Bongo.

In 1981, Roberts and his colleagues set up interviews and psychological testing on refugees from Southeast Asia, especially Vietnam, all of whom were living in Hong Kong camps while waiting to emigrate. Of the total respondents, 71% said they wanted to emigrate before the United States. Most of the rest had set their hopes on Canada or Australia.

60% Show Psychological Distress

On well-validated psychological tests, 60% of the refugees showed four or more symptoms of mental problems. Such results would place them at “high risk of psychiatric impairment.” Another 10% had three symptoms and would be considered on the high-risk borderline.

In “other words, close to 60% of our sample showed signs of psychological distress before even having to confront the inevitable difficulties of resettlement in a new country, in a new culture,” says Roberts. “The only other groups to have shown comparable levels of mental problems on such tests were people who had been in the camps for more than 18 months.”

Roberts acknowledges that some of the refugees’ psychological problems may have been caused, in part, by traumas suffered before their arrival at the camps. Some had been tortured. Some had lost loved ones while escaping in small boats on the high seas. But, he says, prolonged detainment in the camps seems to have served as salt to whatever emotional wounds they bore on arrival.

For 65% of the people studied, the camp stay had lasted 16 to 18 months. For the entire group, the average stay was 17 months.

Roberts’ study found that the longer refugees remained in the camps, the greater the number of life changes they endured. High tides of “life changes,” such as the birth of a child or the beginning of a new job, take on more importance for someone who is about seven recent life-change events, “accelerated rate of life changes.”

Thus, “social workers in the camps should pay special attention to people who are separated from loved ones, unemployed or stuck in the camps for more than 18 months.”

These findings support, too, that therapy could be shorter and more effective if directed at the root of the problem, before relapse.

Hedge Against Inflation

By Worldwide standards, the Hong Kong camps are generally regarded as “the country’s clubs” of such facilities,” Roberts notes. “People are forced to sleep in clusters of 12 beds stacked three high, with several people sharing each narrow bed. Privacy does not exist. The toilet facilities are primitive, and cooking must be done without refrigeration. That gives you an idea just how bad conditions are elsewhere.”

Roberts believes the plight of Vietnamese-Chinese in the Hong Kong camps of people still await resettlement—holds lessons for the treatment of refugees in general.

Buffering Factors

“We discovered several factors that seemed to buffer the camps’ debilitating effects,” he says. “People who had family members in the camps and who had been allowed to find jobs outside the camps were generally doing better than those who had been separated from loved ones and left unemployed. Also, people who had been able to maintain high hopes of eventually being resettled in their choice country seemed more resilient.”

Thus, “social workers in the camps should pay special attention to people who are separated from loved ones, unemployed or stuck in the camps for more than 18 months.”

These findings support, too, that therapy could be shorter and more effective if directed at the root of the problem, before relapse.

Roberts advocates speedy resettlement strategies that keep refugees together and do not disperse them across a country, as has been tried in the United States.

“Along the route to resettlement, we should try to keep families intact, provide opportunities for employment, and encourage the development of communities and support groups,” he says.

“Your top priority should be to shorten the refugees’ stay in the camps.”
Talking story — Dr. Hiroshi Ueki, president of Petrosbras (left), Luis Yamakawa (center), and Enrique Yara discuss the 1985 PANA conference.

and his adviser, Dr. Onaga. Dr. Ueki is a former minister of commerce and agriculture and is now president of Petrosbras.

German and Setsuko Yaki invited Carlos Luis. Enrique and me to dinner with Drs. Ueki and Onaga. The dinner included a discussion lasting six hours touching on PANA, the world monetary situation, Brazilian Nikkei attitudes and psyche, immigration history, and future perspectives. Dr. Ueki provided many interesting stories about his conference and experiences with the U.S. president, secretaries of state (Kissinger, Schultz), OPEC ministers, the prime minister of Japan, etc.

Drs. Ueki and Onaga are conversant in six languages and their English is flawless. Historically the president of Petrosbras is elected to the presidency of Brazil. I wonder what the chances are of Dr. Ueki’s becoming the first Nikkei president of a country besides Japan?

Museum of Nikkei History

On the day we arrived in Sao Paulo the local Nikkei chamber of commerce had a luncheon for us to learn more about PANA and the activities of the Brazilian Nikkei. The place was held at a beautiful Aichi Kenjin Kai building, a big hall with a small museum depicting products made in that town. The building was clean and looked as though it had been just completed this year.

The most interesting part of the entire trip was visiting the Nikkei Cultural Center’s museum which took up the top three floors of the Bunka Kai Kan (culture center). The displays were excellent. I was surprised to learn that 1,500 Nikkei were moved inland from the coastal cities and areas after Pearl Harbor. In fact, because of the loss of Japanese living in the jungle and used dugout canoes were quite moving. The first Isoke of Brazil really went through hardships quite different from those experienced by our grandparents and parents in the U.S. They were free on their own in the jungle but we had to cope with in the human jungle.

A month prior to the trip in Sao Paulo, the local Nikkei chamber of commerce (tank) for the Nikkei Man’s annual meeting, the committee which organized the entire event.

Dr. Ueki provided many interesting stories about the museum and the lives of the Issei in Brazil during WW2.

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Japan's chief justice tells why country has no juries

By David M. Hockendorf, Attorney at Law

SEATTLE—Just before 50 individuals filled the library of Kawabe Memorial House on May 15 to listen to a talk by former chief justice of the Japanese Supreme Court, the Hon. Takaaki Hattori. Justice Hattori delivered an interesting address on the basic structure and organization of the Japanese legal system and made some comparisons to the U.S. system.

Among the highlights was a discussion of the jury system in Japan. Unlike the U.S. legal system, which in most instances grants a citizen the right to try a case by a jury of his or her peers, in Japan the jury system was abandoned in 1943.

Two reasons were given for the action. First, the Japanese did not feel that laypersons were competent enough to pass judgment on them. Second, if the accused in criminal proceedings elected to go to a jury at the trial-court level and was convicted, he or she would not be able to appeal. Consequently, criminal defendants would play the percentages and virtually always waive the jury.

Hattori's talk was sponsored by Seattle Chapter JACL and national relations committee, Asian Law Assn. and Japan-America Society of Washington. A question-and-answer period and informal reception followed.

Impressive Career

Hattori was graduated from the Tokyo Imperial Univ. law department in 1935 and was appointed judge for Tokyo district court in 1936. He was appointed official of the Chamber JACL international relations, play the percentages and virtually always waive the jury.

Consequently, criminal defendants would play the percentages and virtually always waive the jury.

Glenn, a JACL New England Chapter office conceded that the article "regrettably captures no history."

Anh Mai trial postponed

SEATTLE—Approximately 10,000 people attended a talk by former chief judge for the Civil Affairs Bureau of the General Secretariat of the Supreme Court in 1946.

He served as chief judge for various district, family and high courts. When he was appointed to the Japanese Supreme Court. He served as chief justice from April 1979 until 1982 at the compulsory retirement age of 70.

Hattori was in Seattle teaching a class at the Univ. of Washington school of law at the time of his lecture.

Chapter Pulse

San Jose

SAN JOSE, Calif.—Each month various organizations take turns hosting a party for the community's seniors. This year, the San Jose JACL hosts the party scheduled for July 21.

If any readers are interested in helping on July 21, please contact Katie Hironaka. (408) 292-2914

New York

NEW YORK—Chapter president Peter Rahm announced the awarding of JACL's $500 general scholarship to Michelle Philia Mizuno, a National Merit Scholar from Demarest, N.J. There was no winner for the Lucille Nakamura Memorial Scholarship. Mizuno was honored along with Japanese American Assn. winners June 16 at the Nippon Club.

Riverside

RIVERSIDE, Calif.—Eight students were awarded a total of $1,950 by the chapter. They are: Eugene Oda Memorial Scholarship—Abraham Meltzer; Dr. Hideo Inaba Memorial Scholarship—Ted Komori and Michael Townsend; Riverside JACL Scholarship—Caroline Nakakihara and Anne Marie Nakaya; S. Madokoro Scholarship—Della Joseph, Audrey Kobayashi, and Joyce Yamano.

Greater Los Angeles Singles

LOS ANGELES—The chapter announces a change of address for its weekly support group for the divorced. It meets at 1415 Brockton Ave. in West Los Angeles on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, and at 1490 Rolling Hill Dr. in Monterey Park on the second and fourth Tuesdays. The time is 6 p.m. No fee is charged. For information: 478-5956/242-2769

Seattle

SEATTLE—Four graduating high school seniors were honored at a chapter board dinner meeting held at Kawabe House May 16. Selected for their outstanding scholastic achievements, community service, and extracurricular school activities, each student was awarded a Seattle JACL scholarship of $500. Recipients of the Minoru Tamesa Memorial scholarships were Katherine Jitodai, Lisa Tamekuni, and Michael Yamashita. Kenlyn Kichii was presented the Rev. Emery Andrews Memorial scholarship.

Eligible for a graduate of Franklin High School and will be attending Yale Univ. in the fall. Tamekuni, Renton H.S., will enter the Univ. of Washington. Yamashita, Garfield H.S., will begin his college studies at the Univ. of Puget Sound. Kichii, also from Franklin, will study at the Univ. of Washington.

Yubatake started the scholarship fund in 1979 with a generous donation in memory of his son, Minoru, and has added to it in each of the following years. The fund is supplemented by contributions from the Japanese Baptist Church and by the Seattle JACL Chapter. This year, a contribution was also received in memory of Isaac Sakuma. Scholarships are supported by income derived from the fund.

The awards ceremony was moderated by Calvin Takagi, chair of the scholarship committee. Other committee members were James Hattori, Diana Kato, Hiroko Nakagawa, and Jan Yoshiwara.

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Okrand to step down from ACLU post

LOS ANGELES — Fred Okrand, who has been standing up for the civil rights of the American Indians for 42 years, celebrates his retirement as legal director of the Los Angeles affiliate of the ACLU July 15.

Okrand, a 46-year-old A. L. Nixon with a passion for involving the American Civil Liberties Union, hired Okrand from USC law school and, as Executive Director of the ACLU, served as counsel to Okrand when he was issued in 1942, the two worked to find a plaintiff for a test case against the government.

Okrand told Los Angeles Herald Examiner reporter Tricia Crane that he interviewed "lots of people through the barbed wire fence of the holding camp (at Santa Anita racetrack)." The man I chose to represent the group was born in this country, was a veteran of WWII and a member of the American Legion. He couldn't have been more American. We say it's a more 'sexy' case if we have an upstanding citizen who is being subjected to violations of his civil liberties.

That's one of the considerations as to who we selectively take in a case or a particular plaintiff at a given time. Our resources are limited. The plaintiff, however, withdrew from the case after threats were made against him and his family.

Okrand still calls the internment 'the single wholesale violation of civil liberties in our history.'

Chicken pox vaccine

BOSTON — An Osakado developed vaccine against chicken pox, the last major childhood infection for which there is no widely available protection, was before 10 effective in a U.S. study in May. Dr. Michiko Takahashi of Bikken Institute developed the vaccine, which is being produced in the U.S. by Merck Sharp and Dohme.

(Wrin eventually became law and legal counsel to the Heart Mountain draft resisters and to Tule Lake "reincarnates," and was also ACLU's special counsel during the trials.)

Other issues that have surfaced from time to time include segregation in schools, police spying, non-citizen rights, and labor law. He has been involved in more than 50 legal cases.

Okrand's 'stepping down' dinner takes place at the Beverly Hills Hotel July 15. For more information, contact Carol Solbe (213) 487-1720.

PC's Classified Advertising

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Supervisor's hopes for Corruga.

SANTA MARIA, Calif.—San
ta Barbara County Supervisor
Toru Miyoshi was given a
unique honor by a thorough-
bred horse race in Santa Ynez.
He had a two-year-old thoroughbred colt named after him.

"Toru" is a bay that stands 16 hands high. The colt was
in a race for the first time, and
he won it. The purse was $25,000. Seven other colts sired by Seabird have won races.

Peggy, Gardner, the GARDNER ranch was looking
for a unique name for the two-year-old, and brought up the problem at a luncheon she was having with Miyoshi and a number of others.

"I needed a special name for the horse, one that's not listed in the official nega-
tive," she said. "I mentioned
to the group it and they were sug-
gested that I use 'Toru'. When I asked the supervisor what it meant, he said 'Man of Steel'. Well, that sounds
like Man of War, and it had a real
ring to it.

"No other horse had the name
so I went ahead and of,off. This
was a West Coast race, and
they usually name the horse
after the winner." He said.

According to Miyoshi, it's
unusual to have a horse named
for a supervisor. "It's a real
horse and the name is a real
beauty. I wish he well in all his
upcoming races," he said.

Fencing

was active in Young Buddhists Assn.,
admitted to the Chinese-English and two Spanish
classes.

in his junior year, he was
elected a fellow of the Academy of
Dentistry International.

the MIS Assn. of

Education

is a member of the Hispanic
American Lawyers Assn., Inc.

an active member of the MIS Assn. of

march

Fencing

Lin studied fourth

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Nisei fund aids Southeast Asian scholars

MERIDEN, N.H.—Eight Southeast Asian refugee students graduating from New England high schools this month are receiving scholarships from the Nisei Student Recognition Commemorative Fund, Inc.

The fund was established in 1979 to commemorate the assistance given to Nisei college students by the Nisei Student Recognition Reorganization Committee, which enabled them to pursue their education outside the WWII internment camps.

The winners were: Guang Chi Doo (Vietnamese); Conord-Carlisle H.S., Concord, Mass.; Riichi Chan Long (Cambodi- an), Cheshire H.S., Cheshire, Conn.; Souksavong Lenthak (Laotian), Mt. Pleasant H.S., Providence, R.I.; Dung Le (Vietnamese), John F. Kennedy H.S., Waterbury, Conn.; Souksavong Phengsavath (Laotian), Danbury H.S., Danbury, Conn.; Luang Thong Rung Dong (Vietnamese), Lewiston H.S., Lewiston, Me.; Thuan Ngoc Pham (Vietnamese), Brockton H.S., Brockton, Mass.; Quang Chui Quach (Vietnamese), Brighton H.S., Brighton, Mass.

Dr. Lafayette Noda, chair of the Nisei fund board of di- rectors and professor emeritus of biochemistry at Dartmouth College, said that the awards committee members find it extremely frustrating to select only eight from among many equally deserving applicants.

JAP’ on traffic citation protested

LOS ANGELES—When Tadashi Agari, a Japanese American from Stockton, was given a traffic citation as he was driving through Hollywood on March 14, he was dismayed to find the word “Jap” written on his notice in a box labeled “desert.”

Upon the advice of a Stockton traffic officer that “this word is describing someone of Japanese descent is not to be used in any way because it is discriminatory.

John Safo, Pacific Southwest District regional director, subsequently sent a letter to police chief Daryl Gates, stating that the use of the word “Jap” by an officer of the LAPD “demonstrates a lack of sensitivity on the part of a public servant who has a tough job to do and need not create unnecessary ill will.”

Safo stated that he was not condemning the officer who issued the citation but wished “to bring a halt to a demeaning practice.

Chief Marvin Iannone responded to Safo’s letter with assurances that the officer in question “has been counseled by appropriate description of ‘oriental’”.

“The abbreviation ‘Jap’ for Japanese descent is not sanc- tioned by this Department,” Iannone explained. “The appro- priate description is ‘oriental’.”

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“Of the seventeen in the finalist pool, the average class standing was well within the top 10%, and some students ranked even in the top 1%,” he said. He pointed out that this was all the more remarkable considering that the majority of the finalists had been in the U.S. four years or less.

The awards given this year are the second set of scholar- ships distributed from the fund. Last year’s awards were given in the San Francisco Bay Area.

The NSRC Fund directors plan to raise additional funds so that more than eight awards can be given annually. Tax de- ductible contributions can be sent to: NSRC Fund, Inc., 19 Scenic Drive, Portland, CT 06403.

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