FDR’s racial bias revealed

A recently published book on the life of Franklin D. Roosevelt provides a revealing look at his racial attitudes prior to WW2.

In FDR, A Biography (Simon & Schuster, 1985), author Ted Morgan gives quotes from a series of columns Roosevelt wrote under the title "Roosevelt Says" for the Masses Daily Tear, starting on May 12, 1924, when the future president was attempting to cure himself of polo in Warm Springs, Georgia.

In one column FDR discusses the dangers of 50 years of "immigrant mongrelization that is being fed into America," he states that some are "almost poisons" with the Japanese "heading the list of toxic immigrants." He cites the objections of Californians that Japanese immigrants are "not capable of assimilation into the American population."

On the subject of miscegenation, FDR writes that "mingle of Asiatic blood with European or American blood produces, nine cases out of ten, the most unfortunate results." He says, "a common thing, looked down on and despised, both by Europeans and Americans... and by pure Asians."

The "true reason" to exclude the Japanese from the U.S., he claims, is a fear of their "dreadfulness in mixing the blood of two peoples."

"Curiously Roosevelt did not consider \[Japanese Americans\] as true Americans," writes Morgan, "and had a deep-rooted racist view of Orientals" whose "added relevance to his World War II decision to intern thousands of Japanese Americans."

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Mineta backs Senate candidate

DENVER—Rep. Norman Mineta (D-Calif.) will speak at a Japanese American community fundraising luncheon for the Senate campaign of Rep. Tim Wirth (D-Colo) Apr. 11 at 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Ryeo Restaurant.

"I very much appreciate Congressman Mineta's support of my Senate campaign," said Wirth, adding that Mineta is "not only one of the most respected members of the House, he is one of my closest friends in Congress." With co-sponsored House redress bill H.R. 442 when it was introduced in January 1995, Mineta, who chairs the Aviation Subcommittee of the House Public Works Committee, will be in Denver to chair an aviation safety forum from 1:30 p.m. at Stouffer Conference Hotel, across from Stapleton Airport. Officials from National Center for Atmospheric Research, Federal Aviation Administration, and other interested groups will participate.

Astronomy complex in Hawaii named after astronaut Onizuka

HONOLULU—University of Hawai‘i regents agreed March 7 to rename the Hale Pohaku astronomical support facility on Mauna Kea in memory of Big Island astronaut Ellison Onizuka, the Honolulu Advertiser reports.

A special regents’ committee decided on the facility, 9,200 feet up the 13,706-foot volcano, as a "living memorial" to Onizuka.

The exact name for the complex was not decided. One suggestion, the Ellison & Onizuka Astronomy Support Facility, was felt to be too burdensome by several regents.

Two other UH structures, the 88-inch telescope atop Mauna Kea and the Institute of Astronomy in Manoa Valley on Oahu, had also been nominated by a special advisory committee established after Onizuka’s death.

Regent Walter Steiger, a former UH professor and director of the Bishop Museum’s planetarium, said he favored a building that would be used by a great number of people.

With the choice of Hale Pohaku, several regents suggested that one of the university’s 24-inch telescopes be renamed to honor the astronaut when he was named to the summit to the 9,200-foot level as part of an expanded science center open to schoolchildren and the public.

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Sansei gives behind-the-scenes account of U.S.-Japan trade talks

WASHINGTON—Freshman congresswoman H. James Saxton (R-NJ) signed on as a co-sponsor of House redress bill H.R. 442 on March 13.

Saxton, who represents New Jersey’s 13th District, is a nine-year veteran of the state legislature, having served six years in the General Assembly and three in the State Senate.

He sits on the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, Government Operations Committee, and Select Committee on Aging. He was elected to serve on the Policy Committee of the House Republican Conference during the 99th Congress.

Saxton was elected to the House in a 1994 special election to complete the term of the late Edwin Forrestay and was again elected in the general election later that year.

Tak Morii, recently retired president of Tak Morii, Inc. successful New Jersey orchardist and member of Philadelphia JACL, arranged a meeting with Saxton on March 10. Also attending was chapter president Jack Ozawa.

After hearing about the war-time exclusion and internment of Japanese Americans, Saxton agreed that the injustice needs to be corrected.

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an anonymous competition.... It's always been a question in my mind as to what would have happened had names been allowed and what could have happened if everyone's name had been on it.

"I'm honored to be out here; I feel that I have not accomplished as much as [others] who have been honored here tonight. Thank you but I'd just like to say that I hope that sometime that doubt will go away, that people's names can be left and it won't make a difference, and that we are all equal. Until that time, thank you and I hope I am an example for people who are young and who have a chance to say something when they should."

Betty Kozasa, whose community work concerns the problems of the aging, extolled the virtues of volunteerism. "Volunteerism has been a major force in my life. I realized very early in life that in order to effect change in this world, one has to become involved and I chose volunteerism as my way to be involved. And I have benefited personally a great deal from that involvement and I have always said that I equate my volunteerism with a degree from Yale or maybe Oxford.... It has given me an opportunity to make friends from coast to coast."

Kieu Chinh, a world-renowned actress who has used her fame to help the Vietnamese communities, saluted all who "have to leave their motherland. We may not all have the same purpose in leaving, but we do not leave the past or our memories behind."

"But," she added, "we have to move on."

Rita Walters was recognized for her work in "building bridges between communities rather than building walls."

Elizabeth Cummerfield, who accepted an award for her friend Yoko Ono, read a telegram from Ono, who was beginning a European concert tour in Brussels: "I feel that the true warrior women are the ones who are fighting pov­erty, violence and terror around the world without having the means to communicate, their plight and sorrow... I therefore would like to receive this award in honor of our unknown sisters. Bless your courage and dignity, Power to us all—women of the world."

Nobuko Miyamoto and Louise Kawabata from Great Leap and choreographer Yon Limkong performed in the evening's program. KCBT-TV anchor Trisha Toy has emceed the banquet, which was attended by over 600 persons.

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J-TOWN hotel residents evicted

LOS ANGELES—A Little Tokyo social service agency is expressing concern over the fate of tenants who were evicted from the Altan Hotel on 2nd St. after the building was sold (see Jan. 31 PC). The last remaining resident was evicted March 11 when mar­shalls broke down the door of an Issei who had locked himself in his room.

According to Bill Watanabe, director of Little Tokyo Service­Center, that tenant and another one said to be a veteran of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team now live in the Frontier Hotel on 5th and Main, well inside the Skid Row area.

Two other Issei tenants ended up at the Weingarten Center on San Pedro and 8th and the Hunting­ton Hotel on 8th and Main.

Watanabe was especially con­cerned about these four tenants who had left the relative safety of Little Tokyo. He said they "seemed to be the most disorient­ed" of the hotel's former resi­dents. Two of them, he added, do not speak English.

Some of the tenants had staged protests to demand relocation benefits from the Community Redevelopment Agency, the municipal body that oversees re­development in Little Tokyo and other parts of Los Angeles. The CRA was unwilling to provide the benefits because, unlike previous cases, the 2nd St. building was being sold in a private trans­action instead of being appropri­ated by the city.

Mo Nishida of Little Tokyo Tenants Assn. charged that the CRA has "not been sensitive or even aware of our needs."

One possibility of affordable housing in Little Tokyo for evicted­tenants, said Watanabe, is the building on north 1st St. between Central and San Pedro. In addition to stores and restaurants, the building contains some 30 living units that could be renovated.

At a meeting held March 12 at the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center, local mer­chants and representatives of Little Tokyo People's Rights Or­ganization and other groups ob­jected to plans by developers Jerome Snyder and Mo Nishida to demolish the historic building and construct an office tower complex on the land. Snyder said only the old Nishi Honoji temple, future home of the Japanese Amer­i­can National Museum, and an art museum would be preserved.

Some opposed the destruction of the building, which dates back to 1920, and is one of the few remnants of prewar Little Tokyo. Others pointed out that the plan would displace low-income hotel residents there at a time when additional low-income housing is needed.

J.K. Yamamoto

Note: in the Jan. 31 PC, Mo Nishida was incorrectly identified as a tenant of Altam Hotel. He is a former tenant who was being sold an apartment to current ten­ants in the dispute over the eviction.
**Community Affairs**

SANTA CLARA, Calif.—Asian Law Alliance presents "Voices and Immigrants: Experiences of Asian Pacific Women." Apr. 18, 5-9 p.m., at De Saisset Museum, University of Santa Clara. Program features Attorney General Zene Chu of the Asian American Legal Defense & Education Fund, Director of the Asian Law Center of Santa Clara, and special guests Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston ("Farewell to Manzanar") and poet and playwright Genny Lim ("Paper Angels"). David Louis of KGO-TV will emcee. Tickets: $20 general, $10 students and seniors. (408) 554-9710.

SAN DIEGO—Highlights of the "Spotlight on Japan" cultural fair to be held March 22-23 at Balboa Park include a showing of the animated film "Spirited Away" and a lecture by cartoonist Osamu Tezuka, 10 a.m., Sat., 3 p.m., Sun.; performance by jazz artists Shiro, 12:30 p.m., Sat.; kimono fashion show and kabuki dance performance, 1 p.m., Sun.; and Noho Theatre Group of Kyoto, 2 p.m., Sun. Sponsors: San Diego State University, Greater San Diego Chamber of Commerce, Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles. Info: (619) 681-8181.

**Mayor speaks at Asian celebration**

CHICAGO—Mayor Harold Washington greeted the city's Asian American community Feb. 1 during the third Asian American Lunar New Year Celebration at the Conrad Hilton.

The event is jointly sponsored by Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Filipino, Thai, East Indian, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, Hmong, and Burmese American community groups.

Addressing the approximately 1,200 guests, Washington, flanked by members of his Advisory Committee on Asian American Affairs, said, "Tonight's affair is another magnificent show of your community's awesome power.

Citing city efforts to increase communication with non-English-speaking Asian Americans, to help Chinatown secure land for commercial and residential expansion and to increase opportunities for minority contractors to do business with the city, he said, "We're working out new programs, making new relationships, building new bridges with your communities."

Washington exhorted Asian Americans to get involved in the process of government. "New opportunities in business, government and politics have opened up like never before. It's your responsibility to seize those opportunities, to register and educate the voters, to get into the middle of the process, to use the strength and energies you have."
The Barber of Shirahama

Bill Marutani

NOT HAVING had a haircut for a number of weeks, and since we had more than an hour before the train for Katsuura (Wakayama-ken) arrived at the station in Shirahama, I decided it was a good time to see the sampan-ten (or current, referred to as the rihatsu-ten or Bar-Ber shop). I first saw the familiar candy-striped barber's pole in Tokyo in 1969 with the word (or words) "Bar-Ber.

And then on this trip, along the road, I again saw the combination of the twirling pole with the sign "Bar-Ber" — which was a slight improvement from that Tokyo spelling. I began to ponder how such spelling came about, and I settled on the theory which I share with you, for better or for worse.

The way I theorize, during the way I theorize, during the past year in Japan is far more than getting one's pan is far more than getting one's shaggy locks trimmed. It is, in short, an experience which no tourist should miss. We do place you on notice that the tab is a bit higher than what you usually pay (or at least what I usually pay) back home. For the "ordinary" haircut it will come to 2,000 yen, or about $14.00 U.S. That's standard based upon our brief survey in the Tokyo area. But this is a territorial treatment of the type which one can experience only in Japan.

Let me touch upon some of the more delectable aspects. First there's a hot Turkish towel around the crown and face, alone enough to relax one on the spot. Then follows the clippers, or only-scissors cut — which will cost a couple hundred yen more and, worth it. Then a shampoo and invigorating rubdown of the scalp are standard features. This is followed by shaving lather, a hot towel — which will again relax you after the bruising rubdown. The straight razor covers not just the usual head areas but also the forehead and ears. When that razor has completed its task, the only time you had less facial hair was when you were born. But it doesn't stop there.

There's a massage of the neck and shoulder areas to a steady tempo, utilizing the two hands cupped together so that there's a tapping pop as the beat goes on. There is then what I describe as a "powder puff" patted around the trim areas, my guess is that such serves to highlight any hair straying about. At any rate, the sampan-ten delicately maneuvers the scissors around, clipping away. It's about a 30-minute treatment process and you walk out of there feeling vigorously lighter, and not because you have 14 bucks less than you walked in with. Well worth the money. The next time you can get your plumber to come in for 14 bucks for a half hour.

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The SHIRAHAMA BARBER was not much different than other barbers we have known in the states: he engaged his customer in chit-chat. His opener: Had I come down from Osaka? (In fact, I physically had, but his inquiry was whether I was from Osaka.)

"No," I replied, "I am from America," which appeared to be a surprising answer. After a brief pause of pondering, he wondered how long I had been in America, to which I informed him, "America umare desu."

Well, my hunch is that he hadn't had very many AIA customers. He began to inquire about my existence in the U.S. and how I liked Japan by comparison. I told him that with its faults, America was my homeland and for that was where my sentiments lay — although I admired many of the fine attributes of Japanese society. I did not convey to him my opinion that I would be subjected to bias if, as a foreigner, I sought to make my way in Japanese economic, political or social spheres. I thought, I would not be accepted. But I was on a trip relaxing and there's no point in getting deeply involved in sociological philosophies, particularly with a Japanese barber who's shaving with you a straight razor.

As I DEPARTED, I asked him his name and he handed me a matchbox. His name is Ono; he operates a two-man barbershop about a half block from the Shirahama train station. If you're ever in Shirahama, patronize his business. And tell him that "Marutani-san" sent you there.

What is Role of JACL Staff?

BY THE BOARD

by Yosh Nakashima

It is often difficult for the grassroots JACL member to fully understand the roles and responsibilities of the National staffers. Let us state that it is equally difficult for those volunteers who have assumed leadership positions at the chapter, district and national levels to understand the role and relationship between staff and these leaders. There are general written guidelines for the main executive staff written by a staff person clearly defined for the other staff persons.

Over the years, this situation of uncertainty has led to misinformation and untold loss of potential support from both sides. We have tried over the past year to familiarize members with the present staff and briefly describe each one's responsibilities.

As is quite often the case, that has not been easy. For Regional Directors, their working relationship is for the most part very good with their respective district and chapters, but on occasion has been discomfort and dissatisfaction due to a lack of understanding of the role of the Regional Director.

We have attempted to put into writing a more clear description of the job of the Regional Director. We solicited input from various sources but have not yet come to a final step as yet. There is good argument for being brief. It is rare for someone to be general in the job description. There seems to be a significant rise in the number of concerns raised about the role of the Regional Director in recent months, so it is time to codify their job.

We hope that this will not entirely satisfy everyone, but it should clear some of the concerns.

We need to codify this matter for the National Board meeting in May for the Board's consideration. "We" in this case means the National Director, Regional Directors and Chair, Personnel Committee. We seek any input from members and local leaders.

Thank You!

Letters

Letter of Commendation

Having read the few negative remarks about the quality of your paper, the constrained battle to those critics, and some related comments, please consider these observations made from a different perspective.

I have worked as a reporter on both a daily and weekly newspaper. Be assured that the chronic problems of representing an organization as varied in interests, perspectives and locations as the JACL makes the task assigned to the PC as a kind of weekly house organ extremely difficult, since that role is strictly that of a "news" publication.

This make-up insures that there will be some readers who have negative comments, no matter what the paper does or does not do. These comments should be considered, not as condemnation of the staff, but more in the nature of a questioning of PC Board policy, since most negative reaction does not center upon the quality of the staff production.

However, the comment of the staff's lack of "maturity" was particularly unfounded. The excellent research of J.K. Yamamoto on complex issues demonstrates interest and analysis that would do credit to any decent newspaper. The warmth and humor eyes, humor the Robert Shirahama's words add a life to issues that would otherwise be less readable and enjoyable.

The staff should not be targets for those who do not understand or agree with the PC Board policy. Nor should they be blamed for a few chapters which either haven't done anything or failed to report if they have done anything.

The amount of quality material that the present staff produces is a tribute to their professionalism. They are to be commended.

J.A. HERZIG

Falls Church, Va.

The Scope of JACL

Evidently, Mr. Marutani, inter alia, lacks a full understanding of the history and current programs of the JACL, based on the remarks in his March 18, 1986 column. Pursuant to Lillian Kimura's memorandum of Feb. 15, 1986, which codifies resolutions over the past four National Councils, the PC is no more than a civil rights organization. Ego has much to learn about P.S. What does it derogate mean?

RICHARD T. KENMOTSU
San Francisco

KARL K. NOBUYUKI
Gardena, Calif.

Donations to Pacific Citizen

For Typingest Fund

As of March 18, 1986: $2,010.00 (997)
This week's total: $20,000.00
Last week's total: $80,743.89 (904)
$30 from: Michi Woygh
$100 from: Longbin Tanahara
$100 from: Ken/Satoshi Kitakezo, M.M. Ernest Seto
Thank You!
Because Heart Mountain in northern Wyoming is even more isolated than most of the War Re­location Authority campsites, it was sometimes referred to as the “black sheep” of the group of internment centers. The camp was also different than other areas that were the homes of the involuntary evacuees from the West Coast.

But one thing is certain: that he would be Bacon Sakashita of West Covina, Calif. Almost single­handedly, he organized a campaign to restore the Heart Mountain High School to the National Register of Historic Places. He is still working on the project.

It will be a long and arduous trip, but in substantially greater comfort than that made during the late summer and early fall of 1942, when a band of young men, many of whom are now remarkably good spirits, the evacuees arrived by trainload from inhume holding pens on the West Coast. What they found there was a desolate, dusty barracks city, and a warm welcome.

Although a recognized similarity be­tween past and future arrivals will be the warmth of the wel­comes. Under the leadership of the Blackburns, residents of the area have built a memorial park on the hill where the administr­ative buildings once stood. And largely, the efforts of the De­p't of the Interior had the site listed on the National Register of His­toric Places. Last December, the Nomin­ations Committee had the plume­telling the story of the camp.

The camp will be placed in the park along with the two monuments. one erected by homesteaders and the other by the former high school students.

Sakashita says Congressmen Norman Mineta, who lived in the camp as a boy, is expected at the dedication. Sen. Al Simpson of Wyoming, who as a Cub Scout visited Cubs in the camp, also has been invited. Temperatures can be obtained from

Because Head Mountain High School to the National Register of His­toric Places.

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CHICAGO—The Chicago JACL had attorney Thomas Crowley of Durston & Meier present on Feb. 28 at the chapter office. Crowley was a captain in the 42nd Regimental Combat Team from its training period in Camp Shelby, Miss., to the end of the war in Italy.

Crowley commented on the recent U.S. Court of Appeals decision in favor of the suit filed by National Council for Japanese American Redress regarding redress bills pending in the House and Senate, and the reopened Supreme Court case of Fred Korematsu, Minoru Yasui and Gordon Hirabayashi.

He reminded his listeners that Executive Order 000, which was used as the basis for the exclusion and internment, never once mentioned Japanese-Americans.

When he returned to the U.S. after hostilities ceased in Europe, Crowley and two other officers were given the opportunity to present their stories of the 42nd and the incarceration behind barbed wire to various organizations on the West Coast. He did not speak of the goings-on at Manzanar, but his speaking engagements was to make things easier for internees who had decided to return to the homelands that they were forced from.

As it turned out, Crowley and his fellow officers were not well received. "We were talking about something that was unpopular," he said, because racist feelings toward Japanese-Americans still lingered.

In his closing statement, Crowley said, "You have now reached the line of departure [at G.T.L. term used in combat when seeking out the enemy]. You have to muster up the courage to get behind both redress bills - H.R. 442 and S. 1053."

The program was co-chaired by Chiye Tomihiryo and Frank Sakamoto. Pershing Nakada of Elmhurst, former company commander of the combat team's mess hall engineers, introduced Crowley.

--Eddie Sato

Chapter Pulse

Portland

PORTLAND—"Community Action Day," a letter-writing campaign for redress bills, will be held on Apr. 5, 1-5 p.m., at Ewesworth Methodist Church, 1333 S.E. 28th Ave. Participants will be asked to write to their congresspeople regarding redress bills, H.R. 442 and S. 1053. The documentary "Unfinished Business," will be shown at 2 and 4 p.m. From Wilson High producing a video on the Nikkei experience will interview individuals who remember Portland's Nihonmachi. Info: 223-9777.

San Diego

SAN DIEGO—The San Diego chapter will sponsor a fundraisin dinner and entertainment to be held Apr. 19, 1-3 p.m., at Elmhurst's South Cove Room. Featured speaker is Min Yasui, LEC chair, who is seeking to reverse the wartime Supreme Court ruling that upheld his conviction for violating curfew and internment orders. Also speaking will be UCSD professor Peter Irene, whose research helped uncover government wrongdoing in the cases of Yasui, Fred Korematsu and Gordon Hirabayashi. Donations: $50. Info: (619) 230-0814.

Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS—Chapter president George T. Ishida will host a chair-Wayne Tanaka ask that do nations to the LEC-JACL lobbying effort to cover $3,500 for $2,000. St., Las Vegas 89104. Donations are not tax-deductible.

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Continued from Front Page

to subscribe to the Nikkei Keizai Shim bun, the Japanese equivalent of the Wall Street Journal, but the budget office rejected this description as “too expensive.”

“Now,” he lamented, “the only time I’m able to read Japanese newspapers is when I’m in Japan.” His hectic negotiating schedule has taken him to Japan almost monthly, for periods ranging from four to two weeks.

Trade negotiations are conducted in English and translators are utilized. But even in this area the U.S. team had been handicapped due to their lack of knowledge of the Japanese language.

The translation provided to the U.S. by the Japanese was usually inferior to the one translating for the Japanese. In short, the U.S. side had not been getting a complete and accurate translation of the Japanese position, much less the nuances of the messages in the responses.

However, after coming on board, Fukushima was able to note the differences in quality and complained to the Japanese. Subsequently, the translators were alternated to provide a modicum of equality.

In closing, he emphasized that young Japanese Americans should strongly consider and prepare for positions involving U.S.-Japan relations and that they should begin an educational process to understand the issues at hand.

Singles Chapter president Karl Nobukazi welcomed the attendees and Peter Higuchi of UJRSS introduced Fukushima.

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Yoshida Kamon Art, 312 E. 1st St., Suite 205
(213) 629-2488/755-9429
Kei Yoshida, Researcher/Artist
NINA YOSHIDA, Translator

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