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News in Brief

Letter promoting 'Jpn.' bill circulated in House

WASHINGTON—Reps. Mike Lowry (D-Wash.) and Norman Mineta (D-Calif.) have distributed a "Dear Colleague" letter urging fellow representatives to co-sponsor a resolution recognizing "Jpn." rather than "Jap." as the proper abbreviation of "Japan" or "Japanese." The letter, dated Feb. 10, says "Jap" is "rejected and resented by Japanese Americans and others as a racial epithet... it is sometimes used as an abbreviation... when a sensible alternative is available." Promoting the use of "Jpn." would emphasize "respect and sensitivity" over "hostility and thoughtlessness," the congressmen wrote.

Rep. Sala Burton (D-Calif.) and Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii) have pledged their support of the bill, which Lowry authored at the request of Pacific Northwest District JACL.

Former school district workers may get redress

OLYMPIA, Wash.—Payments of \$5,000 to Nisei forced to resign by the Seattle School District in 1942 may be granted as a result of passage of a state bill authorizing cities to compensate Japanese American employees who lost their jobs on the basis of race during WW2. Introduced by State Rep. Gary Locke (D-37th District), House Bill 1415 was passed in the House on Feb. 15 by an 82-15 vote and in the Senate on March 6 by a 45-1 vote. Gov. William Booth Gardner is expected to sign the bill into law.

In April 1984 the Seattle School Board passed by a 4-2 vote a resolution setting aside funds for payments to former employees (25 of the original 27 are still alive). The funds, however, have been held in escrow since then because of a clause withholding payments until the state attorney general confirmed the district's authority to grant compensation or until enabling legislation was passed.

Mondale lends name to JACL solicitation

WASHINGTON—Former vice president Walter Mondale has signed a letter supporting JACL's effort to obtain redress for the government's wartime actions against Japanese Americans.

Responding to a personal request by JACL national president Frank Sato, Mondale offered support in the form of a letter to his own supporters written during his 1984 presidential campaign.

In affirming his support, Mondale wrote to Sato, "I have read the materials that you provided me, including the report of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, and find all of it fully worthy of support. This outrage is something that has long concerned me, and I fully support the recommendations of the commission."

In the letter to his supporters, Mondale described the internment as "an act without justification. Every investigation before and after Pearl Harbor concluded that the Japanese American community posed no military threat."

In another part of the letter he wrote, "It wasn't because of war that Japanese Americans were imprisoned. It was because of racism and greed." He went on to urge his supporters to sign petitions directed to President Reagan and even to become JACL members to concretize their support for redress.



Walter Mondale signing JACL letter.

The letter is included in an upcoming mailing, authorized by the JACL National Board, to solicit general membership and support for redress education.

Sanctuary for Marcos in Hawaii debated

by J.K. Yamamoto

HONOLULU—Opponents and supporters of deposed Philippine president Ferdinand Marcos spoke Feb. 26 at a public hearing on a resolution by State Sen. Duke Kawasaki to deny Marcos sanctuary in Hawaii.

Although the resolution, if passed, would be a purely symbolic gesture because of Marcos' arrival in Hawaii the day before and President Reagan's assurances of sanctuary, the hearing at the State Capitol gave local Filipino Americans and others a chance to air their views.

"Do not underestimate the impact of the presence of Ferdinand Marcos," warned Dean Alegado of Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines. "With his ill-gotten dollars... he could regroup supporters and mount a counter-revolution, using Honolulu as a base."

Kawasaki, after hearing similar concerns from a number of speakers, noted that Marcos did not formally resign before fleeing the Philippines.

State Sen. Joseph Kuroda, however, scoffed at the notion that Marcos could establish a government-in-exile, saying that Hawaii is too small to conceal any counter-insurgency against the new government of Corazon Aquino.



Photo by Ken Sakamoto Honolulu Star-Bulletin

WELCOME TO EXILE—Hawaii governor George Ariyoshi and wife Jean greet deposed Philippine president Ferdinand Marcos at Hickam Air Force Base on Feb. 26. (Related commentary on page 5.)

"Marcos is ill and about to die," Kuroda added. "Certain individuals have strength, but once they leave power, they lose strength."

Alegado countered that there are other potentially powerful individuals in Marcos' entourage, including his wife Imelda and Gen. Fabian Ver.

Gard Kealoha of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs recommended that Hawaii "not give aloha to

Marcos, not provide sanctuary to a corrupt dictator."

Richard Kinney of the Hawaii Political Action Committee expressed the same sentiments. "Are we to become a haven for those who disregard human rights?"

Joe Lazo, head of Friends of Marcos and a personal friend of the ex-president, called on Mar-

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Mineta: budget bill no obstacle

WASHINGTON—Responding to doubts that have been expressed about the chances of redress legislation being passed, Rep. Norman Mineta (D-Calif.) said March 5 that he remains committed to passage of redress bill H.R. 442 during the current session of Congress.

"I can understand the concerns of those who fear that Congress' current 'tighten-the-belt' philosophy, because of Gramm-Rudman-Hollings, may halt the progress of H.R. 442," he said.

Script for 1987 exhibit revealed

SAN FRANCISCO—After consultations with Go For Broke, Inc. and National JACL, curators from the Smithsonian Institution have provided a revised script for an upcoming exhibit on Japanese Americans.

The exhibit, which will open in September 1987 in conjunction with the celebration of the Constitution's bicentennial, will have over 10,000 sq. ft. of space. It will be the Smithsonian's first exhibit on any U.S. ethnic group.

A guard tower, preserved from one of the WW2 camps where Japanese Americans were interned, will be part of the exhibition, along with a replica of a barracks living unit. Some of the furniture made in the camps will be displayed as well. Barbed wire will surround the exhibit.

The major theme will be the story of the JA response to the exclusion and internment, de-

Continued on Page 3

"But the costs involved with H.R. 442 are minor in the context of the federal budget."

"Some members of Congress may see this as an excuse not to support our redress efforts, but it would not be a valid excuse. The \$1.5 billion which the bill calls for pales in comparison to many federal programs and can be spread over a period of 10 years."

"The major barrier to H.R. 442 has always been, and still remains, the ignorance surrounding the internment. As long as members of Congress don't know the facts of the internment, they will not see the justice of the bill."

"That's why my colleagues and I have made education our first task in passage of the bill. And we have been very successful already, since more than 120 members [of the House] and 25 senators already have signed up as co-sponsors... I know that ultimately Congress will see the light and pass H.R. 442."

Matsui's Remarks

Rep. Robert Matsui (D-Calif.) also reiterated his support of the legislative approach over the class action lawsuit being pursued in federal court. "Priorities must be established," he said March 11, "and H.R. 442, in my opinion, is our best hope for achieving redress and an apology from our government."

"For this bill to succeed, we need a unified lobbying effort... H.R. 442, unlike redress sought in a court of law, would not put people in an adversarial position against the government, having to prove their losses."

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Camps recalled, vets praised at Feb. 19 program

SALINAS, Calif.—Several speakers condemned the war-time internment of Japanese Americans and praised the Nisei who served in the armed forces during WW2 at a Day of Remembrance ceremony Feb. 19.

The event was jointly sponsored by the Monterey Peninsula, Salinas, Watsonville, San Benito and Gilroy chapters of JACL.

Salinas Mayor James Barnes, Kathy O'Boyle (for State Sen. Henry Mello), Monterey Mayor Pro-Tem Dan Albert, Jackie Mathis (representing Seaside Mayor Lance McClair) and Marina Mayor George Takahashi presented their respective Day of Remembrance resolutions. Takahashi recalled being denied access to both white and black restrooms in the South during the war.

Former Seaside Mayor Lou Haddad said that his sister, who was married to a Japanese American, went to the Poston camp with her husband and daughter. He also related his own experience of being rescued by the 442nd Regimental Combat Team when he was a member of the Texas 36th Infantry Division, which had been surrounded by the Germans.

Lawson Sakai of Gilroy, a 442nd veteran, cited the work of the Nisei who served in the Pacific with the Military Intelligence Service and called the internment "the greatest deprivation of human rights since days of slavery."

Another 442nd veteran, Royal Manaka of Seaside, gave the history of his unit and praised those who served with him. Also lauding the soldiers was MIS veteran Shig Kihara of Monterey and Col. Gerard Landry, representing 7th Division Commander Maj. Gen. William Harrison.

Marina Councilman Robert Ouye served as emcee. About 200 people attended the program.

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Jackson speaks at redress event

SAN FRANCISCO — The Rev. Jesse Jackson was among the speakers commemorating the WW2 internment of Japanese Americans at a Day of Remembrance program held Feb. 22 in Japantown.

Linking the redress movement to human rights struggles in South Africa and other countries, Jackson urged people of all colors to work together so that "such an injustice as the evacuation and incarceration never happens again."

Violet Ashkey, a Navajo resident of Big Mountain in Arizona, spoke about the government's current attempts to relocate her people from that area.

Other speakers included Chizu

Iiyama of National Coalition for Redress/Reparations, the program's sponsor; Don Tamaki of the *coram nobis* legal team of Fred Korematsu; and State Sen. Milton Marks.

Among the organizations represented at a commemorative candle-lighting ceremony were American Federation of Teachers, Go For Broke, JACL, National Lawyers Guild, Asian Pacific American Advocates of California, Asian Pacific Student Union, and S.F. Rainbow Coalition.

The program also featured jazz musicians Jon Jang and Gina Hotta and a display of artwork and other memorabilia from the camps. About 250 people attended.

Community group seeks director

BOSTON—Asian American Resource Workshop (AARW), a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting recognition and understanding of the Asian American experience, is seeking an administrative director.

AARW collects, produces and disseminates literature, media resources and other educational material about Asian Americans and provides programs and services for the New England Asian American community.

The director's responsibilities include managing fiscal operations, fundraising, developing long- and short-term goals with steering committee, implement-

ing outreach and publicity strategies, and supervising volunteers.

Applicants should have a degree in education and/or administration; experience in community organizations; familiarity with Asian American history and issues; ability to work in a collective setting; and excellent organizational, communication and writing skills.

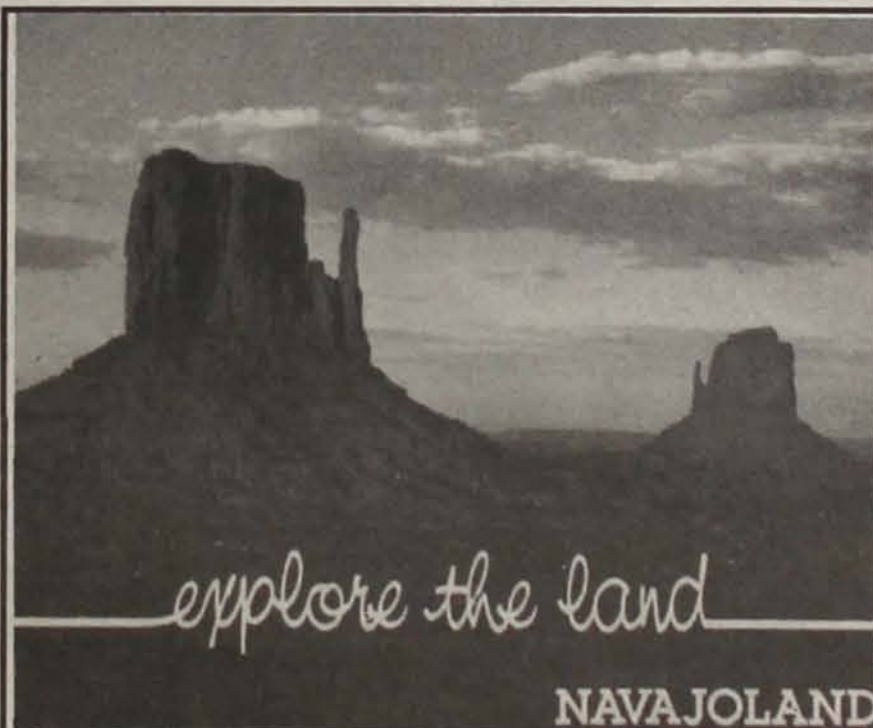
Salary is \$20,000-\$22,000, depending on experience.

Send letter of intent by March 31 and resume by Apr. 15 to Steering Committee, Asian American Resource Workshop, 27 Beach St., Third Floor, Boston, MA 02111. Info: (617) 426-5313.



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New Asian American films to be showcased

SAN FRANCISCO—A variety of new works from the U.S. and Asia will be showcased at the Asian American International Film Festival from March 19-27.

Lupita Aquino Kashiwahara's "Gamu Gamu," a critical look at U.S. bases in the Philippines, kicks off the festival March 19 at the World Theater in Chinatown.

On March 20, "Conversations Before the War, After the War" by Bob Nakamura and Karen Ishizuka, "Yuki Shimoda: Asian American Actor" by John Esaki and Amy Kato, "Beacon Hill Boys" by Dean Hayasaka, Bill Blauvelt and Ken Mochizuki, and "A Back Alley Asian American Love Story of Sorts" by Yuri Kageyama and Niccolo Caldararo will be shown at the Kokusai Theater in Japantown.

Dwinelle Hall at UC Berkeley will be the site of a screening of "Q It Up" by Spencer Nakasako, "Chan is Missing" by Wayne Wang, "Yuki Shimoda" and "Beacon Hill Boys" as well as scenes from "Living on Tokyo Time," an upcoming romantic comedy by Steve Okazaki ("Unfinished Business") on March 21. A panel discussion with Okazaki, the makers of "Shimoda" and "Beacon Hill" and actors Marc Hayashi ("Chan is Missing") and Laureen Chew ("Dim Sum") will follow.

New films from the People's Republic, Taiwan and the Philippines will be shown March 20-27 at the World Theater.

SMITHSONIAN

Continued from Front Page

scribed by constitutional scholars as the Constitution's greatest failure. Many Nisei, for example, joined the military and fought for the U.S. to demonstrate their loyalty while others refused to join unless justice was enacted for themselves and their community.

The internment exhibition will be set in historical perspective, prefaced by the trials of the Issei pioneers and the more than 500 laws directed against persons of Japanese ancestry.

The postwar section will present the early civil rights movement led by Nisei to rescind discriminatory legislation, followed by the diversification and maturation of the community by Nisei and Sansei.

The March 15 fundraiser being presented by Go For Broke at the Palace of Fine Arts, featuring the U.S. premiere of the European documentary "Yankee Samurai," is part of an effort to ensure a comprehensive exhibition on the JA story. Info: (415) 431-5007.

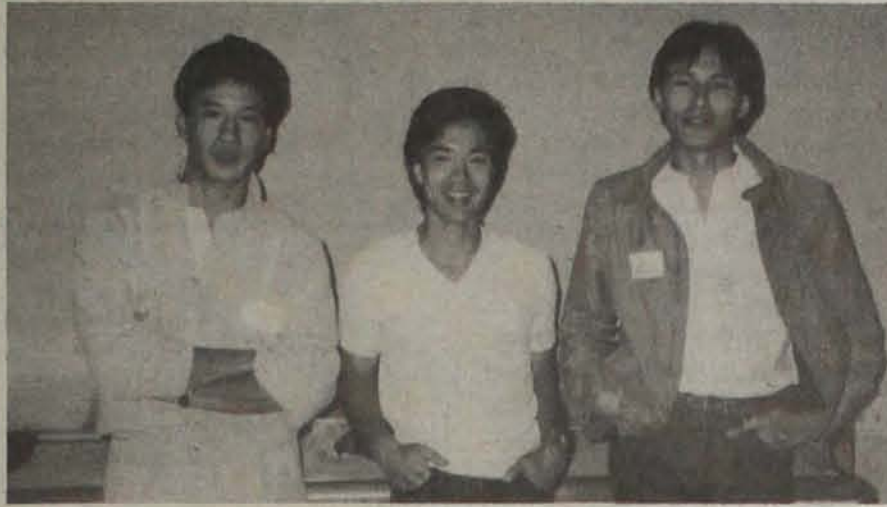


Photo by J.K. Yamamoto

From left: Dean Hayasaka, Ken Mochizuki, and Bill Blauvelt, makers of the film "Beacon Hill Boys," will be among the speakers at Bay Area film festival.

The festival is sponsored by the UCB Asian American Law Students Assn. and National Asian American Telecommunications Assn. (NAATA) and fund-

ed by grants from San Francisco Foundation, Zellerbach Family Fund and Associated Students of University of California. Info: (415) 863-0814.

Fujimoto of WLA College reaches favorable settlement with district

LOS ANGELES—An agreement was reached March 5 between Dr. M. Jack Fujimoto, whose removal from the post of West L.A. College president sparked strong protests from Asian American community groups, and the L.A. Community College District Board of Trustees.

Fujimoto, who on Feb. 19 was demoted to vice president of academic affairs at L.A. Trade Technical College by a 4-2 vote, will now be considered on professional improvement leave, at full pay, until June 30. During that time, Fujimoto said, he will "research issues that I feel are important to the LACCD."

From July 1 to June 30, 1987 or later, he will be assistant to Chancellor Leslie Koltai, retaining presidential rank and salary.

One of Fujimoto's immediate objectives in his new position is "the articulation of LACCD educational programs to the high schools and universities," he said.

Fujimoto's demotion prompted the formation of an ad hoc

committee by Asian Pacific Legal Defense and Education Fund, JACL, and several other community organizations. The committee charged that "In the absence of formal charges or substantiating evidence by the LACCD, it strongly appears that the blame for problems at the district administrative level"—including a 44% drop in enrollment at the college since 1982—"are being unfairly targeted at Dr. Fujimoto."

Prominent individuals who came to Fujimoto's defense included Reps. Robert Matsui and Norman Mineta, Assembly Speaker Willie Brown, Mayor Tom Bradley, Supervisor Mike Antonovich, U.S. District Judge Robert Takasugi, and former coroner Thomas Noguchi.

"It was collective effort by the community and elected officials that brought about the successful resolution," said John Saito, Pacific Southwest District JACL director.

Fujimoto said he was "very grateful" for the support.

Community Affairs

CHICAGO—Asian Human Services of Chicago holds its second annual dinner, "Unity Through Diversity," Apr. 19, 7 p.m. (cocktails at 6:30), at the Marriott hotel on Michigan Ave. Cost: \$30. Black tie optional. Instituted to meet the mental health needs of Asian Americans, the group currently operates programs in counseling, community development and race relations. Info: (312) 728-2330.

SEATTLE—Alternatives to Fear, a sexual assault prevention program, celebrates its 15th anniversary March 21 at Nippon Kan Theatre with a reception at 6:30 p.m., awards ceremony at 7:30 and art auction at 8:30. Donation: \$15. Info: 328-5347.

SAN FRANCISCO—The incidence of high blood pressure among Japanese Americans and nutritional management of the problem will be discussed at a March 22 Nisei & Retirement seminar 1-4 p.m. at the Sumitomo Bank Hospitality Room. Speakers: Pearl Yamane, who has done research on the nutritional needs of Asians and Pacific Islanders, and dietician Karen Uemura of Kimochi Senior Nutrition Program. Info: Kiku Funabiki, (415) 668-4660.

OAKLAND, Calif.—The 8th annual Asian Pacific American Heritage Festival, featuring ethnic food, entertainment and crafts, will be held Apr. 26, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at Laney College Mall, 900 Fallon St. Sponsors: APA Festival Committee of Cultural & Ethnic Guild of Oakland Museum and ASIA (Asian Studies International Assn.) and Laney College Community Relations.

GARDENA, Calif.—"Alcohol and the Pacific/Asian Communities: A 4-Year Update," last in a series of seminars being held in conjunction with National Alcohol and Drug Abuse Awareness Month, takes place March 24, noon-4 p.m., at Japanese Cultural Institute, 16215 S. Gramercy Pl. Sponsored by Pacific/Asian Alcohol Task Force and Asian American Drug Abuse Program. Info: Walter Douglas, (213) 293-6284.

MONTEREY PARK, Calif.—KCBS-TV and Asian Rehabilitation Services co-sponsor "1986: Year of Better Health," a free health fair, March 16, noon-4 p.m., at East L.A. College Center. The event is designed to familiarize residents with health services available to them. Information will be available in several languages.

JA studies fellowship offered

LOS ANGELES—A postdoctoral fellowship in Japanese American studies is being offered by the Asian American Studies Center at UCLA.

A stipend of between \$18,000 and \$20,000 will be given to a

junior scholar whose research will result in a publishable book manuscript by the end of the nine-month fellowship term.

In addition to conducting research, the fellow will teach one course in his/her area of specialty and present research results in a campus colloquium and at a public lecture.

Candidates should send curriculum vitae, dissertation plans or research proposal and three letters of recommendation to Japanese American Studies Fellowship Committee, c/o Asian American Studies Center, 3232 Campbell Hall, University of California, Los Angeles, CA 90024. All application materials must be received by April 1.

Feb. 19 marked

SACRAMENTO — State Sen. Ralph Dills (D-Gardena) announced Feb. 18 that his resolution proclaiming Feb. 19 a "Day of Remembrance" had been adopted by the Senate.

Sen. Milton Marks (D-San Francisco) and Senate President Pro Tempore David Roberti (D-Hollywood/Burbank) co-authored the resolution.

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Still Top Priority

A series of articles has appeared in the PC written by Vice-president Yosh Nakashima (Oct. 11, Nov. 12, and Feb. 7 PC), dealing with the impact, responsibilities, and outcome of JACL's redress effort. I would like to address some of the issues he has raised.

BY THE BOARD

by Denny Yasuhara

Today, the fight for redress nears its conclusion. On the one hand, with the historic and precedent-setting legal victories of Korematsu, Hirabayashi, and Yasui, and the pending class action suit by NCJAR, the case for redress—the most compelling civil rights issue of our time, particularly for Japanese Americans—have never looked stronger. I cannot conceive of any issue in recent memory that aroused greater interest nor has had a more profound impact upon so many Japanese Americans as redress.

Yet, this noble, enormous and very necessary undertaking has been clouded by terrible economic times and, incredibly, divisions within the National JACL Board. Those divisions and their apparent origins are delineated in Cherry Kinoshita's "Call for Unity" (Nov. 8 PC).

In the Feb. 7 article "Showing Responsibility," V.P. Nakashima states, "I don't doubt that the redress program and issue is the highest priority of the National JACL, but we must remember that there is more to the organization than redress. We have seemingly forgotten that the National Council passed several resolutions which voiced the strong need to pursue other equally important issues."

How can one acknowledge in one sentence that redress is National JACL's highest priority and in the next, claim there are other equally important issues?

In the same article he speaks of staff, saying, "They must be even-handed in their delegation of time and effort to assure the necessary continuity of all aspects of JACL." Few question the loyalty,

dedication and work habits of our staff. However, when staffing and funding are not as adequate as they should be, the urgency and importance of issues must be considered in the utilization of existing monies, as well as distribution of staff time.

Furthermore, there must be a reasonable relationship between organizational goals and staff time, particularly involving the National Director and Regional Directors. If there is not, goal-setting and priorities become a pointless exercise; major projects require staff support and involvement if there is to be a consistent and sustained effort. This simply cannot be done by volunteers alone.

It's nice to talk about even-handed delegation of time and effort, but that luxury simply is not realistically attainable on a regular, consistent basis in an understaffed and over-programmed organization such as JACL (that tries to be all things to all people) if it is to be effective at all. A rigid policy of even-handed delegation of staff time and effort could be disastrous if vitally important issues arose that required an immediate and sustained infusion of additional staff assistance. Redress is such an example.

What Is at Stake

In the Oct. 11 PC, Nakashima writes, "The future of JACL is at stake, not only the success or failure of the redress program. I believe that we are setting ourselves up for failure and not success."

JACL survived the war years and internment, when its membership plummeted from 20,000 to 2,000, and JACL will survive redress. Its not JACL's survival that concerns me, but the quality of that survival. What is at stake for JACL is not its survival, but its integrity and its commitment to thousands of people in and outside of JACL.

Equally troublesome is Nakashima's Feb. 7 PC assertion that, "We must continue to show responsible leadership that assures a strong financial base and a balanced program that assures a future for JACL. We must invest in those who must carry on the intent and purpose of JACL and not dwell on history (Italics added)."

What are the intent and purposes of JACL and its National



Council, if not such fundamental civil rights issues as redress that cut across age, gender, and color lines and lie at the very heart of the worth and dignity of a people? What kind of balanced program, continuity, and strong financial base, do we expect to have if it is perceived that JACL has not mounted the best legislative effort it is capable of? Who do you suppose built the financial base upon which JACL operates today?

Nearly 70% of our membership is Nisei, those loyal Nisei whose history Nakashima does not desire to dwell upon. Do we actually believe that JACL can build a future for one generation while abandoning another?

Moreover, of the over \$800,000 invested in the redress movement in prior years, no small amount

has come from people outside of JACL. That in itself entails obligations beyond our programs and beyond our membership. We cannot accept monies offered in faith and trust by others and then backslide on our commitments to them because the going gets tough.

To view redress in the narrow context of JACL programs and our membership is neither perceptive nor reasonable, but shortsighted. A civil rights organization, by its very nature, has an added responsibility to those issues and must honor such obligations and commitments.

On the eve of our greatest challenge, we stand divided. Did we expect to achieve redress without pain, with sacrifice on our part and our organization? There is not only a perception of dishar-

mony and disunity. There is (and the problem is us, not others) a divided National Board, National President, and National Director.

The issue isn't just redress, it is the integrity and soul of JACL. Neither is the issue success or failure, for there are important variables beyond our control. The issue has always been making the best possible effort to achieve what we have set out to do—to give real meaning to the idea, that all people are created equal with certain inalienable rights. That's what America should be about and what JACL should be about. That requires sacrifice, perseverance and honoring our commitments and responsibilities. The question is, do we have what it takes?

First in a series.

Forced Relocation—1986

ONE THING LEADS TO ANOTHER

Bob Shimabukuro



In November 1982, a two-part series by Clifford Uyeda on the Navajos, Hopis and P.L. 93-531 appeared in the PC. In May 1983, a small ad appeared in the PC soliciting funds for the JACL Big Mountain Support Committee. I was Portland chapter president at the time; the release of CWRIC recommendations and the filing of the *coram nobis* and NCJAR suits during the year meant that I was interviewed by local news media often about the whole relocation process.

To the inevitable "Why now, after 40 years" question, my stock answer was always "So it won't happen again." That question also gave me an opportunity to bring in the subject of the 1980s relocation of 10,000 Navajos—not 40 years ago, not 100 years ago, but right now.

I was not too familiar with national JACL policy-making at that time; the fact that there was a national JACL Big Mountain Support committee to me meant

that JACL was actively supporting the Navajos. I answered Clifford's ad, even sent some money (no small feat considering I was existing on money borrowed from my brothers). The fact that the solicitation ad stated that the committee was "non-funded" should have told me something about JACL's commitment, but I was pretty naive at the time.

In subsequent communications with Clifford it became painfully obvious to me that his was mostly a one-person information-disseminating committee. A tremendous let-down to me.

So what gives? Doesn't the JACL care about relocation, 1980s style? The fact that Clifford has continued to keep the membership informed about the Big Mountain people says a lot about his tenacity and commitment. It's too bad the rest of us don't seem to share his concern.

But maybe things are changing. Both the San Francisco and Los Angeles Day of Remembrance ceremonies featured speakers from Big Mountain. An appeal for help was made at both. Educate yourselves on the matter. (The goal is the repeal of P.L. 93-531.) Lend a hand. Dig deep into your pockets. Together we can make a difference.

Other things may be changing too. Gedde Watanabe of "Six-

teen Candles" and "Volunteers" fame (or notoriety depending on your point of view) plays a business executive in a Japanese automanufacturing plant in Pennsylvania in Ron Howard's latest, "Gung Ho." In a comedy (of sorts) which introduces a lot of issues centered around the problems of a Japanese company operating in an economically depressed American town, Watanabe does a credible job as an unorthodox (for Japan) executive, without all the degrading trappings of his earlier roles.

We'll review the film a little later (I don't find Howard's films to be as funny as others do), but I did wonder how Japanese business executives and American labor would find the movie. Both come in for their share of ridicule, although the problems of both groups are presented sympathetically (and simplistically).

Thanks for all the letters of appreciation. Two suggestions are being considered very seriously. The first, that we need a Sansei woman columnist, is being actively pursued. The second, suggested by NCWNPDC governor Mollie Fujioka and others, that we issue a guide to writing articles and releases, has been on the shelf temporarily but hopefully will be put out soon.

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Finding the Funny Bone

FROM THE
FRYING PAN:

Bill
Hosokawa



A number of observers, including this one, have contended that generally speaking Japanese Americans don't have a very good sense of humor. How many really funny Nikkei have you known? Well, there are a few professionals, like Pat Morita and Butch Kasahara and the late Jack Soo. But on the whole they're more likely to be sober-sided, solemn, earnest, businesslike in public. What the Issei would call *majime*. This flies in the face of the reality that in informal settings, among themselves, Japanese Americans can be warm, funny and fun-loving.

One who necessarily does not agree that Japanese Americans lack humor is Tetsuden Kashima, director of the Asian American Studies program at the University of Washington. Yet he admits that when he tried to find jokes by or about Japanese Americans to use in his classes, he found them very scarce. And aside from the racist kind, he says, many of them are at the childish level. He cites some examples:

"What kind of pants does a Japanese American wear?"

Answer: "Nihon-jeans."

"What kind of food does a Japanese American cannibal eat?"

Answer: "Ra-men."

"What did the Japanese American lumberjack exclaim when he dropped his axe on his foot?"

Answer: "Ah gee, no-mo-toe."

You get the drift. Are you smiling? Are you laughing out loud? Will you remember these and pop

them on your friends? This is ethnic humor depending on at least a limited knowledge of the Japanese language, and I think it's pretty good. It's ethnic humor in that it doesn't make much sense to people outside the culture.

Kashima says Asian Americans in Hawaii use a lot of ethnic humor, but most of it focuses on stereotypes within the Island culture. (That, for some reason, reminds me of the expression "No jump," used at one time by Hawaii Nikkei when expressing exaggerated disbelief. Turns out that it was a translation, more or less, of the Japanese expression *tondemo nai*, meaning literally "there's no such thing to be found even if you fly.")

Kashima asked recently whether I could contribute Japanese American jokes to his store of

knowledge. And that failing, could I ask readers of this column for contributions?

Well, darned if I could think of any, not even the unprintable kind. That seems to help support my point that there isn't a real body of Japanese American humor, but I hope readers can disprove that contention.

If you have any Japanese American jokes, puns or gags—good, bad or indifferent—please jot them down and send them to me. I plan to use some of them in this column, and will ship all of them to Kashima. As in the recent Speakee Englishie put-down contest, I'll offer a prize for the best one. Address your contributions to Bill Hosokawa, 140 So. Upham Court, Denver, Colo. 80226.

In the interest of just plain good fun as well as scientific research, let's determine by your entries whether Japanese Americans do or do not have a funny bone.

Ferdinand and Friend

by J.K. Yamamoto

As Ferdinand Marcos arrived at Hickam Air Force Base on Feb. 26, there was no fanfare, but there was a welcoming committee of sorts. In addition to a few military officers, Gov. George Ariyoshi was there to shake the ex-president's hand and bestow a lei of welcome on ex-First Lady Imelda. Jean Ariyoshi, the governor's wife, draped a lei on Marcos and embraced him.

It might have been a touching scene were it not for the fact that Marcos had been driven from power by millions of Filipinos who could no longer tolerate life under his rule.

While Marcos remained in seclusion, Ariyoshi served as his unofficial spokesman, telling reporters that the deposed dictator "appeared to be very spry and in

good spirits."

Showing great affection for Marcos—and seemingly oblivious to the popular uprising that forced him to flee the country—Ariyoshi said Marcos didn't appear depressed or bitter. "Being the strong Philippines nationalist that he is," the governor added, "I would not be surprised if he developed a yearning to return to the Philippines."

This yearning which Ariyoshi seems to take so lightly is an ominous sign for supporters of the new Aquino government. When Marcos gave his first public statement on March 1 (introduced, by the way, by Ariyoshi's press secretary Robert Wernet), he used his old presidential letterhead, an obvious signal that he still considers himself a head of state. It has also been disclosed that Marcos has made more than \$1,000 worth of phone calls to his homeland since going into exile.

Stressing that he and Marcos are still friends and that Marcos is a U.S. ally "who has acted in accordance with American interests," Ariyoshi chooses to ignore the political repression (including torture and assassination) that went on under the Marcos regime and the untold wealth that he and his wife squandered. In addition to the alleged overseas holdings, an inventory of the loot left behind at the presidential palace shows that millions were spent on shoes, handbags, jewelry and the like while millions of Filipinos lived in poverty.

A case can certainly be made for allowing Marcos to stay in Hawaii; as Sen. Daniel Inouye has pointed out, having him in Honolulu is better than allowing him to remain in Manila. But to welcome Marcos with such open arms and to forgive him for his crimes—or, in Ariyoshi's case, to pretend that no crimes have been committed—is totally incomprehensible.

'JA Journey' a Bad Trip

by Raymond Okamura

In 1971, Newsweek ran the now-infamous piece on Japanese Americans dubbed "Success Story: Outwhiting the Whites." It was fashionable in those days for the press to pat Japanese Americans on the head as the "model minority."

During the same year, the Japanese American Curriculum Project (JACP) published *Japanese Americans: The Untold Story*, a book intended for young readers (grades 5-8) using the same "success story" theme.

It was at the height of the ethnic awareness/yellow power movement and both works were condemned by activists in the Japanese American community. Publications of this type were seen as patronizing hypes which could be used as put-downs against other, more militant minorities.

The Untold Story was also marred with derogatory remarks about Chinese Americans and tainted with a pro-Christian/anti-Buddhist and anti-Shinto bias. When the book was submitted for adoption as a California state textbook, the National JACL Education Committee, Buddhist Churches of America, and numerous Asian American organizations joined forces to defeat its adoption.

Model Minority Motif

After a hiatus of 15 years, the "model minority" motif is with us again. There has been a rash of articles recently in the mass media touting the alleged "success" of Japanese and other Asian Americans.

And now with uncanny timing—or a keen eye for publishing trends—JACP has resurrected *The Untold Story* in the form of *Japanese American Journey*.

Newsweek quoted sociologist Harry Kitano as stating "Scratch a Japanese American and you will find a Wasp." *Japanese American Journey* provides the perfect proof for that thesis.

Telltale signs that the authors are Wasps at heart include: (1) the use of "American" as a synonym for "white," (2) the heavy emphasis on bootstrap entrepreneurs, and (3) the use of euphemistic terms ("evacuation," "evacuee") to whitewash an actual internment.

The cover photo of a pathetic-looking little boy waving an American flag tells it all.

Wrong Perspective

What's wrong with that? That's what America is all about, isn't it? Work hard, don't complain, think like a white person, and you will be accepted into MAIN-STREAMUSA!

Unfortunately, the Wasp perspective can lead to a distortion of history.

For example, Wasp-oriented writers always like to take Pearl Harbor out of historical sequence and place it at the beginning of the story. Readers are then left with the impression that Japanese

Americans were locked up as a direct consequence of Pearl Harbor.

But that's not the way it happened.

Beginning in the early 1900s, Japanese Americans became targets of an ever increasing array of exclusionary acts. The American apartheid system grew more and more repressive and by 1942, Japanese Americans were excluded from nearly all phases of white society.

The final act of total physical exclusion—an exclusion backed up with machine guns and barbed wire—was the culmination of the long, organized campaign by white racists to get rid of Japanese Americans. Pearl Harbor was only an opportune pretext to accomplish that goal.

A proper chronological layout would have made this point a lot clearer.

Redeeming Value

The book does have some redeeming value, though. Firstly, the previous problems with respect to religious and ethnic bias have been corrected—mostly by avoiding the mention of religion and other ethnic groups. This secular treatment—while not ideal—does get around the thorny religious conflicts which exist in the community.

Secondly, the short stories by Yoshiko Uchida and Valerie Pang, and the autobiography by Yoshimi Shibata show that Japanese Americans are not just Horatio Alger clones but are sensitive, caring human beings.

Whether you like the book or not will depend on your philosophy of America. If you believe in the melting pot, you'll love *Japanese American Journey*; it will reinforce your most cherished beliefs.

On the other hand, if you believe in the salad bowl (i.e. in cultural heterogeneity), this book is not for you.

Japanese American Journey, which was previously reviewed by June Kizu in the Feb. 7 PC, is available in hardback (\$22.50) or paperback (\$12.95) from JACP, Inc., P.O. Box 367, San Mateo, CA 94401.

An Uncommon Judge

The following editorial on Judge William Marutani's decision to step down from his position (see March 7 PC) appeared in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* on March 3.

In a Common Pleas Court system soiled by crassness and corruption, Judge William M. Marutani has been a distinguished exception. He has lobbied for tougher ethical standards. He has handled a range of cases—from the Central High School sex-bias suit to overcrowding in city prisons—with a firm and fair hand. And now he is throwing in the towel.

Judge Marutani is 62, but he has a couple of years left in his term. He says he feels as if what he's doing "just doesn't make any difference in the world," although his failed efforts to reform the system, he adds, didn't specifically lead to his departure.

Be that as it may, Judge Marutani's views bear repeating... The judge observed: "As long as you have the political process of picking judges, there is no way you are going to have people who

are completely free of political pressure."

He can put it more colloquially, if you like: "If it's the politician's hand that feeds you, no one will bite that hand, even though it might deserve biting—I mean, legally speaking."

The system works a double whammy, he said, distorting impartiality on the one end, while on the other forcing lawyers to protect their interests by contributing to the campaigns of judges they may appear before. Relatives of judges, he also said, don't belong on the court payroll.

Elsewhere, a Judge Marutani might have climbed the judicial ladder. In Pennsylvania, that was not to be. Rated "exceptionally well qualified" by the Pennsylvania Bar Assn. in his 1983 bid for a seat on the state Supreme Court... he lost by 2-1 in the Democratic primary to a candidate the bar rated "unqualified."

So it goes. In a system that needs more Marutanis, there will be soon—and sadly—one fewer.

MARCOS

Continued from Front Page

cos supporters in the audience to stand. Roughly half of the over 100 people in attendance stood.

Marcos' presence in Hawaii "will be an asset because of his experience and what he has done for the Philippines," Lazo said.

He said Marcos was not a dictator "because there have been [anti-Marcos] demonstrations. A dictator would not allow free expression." Lazo also dismissed allegations that Marcos amassed great wealth at the expense of his country as "all hearsay."

State Sen. Mary McMurdo, saying that Marcos' presence would deepen divisions in the local Filipino American community, suggested that Marcos be sent to a state with a smaller Filipino population.

Other state senators at the hearing were Clayton Hee, Neil Abercrombie and Ben Cayetano.

Senate President Richard Wong was quoted by the Honolulu Advertiser as saying that the resolution, which he opposes, would not be considered.

Fund Drive Proceeding toward Goal

by Harry Kajihara
LEC Fund Drive Chair

Nine months into the 3-year LEC fund drive, over 1,400 donors and 20 chapters have participated, contributing over \$150,000.

There are a number of "firsts" that deserve mentioning. The very successful PSW fund-raising dinner, under chairperson Toy Kanegai of West L.A. Chapter, raised over \$37,500. Selanoco is the first chapter to raise over \$8,000 for the LEC drive. Through national Sansei leadership development chair B.J. Watanabe's efforts, Mr. Henry I. Dady of New York is the first person to donate \$2,000. Grayce Uyehara, LEC executive director, is the first prime solicitor to raise over \$6,000.

Twenty chapters have become multiple prime solicitors. They are Lake Washington, Puyallup and Seattle of PNW; Diablo Valley, Florin and Stockton of NC-WNP; Clovis, Delano, Fresno, Sanger and Tulare of CC; Carson,



"The Issei" by Pete Hironaka

Greater L.A. Singles, Pasadena, San Diego, San Fernando Valley, San Gabriel Valley and Selanoco of PSW; and Detroit and St. Louis of MW.

Chapters can identify individual prime solicitors and also collectively undertake a multiple

prime solicitor role to support the fund drive. A guide to the numbers of prime solicitors per chapter size that must be identified to reach the fund drive target is given below:

Membership	No. of PS's	Target Funds/Yr
0025-0100	1	\$2,000
0101-0200	1.5	\$3,000
0201-0400	2	\$4,000
0401-0800	3	\$6,000
0801-1600	4	\$8,000

JACL must pursue redress to a successful conclusion. The legislative strategy team headed by Grayce Uyehara is working very hard for us in Washington, D.C. We JACLers must work equally hard to spread the word on redress and get donations from JACLers and non-JACLers to fund this operation. Today is an excellent day to begin if you haven't participated yet, don't you agree?

Pete Hironaka of Dayton Chapter has graciously donated to LEC

his limited edition silk screen lithographic artwork titled "The Issei." This lithograph chronicles the Issei experience in the U.S.

The LEC Committee has determined that "The Issei" would be ideal for expressing appreciation and acknowledgement to major donors. Dr. Jim Taguchi also advised that Dayton Chapter would undertake the total project of packaging, addressing, and mailing it to recipients.

Persons donating \$300 or more between June 7, 1985 and June 7, 1986 will be included in the

first group to receive "The Issei," which will be awarded until the supply is depleted. There will be approximately 100 recipients in the first mailing. Those who are just a little below the \$300 amount may wish to rush the difference to the fund drive to receive this beautiful work of art.

To all other past and potential new contributors to the fund drive, LEC would like to gratefully include you as a recipient. Donations may be sent directly to me at 1000 W. Devonshire Dr., Oxnard, CA 93030. Thank You!

Chapter Pulse

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New Mexico

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.—New Mexico Chapter holds its general meeting March 23, 5:30 p.m., at Faith Lutheran Church, 10000 Spain N.E. There will be a potluck dinner and discussion of Omatsuri plans, building fund, the budget, and a children's party for May.

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The 1985 reel is available at a \$32 pre-publication price if ordered before March 31. Cost after that date will be \$42.

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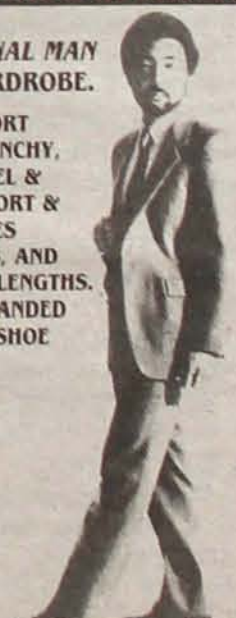
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- 8: Washington DC & Vicinity Heritage Tour May 18-25
- 9: European Highlights Tour June 7-29
- 10: Japan Summer Tour June 20-July 5
- 11: American River Rafting June 20-22
- 11a: Alaska Cruise/Expo '86 July 9-18
- 12: Canadian Rockies-EXPO 86 July 2-11
- 13: England-Scotland-Wales Aug 18-Sept 4
- 14: European Highlights Tour Sept 6-27
- 15: Hokkaido/Kyushu-Honshu Tour Sept 26-Oct 18
- 16: Fall Foliage-2 Nations, Niagara Falls Oct 5-16
- 16a: Japan Omote Tour Oct 3-20
- 17: Japan Fall Foliage Tour Oct 18-Nov 1
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- 19: South America Tour Nov 8-22
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