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Friday, April 11, 1986



Among those on hand to see Washington Gov. Booth Gardner sign redress bill were (from left): former school clerks Jane Okada, Alice Kawanishi, Yoshiko Omoto Nobuku, Toyo Cary, May Higa, May Namba, Teru Kiyohara, Rubi Aoki, Sally Kazama, and Seattle School Board member T.J. Vassar.

## State bill allows payments to ex-school clerks

SEATTLE—Redress efforts at all levels of government in the State of Washington culminated in the signing of redress bill HB 1415 by Gov. Booth Gardner at a ceremony hosted by Seattle JACL Redress Committee at Nippon Kan Hall on Apr. 2.

The bill authorizes local governments in the state to pay monetary compensation to former Japanese American employees who were dismissed from their jobs in 1942.

The signing of the bill has enabled the Seattle School District to release from escrow \$5,000 payments, previously authorized by an April 1984 school board resolution, to each of 27 Japanese American school clerks who were forced to resign because of their ancestry.

In attendance at the ceremony were over a hundred people, including state legislators, officials of the Seattle School District and the City of Seattle, and representatives of the Seattle, Lake Washington, White River, Puyallup and Olympia JACL chapters.

Eleven of the former school clerks were present to receive their checks from school board member T.J. Vassar, initiator of the 1984 resolution, and Supt. Robert Nelson. The recipients were Rubi Aoki, Toyo Cary, Alice Kawanishi, Teru Kiyohara, Ai Koshi, Mitsuko Morishita, May Namba, Jane Okada, May Higa, Yoshiko Omoto Nobuku and Sally Kazama.

Thirteen others who presently reside in California, Oregon, Minnesota and Florida will be sent their checks by mail. Two former employees are deceased and one, Kiyoko Kikuchi, is unaccounted for.

State Rep. Gary Locke, prime sponsor of the bill, acknowledged the support of his fellow legislators and added, "Some people ask why a Chinese person would be interested in redress. Justice denied to one group is justice denied to us all. And to the extent that we can remember past wrongs, we can use that as ammunition and tools to prevent further injustices in the future."

Locke was instrumental in passage of the bill, which was approved in the House by an 82-15 vote on Feb. 15 and in the Senate by a 45-1 vote on March 6.

Praising state government officials, Seattle Mayor Charles Royer said, "Do not underestimate the statement that we make, as a state, to a nation which is still deciding whether to redress these wrongs in the fashion that both the City of Seattle and the State of Washington have accomplished... to pass this legislation is a major achievement."

Measures providing compensation for former state and city employees were passed in 1983 and 1984, respectively. The drive to compensate former school district employees was initiated by the Seattle Redress Committee in 1984.

Sally Kazama, speaking on behalf of the former clerks, told the audience, "This is a joyous occasion for us all. The impossible dream has become a reality."

—Ed Suguro

## City asks salon to change name

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif.—The city council unanimously passed a resolution on Apr. 3 recommending that J.A.P.S.S., a local hair salon, change its name.

The name, which was created from the first initials of the five co-owners—Jerry Brennan, Armando Reyes, Peter Nagai, Simon Elcabras and Shuji Kida—has been the subject of much debate since the salon was opened in 1984.

Pickets organized by National Coalition for Redress/Reparations (NCR) and Marina JACL were held outside the salon regularly from September to March.

The resolution reads, in part, "...the city of West Hollywood has endeavored to eliminate discrimination and abuse against persons on the basis of race, religion, ethnic origin, sex and sexual preference... Any name or usage of a name which can be construed as an ethnic or racial slur would be considered abhor-

rent to the people and the city of West Hollywood..."

"The name J.A.P.S.S. is interpreted by many to be an ethnic slur and not appropriate whether or not intended by the owners... The usage of the name J.A.P.S.S. has created a public outcry and caused numerous complaints, particularly from the Japanese American community."

The resolution "strongly recommends to the owners of said salon that the name be changed as soon as possible."

In the absence of a federal, state or local law prohibiting the use of racial slurs in the names of businesses, the resolution is not legally binding. But Miles Hamada of NCR was encouraged, calling it "an additional step to put pressure on the owners."

Joyce Enomoto of Marina JACL said she was "very happy" about the decision but added that "more pressure from the public" is needed to effect a name change.

## Neither party has monopoly on A/P vote in L.A. County, study shows

by J.K. Yamamoto

LOS ANGELES—Asian Pacific Americans in L.A. County do not represent a solid voting bloc for either Democrats or Republicans and are still in the process of realizing their full political potential, a newly released study has found.

The UCLA Asian Pacific American Voter Registration Study is based on official county registration for the June 1984 primary in 20 suburban cities with a significant Asian Pacific population, plus an area within Los Angeles proper dubbed the "Asian Corridor." Data from the 1980 census were also used to help explain the findings.

Principal investigator Don Nakanishi, a professor at UCLA's Graduate School of Education, said the estimate of the Asian Pacific electorate in the county ranges from 100,000 to 150,000, or 2.9%-4.3% of the total electorate.

Because the survey relied on sight recognition of Asian names, there were limitations "in regard to people who have intermarried,

the kids of intermarriages, and just trying to identify names that are common to other groups," Nakanishi explained. "A Ronald Lee—is that person Chinese, Korean, white, Black?"

Some educated guesses were felt to be relatively safe. If a voter's name, for example, was Kimiko Smith, she would be counted as a Japanese American.

"In Koreatown if you saw a Lee," Nakanishi added, "the likelihood was that the person was Korean."

The cities with the most Asian Pacific voters were Monterey Park with 6,441 (29.2% of that city's voters), Torrance with 4,502 (6.5%), Gardena with 3,567 (20%), Cerritos with 2,569 (12.2%), Carson with 2,487 (7.1%) and Montebello with 2,104 (11.1%).

Although not a separate political entity, the "Asian Corridor" is a continuous geographic area which includes Highland Park, Chinatown, Silverlake, East Hollywood, Los Feliz, Koreatown, Uptown and the Temple area. "That unit, as a whole, has more



Don Nakanishi

Asians than any one of these cities [in the report]," said Nakanishi. The area total is 8,969 Asian Pacific voters, or 9.1% of the electorate there.

Because of a registration rate below 50% for all of the ethnic groups studied, the report concludes that the political clout of Asian Pacifics may be far less than their numbers in the popu-

Continued on Back Page

## NYC council supports redress

NEW YORK—Council member Miriam Friedlander's resolution on redress for Japanese Americans interned during WW2 was unanimously adopted by the city council on March 20.

Res. No. 44 calls on Congress to enact redress bills H.R. 442 in the House and S. 1053 in the Senate "to achieve justice for American citizens and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry held pris-

oner in U.S. internment camps."

On March 21 Friedlander sent members of New York City's congressional delegation copies of the resolution along with a letter stating, "The unanimous vote by the council in support of this important legislation... reflects the strong city-wide backing for HR 442 and SR 1053. I urge your support for the immediate passage of 'The Civil Liberties Act of 1985.'"



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## Utah Republican runs for House

SALT LAKE CITY—County commissioner M. Tom Shimizu announced his candidacy for the 2nd Congressional District seat on March 21.

Shimizu seeks the Republican nomination for the seat currently held by Rep. David Monson (R), who has declined to run. Other hopefuls include Republicans Doug Bischoff and Stan Parrish and Democrat Wayne Owen.

Born in Los Angeles in 1933, Shimizu moved with his parents to Utah after the outbreak of WW2. He served with the Army in Korea from 1953-55 and graduated in civil engineering from the University of Utah in 1959.

He served an L.D.S. mission to Japan (1959-63) and upon his return worked for the Utah State Road Commission (1963-64), Jackson Brothers Construction in Los Angeles (1964-67) and the Dept. of Building and Safety in El Segundo, Calif. (1967-71).

After serving a second mission to Japan, he became an independent contractor and developer.



M. Tom Shimizu

He and his wife Junko have four sons: Tim, 20; Scot, 18; Mark, 14; and Josh, 12.

Shimizu was appointed a Salt Lake County commissioner in 1981 and has since been elected to the commission twice.

"With the new federalism and the shifting of program responsibilities to local governments,"

he said, "it is imperative that someone who knows how the actions taken in Congress affect the local taxpayer and the functions of local government be in Washington to help make good and informed policy and decisions."

"I have felt the pulse of the people over the past 4½ years while serving as their county commissioner. You get to know and learn a lot about people when you collect their garbage, patch their chuckholes, and deliver county-wide social services."

Shimizu's agenda includes supporting President Reagan's deficit reduction plans, encouraging economic development in Utah, and advocating a strong national defense.

Selection of delegates takes place Apr. 28, followed by the state convention on June 21, the primary on Aug. 19, and the November general election.

No. 2,384

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## Keiro Home construction to start

SEATTLE — The city council unanimously voted Feb. 24 to approve the sale of Yesler/Atlantic parcels 10, 11 and 12 to Nikkei Concerns, thereby completing the acquisition of all land necessary for construction of the new Seattle Keiro Nursing Home.

Mayor Charles Royer immediately signed the ordinance.

Nikkei Concerns, architects Arai/Jackson, and general contractor Sellen Construction will hold a groundbreaking ceremony for the 150-bed nursing facility on May 10, 2 p.m., at the site on 16th and Yesler.

The Capital Campaign Drive for the expansion project has generated nearly \$1.7 million in pledges from over 1,000 individuals, corporations, foundations, community organizations and churches. Ayame Kai Women's Guild and Kawabe Memorial Trust have each pledged \$100,000 toward the project.

Completion of construction is slated for early spring of 1987. The present 63-bed Keiro facility will be leased to Chinese Nursing Home Society.

Info: Nikkei Concerns office, 322-4897.

## Stockton Nikkei to hold reunion

STOCKTON, Calif.—In the spring of 1942, over 4,000 San Joaquin County residents of Japanese ancestry were ordered out of their homes and into inland internment camps. Some returned after the war to rebuild their lives; others settled elsewhere in the country and have never returned.

After 44 years, many former Stockton-area residents will return, some for the first time since WW2, to attend the Stockton Grand Reunion scheduled for the Labor Day Weekend, Aug. 29, 30 and 31.

The reunion is chaired by Edwin Endow and Dick Fujii and coordinated by Stockton JACL, French Camp JACL, Calvary Presbyterian Church, and Stockton Buddhist Temple.

The event will be based at the Stockton Buddhist Temple social hall. Optional activities include a golf tournament and Delta boat tour on Aug. 30 and a trip to Stateline-Lake Tahoe on Sept. 1.

Of the nearly 400 persons who have pre-registered, 200 will be coming from Washington, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Colorado, Idaho, Missouri, Hawaii, Michigan, New Jersey, Japan, and various cities in California. Local residents and friends are encouraged to attend as well.

Registration is \$50 (optional activities are extra). For information, write to Stockton Area Grand Reunion c/o French Camp JACL, P.O. Box 441, French Camp, CA 95231. Deadline: May 31.

## Info on Amache war dead sought

DENVER—Nisei Post 185 of the American Legion is seeking relatives of men from the wartime Amache camp who were killed in action.

Six Nisei—Chikara Inouye, John Kimura, Haruto Moriguchi, Akira Morihara, Ned Nakamura, and Masao Shigezane—were recently identified as Amache internees who fought and died in WW2. The post is seeking confirmation of the names before including them on the Nisei War Memorial located in Denver's Fairmount Cemetery.

The monument currently lists 81 names of Nikkei war dead from the Rocky Mountain region. Special ceremonies will be held on Memorial Day, May 26, to dedicate the additional names.

Anyone with information concerning these men is asked to contact Tom Masamori, 2010 Lamar St., Denver, CO 80214; (303) 237-3041.

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## Community Affairs

DELRAY BEACH, Fla.—Mezzo-soprano **Mariko Kawamura** will perform at the Morikami Museum Park and Gardens, 4000 Morikami Park Rd., Apr. 27, 3:30 p.m. No admission charge, but donations will be accepted. Info: (305) 495-0233.

SEATTLE—The **Seattle Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival Committee** will present its 11th annual festival May 2-4 at the Seattle Center. Opening ceremonies will be held at the Flag Pavilion, 6 p.m., May 2. Exhibits will be held in the Center House stage. The festival commemorates the 1976 gift of 1,000 cherry trees from the government of Japan to Seattle on the occasion of the U.S. Bicentennial. Info: (206) 221-2695.

TORRANCE, Calif.—Torrance Sister City Assn. presents its **Bunka-sai Japanese Cultural Festival** Apr. 26 (11

a.m.-6 p.m.), and Apr. 27 (10 a.m.-5 p.m.), at the Torrance Recreation Center, Torrance Blvd. and Madrona. Proceeds will go to the association's student exchange program.

SANTA MONICA, Calif.—**Santa Monica Sister City Assn.** hosts its 7th annual benefit brunch Apr. 27, 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Kansai Restaurant, 26 Colorado Place. Contributions: \$20 for adults, \$10 for children and students. Reservations: (213) 459-6345; (213) 829-1130 before Apr. 21.

NORWALK, Calif.—Midori Kamei, professor of psychology at El Camino College, will speak on "**How to Gain More Joy and Adventure in Your Life**" Apr. 22, 1:30 p.m., at Southeast Japanese Community Center, 14615 Gridley Rd., at the first meeting of a program for senior citizens and retired people. Info: Lillian Nawa, (213) 921-7666; Novo

Kato, 925-8021; Yoneko Kiyomura, 633-0666; or Pat Kawamoto, 926-1562.

SAN FRANCISCO—"Using the Media," a workshop for community groups that want to learn how to get their stories or issues covered by the news media, takes place Apr. 19, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at San Francisco Public Library, Civic Center Plaza. Panelists will include William Wong, Oakland Tribune asst. managing editor; Mike Pulsipher, KCBS Radio political editor; Jerry Burns, S.F. Chronicle editorial page editor; Rose Guilbault, KGO-TV editorial director; and Steve Robinson, KTVU-TV assignment editor. Herb Chao Gunther, director of Public Media Center, will be keynote speaker. Sponsor: Asian American Journalists Assn. Reservations: Janet Lim, (415) 479-4000; Linda Jue, 553-2829; or L.A. Chung, 821-6367.

GARDENA, Calif.—The **L.A. County Sheriff's Dept.** holds a seminar for Asian Americans interested in joining the force Apr. 17, 7 p.m., at Ken Nakamoka Community Center, 1700 162nd St.

Speakers: Lt. Michael Nagaoka and Sgt. Karen Tanigawa. Info: Paul Tanaka, (213) 946-7011, or (818) 575-LASD.

LOS ANGELES—Asian American Drug Abuse Program (AADAP) holds its **Spring Fling** benefit May 3, 8 p.m.-12 a.m., at Downtown Dance Studio, 929 E. 2nd St. (entrance on Vignes). Program includes comedian Bob Matsueda and music by Use a Guitar, Go To Prison. Admission: \$15 advance, \$20 at the door. Reservations must be made by Apr. 28. Info: Elaine Shoji or Meg Thornton, (213) 293-6284.

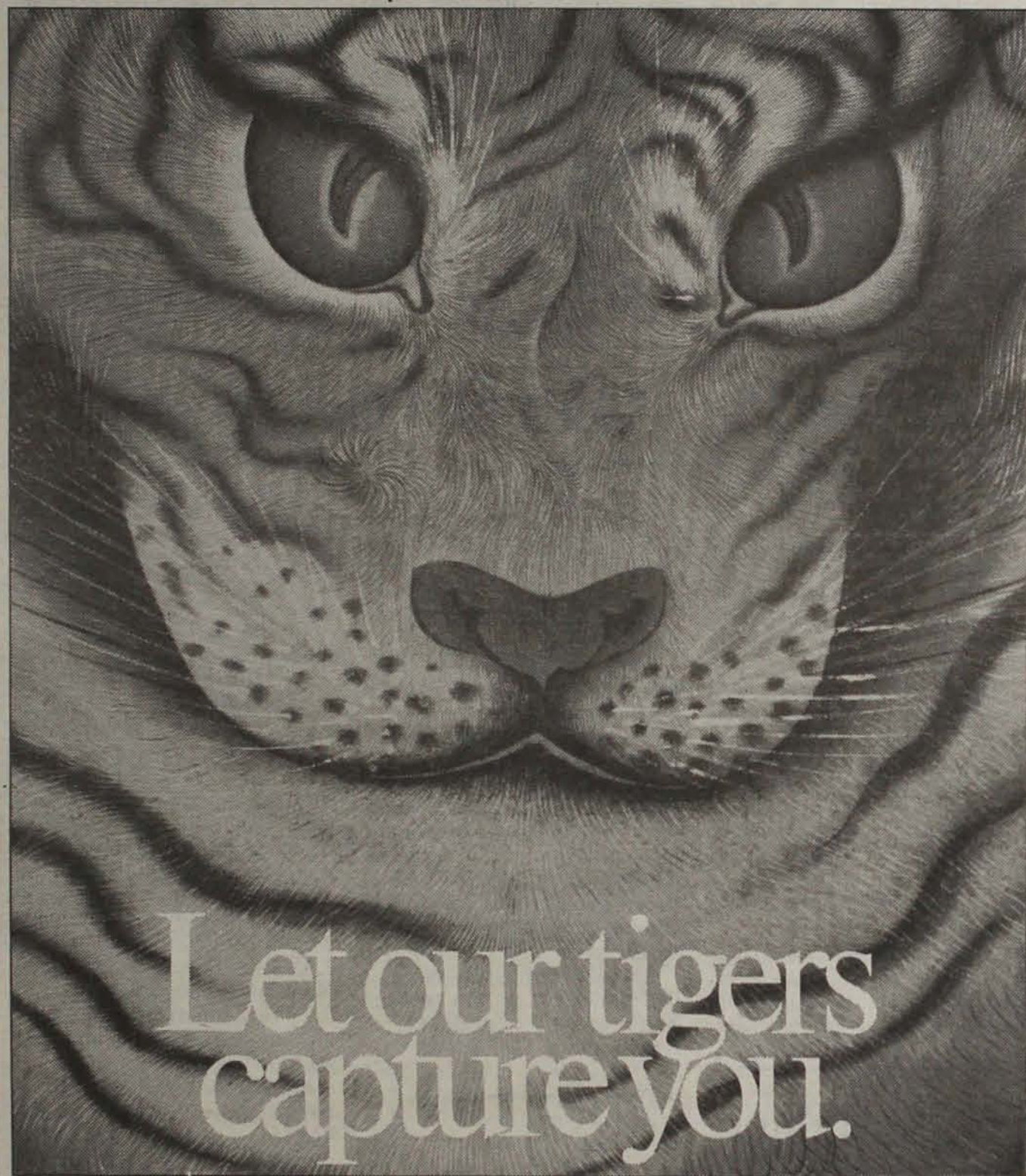
**William Hohri**, chair of the National Council for Japanese American Redress, will explain the significance of the recent D.C. Appeals Court ruling at a community meeting at the West Los Angeles United Methodist Church, 1913 Purdue Ave., Apr. 19, 2:30 p.m. Free. Info: Walter Tanaka, (213) 479-5354; Rev. Alan Jones, 479-1379.

The 3rd annual **Franklin D. Murphy Library Book Fair** will be held Apr. 13, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., JACCC, 244 S. San Pedro

St., in the main floor gallery. Old books and periodicals will be sold at prices from 25¢ and up. Proceeds will be used to purchase newer volumes on Japan and Japanese Americans. Contact: Kats Kunitsugu, (213) 628-2725.

Shakuhachi artist **Yamamoto Hozan** teams with shamisen and koto artist **Madame Fujii Kunie** for an evening of classical Japanese music Apr. 18. Yamamoto performs with jazz pianist, composer and arranger **Sato Masahiko** for an evening of jazz Apr. 19. Both concerts will be held at the Japan America Theater, 244 S. San Pedro St. Tickets are \$15 and \$12 and are available at the theater box office, or by calling (213) 680-3700.

**Asian Business League** sponsors a talk on international networking by John W. Brooks, Jr., founder of the Pacific Rim Advisory Council, on Apr. 22, 6 p.m., at L.A. Athletic Club, Los Angeles Rm., 431 W. 7th St. (corner of Olive). Info: Sandra Chan, (213) 277-1226, or Gary Yoshimura, 477-3924.



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**QUALIFICATIONS:** 1) Four years experience in community based organization, human service provider or other related experience, or educational equivalent in Humanities, social sciences or public administration.

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# Appeal from an Issei Vet

EAST  
WIND

Bill  
Marutani



THE OTHER DAY, we received a message from Ernest Kinzo Wakayama through his son George. The elder Wakayama, now 91 years old, is a U.S. World War I veteran who resides in Japan. His son, by the way, is a veteran of the Vietnam War. And thus, the message was from veterans from two different wars and, to compound the irony of it all, to this writer who served in WW2.

And all three of us were in the concentration camps in our own United States.

THE ELDER WAKAYAMA was one of several Issei who appeared before the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians to testify. Traveling from Fukuoka to present his testimony, he appeared in San Francisco on Aug. 11, 1981, when the commission held hear-

ings at the Golden Gate University. We've reviewed his pithy and pungent testimony. The limitations of space will permit us only to sketchily touch upon a few aspects of his experience.

THIS WORLD WAR I veteran was apprehended and handcuffed. Among the places in which he was incarcerated: Los Angeles County Prison (72 days); Santa Anita; Pomona; Manzanar; Lone Pine Prison; Tule Lake; Santa Fe; Crystal City. Off to Vancouver from whence shipped to Japan. All these indignities heaped upon a proud American who had nobly served his country in Europe during World War I!

As Mr. Wakayama testified: "[D]o I have to die twice to show and establish my loyalty?... Where do I find my freedom, liberty, righteousness and champion democracy under the Constitution which I had admired as a sacred document?"

And he tragically continues: "I envy the comrades who died... on the battlefield... and did not return home, rather than being kicked around... 20 years later and... being branded and declared as disloyal... because unfortunately I returned home

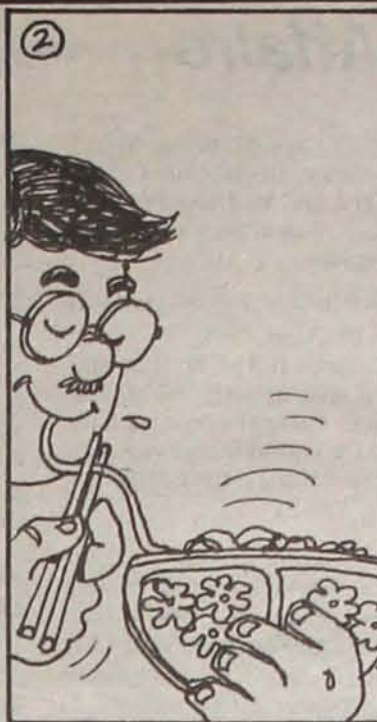


alive."

He poignantly closed: "The severe shock and deep mental wound received 40 years ago still aches in my heart, though a number of years elapsed with no remedy. My remaining life is now very short. I will say this: I was a real American, and I still believe so."

Amen.

THE LEGAL RELIEF of the writ of habeas corpus—available to every resident of this proud land—which had been filed by veteran Wakayama was con-



temptuously ignored. In the twilight of his years, veteran Wakayama doggedly seeks an accounting. He has written to many, including Ambassador Mike Mansfield as well as President Carter. In his persistence to clear his name, he now writes to this (powerless) columnist, in desperation. When his son George recently visited him in Fukuoka, he handed his son papers to institute whatever steps as may be necessary to gain some restoration of his dignity.

It is a bitter tale: a World War

I veteran, through his Vietnam veteran son, communicating to this WW2 veteran, seeking the redress that has been denied us to date.

THERE IT IS: The torch is being handed to each of us, to all of us, to carry forth, to keep alive, until justice is done. In a very real sense, it is the same torch that adorned the proud shoulder patch of "Go For Broke."

We must not let it go out. We must not retreat. For 91-year-old veteran Wakayama. For the other 120,000.

## Don't Ignore U.S.-Japan

by Edwin Y. Mitoma

Re: Bill Marutani's "First Things First" (July 26, 1985 PC) and "U.S.-Japan Relations, Part 2" (March 7, 1986 PC).

I have known Bill Marutani since my days with the EDC in the 1950s and I have admired Bill's commitment to civil rights and to JACL through all these years. I enjoy his regular "East Wind" columns in the PC, especially the ones on his observations on Japanese culture. But I have concerns on Bill's two referenced columns and so would like to present my personal comments on the subject.

I think the issue is this: as long as we are known as Japanese Americans, whether we like it or not, the relationship between the U.S. and Japan will have a definite impact on our civil rights. The best example is WW2. The resultant racial hysteria and concentration camps caused the loss of our civil rights. Any friction between the two countries tends

to affect Japanese Americans.

It is granted that redress is and should be the prime priority of JACL. By expending most of our effort on this problem, hopefully it can be successfully concluded within a short period of time. But we should be concerned with the U.S.-Japan relationship, which should go on forever. In any organization there are efforts on future planning. To disregard this relationship will lessen the value of JACL in the future.

What JACL intends to do may be an amorphous subject, but the subject of U.S.-Japan relations is well defined. U.S.-Japan relations should take into account all factors affecting the relationship. These include economic, cultural, social, political, military, educational, scientific, and technical aspects. JACL should be knowledgeable in all phases of the relationship so as to be in an expert position for protecting our civil rights.

It is great to be proud of our cultural ethics and heritage, but

it should not mean that we be ignorant of all other aspects of the U.S.-Japan relationship. We cannot pick subjects that we like and disregard other aspects and still be experts.

We are not experts in the field at the present time. In fact, among the American public, Japanese Americans and Japanese nationals, there is an appalling degree of ignorance.

The National JACL USJR Committee memo (David Nikaido, February 1985) sets up a network of contacts with both governments. I disagree with this approach. I feel that JACL should set up internal committees to educate ourselves in all phases of the relationship. We should form positions on specific problems of interest to us.

Broader participation may follow, but we should become experts first. In any case, we should be a spokesperson for ourselves.

## New Labeling System for PC

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## Let's Not Get Involved

by Ed Suguro

Bill Marutani's March 7 article on U.S.-Japan relations struck a responsive chord with me. For the life of me, I can't see why JACL feels the need to become involved in Japan's foreign and trade policies.

Much of what I hear from JACL members seems to be based on misinformation (JACL's titular head's and past presidents' exaggerated rhetoric), ignorance (Indochinese are being attacked because of trade problems with Japan), forgetting the lessons of history (loyalty to Japan can be rekindled now that we are at peace with Japan), and other influences that have no basis in fact.

Herewith are some thoughts that many JACLers may have forgotten, never considered, or never known.

(1) The Issei's deep and abiding love for Japan was passed on to us Nisei, but it gave us an identity crisis. I didn't know I was American until I was in my teens; to me, Americans were white people. We didn't need this identity crisis.

(2) The Issei wanted us to be a "bridge" to Japan, but in essence it was really to try to explain Japan to the U.S. Unfortunately, we Nisei never had the time nor the inclination to become experts on Japan's internal and external policies.

(3) The lessons of pre-Pearl Harbor are that we must never be confused into believing we have two homelands. The bombing of Pearl Harbor gave many Nisei guilt complexes, so we should always remember that we are Americans first and foremost, that we have only one homeland. We are in no way re-

sponsible for Japan's actions.

(4) The specter of nationalism and patriotism for Japan and dual (or divided) loyalties plagued us before WW2 and we gave the wrong impression to our fellow Americans. We're past that stage now and we should never go back to making those mistakes.

(5) Those in JACL who want us to become involved with U.S.-Japan relations cite our racial ties, but our being of the same race does not automatically make us experts on Japan's policies. There are many non-Nikkei who have studied these issues; it's their profession, and they are more qualified to be involved in these matters than most Nikkei will ever be.

(6) It's understandable that we Nikkei might be more interested in or sympathetic to Japan than any other foreign country, but therein lies the rub. If we become involved in U.S.-Japan relations, many Americans will think of us as a front, lobbyist or representative of the Japanese government because of our racial ties.

(7) Some JACLers claim that we receive flack from other Americans when relations between Japan and the U.S. deteriorate. I find no evidence that this is true. What incidents have been reported?

(8) Unfavorable trade with Japan is used by some JACLers as the reason for violence against Asian refugees and immigrants. This is patently false. Examples of violence, primarily directed at Indochinese refugees, indicate that racism is the underlying motive, but in some cases a previous encounter (traffic accident, argument, etc.) triggered the action.

Continued on Next Page

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# Beyond 'Nisei Soldier'

FROM THE  
FRYING PAN:

Bill  
Hosokawa



On the first day of my recent trip to Japan, Barry Saiki told me in happy tones that Loni Ding, the San Francisco film director and producer, was in Tokyo and he urged me to meet her.

She was, he said, taping interviews with a number of Nisei who for one reason or another had made their homes in Japan. Among them were some who, as a matter of conscience, had replied "No-No" to the infamous "loyalty" questionnaire in the WRA camps and, in anger or sorrow or both, turned their backs on their native country.

Well, Tokyo is a big place and both Miz Ding and I were busy. Our paths didn't cross until my last day in Tokyo, just a few hours before the time to hurry out to Narita for the flight home. She, too, was heading back to the States and was hosting a lunch

that day at the Sanno Hotel for some of the people who had been helpful during her visit. Saiki assured me I would be welcome.

It turned out to be one of those lunches where you bolt down the food and run for a cab, which is what I did. Loni Ding had obligations to her other guests and we didn't have time for much more than a handshake and a promise to keep in touch.

A few weeks ago she sent me, as she said she would, a video-cassette tape of her highly acclaimed "Nisei Soldier," a 30-minute film about Japanese Americans in WW2. For some reason I had missed seeing it when it was shown on PBS.

I plugged the tape into the recorder the kids had given us for Christmas and viewed a moving but all-too-brief account of Americans who, in Ding's words, were "liberators abroad, prisoners at home."

Television is an amazingly powerful medium. The spoken word reinforced by action photography in color carries an immediate impact that far exceeds that of the printed word. Print has the advantage of detail and permanence, but cassette tapes which can be kept in one's own

library overcome the disadvantage of film's transient image.

"Nisei Soldier," calling extensively on old newsreel film, takes advantage of the medium's strengths to tell a deeply moving story. But it has one weakness. Within the limit imposed by 30 minutes it is impossible to recount the story of a people except in headlines.

Now Ding is in the process of repairing that inadequacy by creating another documentary film, tentatively titled "The Japanese American Soldier in World War II," which is expected to run 75 to 90 minutes. It will include the Nisei linguists who served with U.S. intelligence in the Pacific, a facet skipped over in the earlier film. It will probe deeply into questions about the values and training that enabled the Nisei to perform with honor and fidelity under the ambiguities they faced.

Ding has demonstrated in her previous work that she can take on such a film report honestly and sensitively. Her documentary will certainly avoid the offensive phoniness of the Japanese "Sanga Moyu." I look forward to seeing her product. It should prove to be a richly worthy addition to the library of information about an important minority in the tapestry of American society of which we are a part.

## U.S.-JAPAN

Continued from Previous Page

(9) But what about the Vincent Chin case? By chance I was twisting the TV dial a few years ago when I came upon an Asian face on Cable News Network, and I stopped to listen. The man, who was Chin's companion at the Detroit bar where the altercation began, said he had been called a "Chink" by Ronald Ebens, the murderer.

Further investigation in a Los Angeles Times report showed that Ebens asked bystanders to help him find a "Chinaman." So Ebens may not have known the Asian ancestry of the people in the bar at the beginning, but he ultimately did know they were Chinese.

If trade with Japan had been the root cause, there would have been no problem because the people were Chinese, not natives of Japan. But there had been an altercation over a dancer in the bar that started it all, with racism an obvious contributing factor.

(10) If JACL becomes involved in U.S.-Japan relations, whose side do we take? Has our government asked us to become involved? Has Japan? Can we really be expected to be taken seriously as arbitrators when there might be suspicions that we might put our race above our nationality? We can't have it both ways; we are not a servant of two masters.

(11) I have heard some speakers from the Japanese embassy and Japanese consulates state that Japanese Americans should do more to maintain good relations between Japan and the U.S. When I hear this, I often think of the Issei when they used to say similar things—which I ultimately understood to mean doing more for Japan or trying to explain Japan to the U.S. Unfortunately, we don't set policy for Japan. Japan will have to do its own public relations work.

(12) For a time JACL accepted the offer of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party to send Sansei on trips to Japan. I'm all for their going to Japan for education and travel, but not under the auspices of a Japanese political party. As Marutani said, there is no free

lunch. Those of us who are Nisei are well aware of the Japanese cultural value of obligations, the return of a favor, and giving gifts for gifts received. How will JACL repay the LDP? What bonds have been established because we accepted these gifts? This can lead us into a sticky situation which we neither want nor can control.

(13) A few Sansei have become experts on issues relating to Japan and have used their expertise to represent our country in dealings with the Japanese. Other Sansei say they would like to join the U.S. diplomatic service in Japan, or at least have the opportunity to travel and study there. This is all to the good and we should do everything to encourage this interest in their roots.

(14) For the majority of us Nisei, Japan's contribution to our lives will be through the legacy the Issei left us—our cultural heritage. Certainly most of us have been exposed to some aspect of Japanese culture that we like or have become proficient in and can pass it on to future generations.

Judo, kendo, aikido, go, shogi, odori, shamisen, shakuhachi, ikebana, bonsai, bankei, bunka shisu, taiko, cooking, language, movies—the list is endless. Many of us have become familiar with these and they continue to exist despite the fact that there are few Japanese immigrants to take over.

This will be Japan's contribution to enriching our lives. And that should basically be the extent of its influence in our lives.

*Suguro is a member of Seattle JACL.*

## A 'Graphic' Display

Sandwiched between a pictorial on starfish and jellyfish and another on bats, the April 1986 edition of National Geographic breaks new ground with a feature story on Japanese Americans.

It was a long time coming, as readers of the monthly bulletin from National Headquarters realize, having had mention of the imminent publication of the story for well over a year. It marks the first contemporary ethnic American feature of this sort in the almost 100-year history of the magazine.

The photo selection from among 400 rolls of film struck me as exotic, not quite your mainstream Japanese Americans, but beautifully shot in the Geograph-

MUSUBI

by  
Ron  
Wakabayashi



ic manner. The historical photographs are familiar to us, but important to be shared with a broader American audience. The text is balanced and makes for a good first reading on the Japanese American story.

Gene Oishi was the original writer contracted to write the story. For an assortment of reasons, the piece that he developed ended up being printed in the

New York Times Magazine ("The Anxiety of Being a Japanese-American," Apr. 28, 1985).

Sansei Mike Yamashita, an East Coast-raised photographer, became a frequent visitor and caller to Headquarters and planted himself often at my former place of employment, the Asian American Drug Abuse Program, as he became more involved in the project.

We are still discussing other potential uses for the other 399 rolls of negatives that he shot for this project. Since he is getting married on May 10, I suspect we'll have a short respite before exploring that venture further.

For their efforts, National Geographic has received a threatening letter, probably similar to those that we receive with some frequency here at JACL Headquarters.

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 11: American River Rafting ..... June 20-22  
 11a: Alaska Cruise/Expo '86 ..... July 9-18  
 12: Canadian Rockies-EXPO 86 ..... July 2-11  
 12a: NEW—Canadian Rockies-EXPO 86 ..... July 20-31  
 12b: NEW—Festival in Japan ..... Aug 1-14

## TOUR DATES

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  
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 18: China Tour ..... Nov 1-13  
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## District Beat

### PNWDC

SEATTLE—The Pacific Northwest JACL District Recruitment and Leadership Development Committee sponsors a workshop on "Enjoying Competition in the Workplace" on Apr. 17, 7-9 p.m., at IBM Training Center, Rm. 1317, at 6th and University. Mary Anne Moorman, human resources consultant with Gamma Vision, Inc., will lead the workshop with emphasis on issues which arise for Asian Americans. Fee: \$20. Info: Tim Otani, 623-5088.

## Chapter Pulse

### Monterey Peninsula

MONTEREY, Calif.—The JACL Spring Potluck Dinner will be held Apr. 19, 5 p.m., at the Hall. Members and friends are invited. Games and bingo will be played after dinner. Bring enough for 5-8 servings, your own utensils and cups, and a small gift item for game prizes.

### San Jose

SAN JOSE, Calif.—Chapter member and 1000 Clubber Ray Matsu-moto and his wife Lucy have established an annual \$400 scholarship to assist students pursuing a career in a trade or craft. Applicants must be Santa Clara County Japanese American graduating high school seniors or students who have graduated in the past two years and are now returning to school after gaining work experience. Attendance at a trade school, trade college or community college with a trade major is also required.

Applications and info: Sharon Uyeda, 3566 Barley Court, San Jose, CA 95127; (408) 259-3656. Deadline: May 1.

### West Valley

SAN JOSE, Calif.—West Valley Chapter holds its annual bridge and bowling night on Apr. 26. A barbecue will start the evening at the clubhouse, followed by bridge with Helyn Uchiyama in charge. Bowlers will go to Saratoga Lanes with Art Tanabe and Tom Kamimori in charge.

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#### Expo 86 Vancouver, Victoria, Seattle

8 days Aug 28

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Oct 17

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#### Japan & Hong Kong

15days Apr 5, Nov 1

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#### Orient Highlights

16days Apr 19, Oct 18

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#### Ancient Cathay

21days; May 19, Sept 29

Group departs from West Coast: Tokyo, Kyoto, Guangzhou, Guilin, Shanghai, Xian, Beijing, Hong Kong. 43 meals/from \$3,376 p/per/twin.

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21days Sep 14

Group dep fr London: London, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Austria, Italy, Monaco, France, London. 27 meals fr London Airport transfer; \$1,138p/per/twin plus airfare fr hometown cities.

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#### Garden Tours of Japan

16days Oct 23

Group departs from West Coast: Tokyo, Nikko, Hakone, Kashikojima, Toba, Mikimoto Pearl Island, Nara, Kyoto, Hiroshima, Inland Sea & Takamatsu; 25 meals; \$3,137 p/person/twin.

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## VOTE

Continued from Front Page

lation. Japanese Americans had a rate of 43%, followed by Chinese with 35.5%, Samoans with 28.5%, Filipinos with 27%, East Indians with 16.7%, Koreans with 13%, and Vietnamese with 4.1%.

Unlike Asians in Gardena, the majority of whom had lived in the same house 5 years earlier, many Asians "are relative newcomers to these communities, not only in terms of their residence but also in terms of their participation, or lack of it, in the political system," said Nakanishi. "It's a question of whether Asian Americans are going to be welcomed, encouraged to remain there, to become a viable force... whether Asian Americans feel

there's a need to establish a presence in those communities as opposed to moving on."

## Party Preference

Asian Pacific Democrats outnumbered Republicans in the study by a 52.4%-31% margin. "There were only two communities—the Palos Verdes area and South Pasadena—where the plurality of Asian Americans were Republicans," noted Nakanishi.

These results differ from those of a study done last year at Calif. Institute of Technology, in which a random telephone survey indicated that Asians leaned more toward the Republicans than the Democrats.

Despite the differences in methodology and conclusions, Nakanishi saw certain common-

alities. "I think what is similar is the fact that Asian Americans are clearly not as Democratic as Blacks and Hispanics... We would agree wholeheartedly with that."

"They [Cal Tech] also say that Asian Americans... appear to have a lower voter registration rate than other groups, especially whites. We would also agree with that."

Nakanishi reported that some of the findings of the UCLA study were unexpected.

"What we found about Japanese American voters clearly goes against what a lot of people thought we would find... We still have this idea that Japanese Americans have not forgotten the Democratic Party, in particular FDR, for the internment experience, and as a result there would be an overwhelming number of Republicans. A second [common idea] is that Japanese Americans... because of their high median income, would also tend to be more Republican..."

"Yet in practically every community we looked at, the Japanese Americans show a vast majority of Democrats."

At the same time, the overall registration rate for JAs was unexpectedly low. One possible factor is that "we probably have a larger share of foreign-born, maybe even non-citizen Japanese

Americans than some other communities across the country," he said.

Another surprise was the relatively large number—15% of all Asian Pacific voters—who expressed no party preference.

While he does not have a single theory to account for this, he suggested that many immigrants know there are two parties but "don't feel enough of an allegiance to either one to really commit themselves."

In the case of the non-English-speaking potential voters, Nakanishi theorized, coverage of political issues in the Asian-language media "is probably very uneven... a lot of things that candidates say, or promise, probably don't get covered."

Nakanishi believes that there is a great deal of untapped potential in the Asian Pacific population. "A lot of Asians are not citizens, although a growing number are becoming citizens... The Asian American electorate is in the process of being formed, and its shape really is going to be determined in the next few years... and it could be a complete reversal of what we've seen here."

"It's estimated that a good 30,000-40,000 Asians in Southern California—the vast bulk of them live in Los Angeles County—become citizens every year... The Republicans may have a better shot at them, just because we

have a president that's Republican; people just tend to gravitate toward whatever party's in power. That means the Democrats may have to tell their story a little better."

The study, he said, gives "some sort of ballpark figures from which to do things like voter registration efforts and perhaps even gives a candidate some rough idea in terms of what base they may have from which to operate."

Interest in the study has extended far beyond Los Angeles. There is now, notes Nakanishi, "a lot of interest both statewide and nationally in terms of how Asians are doing in other communities... Quite a number of politicians have asked for a copy of the report."

The report was sponsored by Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Los Angeles and funded by Southwest Voter Registration Project of San Antonio and the Research Committee of the UCLA Academic Senate.

Researchers were Edward Chang, Rani Do, Bernie La Forteza, Susie Ling, and Rick Oishi. Advisers were attorneys Michael Eng and Stewart Kwok and city councilman Mike Woo.

Copies of the report are available for \$15 from Asian Pacific American Legal Center, 1010 S. Flower St., Suite 302, L.A. 90015; (213) 748-2022. Make check payable to APALC.

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