Bill to monitor ‘hate crimes’ heard

WASHINGTON—A bill that would require the federal government to collect statistics on crimes motivated by bigotry was supported by Rep. Norman Mineta (D-Calif.) and opposed by Reagan Administration officials during a congressional hearing on March 21.

Designated as HR 1171, the bill calls on the FBI to include categories of “hate crimes”—those involving racial, ethnic or religious prejudice—in its national crime statistics.

‘Information Needed’

Speaking before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Mineta, a co-sponsor of the bill, gave the rationale for keeping such statistics. “These crimes do occur. All of us have read of them, all of us know of particular incidents. But we do not know much more than that.”

“We do not know the seriousness of the problem, or the frequency of the occurrence, or even the likelihood of this type of crime being reported to the police. That is what the uniform crime reports are for... to provide reliable statistical information so that we can begin to assess the information and develop adequate protections.”

The bill would help provide an “early warning system” for violence brought about by economic hard times, according to Mineta. “Many times it is the new immigrant or the minority member who is the victim... they are convenient scapegoats for people’s frustrations and fears,” he said.

“Protection of Immigrants”

Recent immigrants in particular, he said, “should expect that our government will do all in its power to protect them from the hatred of unenlightened and ignorant people.”

Another goal, he added, was to “put to rest good the defense used by some that while there are various newspaper accounts, the data we have on hate crime is anecdotal, and is not acceptable evidence of any pattern or trend. With this legislation, we will be able to point to the numbers—undeniable statistics—and refute the argument that nothing needs to be, or can be, done.”

Both Mineta and Rep. Barbara Kennelly (D-Conn.) mentioned the 1982 case of Vincent Chin, whose killing was apparently racially motivated. After the admitted killers were sentenced only to fines and probation, eight months of protests were brought about a federal investigation.

Mineta also alluded to the murder of journalist Henry Liu when he discussed acts of violence committed against Asian Americans.

“The killing of Liu, a resident of Daly City, Calif., has been linked to Taiwan intelligence officials, three of whom are being indicted in Taiwan. Liu’s writings had been critical of Taiwan’s government.”

Reagan Administration officials, however, countered that the problems are bigger than going to a clipping service. That’s a simplistic solution.

Speaking at a March 23 banquet in Fresno, Calif., Mineta was also critical of the Justice Department’s stance. “There is no reason why policymakers should have to rely on sporadic news accounts in order to uncover trends or patterns of these types of hate crimes.”

Civil rights commission under fire

by J.K. Yamamoto

“If Congress wants to show President Reagan that it is sincere about respecting civil rights, it ought to vote swiftly to abolish the U.S. Civil Rights Commission.”

This suggestion came not from a white supremacist but from syndicated columnist Carl Rowan, an advocate of minority rights.

Last week Rep. Julian Berson (D-Calif.) also a rights proponent, expressed agreement with Rowan. Neither has changed his mind about civil rights; they and others feel that the Commission on Civil Rights is now (in Rowan’s words) “waging war on the civil rights movement... going against the purposes for which it was founded.”

A number of minority and women’s organizations have been angered by the commission’s opposition to affirmative action and statements by commission chair Clarence Pendleton Jr., a Reagan appointee, who has accused black leaders of being racists.

The New Racism

At a March 5 press conference at the National Press Club, Pendleton, who is himself black, said our so-called black leaders are spending every moment peddling

Analysis

Toyota urges continued activism

by Elizabeth Lu

LOS ANGELES — Ttita Toyota, television journalist and keynote speaker at the March 23 JACL conference sponsored by the Pacific Southwest District, took the conference’s theme, “A Commitment to the 80’s,” one step further by urging Asian Americans to “make not just a commitment in the 80’s, but a commitment as a life-long pursuit.”

“I think it is absolutely necessary, with the way things are going in this country... to be as vigilant as possible,” Toyota said. “We cannot count on anyone else to do this for us. We have to do this for ourselves. Despite the gains we have made within the last ten to fifteen years, we still have a long way to go in this country. We have a long way to go before what has been accomplished ceases to be an exception.”

Toyota cautioned the audience not to be deceived by the successes Asian Americans have already achieved. She reminded the listeners that the per capita income of Japanese Americans is still not comparable to the level of the group’s education.

“While we may not have to worry any more about whether we are going to be hired for a job, we may now have to worry about whether we will be promoted,” noted the journalist.

“The idea is not to be complacent,” said Toyota. “We have an obligation to become actively involved, not just in our own communities, although that is most important, but to broaden our horizons, to look beyond our own specific communities to the larger community in which we live,” she added.

Toyota also stressed the need for Asian Americans to develop their interpersonal and communication skills. “We need to develop some more important kinds of marketable skills.” She concluded: “Despite the loss of the computer age, communication between people remains the cornerstone of any successful relationship, whether it is personal or professional.”

See pages 10 and 11 for more conference stories.
Southeast Asian doctor wins Oscar for ‘Killing Fields’

LOS ANGELES—Haing S. Ngor, a doctor who had never acted before appearing in his first movie, won the Oscar for Best Supporting Actor on March 25 for his role in “The Killing Fields.”

Ngor played Dith Pran, interpreter and aide for New York Times reporter Sidney Schanberg (played by Sam Waterston). Both were in Cambodia during the 1975 Khmer Rouge takeover, but Schanberg was able to leave the country while Pran, along with millions of other Cambodians, was put into a forced labor camp.

In recreating Pran’s four-year ordeal and eventual escape, Ngor drew on his own experiences, which were very similar. Now a job counselor in Los Angeles, he won a Golden Globe Award for his “Killing Fields” role in January.

In his acceptance speech, he thanked producer David Putnam, director Roland Joffe and “the casting lady who found me for this role.” He also thanked Warner Brothers for “helping me tell my story to the world [and] let the world know what happened in my country. And I thank God—Buddha—that tonight I am here.”

Ngor was chosen over another Asian American, Nisei comedian and actor Pat Morita, who had been nominated for his role as Miyagi in “The Karate Kid.”

Group combating racial violence

DAVIS, Calif.—An organization formed in response to the racial incidents against Asian Americans held a community meeting.

On March 20 at the Davis Community Church, Alice Nishi, former member of the Davis board of education, opened by describing the founding of Davis Asians for Racial Equality (DARE).

Nishi noted that through watching and reading news reports and talking with other Asian Americans, “It became clear that throughout the state and in other cities across the nation that the distinct trend of anti-Asian violence and scapegoating was affecting everyone. Davis is not an exception. When my son shut your eyes and ears to what is going on around us, but we shouldn’t.”

Nishi recounted the three deaths of Asian Americans between 1983-84, including the stabbing death of Thong Hyunh at Davis High School, the car accident death of Chinese scholar Nai Yan Li and the murder of Frank Luo, a Taiwan graduate student.

Subsequent incidents reported at the meeting included an Asian American male being stabbed with a pool cue at a Davis bar and a Vietnamese school child chased home with a BB gun.” According to Nishi, that family chose to leave Davis.

Violence in Schools

Davis resident Dr. Luke Kim also spoke to the group. Kim serves on the Superintendent’s Council on Asian/Pacific Affairs, a task force to advise California’s Superintendent of Schools Bill Honig that sponsored seven hearings last fall throughout California.

Kim reported that “what occurred in hearings again and again was the issue of racially motivated school violence against Asian students.” He noted that through the hearings it was clear that “the acts of violence are occurring in diverse school settings. They are not limited to gang members or low-income neighborhoods or new immigrants.”

Asian coalition awards Mineta

FRESNO, Calif.—Asian Pacific American Advocates of California (APAAC) presented Rep. Norman Mineta (D-CA) with its annual “Asian Pacific American of the Year” award for 1984 for his “outstanding achievements and contributions toward the welfare of the Asian American community.”

Accepting the award at APAAC’s annual membership meeting and recognition banquet on March 23, Mineta said, “Let us pledge a recommitment of our energy and our strength. We have the potential to continually expand our growing role in the life of this nation.”

“Such expansion depends upon our joint efforts—efforts that are carried out with vigor and enthusiasm. I urge you to continue working to be exactly what your organization proclaims itself to be—advocates for Asian Pacific Americans.”

Stating his belief that incidents of violence against Asian Pacific Americans are increasing, Mineta asked APAAC members to monitor such incidents: “I particularly urge each of you to take each of these cases seriously in their own right, and to keep track of the pattern or trend that has developed from these cases.”
Organizing peace conference slated


The conference, sponsored by Clergy and Laity Concerned (CLERC) and Alliance to Counter Militarism (ACM), will explore the relation between intervention and the threat of nuclear war, the human costs of militarism and the human capacity for resistance.

The conference, which starts with a poetry reading on Sunday, will take place in Evo Memorial Union, University of Oregon. There will be evening plenaries, midday speakouts, afternoon workshops, art exhibits and political displays. During the mornings, speakers will go into local high school and college classes.

The goals of the conference planners are to forward local and regional networking, increase political understanding and effectiveness, and to develop models for peace and justice work.

Keynoting the conference will be Portland organizer and writer Ada Sanchez. Other participants include poet Steve Hasumi, poet and translator of Latin American poetry. Shikuma, human rights activist and nationally known journalist Don Luce, award-winning journalist Gloria Emerson, veteran Louisiana organizer Barbara Barbera, and draft resister Ben Sawasy.

Miri kitani is the author of "Awake in the River and has been published in numerous anthologies, including "Alleevee!" and "Voice of Occupation." She is the director of Glide Memorial United Methodist Church programs in San Francisco, 1988, and Shikuma, who now works with the Northwest Network for a Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific, is the executive assistant regional director of the JACL Pacific Northwest District.

The conference is set for April 13-14 at the Fresco Ramada Inn and the Del Rey Japanese Community Hall.

For information, contact Toan Truong at (213) 748-6910, 743-4900.

Special ferry service to exhibit arranged

SAN FRANCISCO — A special 9 a.m. ferry service will be made available to Angel Island to accommodate visitors to the photo exhibit of the lives of Japanese immigrants over the past century (see P.C., March 15). The exhibit, which opens April 26, is produced by Go For Broke, Inc. and features over 100 photographic enlargements with narrative and captions at the exhibit site.

Congressman Norman Mineta of San Jose will be the keynote speaker at the dedication ceremony which begins at 1 p.m. A cherry tree and a black pine tree will be planted and dedicated by Mineta to commemorate the event.

The photo exhibit commemorates the 100th anniversary of the Japanese immigration to Hawaii. The first official Japanese immigrants landed in Honolulu in 1868 and were welcomed in person by King Kalakaua who had visited Japan in 1881 to encourage immigration.

For most convenient transportation to the island, visitors are advised to take the Angel Island-Tiburon ferry which operates hourly on weekends only; last departure from the island is at 4 p.m.

One round-trip ferry service from San Francisco is also available — departures at 10 a.m., returns at 2:40 p.m.

Due to the limited numbers of people allowed in the building at any one time, visitors are urged to come early to view the exhibit. A special early opening of the exhibit has been arranged to accommodate the early ferry's arrival.

Comfortable clothing and walking shoes are recommended for the 1.2 mile hike from the ferry landing to the exhibit site.

Shuttle bus for senior citizens and disabled will be provided by Go For Broke, Inc. Extra picnic tables will be brought in to the site for the exhibit opening. Visitors are encouraged to bring lunch, and enjoy Angel Island in the middle of the San Francisco Bay.

Go For Broke, Inc. is a national Japanese American historical society; it has previously produced the 100th and 42nd RCT and the Military Intelligence Service exhibits presently touring the country and scheduled for international viewing in France and Germany this year. This is Go For Broke's first major venture into the non-military aspect of Japanese American history.

For information, contact Go For Broke, Inc., 1885 Folsom St., San Francisco, Calif. 94103, or (415) 451-5007, M-F, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Del Rey reunion to be held next week

DEL REY, Calif. — "A Reunion of Families," a gathering of all generations of Japanese Americans who once were or are now part of the Del Rey community, is set for April 13-14 at the Fresco Ramada Inn and the Del Rey Japanese Community Hall.

A no-host social hour at 5:30 p.m. precedes the dinner at the Ramada Inn Saturday, April 13. A souvenir directory/pamphlet and a historical photo exhibit are also planned.

PAAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

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TOM BRADLEY

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL, 13th DISTRICT

MICHAEL WOO

CITY ATTORNEY

JAMES HAHN

CITY CONTROLLER

RICK TUTTLE

JADC believes that these individuals have provided the City of Los Angeles with Leadership and Dedication and deserves your vote of support.

JADC, 2944 Via San Carlo, Montecito, CA 90930
A Matter of Ohm

BILL MARUTANI

THE MONTH WAS October. The year: 1942. The place: Newell, California. We were known to its inmates as "Tule Lake." It was the second of two cruel homes for Tule Lake had no water, let alone a lake; just dust and mud, alternating. The first hoax was "Pinedale," outside Fresno, which only had no pine trees but no trees at all; again, only dust, hot dust. For a lad from the green Northwest, who had never set foot outside his home state of Washington, it was a debilitating shock. We recall that we lost over ten pounds in the first week of camp.

And so we were destined to spend some six months in limbo incarcerated behind barbed wire reinforced by soldiers patrolling with bayoneted rifles, backed up by machine-guns and search lights atop wooden towers.

THEN CAME OCTOBER. Through a Japanese American Friends Service Committee, through the National Student Relief Council, we received word that we had been cleared to attend school in the Midwest--some place called "South Dakota." With hopeful anticipation subduing our uncertainty and trepidation, we journeyed out for the first and last time through those precariously leaving trains. Behind us. When would we see each other again? (Would we...?) But the vehicle to take us to the bus depot was waiting, and lugging a worn suitcase we waved goodbye and we left.

THIS WAS A SCENE to be repeated many times in many camps over the ensuing months. Thanks to those fellow Americans who had the decency and courage to remove efforts to smear us up pariahs during wartime, many young Nisei were able to repel their roots below and dwindle away beyond revival. There are innumerable benefactors out there, some of whom are reading these very words.

A GROUP OF NISEI who did not forget this fine act of real Americanism by our fellow citizens decided it was not enough to feel ohm and they decided to do something about it. So, about five years ago, they set up a charitable corporation called "Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund, Inc." (NSRFC Fund), set up "headquarters" in the economy of a member's home, solicited contributions and began giving monetary recognition. The first recipient, most appropriately enough, was the American Friends Service Committee. In dignified ceremonies held here in Philadelphia a few years back, a monetary recognition award was made to the AFSC.

MORE RECENTLY, we read in one of our weeklies that the NSRFC Fund had made monetary grants to Southeast Asian refugee students. Such an act is in the finest spirit and tradition of those who aided us in our time of need. Those in charge of the NSRFC Fund are to be warmly commended for their ecumenical unselfishness.

Beautiful.

THERE ARE MANY demands on each of our monetary resources, and there are many worthy charities. For our money, the NSRFC Fund has to be among the top. And there's something about that ethic handed down to us from our Issei parents called "ohn." * NSRFC Fund, Inc. 123 Santa Barbara Street, Oakland, CA 94607.
Houston's 'Tea': Powerful Learning Experience

by Jane B. Kaitatsu

SAN FRANCISCO—Two plays by Velina Hasu Houston have opened here both dealing with Japan's war brides and their experiences. Houston is the 27-year-old daughter of a Japanese mother and a Black Indian father, so she is writing about a topic very close to her heart.

It is also a topic that the Japanese American community has been very uncomfortable in confronting; a group of people who "technically" are Americans but "theoretically" are a racial minority, yet whom we have politely displaced. Nonetheless, with the advent of postwar pieces, it is probably about time we learn the war brides' story, some 40 years after the end of World War II.

I'm not going to write a real "review" of "Tea," the piece I saw at the Asian American Theater Company. However, Houston's play is so intriguing that I felt it merits special notice for what it does to the JAPA community—at large.

The title comes from the characters in the story who meet to drink "tea" and talk about their lives, their selves and each other, very much like a "coffee klatch." Set in Kansas, four women, all war brides, come together following the sus­pected suicide of a fellow war bride who led an extremely tragic life. The four women go home to take care of her belongings, united by the fact that they are all Japanese-American women who should behave decently to their own kind. But after that, their commonality stops.

Houston and director Judith Nielsen, who also helped in script de­velopment, probably figured that "Tea" would be the first experi­ence an audience would have with the life of war brides. Thus, the story and its characters are ex­tremely comprehensible, trying to recapture the five women in indi­vidual personalities yet repre­sentative of the war bride experience.

Himiko, the deceased one, acts as narrator. Because the story involves flashbacks to Ja­pan, early days in Kansas, and roles in which the actresses play their husbands and their children, Himiko assumes certain charac­ters, which are different from the others in dif­ferent scenes.

Himiko is an oddball who sports a blue wig. But then her whole life was strange. Neglected by her family in Japan, she chose to marry a Puerto Rican GI who ends up abusing her so badly that she shoots him, in self-defense, she says. Other tragedies occur and at her death, she was virtually ostracized by the others.

Chizu married a Mexican American but became widowed shortly after her husband's death in Kansas. She prides herself on her ability to adapt to survive, and tries to be thoroughly "Ameri­can" while still maintaining her Japanese face. But on the other hand, she is very curious about America and how it works. She makes friends with her neighbors and has a good time.

I watched groups of the women with their Canadian husbands, load vans with hundreds of dollars worth of Japanese groceries at Star Market on Clark St. Some of them drive from Chicago as far away as Wisconsin, Iowa, and Indiana, acting like pioneers stocking up at the general store.

The other grocery store on the U of I campus was run by a Japanese war bride and her hus­band. I never spoke with her ex­cept once, when I couldn't find the kamaboko. It was because I didn't think to look in the canned food section and at that moment I felt a little sorry for her; eating canned fishcake seemed a stiff price for living so far from other Japanese.

One semester I worked with the Asian Studies community out­reach program, where I traveled through central Illinois giving demonstrations of Japanese cul­ture, like folk dancing. I visited several small towns, meeting war brides, but the largest gathering I encountered was at a Peoria "Ja­panese Culture Day." They were friendly and shared their sushi and manju they had made for the exhibit. In one sense they were glad to see another Ja­panese face. But on the other hand, they were very curious about me as a Sansei, and how it came about that both my parents were Japanese, yet I was born in the Midwest.

Quite often they knew nothing about my life or mine for that matter. I would explain how I'm a product of "relocation" and what had happened to the Japanese Japanese during the war. Some still chided me for not be­ing able to speak Japanese or never visiting Japan. Then their hus­bands would butt in and tell me how THEY went to Japan and what it was like for them.

Although the women and I were both of Japanese ancestry living in America, we were truly worlds apart. We could not really understand each other's life, yet some­thing about these people as eating rice bound us together. Only there was never any follow-up.

I remember that I had one ter­rific experience with a warbride. My Japanese-language school­teacher, Mrs. Takada, was married to a Korean, well-liked and respected in the Chicago community. Mrs. Takada was great. She was active in the Buddhist temple and so comfortably at home from Japan that she felt much more at ease among us than a true Asian American. She told me about her family and helped her Japanese-ness the way it did not, why not?

If you intend to have answers to questions like these. But I do think they are pertinent in search­ing for what some of the deep and bitter Nihongo, as she watched the audience roar when Setsuko recalled her hus­band telling her not to "stand on the toilet seat."

Emiko makes her friends laugh when she gently made fun of her Nisei mother-in-law, Kiyomi, play­ing a comically wild stockings-wearing Nihongo, as she watched them try to buy fish in postwar Japan.

It was drawn to the story not because it was about women, but because I was learning about a "people's experience." Growing up in Chicago and then going to college in downstate Illinois at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign was a great experience for war brides (anyone Japanese sticks out in those parts), women who were Japanese but whom for the majority of their Japanese-ness, then by the Kansans.

But then delicately humorous anecdotes were told. The audience roared when Setsuko recalled her hus­band telling her not to "stand on the toilet seat."

Emiko makes her friends laugh when she gently made fun of her Nisei mother-in-law, Kiyomi, play­ing a comically wild stockings-wearing Niseo Omika wasn't properly rec­ognized) because credit isn't go­ing where credit is due. And finally, this is a matter that we ought to be concerning ourselves about? If so, why? And if not why not?

If you intend to have answers to questions like these. But I do think they are pertinent in search­ing for what some of the deep and bitter Nihongo, as she watched the audience roar when Setsuko recalled her hus­band telling her not to "stand on the toilet seat."

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CIVIL RIGHTS
Continued from Front Page

eference based on race has now halted that...and redirected our studies.

Pendleton and Reagan agreed that many black leaders were try-
ing to show the Administration in a negative light to justify the ex-
istence of their own organizations. "I think that a lot of black leaders
are part of race industry, and that's a problem for black prog-
ress," Pendleton said.

"An Administration Lackey"
Growing anger at Pendleton and the conservative majority on the
tee in Sao Paulo said Univertur, a conservative action held March
15 in Sao Paulo. It was supported by Kondo at JACL Headquarters
in Los Angeles, Inoue Travel: 213-217-1709) and Northern California (San Antonio Travel 415-941-4800).

Unique Advantages in San Francisco has been also aiding the
Brazil-bound delegates who contacted George Kondo, PANA Confer-
dence registration ($100 for PANA members, $150 nonmembers)
and NC-WNPDC JACL. Who last night, $125 in Brazil is being
treated by Kondo at JACL Headquarters and Sayonara
banquet at the Sao Paulo Hilton.

June 8 at the 1985 National JACL Convention, which was
described as "the 'color blind' slogan appear to
be able to make an effective change in their lives."

The conflict between civil rights organizations and the Civil Rights
Commission, which is dominated by Reagan and his staff, is not
just a question of whether the groups that need it most are
being heard. It is also a question of whether the groups that need it most
are being given a voice in the decision-making process.

Reagan's decision to withdraw from the Civil Rights
Commission, which was announced at the time of the
1984 Supreme Court decision, has been widely criticized as
a move to weaken civil rights protections. The decision was made
without consulting with civil rights organizations or
the public, and has been seen as a move to undermine
the effectiveness of the Civil Rights
Commission.

The situation in California is similar, with the
Reagan Administration and the California Civil Rights
Commission both seeking to limit the
influence of civil rights groups. The situation is especially
tense in Los Angeles, where the
Civil Rights Commission has been
appointed by Reagan's cousin, Mayor
Richard Riordan.

Reagan has been criticized for his...
Support for health fairs available
by Lia Shigemura
JACL Program Director

The minority health fair program, supported by a grant from Chevron USA, is under way. National JACL can provide assistance (partial funding and materials) for JACL chapters involved in this program. Chapters are strongly encouraged to become involved in the 1985 program.

The four basic components of a health fair are (1) health education (exhibits, demonstrations, handouts, etc.); (2) health screening tests (height and weight, blood pressure, etc.); (3) summary and referral; and (4) phone and mail follow-up.

A minority health fair offers the same components as a "generic" health fair; however, special emphasis is placed on serving the specific needs of a particular ethnic group or groups. This may include active outreach to the community, offering culturally-specific health education or demonstrations, or providing bilingual interpreters to assist monolingual participants through the health screenings.

There is flexibility in the development of minority health fairs, into which many non-traditional components/ideas can be accommodated.

Chapters can become involved in this program by sponsoring or co-sponsoring a minority health fair. Chapter involvement can mean the total responsibility for planning and implementation of the entire event, sharing this responsibility with other groups, or being an organizational conduit through which national JACL assistance can be channeled.

Optimally, the sponsor prefers JACL chapters to be involved in minority health fairs from the "grassroots" level, however, national JACL is willing to assist minority health fairs which have the minimal involvement of a JACL chapter.

The following chapters have stated their intent to sponsor/co-sponsor minority health fair programs. Chapters may include active participation in the fair, and may co-sponsor a minority health fair. Support for health fairs available.

Chapter involvement can be accommodated. Additional components/ideas can be stated their intent to sponsor/co-sponsor a minority health fair. Support for health fairs available.

Chapter involvement can be accommodated. Additional components/ideas can be added.

GREETINGS:
Children's Day Celebration

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LETTERS

Continued From Page 4

what has been a new developing theory of the decision to imprison people of Japanese ancestry during World War II. Mr. McCloy, in this new theory, first put forward by Michi Weglyn in Years of Infamy, is less important than President Roosevelt. The evolving theory is that people of Japanese ancestry on the West Coast in and foreign countries were to be imprisoned to be hostages for the duration of the war or until release of the anticipated 10,000 American and British soldiers of Japanese ancestry who would be captured in the Western Pacific in any war with Japan.

Weglyn has published State Dept. documents showing pre-war agreements with Western hemisphere nations for the imprisonment of their citizens of Japanese ancestry, at U.S. expense, in the event of war with Japan.

I have found a communiqué which shows that a pre-war, military propaganda program was conducted in order to obtain loyalty and unity among the entire island population. Why no such propaganda campaign was done on the West Coast is not yet confirmed as conscious strategy in the evacuation of Japanese Americans.

Mr. McCloy has been cited as the man "largely responsible" for the Japanese American evacuation. I believe this error in perspective. FDR was a former secretary of the Navy. He was quite well aware of global strategy and defense.

Ray Okumura, in Berkeley, Calif., has found an official document showing FDR's planning for the defense of the Hawaiian Islands in 1936 from the White House which essentially notes concentration camps for any citizen or non-citizen of Japanese ancestry, who collaborated with Japanese enemy agencies.

Other evidence that current history of World War II and the decision to relocate the Japanese Americans needs to be re-evalu­ated and re-written exists in documents found from the academic and military studies done on the Japanese Americans in the camps.

This evidence is found in my paper, "American Concentration Camps," filed with the JACL.

MICHAEL K. HAYATE
Seattle

McCloy Honored?

The man who sent 120,000 Japanese Americans into concentration camps in 1942 was honored March 28 by Congress and German notables in Washington. He is John J. McCloy, who was Assistant Secretary of War under Roosevelt, and directed the trans­fer of Japanese American citizens from their homes to barbed wire enclosures far from the West Coast.

Mr. McCloy was further honored by an invitation to join President and Mrs. Reagan for lunch at the White House.

Mr. McCloy wasn't privy to—or doesn't admit—the fact that President Roosevelt was the architect of the "surprise" attack on Pearl Harbor. His Ambassador to Japan, Joseph C. Grew, had warned him repeatedly beginning in January of 1941 that Japan might stage an attack on Hawaii. State Secretary Cordell Hull actually told a reporter, Joseph Leib, on Nov. 29 that the Japanese fleet was on its way to launch the aircraft that would cripple the American forces. FDR wanted the attack to inspire wholehearted support for his entry into World War II.

Mr. McCloy boasts of having visited what he calls "those camps," which were conducted in a "compulsive, benign way." He evidently avoided visiting the worst of the camps, Tule Lake.

Many of us Americans regard the outrage as a blot on America's record rather than an event that should be honored in the person of the man most responsible for the outrage.

ELIOT SHARP
Brooklyn, NY

Visibility All-Important

The former internees of the Monterey Bay area marked the 30th anniversary of the "Day of Remembrance" at the Salinas Assembly Center Kinenhi site on Feb. 19.

As the service progressed it was quite obvious that their number is rapidly dwindling and it becomes ever more important and urgent for the survivors to work together for a quick and just redress of the humiliation and injustice they suffered.

The Salinas Chapter Redress Committee, at its meeting this month, renewed its demand to forge ahead with the important issue of Redress because the fact that the Japanese Americans are exposing is not just their issue alone.

To achieve its aims the Salinas Redress Committee has always kept high visibility. Committee members have appeared on many TV and radio programs, and have written numerous letters to the President of the United States, to the legislators, as well as dozens of letters to the editor. The committee was also successful in having two strong and supportive editorials published in the Salinas Californian.

The Salinas Assembly Center Kinenhi has likewise become an instrument to enhance community awareness of the injustices of the internment and, when youthful vandalism damaged the memorial garden, there was a public outcry of indignity and a wave of offerings of free labor to help with the restoration, and materials and money contributions. It is a pity of note that two-thirds of the restoration fund was contributed by non-Nisei local residents. This in itself is a great achievement, especially when one considers the antipathy, the dislike and the hate of Japanese Americans in the years just before World War II, when only one out of a thousand citizens voted to have the Japanese Americans return to Salinas following the internment.

The redress committee is also fortunate in having the support and cooperation of the electronic media. To mention just one example, at the time of the 40th anniversary of the "Day of Remembrance," KMST TV-46 broadcast four segments about the internment with the theme, "War With A War," and each segment was repeated three times a day to reach as wide an audience as possible.

The exposure on KMST TV-46, KSPW TV-8, and the newspapers have increased the much needed community support for redress legislation introduced in the 99th Congress this year.

The lesson to be learned from all this is that in our mass communications society, IF WE DON'T EXIST IN THE MEDIA, WE DON'T EXIST. Being recognized by the media means the difference between success and failure of the redress issue, between impacting public consciousness and just spinning our wheels.

The reason is obvious. What most people know about the internment and the injustices suffered by the Issei and Nisei is what they hear on the radio, see on TV or read in the newspapers and magazines.

VIOLET K. DECRISTOFORO
Redress Chair
Salinas Valley JACL

Loses Respect

If the Fresno Bee's story on Yori Wada (March 22 PG) is accurate, I have lost much respect for a man who is an acknowledged community leader and who was honored by JACL as a Nissiki of the Bicen­nium at their last national convention in Honolulu.

JACL's long struggle to obtain a meaningful redress bill in Con­gress has been seriously damaged by this news article. Wada reportedly opposes monetary redress because many of the older Japanese Americans have died and younger generations thrive, and "America has repaid in the kind of lives we've lived." That's nonsense and gives cre­dence to the views expressed by each opponent of redress as S.I. Hayakawa, Lillian Baker and others who will be crawling out of the woodwork.

Wada evidently believes that no crime was committed in our govern­ment issuing E.O. 9066 in spite of the mounting evidence to the contrary. In addition, he ignores the emotional scars and the stigma still felt by the survivors and their heirs of the evacuation experience.

It is also puzzling and ironic that after all the years JACL and other community groups have labored to win the support of religious, governmental and human rights leaders, Wada is very belatedly quoted as being against monetary redress.

Why the long delay, Mr. Wada?

KEN HAYASHI
Anahiem, Calif.
For reservations call Cheny among foods that are available in the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center. Watsonville Buddhist Temple, 425 Bridge St. Featured speakers are Fred Korematsu and attorney Leighann Miyasato. Tickets are $5. Information: Ben and Yoko Umeda, (408) 722-1100.

There is also a perception in the general media that the Japanese American community is divided over the issue, that even within the community itself. That Japanese Americans will not support the cause of civil rights for others. But in a few years back, there was a proposal to build a replica of the old Japanese American internment camps and after ceremonies commemorating the event of 1942-45, burn it to the ground. Nikkei engineers, artists, professors, and organizers worked on the plans, a lot of enthusiasm was generated around the plan, however, was vetoed by national headquarters.

We thereby lost many potential activists, we lost the opportunity to emphasize to the public our concern, and we took some "fun" out of the campaign.

**Creative Disorder**

In another instance, a plan for a flag-raising ceremony at Santa Anita, or taking over the track for a day would again have demonstrated our concern and depth of our commitment. The right thing at Santa Anita Racetrack, 18,000 Nikkei were incarcerated would have had an educational impact that would visually counter any attempts to explain away the incarceration as a "lark," as some have attempted. Other direct gains would come from the contact with people who otherwise would not have known what the JACL is and from joining regulars and officials, to a well-represented Asian community which spends a lot of time and money at the tracks. This plan also was rejected.

There are many other ideas, some that could be "on the order" which can call attention to an issue, create interest, and get people working. It gets people away from parties--for example, forming meetings of Tokyo-based people with members asking the leadership "what should we be doing" and leaders answering "we need your help, what should we be doing?" and instead asking and helping the JACL in generating innovative and creative ideas where "things" happen. In addition, people are given tasks to do, rather than ideas and proposals to sift through.

The exhaustion and "burn-out" syndrome is real and JACL leaders have to come to grips with it sooner or later. As Cawthorne said recently, "we used to work 24 hours a day. They've been doing it for so long. I'd like to see them get some relief soon. We need some inspired leadership.

Chapter Pulse

**Coachella Valley**

INDIO, Calif.--Coachella Valley chapter sponsors a day fund-raiser for construction of a traditional Japanese garden at the museum, April 12, 6:416 Main Ave., 5/97-20 Pm. Cost of party is $25/person, Sushi, sashimi, teriyaki chicken, tempura are among foods that will be served. For reservations call Cherry Ishimatsu at 347-4043.

**San Gabriel Valley**

ARCADIA, Calif.--The San Gabriel Valley chapter sponsors a "Day at the Races" at Santa Anita Park, Saturday, April 20. The $10 fee for this fund-raiser includes admission to the race track and a delicious "obento." Parking will be extra. Area 17 has been reserved for the chapter members. head at gate 6 is at noon. Children under 17 will be admitted free, but cost of the lunch is $7.50. Tickets are available from any of the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center office on weekday mornings or may be purchased by mail after April 10 through SVG JACL, 506 E. 5th St., Azusa, Calif. 91702. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

**Watsonville**

WATSONVILLE, Calif.--JACL holds a coram nobis benefit screening of "Unfinished Business," a film about the Watsonville Buddhist Temple, 23 Bridge St. Featured speakers are Fred Korematsu and attorney Leighann Miyasato. Tickets are $5. Information: Ben and Yoko Umeda, (408) 722-1100.

In addition, there is a perception that JACL "backed off" at the point when it should have been most effective, that it had little was gained by the commission hearings, much, valuable time and energy was lost, and many former internees have since died.

Another complaint registered is that the JACL stilled creativity and rejected any use of the media unless it had complete control over the outcome.

Guidelines: All participants are encouraged to meet tournament officials; no drinking is allowed. Parking areas are off the street.
Quit sidelines and play hard,' urges JACL president Sato

by Elizabeth Lu

LOS ANGELES—Asian Americans ‘must stand up to be main­

or players, not spectators,’ as­

serted Frank Sato, National JACL pres­

ident, at the March 23 Pacific Southwest District conference.

Sato stated that one of JACL’s long-term goals is to ‘integrate Asians into Amer­

can society. ’ According to Sato, the tremendous progress of Asian Americans is ‘not properly reflected in posi­

tions of leadership at both the national and state branch levels. ’

Sato encouraged the chapter leaders to make a commitment to in­

clude more of their members in leadership.

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Asians may be hampered by others' rules

by Elizabeth Lu

LOS ANGELES—The key for Asian Americans to develop a positive image of themselves is to stop judging themselves by "cultural standards," advised anthropologist Karen Ishizuka, a panelist at a March 23 JACL workshop on Asian culture and individual development.

Identification with parents is also "essential to personal development," said panelist Edward Hime- no, a child psychiatrist.

"On some things we think of ourselves as actually better than the majority culture, and yet in other ways we think of ourselves as being less—less adoptive, less attractive. We act as if thinking about others, and being considerate, and thinking about speaking are negative rather than positive," observed Ishizuka.

Even our concept of beauty is often while, she noted, describing the experience of author Daniel Okimoto when he first went to Japan in search of a sense of belonging. "He thought that the women were too short and not manly enough. He thought that the women were not shapely enough, that their legs were too short, too thick. He concluded that out of his own negative self-image, he was judging these people by borrowed standards."

"The key is self-esteem. I think we often view ourselves the outside and we judge ourselves by outside rules and then we fall short. I think what the JACL could do, what we all could do, is perhaps reconcept some of the questions," proposed Ishizuka.

Instead of discussing "Has our Asian culture harmed us in any way? personal development?"—"which was the workshop's title—the workshop topic was reconceived as "How has our Asian culture helped us?" suggested Ishizuka.

"The idea is to figure out how much of the Japanese culture to absorb and use," agreed panelist Hime. The first step is to develop a sense of awareness by identifying with one's parents, he said.

"Our ability to identify with and use positive figures, whether they are our own, or black, comes from our comfortable identification and ability to identify with our own past. If we weren't successful in identifying with our parents, we would have a hard time identifying with other people," noted Hime. "By 'identification,' he explained, "he meant 'wishing to be, desiring to be' someone." It is possible for a child to be successful without having identified with his or her parents, but instead with someone totally different, he admitted. "But the general trend for most of us is to transfer the positive identification with our parents to positive identification with other figures."

Not Easy

Developing a positive Japanese American identification was not an easy matter for workshop participant Phil Shigekuni, a high school counselor and a member of San Fernando Valley JACL.

"My parents were wrapped up in this thing of fitting in, of assimilating and not emphasizing what we had that was different and that was good," recalled Shigekuni.

However, he added that "it's easy to blame my parents, and yet I can't do that, because I see it happening with my own child. I went to my daughter's high school class to tell them about my experiences at camp, and I was telling them about things that I had never even told my daughter. How could that be? Here she was 16 years old, and I never told her these things."

Few Men

Shigekuni also noted the need for Asian American men to feel more comfortable about sharing their problems and opinions, and about participating in group discussions such as the JACL workshop. "About 70 percent of the participants at the workshop, only five or six were men." It's not as though men weren't deliberately left out. "It's just that in the past, the women who have the need are more vocal about expressing their needs," said Shigekuni.

Men are more reluctant to do so because "part of the culture tells the men they should be strong, they should be able to work out things by themselves. That works against getting any type of help to begin with," he surmised.

Awareness Needed

Although Shigekuni believes that Asian American men need for dialogue is great, he does not believe that forming a Men's Concerns Committee within JACL, patterned after the existing Women's Concerns Committee, is the answer. "I think there needs to be a certain level of awareness before men get to that point," he explained.

"Women also have to be aware too, to bring up the issues for the counsel of the Mexican, a counselor for the North Los Angeles Center for the Developmentally Disabled and also a San Fernando JACL member.

Other workshop participants also offered suggestions on improving communication skills among Asian Americans. One woman recommended LEAP [Leadership Education for Asian Pacific] leadership development workshops and another suggested that people start changing things from wherever they are instead of waiting for formalized programs.

"It takes just two people to communicate," said the latter participant. "If JACL is not doing anything, good, start something on your own!"

Civil rights leaders call for inter-ethnic unity

by Robert Shimabuku

LOS ANGELES—"We need to develop interethnic dialogue. I think that's a strong message and we can go forth from here," said JACL PSW director John Saito as he characterized the lunch time panel discussion "Interethnic Dialogue: How Can We Continue the Interactions?" before 400 people attending the PSW Conference March 23.

The panel, composed of Har­ney Schechter, regional director of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL); Mark Ridley-Thomas, executive director of the Southern California Leadership Conference (SCLC); John Huerta, associate counsel of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF); and Irene Hirano, co-chair of the Leadership Development and Education (LDE) committee and member of PSW Ethnic Concerns Committee. was concerned with barriers to effective relations between the various ethnic communities and possible ways of breaking down those barriers.

"The media was scored for its part in emphasizing differences between groups, but other reasons cited were group ethnocentrism, inertia and time commitments, and simple ra­

Schechter cited getting too involved with one's own affairs as a reason. "Barriers are sometimes artificial, sometimes they're just a question of some­one not picking up the phone—oversight."

Hirano, in addressing the issue of anti-Asian violence, added that school officials should have some of the responsibil­ity for the racism within the schools. "School officials are un­solicitingly admitting that there is a problem, even though parents tell us otherwise."

She added that, "As a commu­nity we have got to challenge school officials to deal with the problems. ... there are not the kinds of programs in the class­rooms, textbooks, materials, and dialogue which represent the broad sector of the various ethnic communities that are here."

Ridley-Thomas in citing group ethnocentrism said, "We need to rec­

cognize the worst things about other ethnic groups. For people of color we have been too prac­
cupied with being close to white people as opposed to being close to each other."

As a possible remedy Ridley­Thomas added that organizations should use their organiza­tional newsletters to point to­ward those activities which build mul­tiracial unity. "It is a modest way of saying that the extent to which other ethnic communities have important contributions to make, we can say that with regu­larly without denying ourselves anything."

Huerta asked all to look for is­sues that we can work together; he cited as examples, South Africa, immigration, and the upcoming California election for progres­sive judges Rose Bird, Cruz Reynoso, and Joseph Goodin.

All participants congratulated the JACL for holding the dialogue and hoped that more would follow. Ridley-Thomas heard that was more emphasis was placed on the barri­ers erected between the commu­nities than on strategies to re­move those barriers. But, as one observer noted, "Maybe that's for next time."
across all lines including Ameri­
can-born and foreign-born alike.
And this violence reflects long­
standing prejudice against Asian
Americans.

Grace Kim, a Davis High School
teacher, summarized an evening
of consultation held last fall in
Oakland. That national gath­
ering of church groups identi­
ﬁed actions that families, educa­
tors, students, and churches
can take to stop racial violence against Asian/Pa­
ciﬁc Islanders. The group in­
dents DARE as a member of the
subsequently formed group, As­
ian/Paciﬁc Island Racial Justice
Network of Northern California,
which meets on April 14 at the
Sycamore Church in El Cerrito.
The network is developing a re­
gional incident reporting system.

Senator prefers
memorial fund

to individual reeders

WASHINGTON—Sen. Pete Wil­
son (R-Calif.) went on record as
making a pledge to be a de­
fender of the rights of the
Japanese Americans who
soldiered during World War II,
and to promote legislation that
would afford them justice.

He wrote a letter addressing the
Washington delegation of Amer­i­
an Japanese Americans was “one of
the most unfortunate episodes of
World War II,” that “it is impor­
tant that we refer to the individu­
al who suffered the anguish of in­
ternment and that ‘future genera­
tions should understand the
challenge that violence does not
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that it was wrong.”

DARE distributed “Incident
Report” to the audience.

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