Republican platform recognizes minorities

DALLAS—Steve Nakashima, a Nisei attorney from San Jose, found the Republican national convention anything but dull. He attended not only as a California delegate but also as a member of the party's platform committee, and in the latter capacity he was able to have statements on the WW2 internment of Nikkei and on minority Americans in general included in the platform.

Nakashima, who was invited in Poston during the winter of 1942, drafted prepared in Washington did not have anything about the evacuation or redress. As a member of the Human Resources and Opportunities committee, he submitted an amendment that called the internment a "grave injustice" but which made no mention of redress.

The platform committee, he recalled, was "leaning extremely right, and under such circumstances his philosophy was: "you take what you can get." Nakashima favors the establishment of a community fund, particularly for elderly Nikkei, although he does not support individual payments.

The amendment, which was accepted unanimously, states that the wartime treatment of Japanese Americans "contravened the fundamental principles of our people" and that "the deprivation of rights they suffered shall never again be permitted in this land of liberty."

Lack of Awareness

Nakashima found that fellow committee members were unaware of the roles played in the states played in Nikkei history. Minnesota congressman Vin Weber, for example, did not know that FV-1 was a military language school where the Nisei of Military Intelligence Service were trained. Nakashima also thought that statement was eventually cleared and adopted with few changes.

The original statement on minorities simply read, "To all Americans, but especially to our Black, Hispanic and Asian American citizens who desire full participation in all aspects of our society, the party of Lincoln will remain the party of equal rights for all.

Contributions by Minorities

The expanded statement reads, in part: "For millions of Black Americans, Hispanic Americans, American Indians, and members of other minority groups, the past four years have seen a dramatic improvement in their ability to secure for themselves and for their children a better tomorrow."

"The policies of the Reagan Administration have opened literally millions of doors of opportunity for these Americans, doors which either did not exist or were rapidly being slammed shut by the no-growth policy of the Carter-Mondale Administration."

"We Republicans are proud of our efforts on behalf of all minority groups, and we pledge to do even more during the next four years."

"We will continue to press for enactment of economic and social policies that promote growth and dignity for all, including minority Americans. Our tax system will continue to be overhauled and reformed by making it fairer and more progressive, reducing the tax burden on minorities to work and save for their future. We will continue to push for passage of legislation...[which] will help minority Americans living in cities and urban areas to get jobs, to start their own businesses, and to share in the fruits of entrepreneurship by tapping their individual initiative, energy, and creativity."

The revised statement embodies Nakashima's belief that minorities share common problems and that the solution lies in giving people an opportunity to advance themselves rather than "fairy handouts."

As vice-chair for Reagan-Bush '84 in California and a member of the Republican State Central Committee as well as an advisory committee to Gov. George Deukmejian, Nakashima is not exactly a novice. Still, he was thrilled to be sitting on the same committee as such party luminaries as Jesse Helms, Robert Dole, Jack Kemp and Phyllis Schlafly.

He was also honored to be one of two republicans representing California on the committee (the other was Rep. Bobbie Fiedler). Deukmejian stated that he "borrowed" him, later declared that "the experience was fantastic."

Opinions mixed about GOP respectiveness to Asian Americans

DALLAS—Like their Democratic counterparts, Japanese American Republicans are beginning to play a greater role within their party. While there was a definite Asian presence at this year's Republican national convention, there were also many questions whether the representation was adequate.

Among delegates and alternates, about 25 percent of the total number of delegates were Asian. The 13 voting delegates included: Patricia Sakai, Hawaii; Lynne Akiyama, California; Karen Nakana, Washington, D.C.; Ming Hsu, New Jersey; and Stephen Nakashima. Sen. Fujimoto, Indianola, a Nisei then was also thought that the number of Asian delegates was adequate because it reflected the percentage of the U.S. population made up by Asians. She expressed certainty that an Asian Republican caucus would be formed within the next four years.

A conference of Asian Pacific Republicans held Aug. 20, the first day of the convention, was attended by 200-300 people. Speakers included Sakai, Chennault, Nakashima, and Cindy Shinja Daub, the wife of Nebraska congressman Harold Daub. Daub called for the appointment of more qualified Asians to policy-making positions within the party and for greater Asian representation at its national conventions. A native of South Korea, she also urged fairness and compassion in immigration laws and said that Asian Americans should be looked to as experts and resource people in the area of U.S. relations with Asia.

Sakai, who headed the Hawaii delegation, said that the GOP was not receptive to Asian Americans during the "critical time" immediately after WWII and that, as a consequence, Asian Democrats outnumbered Asian Republicans. Despite this "emotional alignment" with the Democratic party, Sakai said, the Republican philosophy is much closer to Asian values with regard to family, education, and the work ethic.

Chennault Rebuffed

Chennault, who is vice-chair of the Reagan-Bush campaign's ethnic voters division, said that Asians still need to overcome their image as "silent Americans" and must work to get Republicans elected and run for office themselves in order to achieve greater visibility within the party.

Chennault was disturbed by the party's handling of its Asian American members at the convention, however. She commented that "it was a big disappointment for the Asian American group to stay in the background while Black, white, and Hispanic delegates played major roles in the convention."

At the biennial convention of the Organization of Chinese Americans held in Rockville, Maryland, she said that the party rebuffed her request that the Republican National Committee set up an Asian Pacific Caucus like the one established by the Democrats last year.

She said she was told by RNC chair Frank Fahrnekar that such a caucus was "not necessary" because we are all Americans. "When she pointed out that the party had Black, Hispanic, and Jewish caucuses, Fahrnekar reportedly replied that such special caucuses were a thing of the past and would no longer be sanctioned.

Continued on Page 9
Little Tokyo Life (No. 32)

By Harry Honda

'32 Olympics

The story of Nellie G. Oliver (No. 29) by
Henry Mori has another side—the Dai
ichi Gakuen, which occupied the first
floor of the massive two-story frame
structure on Hewitt and Jackson (see
photo) while the Oliver Club members
gathered on the second floor. Helping to recall a part of the Dai
ichi Gakuen story is one of its alumni—Naomi Kashiiwahara, a
retired electrical engineer for the U.S. Navy, a contributing
columnist in the San Diego JACL newsletter, and one of the
men in the 3rd and Flower St. neighborhood. He also inte-
grates his memoirs of the 1932 Olympics at Los Angeles
The photo and the recollection below should encourage others
to contribute, says Kashiiwahara. Hope he's right.

By Naomi Kashiiwahara

It is 1934 and the summer Olympic Games have returned
like Halley's comet to earth to Los Angeles. It was in 1922 that
the 10th Olympics was held in a smogless L.A. and we're at
Tokio (that's the way it was rendered in the prewar Nisei
press) Nisens can remember that Tokyo.

In 1932, I was a boy who every day in the late afternoon
attended the Rafu Daiichi Gakuen, located at Hewitt and
Jackson Sts., a few blocks east of the heart of L.A. I was
ran for 45 minutes. (Someone else should write its history.)
As young boys and girls in 1932, we had pro-Japanese feelings
about Olympic competition. A classmate wrote in a compo-
sition—sakubun that Chubu Nambu was a cinch to win
the broad jump, now called long jump. Nambu did not win. Eddie
Gordon (U.S.A.) won. Nambu did, however, win the gold
medal in the triple jump, then called hop-step-and-jump.
Takano Yosihoko, wearing a headband (hachimaki), rep-
resented Japan in the sprints. He was fast off the blocks but
was no match for Eddie Tolan. Ralph Metcalfe and George
Simpson of the U.S. In the pole vault, Shuei Nishida won
the silver medal, trailing Bill Miller of the U.S.A. I remember
the little Japanese runner—was his name Murakosou?—being
lapped in the 5,000 or 10,000 meter race and moving to the
outside to let the faster runners have the inside track. I also
remember standing on the sidewalk, cheering on Japan's
marathon runners, two of whom were Koreans. One of them
gave us students a tired smile as he ran past us. Argentina's
Juan Zabala, wearing a white cap, won the marathon. Japan
won no medal.

The Japanese community in Los Angeles was elated when
Japanese swimmers swept the men's swimming races. When
Buster Crabbe won the 100-meter race for U.S.A.'s only gold
medal—and Japan's only first-place defeat, our feelings were
mixed.

One Saturday, I went with my father and friends to the
awesome country club—was it the Riviera?—to watch Baron
Takeichi Nambu from Satsumahama (my roots) on his horse Uranus
in an Olympic equestrian jumping contest. Baron Nishi and
Uranus won a gold medal for Japan. It was the only time I had
missed a gakuen class in eight years; but it was excused. No
one could foresee on that victorious Saturday in 32 that Nishi
would die in Iwojima during WW2.

As I grew older, my gakuen attendance grew spotty, al-
though my attendance was better than other male students
who stayed after hours at the school to take part in football,
baseball, gymnastics or track & field. For me, Japanese
language school became a place to relax after serious study at
high school. (Belmont High, of old Crown
Indians, and Negroes. In 1932, I voluntarily went to the Japanese consulate and
bought the class book, which I think was a good thing. By
this act, I considered myself totally American with cultural
and ancestral ties in Japan. I generalize and say that
all Rafu Daiichi Gakuen students, Lt. Gen. John L. DeWitt
notwithstanding, felt the same way.

... ... ...

FEEDBACK: Yuki Kamayatsu, now serving on the L.A.
county grand jury, has shared some notes about her late
husband Charles' memoirs about Miss Oliver, a retired kin-
dergarten teacher at Amelia St. School (by the gas tanks in the
parking lot where the dotted line starts) who took care of the
Stimson-Lafayette Industrial School, later shortened to Stin-
son Institute. Mr. Stimson was a successful industrialist who
put up the building to help the disadvantaged minorities in the
area—Mexicans, Indians and Negros. The upper room was
an old-fashioned parlor that had been a sewing school. Charles
thought it was heaven. "We never saw a place like that before.
And when Miss Oliver invited us over for the first time (c.
1917) and said it was going to be our club room, we were never so
thrilled!"

The club met monthly. Charles was then about 13 or 14,
going into high school. The boys were taught folk dancing, the
Virginia reel and square dancing in the afternoons for about
five months. She decided to switch the class to one evening
—and that caused problems. 'The parents were very strict; they
didn't want you to stay at people's houses at night. But Miss Oliver went to each family and asked, 'May we invite
your daughter, and would you please come, too? It was her
tactic of getting acquainted with the families.'

Many years later, Charles recalled Miss Oliver as a tall
woman of English descent and with relatives on the Martha
Washington Side. The committee which staged the Oliver
Sportsmanship Award dinner Aug. 18, really missed Charles—
a raconteur first class whose yarns were filled with
laughter.

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Internees recall camp deaths

By J.K. Yamamoto

LOS ANGELES—Former internees and other members of the Nippon community showed near unanimity in declaring that monetary payments are justified and that an apology for the WW2 internment would be inadequate during an Aug. 16 Senate subcommittee hearing on redress bill S2116.

Aftet George Takeda, dental hygienist Sonoda and physician Mary Oda testifief as a panel representing JACL. Takeda was "too young to know the anguish" that his parents underwent when his family was interned, but recalled the barbed wire and guard towers, the atmosphere of anxiety and tension, and the move from Santa Anita to Arkansas to Tule Lake. As he grew up, he felt "an uneasy sense of shame about being Japanese" and would say nothing when a teacher mispronounced his name or referred to him as "that Jap boy."

The camp experience, he said, "reached far into the postwar period... and stayed in my head a long, long time."

Civilians were not the only ones relocated, Sonoda said. His younger brother, who was in the Army, was transferred from the San Francisco area to Ft. Riley, Kansas, where he and other Nisei were locked up during a visit from President Roosevelt. His older brother, a narcotics agent for the Treasury Dept., had to turn in his gun and was moved from the West Coast to Baltimore, Md.

When the war broke out, Sonoda moved with his family to a "free zone" area where they lived in chicken coops. In Aug. 1942, they were moved to Gila River, Ariz., "despite earlier assurances that we would be allowed to stay in the free zone."

On the trains that took Nippones across the desert, he recalled, the MP escorts "had no understanding of the special needs of the aged, the infirm, the women and the children" and "no provisions for medical care were made during transport." He described the arrival of an infant who was severely dehydrated after the 20-hour trip. As camp doctors administered fluids, "I felt his leg twitch and his body went limp as he died in my arms."

Having lost all his property, his father was "too tired and too old to start over again" when released from camp. Sonoda believed the internment was a factor in his father's heart condition and death at 66. As president of the board of Little Tokyo Towers, a housing project for elderly Nipponese, Sonoda said he knew "all too well the suffering endured by those still living."

More than 500 Nipponese are on the waiting list for residence in the Towers.

Oda said that the property owned by her family prior to the exclusion— including a four-bedroom house, two tractors, three trucks, and a gas tank and pump—would be worth $500,000 in today's dollars. In addition, Oda said she lost 2 years in medical training and her brother lost 5 years in dental training.

Oda said she regards the "relocation centers" as death camps because three members of her family died within three years of the evacuation. While in camp, her father developed

Institute offers training in public affairs

LOS ANGELES—Recruitment is under way for Coro Foundation's training course for leaders in the Asian Pacific community, designed to give 12 individuals an intensive introduction to public affairs decision-making in Southern California.

Beginning Oct. 20 and ending Dec. 3, the program includes a day-long orientation, two Saturday sessions, and 12 evening seminars.

Projects will strengthen such skills as decision-making, communication, project planning, interviewing, and group management.

Candidates must be of Asian or Pacific background.

Cal alumi to fete first award winners

SAN FRANCISCO—Reservation policies are being taken by the California Japanese Alumni Assn. for its first scholarship awards dinner and dance. The event will be held in the Japanese Pavilion, Cathedral Hill Hotel, Van Ness and Geary, Sept. 29, from 6 to 10 p.m.

Yori Wada, Univ. of California board regents lawyer, chair, and Henry Kado, guide speaker Frank R. Heyman, UC Berkeley chancellor.

The awards of $2,000 each will be awarded to Isaac Kazato, Mika Hiramatsu, Stanley Yogi, Alan Uba, and Steven Kawashima. They are granted in conjunction with the JACL's annual scholarship program to students in the UC system.

Reservations can be made by mailing a check payable to CJFA for $20 per person and mailed to 1780 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115. Information: Eisie Nakamura, 239-4753, or San Francisco, CA 94115, 473-4273; or George Kondo, 1800 Sutter St., #205, San Francisco, CA 94115, 922-9491 (even), 921-5528 (days).

Holiday Issue Kits

Chapters which have assisted us in the past soliciting greetings for the Holiday Issue are reminded that the Advertising Department is being mailed out the week after Labor Day.

The kits are in two parts containing: 1—Insertion orders and latest rate card via 1st Class; 2—Preprinted forms, sample issue, etc., via 3rd Class or UPS.

Chapter commissions for advertising: standard 15% (any issue, Regular or Holiday), or bulk rate, with commissions ranging between 20 to 50% depending on the amount of ad space contracted in the Holiday Issue.

The usual deadlines apply:

Nov. 15—Reservations for bulk-rate space
Nov. 30—Ad Copy for First Section (first 64 pages).
Dec. 7—Absolute deadline for all copy.

PACIFIC CITIZEN

California affairs

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—Members are being sought for an Ad hoc Committee on Asian Pacific American Mental Health Issues, recently established by the state Citizens Advisory Council. Persons interested in serving on the committee should contact committee chair Dr. Allan Selig, 230 California Ave. Suite 286, Palo Alto, CA 94306, 432-1210. Deadline is Sept. 28.

SAN FRANCISCO—Proceeds from its third annual golf tournament benefit Kimochi Home Project, Friday, Sept. 3. Tee-off is at 12 p.m. at Peacock Gap Golf and Country Club in San Rafael. Awards ceremony and dinner follow. To participate, call 883-2246.

LOS ANGELES—Visual Communications presents a series of three Saturday afternoon seminars: September 15, "Advanced Camera and Lighting Techniques, Sept. 29; and Creative Use of Sound, Oct. 13. Each of the workshops is a complete course, with fee of $8 per session. The workshops are held at Japane se American Cultural and Community Center, 384 S. San Pedro, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each date. To pre-enroll, cal 883-4622.

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*Immediate family is a spouse, parent, child, grandchild, or grandparent residing at same address as checking account holder.
Made in Yusa

WHILE BROWSING AROUND near the appliance department the other week, we indulged ourselves by buying one of those play-anywhere, five-inch-screen color TV sets. We also slightly say "indulge," because, to be quite honest about it, we don't need such a thing. We don't even watch the regular one we do have. Bluntly stated, it's just an "adult toy" purchase.

TOY OR NOT, those blessed things are somewhat expensive. One would think that something smaller should cost less, but it apparently doesn't work that way. At any rate, among other things, we checked it out to determine where it was made. We've had some poor experiences with electronic pieces—whether it be a simple radio or a tape player—that were put together in some developing country. Checking the manufacturer's plate and沿着"Made in Japan," we started ourselves with the quality of the merchandise and we bought it.

IT WASN'T ALWAYS that way, you'll remember. To see the legend "Made in Japan" on any piece of goods—toy, camera, bicycle, radio, etc.—meant that the goods were poorly made and wouldn't last very long. So negative was that label at one point some ingenious (but misleading) entrepreneur in the Land of the Rising Sun located a village called Yusa, Anglicized (modified) the name to "Usa," then capitalized the entire name as modified, and came up with the label "Made in U.S.A." It wasn't long before our trade officials put a stop to that.

Advertising/Subscription Rates

Continuing increases in the expense of publishing the Pacific Citizen have made it necessary to raise advertising and subscription rates, effective September, 1984. Current advertisers are being billed at the new rate effective the end of this month. At the same time, the Pacific Citizen has increased their subscription rates for non-JACL members. Current advertisers are being billed at the new rate to lay the groundwork for the biennium work begins. Numerous plans are being made to lay the groundwork for the biennium.

Current advertisers are being billed at the new rate effective the end of this month. At the same time, the PC staff will convert to the new Standard Advertising Unit format of five wider columns across the tabloid page for news and display advertising and a special 7-column format for all classified display advertising the first week in October.

Subscription rates for non-JACL members will increase to $18 a year.

In a MANNER of speaking, we've come full circle. We've noted how some of our manufacturers—uh, "lean" in the presentation of their goods so that our "American-produced goods reflect the aura of Japanese-manufactured items. For example, when Nissan Motors came out with the Datsun 280-Z (a sports car rated highly by the avant-garde of the automotive world), it was no simple accident that Chevrolet came out with a play thereon its "280" sports sedan. So entrenched is Japanese reputation for quality control that they can give any name to an automobile and the doggone things sell: Accord, Camry, Civic, Corolla, Cressida and so on. (If, before all this, they had come to

PRESIDENT'S CORNER: by Frank Sato

Convention Wrap-Up

Amanda, Va.

The 28th Biennial JACL convention was held here, June 28-July 1. I would like to thank everyone who supported our efforts at the convention. Now the work begins. Numerous plans are being made to lay the groundwork for the biennium. It is with a deep gratitude for your trust that I pledge my best effort to carry out the responsibilities as your new National President, and I ask for guidance, support, and input from the total organization.

The Honolulu convention chair was particularly well run. Ed Hamasu, convention chair, Larry Kumabe, Honolulu Chapter president, and the whole convention committee deserve high praise for a job well done. Ron Yoshino, convention chair for 1986 in Chicago, has his work cut out for him—but I know he's equal to the task.

The new National Board met on Saturday, Aug. 18, after the convention. The following requirements and timetables for the National organization were established.

1—Recommendations for National Committee assignments are to be made to National Headquarters by Friday, Sept. 29, 1984.

2—Suggested goals, objectives and new initiatives are also to be submitted by Board members to National Headquarters by Sept. 28.

The above recommendations and suggestions will be distributed to the Board members prior to the next Board meeting on Oct. 19-21. At this meeting, goals and objectives and committee appointments will be established.

We hope to have a well organized national program with responsibilities delegated to specific people. We also hope to get participation from as broad a segment of the membership as possible. If you have any suggestions or ideas, please forward them to National JACL Headquarters, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115, (415) 921-5225. Or to me at 410 Whispering Lane, Annapolis, VA 22002. Together, we can make a difference.

Judge Raymond Uno is running for 3rd District Court

Raymond is currently a Circuit Court Judge. He is running for 3rd District Court, State of Utah.

Past National President, JACL
Past National Legal Counsel, JACL
Member, National JACL Redress Committee
Co-Chairman, National JACL Biennial Convention, 1976-1978
Chairman, Centennial of Japanese Immigration Banquet, Utah Centennial Committee
Coordinator, Civil Rights Program, National JACL
"JA of the Biennium, 1974"
"Nisei of the Biennium, 1969, ILOC"

Help support Ray in his bid

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John Tateishi

An oral history of the Japanese American detention camps

An autographed, complimentary copy of And Justice for All will be sent for your tax-deductible contribution of $25 or more to the JACL National Redress Campaign.

NAME__________________________

ADDRESS____________________________________

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JACL National Headquarters
1765 Sutter St. San Francisco, Calif. 94115
Enjoying the sun—Jean Wong, Jay (in daddy’s arm) and Ron Wakabayashi enjoy the convention luau at Paradise Cove—a 40-minute bus ride from the Pacific Beach Hotel at Wailiki toward Ewa.

finished that task, there remained a number of people who had made a decision to not attempt the climb. Most had found couches in the lobby. For those that did not, we convinced the hotel desk that opening one of the second floor meeting rooms and providing some beach mats to sleep on would be the hospital thing to do.

By 4 a.m., we had arrived to everyone secured. I wonder whether the 7:30 breakfast meeting would still be as we said goodnight to Alvin Onaka and made another trek up to my own room.

May I point out to the JACL readers that the Alvin Onaka that I mention in this piece was at the hotel for the entire evening, making sure that we were secure. He is the same Alvin Onaka that performed the tedious task of recording all the registrations for all of the events. He stationed himself at the convention daily and took detailed care of changes of any sort - from the hotel to the days that we had a good convention. At the close-down meetings with the hotel and with Hawaiian Adventures, his calculations were exact, greatly assisting in keeping the costs of the convention to a minimum.

We didn’t get a chance to thank you properly, Alvin. In fact, some of our folks were downright abusive at you at times. Either way, we had a very good time.
Letters

Redress issue

I am writing to re-assert action over statements quoted from a certain American publication as being representative of all U.S. citizens against the treatment of Japanese-Americans, and to provide the help of all citizens.

Doris G. Moore
Phoenix, Ariz.

Queen contests

Recently there was an article on beauty queen contests where the author urged JACL chapters not to sponsor candidates. As the president of the Pan Asian chapter, that has sponsored a Nisei Week Queen/Princess for the last seven years, I would like to express my side of the issue.

Needless to say, we select an attractive, young lady with poise and charm to represent our chapter. However, we also look for a young woman that has the potential to grow by participating in the Nisei Week activities. We feel that the Nisei Week Queen Pageant is a way for our candidates to mature and gain more self-confidence in her career, which will make her a winner in life. Our ideals were reinforced in the 1990s, when I talked to four of our past queen candidates. All four women had gained the maturity and grace that our chapter hoped for and it was difficult to choose between them as they had achieved for their tender years. As I spoke to each one, I realized that certainly our candidates would be successful in their goals because just wanting to run for Nisei Week Queen showed that they were confident in themselves and they were achievers. However, I think that the Nisei Week Contest push them to be their very best. Like all things, unless there is a challenge, there is no growth and I feel that the Nisei Week Queen Contest helped our candidates to achieve their goals quicker.

Also, as Chris Taguchi Moh, our very first queen candidate said, the Nisei Week Contest is an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. There is a chance to meet influential people who could help to further your career goals, and if you want to, it’s there for you to take advantage of. And with our last queen candidate, Janet Aiso, who is planning to be a pediatrician, one of our members felt that our sponsorship would be helpful on Janet’s resume upon entering medical school. That our sponsorship and her participation in Nisei Week would show her involvement in the Japanese community making her a more well-rounded person. Because of all the reasons stated above, our chapter feels that Nisei Week is a worthwhile function and we will support it.

SANDI KAWASAKI
Monterey Park, Calif.

JACL scholarships

I was not too long ago that the Rev. Jesse Jackson expressed concern about the lack of minority representation at the federal government level, and especially the need for qualified Asian American representation. Isn’t it about time that JACL addresses itself to this need? To date, we have no “political clout” in D.C. And perhaps, in the greater part, this is the reason for the poor response to the redress issue from Congress.

I am disappointed to find the JACL scholarship committee continuing to award mostly those students bent on careers in science and medicine while ignoring those applicants with aspirations towards political goals and governmental services. If Asian Americans expect equal representation in government, they must work to that end by encouraging young people to be involved in government. Let’s look toward the future by doing something now.

ROY U. ERIHARA
Oberlin, OH
Impressions of the Convention from a First-time Delegate

by Robert Shimabukuro, Portland JACL

I was asked to set down my thoughts about the JACL convention in Honolulu, as a first-time delegate. I ask that this article be read with a focus on how these conventions could be better run in the future. I trust that those on the planning committee will not take these criticisms personally.

The effectiveness of the convention cannot be discussed without an evaluation of what JACL’s needs are, so let me begin by listing those which were brought up often by speakers, candidates for office, and by the committee which drew up the Program for Action:

1. Membership development
2. Leadership development
3. Coalition-building
4. Fundraising

Membership Development

Various proposals were brought up to increase membership, but almost all revolved around lowering dues for selected classes (as an incentive--U.S. government approach--use financial incentives). One plan, cautiously brought up by the secretary/treasurer-elect, involved simply browbeating members until they paid their dues (i.e., the “take-the-money-and-run approach”). These approaches show a considerable lack of understanding or concern for people.

We buy into organizations when we feel a need and/or a direct advantage of some kind (companionship, group action, self-defense, identity). It is difficult to solicit membership when an organization does not really reflect the concerns of those it purports to support. Therefore, realistically speaking, the emphasis should be on the programs of the organization.

There are two areas of recruitment—Nikkei over 60 and those under 35. (I will refrain from using the terms “old” and “young.” This is the only organization I belong to which refers to me as “young.”) With regard to the group over 60, my personal feeling is that we should encourage their participation in events, whether they pay dues or not is immaterial. If we structure enough programs centered around that age group, together with events where participation from all age groups is encouraged, they can decide for themselves whether they wish to be financially active members or not.

With regard to the group under 35, the establishment of a youth concerns committee is a good start. We need to find out why the younger Nikkei see JACL as irrelevant. We can start by asking the Nisei why their children see JACL as irrelevant. If the children of active JACL Nisei decide that JACL is “not their thing,” then somewhere along the line the parents themselves, or their peers or institutions, passed on negative signals (verbal and nonverbal) to their children. We need to know what those signals were. We need to know why bowling and golf is so important and why civil rights is not. Do not pretend to have the answers, but one possibility is the lack of identity and denial of anything Japanese.

Leadership Development

Observing the operations of the convention, it became painfully obvious that JACL is sorely in need of leaders—people who can instruct, guide, set priorities, and inspire. We need to have a clear understanding of the processes involved in making a decision. The problem of how leaders are developed has never been faced by JACL. One reason may be that most JACL leaders participated on a “learn as you go/grow” basis. This base has always been one of knowing the right people, having a little perseverance working on a local chapter level, learning how to handle the paperwork (discretionary use of the “round file” plus a lot of help from a spouse), working in the district level and then maybe on a national level. A hit-and-miss approach.

Likewise, the idea that sending one person from each district to spend a week in Washington, D.C., and meet “important” people will make a big difference to the organization is naive, to say the least. That kind of approach has a great potential of turning the idea of leadership into an elitist one, and it ignores the type of leaders that JACL sorely needs: grass-roots people with problem-solving abilities who motivate and inspire others to act in an effective manner. There is a shortage of such people in all age groups, and anyone who has that interest should have opportunities to learn and grow. A one-week leadership workshop held at the district level would have a far greater impact.

Coalition-Building

While the Vincent Chin murder did finally point out the value of coalition-building, we must move forward from that incident and continue to press for ties with other minorities. As one who has pressed for JACL to become more involved in concerns of other minorities, I feel that JACL must come to grips with the racism within the Nikkei community itself. Until that is dealt with, it will be difficult to build coalitions or recruit new members.

Fundraising

The area of fundraising is crucial to the programs JACL wants to offer. It should be obvious to us that to garner the kind of financial support we need, we cannot depend solely on the Nisei community. We comprise less than 15% of the population. If we ourselves have to finance both redress and other programs, we will most certainly drain all our resources.

Keeping these four areas of concern in mind, I would like to enter some thoughts about the convention itself and offer suggestions for the planning of the next convention that would make it more attractive and more

Continued on Page 10
HEARING
Continued from Page 1

constant nasal irritation and died of nose and throat cancer; her sister developed bronchial asthma, and
her brother developed intestinal obstruction. "All three had entered the camps in good health and died
within 7 months of each other," she said. Another sister
suffered a nervous breakdown and Oda herself
developed severe palpitations.
She also witnessed the death of a teenage boy who
was shot by guards during the 1942 Manzanar riot.
Oda added that in her practice she has observed "an
extremely high incidence of high blood pressure,
heart disease, and cancer among the survivors of the
camps. Life expectancy seems to be shortened by 10 to
15 years."

After release from camp, her mother, a former
teacher, worked as a farm laborer. The $1,800 re-
ceived from the government as token compensation
paid for the gravestone for Oda's father, sister and
brother.

Representing the National Coalition for Redress/
Reparations was a panel made up of teachers June
Kizu and Gordon Nakagawa and Gardena city council-
man Mas Fukai. Kizu cited specific constitutional
rights that were violated by the government, includ-
ing: freedom of speech and association; freedom from
unreasonable search and seizure, the right to be for-
mally charged with a crime and to present a defense
before being deprived of liberty; the right to a public
and speedy trial, and freedom from cruel and unusual
punishment.

Nakagawa refuted the contention that Nikkei bene-
fitted from their forced dispersal throughout the U.S.
The CWRC's estimate of $2 billion (in 1983 dollars)
in losses suffered by the Nikkei community, he said,
did not include restitution for physical and psychologi-
cal disabilities, wrongful death, disruption of careers
and education, fragmenting of the community, and
loss of rights. In addition, he said, the government's
policy of forced assimilation deprived the community
of the material security, mutual support, and collec-
tive pride and identity it had before the war.

Fukai called on Congress to act quickly on redress
"because with each day of delay we are losing many of
our brothers and sisters who were deprived of their
dignity." After Fukai's family was released from
camp, his mother worked in a cannery. In 1955, his
father, who was unable to work after the war, died
"feeling he was a failure and a burden on his chil-
dren." Fukai believed that both his parents "died very
sad and unfulfilled, feeling that their dreams really
had not come true."

He also said that his wife's family was sent to Japan
on the pretext that a telegram had been sent calling
them back, but in reality they had been exchanged for
an American family being held in Japan. His wife's
father later died in the atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

Like other speakers, Fukai assailed "the prevailing
stereotype that all Americans of Japanese ancestry
are successful and affluent... this is a myth."

Junji Kurihara suggested that the internment pro-
vided a supply of hostages with which the U.S. could
insure the safety and return of Americans being held
by the Japanese. "We were hostages captured by our
own government," he said.

Continued on Page 12
Board members sought for new JACL lobbying arm

SAN FRANCISCO—Eight individuals are soon to be added to the JACL Legislative Education Committee board, which has assumed redress lobbying activities, announced JLEC Chair Min Yasui.

Nominations for JLEC board membership may be submitted by anyone. The nominating committee, chaired by Jim Tsuchimura, will screen nominations and submit recommendations to the JLEC board. Deadline for sub-
mittal of nominations is Sept. 15.

Nominations must list the name of the can-
didate, his or her address, telephone number, background and, if possible, a written state-
ment from the nominee indicating a willing-
ness to serve.

The JLEC was incorporated as a California nonprofit corporation on May 30, 1982. According to Yasui, it was created to raise funds for the redress campaign and to plan legisla-
tive strategies. "During the past two years," Yasui stated, "LEC has been quiescent. LEC existed only as a paper organization, awaiting the time when intensive lobbying efforts would become virtually paramount. That time is now rapidly approaching.

With several redress bills pending in Con-
gress, and with some hearings already held, the idea of a lobbying effort is no longer out-
cluded—with more to come—it is certain that concentrated lobbying must be done during the 99th Congress, in 1985-86, if redress is to be achieved in the immediate foreseeable future."

Protecting Nonprofit Status

National JACL is a nonprofit, tax exempt organization and may engage in substantial lobbying activities without jeopardizing its tax exempt status. Thus, the National Council formally transferred redress lobby-
ing to the LEC in Honolulu last month.

LEC has a board of 10 directors. Seven are designated by the JACL National Board; eight are chosen at large.

Present hold-over board members (for JACL) are: Frank Sato, national president, Yosh Nakashima, San Francisco; Rosie Ochi, Los Angeles, and Cherry Kimishita, Seattle. Hold-over at-large members are: David Ni-

Five at-large seats are open.

Nominations should be mailed to: Dr. James Tsuchimura, 3120 N. E. 12th Ave., Port-
land, OR 97213. (503) 229-7854.

Further information may also be obtained from the other members of the nominating committee: Rose Ochi, 730 S. Lincoln St., Monterey Park, CA 91754. (213) 485-4242; or Shig Watanuki, 3536 N. Commonwealth St., Chicago, III. 60614, (312) 281-4671.

GOP CONVENTION—Continued from Front Page

Chenoweth wrote to party leaders that the GOP was not doing enough to attract Asian voters and warned that further neglect would cause disillusionment among them. "As you are aware, we have lost the Japanese American to the Democratic Party," she wrote. "In states like California, New York, Texas, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Ohio, and Washing-
ton, the Asian vote can make the differ-
ence."

Chenoweth was also disappointed that Asian Republican leaders did not receive more media exposure during the convention.

A resolution drafted Aug. 21 by Asian Ameri-
can Republicans complained about the low number of Asian delegates and convention of-
ficers and the absence of an Asian speaker at the convention. The resolution stated that Asian Republicans deserve "their due share" because they have "worked faith-
fully for decades" for the GOP, and are the party's largest financial contributors "in per-
centage among all groups in our party and country.

Since Asians are a fast-growing political and economic force, the resolution said, there is a need to count their vote in November. "We feel very strongly that we can be more effec-
tive in our communities if we can convince the American public that the Republican party is concerned about Asian Americans."

Richard Koos of Los Angeles, an advisor to the chairman division, said that the resolu-
tion would be sent to Fahrenkopf and Laxalt. He commented that the "much more unity among the Asian Americans at this conven-
tion than I have ever seen within the Republi-
can party.

The Asian American who probably re-
ceived the most media attention during the convention was 16-year-old Thu Ng Tran, who escaped from Vietnam by boat in 1980 and lived in a Philippine refugee camp before relocating to Colorado, where she is now a senior in high school. She led conventioners in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.
meaningful to delegates. The overriding issue at the convention should be the identity of the delegates, including delegates from the various states. The question of what it means to be American and what is in the best interests of the American people should be the focus of the convention.

A slogan that would “continue to protect the civil rights and liberties of all Americans, the underlying cause for that impact is racism, and that is what we should deal with, not the trade differences. The trade differences are not particularly a Japanese American problem, but an American problem. The Vincent Chin case was not a meaningless. We

The Veterans of Foreign Wars

A non-profit organization, was established by men who served in the armed forces during World War II or the Korean War. It provides support to veterans and their families and promotes patriotism and national pride.

A 10-PAC "CITIZEN / Friday September 7, 1984

FOOD AND DRINK

The menu includes a variety of dishes, such as fried chicken, roast beef, and mashed potatoes,

The restaurant offers a family-friendly atmosphere with reasonable prices. The U.S. Army and the W.P. both declared that the convention about one-third of the voting block.

Japanese American Bar Assn. of the Greater Los Angeles Area submitted the resolution.

VFW supports Nikkei rights

CHICAGO—The Veterans of Foreign Wars passed a Nisei-sponsored resolution guaranteeing civil rights during its 85th national convention. The resolution, which included various topics, was adopted by a vote of 74-17 (see page 17 PC).

The resolution called for the end of the internment of Japanese Americans, the establishment of a national memorial to honor the Nisei, and the establishment of a "Day of Remembrance" to commemorate the internment. The resolution also called for the recognition of the Nisei's contributions to the United States and the establishment of a "National Commission on Japanese American Internment."
Contributions to Pacific Citizen for Typesetting Equipment

As of September 1, 1984, 4:37:39 (735)
$40 from: T. Tom Fukuoka, Fran-
tiscan Wakimoto,
$100 from: Hiroko Honda, Nakamura, Tatsuko Okada, Thomas, Nancy Tanaka, Masaki, Lily Cheung.
$10 from: Theodore/ Amy Chihara, Joseph Tanaka.
$15 from: Daniel/Kathleen Davis.
$24 from: Eddy Sugino.
$24 from: Ken/Hiro Miyake, Frank Titas, Minoru Takeda, Yone Yon.
$28 from: John/Nikki Hara, Tom/Kay Kadomoto, Frank Kanama.

Thank you.

The Mike M. Masaoka Fellows

Membership in the Masaoka Fel-
nel is achieved by individual or cor-
porate contributions to the Masaoka Foundation, a perpetual fund from which grants would annually support the general operations of the JACL, in which Mike has devoted his life. Contributions of $1,000 or $2,000, Minimum--Sustaining--Lifetime--Kyu.

Full Fund Acknowledged: $13,210. 30 Fellowships--10 Sustaining--Martha Dossy (3 mt.

Pacific Southwest District JACL presents a multi-faceted, delightful evening with presentation of "Nisei Soldier" Bento Supper Program on Redress

Activity (Continued from page 1)

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Seattle, Wa.
White teacher harassed for work among Nikkei

By Richard Oyama, Hokkai Mainichi

SAN FRANCISCO--For six years, Pete Healey worked on the teaching staff of Nihonmachi Little Friends (NLF), the bilingual, bicultural daycare program which primarily serves Asian American working families. He now works for Mitsubishi International in export operations, mostly to Japan.

Pete Healey is white. Three months before he resigned from NLF, he received the first in a series of anonymous phone calls "jacking me up about working there. Then I got a letter saying that the kids shouldn't be with him, it was upset about the letter. It got menacing," Healey added. He received the last phone call a month before his resignation.

Cathy Inamasu, the NLF program director, said that she thought Healey was "ready for a change, but it wouldn't have been so soon if not for the threats.

The first few weeks after the threats, Healey said that he felt like he was "in a vacuum. People didn't know how to handle the situation. It had never happened before. Nobody said anything about it. Then the board discussed it, a parent wrote an in-house letter and parents began to support me." Inamasu speculated, "I'll never know personal opinion, but I think it's probably a Nisei or Kibei Nisei from reading the letter to Pete.

When asked about his work in the Nikkei community, Healey said, "I lived in Japan for a couple of years and wanted to do something with the Japanese community here. I took classes at the University of Tokyo and learned about Japanese American studies at San Francisco State and involved with the Committee Against Nihonmachi Eviction (CANE)."

"I knew parents and staff at NLF and in 1978, they were looking for a bilingual staff person, preferably a male, and I had taught music kids in Japan.

"One of the good things about NLF is that everybody is involved in different facets of the program. I worked with the Japanese-speaking staff on curriculum, including doing translation, and helped put together the songbook that NLF sells.

HEARING--Continued from Page 1

Yoshio Ekimoto, an Antelope Valley resident interned in Poston, detailed the economic losses suffered by his family. The property sold or stolen from the family totaled more than $33,000 in 1942 dollars even when the $882 reimbursement from the government was taken into account.

Charles Kato, representing the Washington State NAACP, cited support for redress in Washington, where the state, the city of Seattle and the Seattle Public School Board have paid $5,000 to Nikkei employees who lose their jobs during W.W.2. In a survey of Nikkei residents of King County, he said, over 90% of the respondents favored individual monetary payments.

Washington Gov. John Spellman and Seattle mayor Charles Royer also back redress.

Dennis Hayashi gave testimony for the Committee to Reverse the Japanese American Wartime Cases, the team of attorneys seeking to invalidate the wartime Supreme Court cases of Fred Korematsu, Minoru Yasui and Gordon Hirabayashi. He focused on evidence that government officials presented false information to the high court in order to successfully prosecute the three Nisei.

Richard Kato of the American Civil Liberties Union testified for retiring ACLU legal director Fred Okray, who was unable to attend the hearing. Okray was "thoroughly ashamed to see fellow Caucasians jeering with such hatred toward Japanese Americans" during the exclusion. The ACLU supported Korematsu when he challenged the evacuation orders and now supports redress legislation.

Max Ouido, a 442nd veteran who said he spoke for the "silent majority" of former internees, was highly critical of the CWCRC report and charged that "Mr. Mochi, by making tacit 'pro-redress extremists' prevented more moderate Nikkei from being heard. He supports the acceptance place toward holographs, evacuees would receive credit for $10,000 to be donated to the charity of their choice and individual payments of $1,000, although he was willing to let Congress determine the amount. He also urged that Japanese Americans be polled to find out what their views are.

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