Los Angeles redistricting proposal could threaten Woo's future as councilman

by J.K. Yamamoto

LOS ANGELES—City Councilman Mike Woo, the only Asian American on the City Council, is battling a redistricting plan, tentatively approved by the council July 15, which would make the district predominantly Hispanic.

The plan, introduced by Councilman Richard Alatorre, is a response to a suit filed against the city last year by the Justice Department, which alleged that the voting power of the city's Hispanic population has been diluted because current boundary lines distribute the Hispanic concentration among five districts.

At present, Alatorre's 14th District is the only one with a Hispanic majority (76%). Alatorre's plan would make Woo's 13th District the second such district by increasing the Hispanic population there from 31% to 60%. Woo does not agree with Alatorre's redistricting plan.

San Mateo councilman Mike Woo listens to City Council deliberations on redistricting.

Alatorre commented, "While I don't think the passage of the bills alone is

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"It is the heart of my govern- ment participation in economic development... rather than the gimmicks that will come and go," she said.

The Maui-born Mink served in the House of Representatives before serving in Congress from 1964 to 1977.

"From a report by Honolulu Advertiser

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"The original decision to begin this relocation program was made in 1944," he said. "Since then, the relocation program has been a disaster, and we need to stop the relocation and develop an alterna- tive that is fair and humane."

Mineta is a co-sponsor of H.R. 4072, introduced by Rep. Bill Richardson (D-N.M.), which mandates a moratorium and review.

"This is a sad episode in our history, and we need to stop the relocation program before we make the problem worse," Mineta said. "As Americans of Japa- nese ancestry, we know what pain and distress go along with that innocent sounding word—relocation."

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Mink promised an open campaign and an open administration. The issues facing the state—such as what to do in the face of increasing federal budget cuts—are too important to be decided without public involvement, she said.

She has declared education as her top priority, for instance, she

proposed representation for both communities. But with the re-
alignment... It is very unlikely that an Asian candidate can car-
y that particular envisioned district in the future."

Stewart Kwok of the Asian American Legal Center also said he supports more His-
tic representation but that "it is bad public policy to try to vin-inate the rights of Hispanics at the expense of Asian American interests."

Other groups backing Woo in-
clude Chinese American Citi-
zene's Alliance and Napong Pil-
pinos.

Alternatives Offered

Woo introduced a redistricting plan of his own July 10. His plan would create a Hispanic majority in the 4th District, represented by John Furano.

"Unlike Councilman Alatorre's plan, my plan would not slip over an-
od district which already has a higher percentage of His-
cans," said Woo. "The current 13th Council District is about 31% Hispanic, and plans would sup-
port the 4th Council District, which is already 42% Hispanic."

The plan would also deprive Woo of Hollywood, where he re-
ceived strong support during last year's election.

Noting that the plan would not threaten the three Black council-
men, Woo added, "You cannot claim to be serving the Asian community, .. by approving a plan which sets out to protect the Hispanic community and the Blacks at the expense of another minority group in this city."

Local Asian American groups have sided with Woo.

"The proposal as it stands now unnecessarily creates a con-
fl ict situation," said Pacific Southwest JACL director John Saito.

"With the emerging His-
can and Asian populations, it would be good policy to have

San Mateo supervisors back bills

REDWOOD CITY, Calif.—The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously July 8 for a resolution supporting redress bills H.R. 442 and S. 1053.

Supervisor Anna Eshoo, presi-
dent of the board, opened the meeting by noting that she had received letters from Reps. Nor-
man Mineta and Robert Matsui (both D-Calif) strongly urging passage of the resolution.

Members of the local Japanese American community testified before the board.

San Mateo JACL president Noell Kubota thanked the super-
visors for their past support of the JA community and said that support for redress is "sorely needed" and that for former in-
fermiers who are still alive, "time is running out."

Doug Ota, San Mateo JACL re-
dress chair and co-chair of Peninsula Redress Committee, spoke about the pro-redress find-
ings of the Commission on War-
time Relocation and Internment of Civilians.

"It has been three long years since the commission made its recommendations, and during that period of time many more interniers have passed away. To further delay the passage of these bills would be to com-
pose the injuries."

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The former congresswoman joins Lt. Gov. John Waihee, Rep. Gabrielle Richard, and other Demo-

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ense ancestry, we know what pain and distress go along with that innocent sounding word—relocation."
Los Angeles—A campaign coordinated by National Conference of Christians & Jews to counter anti-Asian violence was unveiled June 25 by Councilman Mike Woo and corporate and community leaders involved in the NCCJ Asian-Pacific American Focus Program.

Although intended to address various forms of discrimination, the main impetus for the project was the increase in anti-Asian violence described in recent reports by JACL. The LA County Commission on Human Relations, the Calif. Attty. Gen’s Com­mission, the Calif. Atty. General’s Com­mission on Human Rights, and the Calif. H.R.C. are planning a Multicultural Council on Asian/Pacific American Affairs, and in (draft form) the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

The problem is that the prospect of such violence or discrimi­nation is likely to increase be­cause we are facing an increase in the size of the Asian population, said Woo. He cited a recent United Nations study that projects a 92% increase in L.A. County’s Asian-Pacific population from 1980 to 2000, and predicts con­tinued growth.

Woo cited as examples of dis­crimination the killing of a Vi­etnamese student in Davis, Calif. in 1980; the case of two Japanese American L.A. County employees who were repeatedly passed over for promotion; and the 1985 film “Year of the Dragon,” whose portrayal of Chinese Americans triggered protests nationwide.

Retired Superior Court Judge Delbert Wong, chair of the Asian/Pacific Focus Program, said there is no one explanation for the ap­parent rise in acts of discrimina­tion. “The sources of these settle­ments are varied and reflect a combination of historical pre­judices, changing demographics, and misinformation.

The program is divided into three task forces: Multicultural Education, Economic Devel­opment, and Employment.

Irving Margol, executive vice president of Security Pacific Na­tional Bank and co-chair of the Employment & Economic Develop­ment Task Force, said, “We are building­inter­group relations; Employment & Economic Devel­opment, to make it happen.”

Immigration, Margol, executive vice president of Security Pacific Na­tional Bank and co-chair of the Employment & Economic Develop­ment Task Force, said, “We are building­inter­group relations; Employment & Economic Devel­opment, to make it happen.”

While committed to sup­porting minority home-bear­ing, while Ernani Bernardi declared, “It’s no longer basic rights... They are a matter of personal treatment.”

Joe Wachs pointed out that the “greatest single increase in minority representation” — the election vote — will last another year — take place under the current plan. He also suggested that a new plan be devised by the federal court or a computer “so that we have our own personal interest in it.”

The three black council mem­bers—Robert Farrell, Gilbert Lindsey and Charles管, — supported Alarome’s plan.

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Work of 'crossword activist' lauded

WASHINGTON—Rep. Norman Mineta (D-Calif.) praised the persistence of Amy Chihara of High­land, Ind., whose letter writing campaign persuaded the Chicago Tribune to reconsider the use of “Jap” as an abbreviation in its crossword puzzles. Chihara, responding to the Tribune’s proposal to change its abbreviation, “Nisei” for “producer of the history room, now located on the second floor of Japanese Cultural & Community Center of No. Calif. (JCCCN). The room was previously housed at California First’s head office on California St.

“The main reason this got started was because there was not very much history on the Japanese who came here,” Oka said. “Many times you get very old and passing away. It’s important to preserve our history so others can learn about it. This laboratory room has information on Japanese Americans. There is a lot of material here which is useful to many people.”

He takes his job seriously and does it well. His desk is neatly arranged and the office is already in top shape. A visitor will note bookcases with titles in English and Japanese. There are many artifacts and maps in the room; in the back room, one will see old newspapers, more artifacts, and pictures from many years ago. Oka said the history room has been beneficial to many students who have term papers due and others working on advanced degrees. Some visitors bring in items for him to look at and ask him for further help.

“I have always been interested in history and have been good at locating different things,” he said. “I enjoy working hard and helping people gather their information.”

A native of Japanese, Oka was educated in Japan. He attend­ed Tokyo Daigaku (now Tokyo University of Foreign Studies) as an English major. Upon gradu­ation, he was employed for the Tokyo head office of Yokohama Spec­ial Bank, the predecessor of Bank of America. He resigned from the bank in 1946.

continued on back page

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The indigenous farmers lose their watered-and-fenced Water Conservancy District, which diverts "farming" water to "recreational" water. Without the water, the farmers face hard times. Jobs must be found; children leave the reservation; onlookers watch developers move into "bay" land at extremely low prices. The tribal councils' perfunctory votes to sell the land is a disaster. While some traditionalists try to stop them, the money, the politicians, and the existing ethic are against them. Nichols has written a classic and a curious tragedy of Americans on the move.

While the trilogy is fiction, there is more truth in these notions than is found in most accounts of this destruction of tribal tradition, cultural heritage and family life. Most of the entrances out to get rich quick with the expense of those whose life is in the hands of the government. I have a dream...

While there is little mention of the WW2 incarceration in most history books, perhaps we can take heart in the fact that it has become a "hot topic" for school kids participating in the National History Day Contest. Lois Scharf, executive director of National History Day, told us that in the past few years, favorability with "The Internment" has grown, and that in the past few years the word "incarceration" has been a favorite topic.

This year's competition, entitled "Conflicts of the Pacific War," had numerous projects about the treatment of Japanese Americans during WW2. The two California winners had projects about the internment; Karen Halcomb's "Racially Speaking" and Walker Junior High School in Lakewood, California, won first place, while Kevin Kishimoto and Jeffrey Ota from Piedmont Middle School won second place. Both projects won on the national finals, but did not place in the top three of their category.

However, Ashley Galaway, from Katy, Texas, took second place in the Individual Projects Junior Division with her project, "Go For Broke: Japanese American Internment in WW2." Galaway, who won first place in the Texas competition, was inspired by Lori Ding's documentary "Follow the Money: The Nisei Soldier," and contacted Dr. Max Yasui, to get his input. With Tom Kawaguchi and Shig chiara for help and information. Amanda Dawson from Plymouth, Mass., followed Galaway in third place in the division for "Japanese Internment." Dawson

Raw Oysters

East Wind

Bill Marcutani

AN EXCELLENT BOOK for the more serious student seeking to learn Nihongo Nihongo: A Japanese Approach to Japanese by Makoto Sugawara (East Publica­

tions, Tokyo). I had seen excerpts from this book (or did the ex­

clips become the book?) and was impressed by the format and clarity that when the book became available, I ordered three.

I've PLACED THROUGH the long section and picked up some interesting insights as well as having a number of concep­

tions dispelled. I also learned that the "ah, ee, oo, oh, eh" that I was exposed to in school goldens has been updated by eliminating five phonemes which were dupli­

cates. I could have told them that years ago. I could never figure out, for example, why there were two "ehs" and the second form never appeared for "when it was to be used. And so I never did.

PRONUNCIATION OR HAN­

tation also caused me to stum­

ble. I remember as a child learn­

ing that "kait" was "percussion," and then hearing the Issei men­

tion "ka-shu," I knew that I meant something different. So I asked for some and some oysters (raw) were placed in front of me. Rather than admit my ignorance, I was given a side of some of those slippery blobs and gulped it down. While it was quite a few years later be­

fore I was able to develop a taste for raw oysters.

WEST COAST WAVE

As the red, white and blue parts of me experience some goose-pimplie excitement with all the news of the celebration of the 100th birthday of the Statue of Liberty, another part of me is very sad that we are not celebrating the Issei men who freed us from the Chinese. (Come to think of it, it's a good thing for me that the Issei were talking raw oysters rather than fences when I overheard them.)

Another current problem of mine is that simple karp in (kabush or black stylo) and picking up the stripped-down, streamlined versions, such as: kaoru (return home), yuru (read), mushubu (the gut, goiboku, and so many others.

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If YOU'VE HEARD this one, slip the remainder of this column and enjoy some other section of this newspaper. It's the apocryphal story of a Nisei who strayed into a Tokyo sushi bar and started pontificating, saying, "Abo nosu, buh bari" along with some sake to wash it all down. Upon being billed for the gills, he bought the check up to pay. But since he wasn't paying atten­

}
The Last Nicholas Story

by Sachí Seló

This is the last story about Nicholas, a German shepherd frequented by them. The page had been filled with a PC. He died on Apr. 15, two weeks before his eighth birthday. His death was quick and efficient, by euthanasia, as I held him in my arms.

While the first of the year, Nicholas was plagued with physical problems. The dog had to take prednisone, and he suffered a persistent nosebleed, uncommon to dogs. After surgery, his nose remained ulcerated and unresponsive to massive doses of Prednisone. This confirmed that he was suffering from genetic immune deficiency. The only remaining alternative to prolonging his life was to consider forfeiture of a child with physical disabilities. The veterinarian did not recommend such therapy and we concurred.

His death was quick... as I held him in my arms.

Nicholas had lived a relatively long life for his breed and size and very happy life, the doctor said. He reminded us the dog had always been quick to talk and emotional problems. And he expressed amazement that we had been able to keep him alive for so long. Most other people, he said, would have had the dog put down years ago. The thought had never crossed our minds, no more than any medical parent would consider forfettting a child with physical, intellectual or emotional problems.

It was the day before Easter when the doctor suggested the dog had been destroyed. However, that was also the day of the accident. In the parking lot of the clinic, Nicholas had attacked and injured another dog, an adjoining dog, dragging my husband by the leash. Observing the incident, the doctor thought the dog was also becoming a family liability.

It was precisely because of my husband's severe injuries that I could not consent to euthanasia that day. But Nicholas knew this, and the sudden separation in time between the two events, the accident and the surgery, was intolerable. I know my son did not link the two together. He thought Nicholas was innocent. The dog had been penalized just by the accident. The veterinarian agreed we should seek some kind of pressing concern about the next hemorrhage.

I related the finding if the dog's intuition of a negative prognosis had ac-

The veterinarian had agreed that there were a few reasons the dog was being kept. Apart from the one obvious in slow response to commands, the vet mentioned Nicholas' capabilities, as well as his comradeship.

I called my son at his office. Fortunately, he had asked his clients to live with us, that had been the agreement. If the dog had to be put to sleep, I should take him to the clinic. Over the phone, I said I would give Nicholas tranquilizers, as the doctor had instructed. My son asked me to wait until he reached the house. Against my better judgment, I agreed.

A peculiar thing happened when I was about to leave the house. Nicholas greeted him with his former enthusiasm, all leaps and tails. When we took him outside, he gave every impression of a healthy dog, running and investiga ting his surroundings. This was a pretty spring day, so fresh and green and alive. Nicholas took off at top speed, his black and fur glistered and his enormous eyes captured with unusual light. It was difficult to believe his body and mind were being ravaged and his body was stumbling. Recovering his balance, the dog pressed his body close to my son and me, inviting our affection.

"Let's not do it today," my son said.

"Do you think it'll be any easier tomorrow or the day after?" I asked. Looking at the dog, I realized the dog was to be used for every specific time, like an execution.

My son refused to answer, petting the dog, who had gone to him and laid his head on my son's lap. "I don't think he should die by euthanasia, I'd buy him a gun. He'd feel better that way," I said, smiling at the absurdity. If the dog had been capable of using a weapon, he would have missed or botched it. He was that kind of dog.

"I have another idea," I said angrily. "I'll open this gate." A few years ago, we had fenced the yard to keep the dog in. The dog had given me a look of utter incredulity, so fresh and green and alive. Nicholas locked magnets on his nose. He was as black and fur glistered and his enormous eyes captured with unusual light. It was difficult to believe his body and mind were being ravaged and his body was stumbling. Recovering his balance, the dog pressed his body close to my son and me, inviting our affection.

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I opened the gate and Nicholas turned his back on me. He ran away, his head down, his ears pricked and his eyes closed. He was a sad, pathetic, silent creature. His eyes were closed, his ears pricked and his head was down, his body was dripping, his breath was spent. He had a crazed vigor. Dark, wet earth surrounded him. He was the leader of a JPL team. The very expensive microwave amplifiers Higa developed had been used almost exclusively in NASA's planetary studies program. By contrast the manned space flights, such as those Osmonka and me, inviting our affection.
Chapter Pulse

Houston

HOUSTON—JACL and Organiza-
tion of Chinese Americans (OCA) held a joint Summer Dance Aug 8, 9, p.m.-1 a.m., at Four Sea-
sons Hotel in Houston Center.
The event was sponsored by Tatsu-
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other info useful to family history research. In aU our research , we use

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Kei Yoshida, Researcher/Artist

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Or call: **Richard Lockhart**, (617) 727-3166

Proposals in response to the RFP are due and will be submitted in 2 phases. Phase I submissions of qualifications must be received by the Department of Environmental Management by 4 p.m. August 15, 1986.

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