Case for Aleut redress presented

WASHINGTON—A House subcommittee was urged by testified at a July 29 hearing to consider redress for Aleuts relocated by the U.S. government during WWII.

Rep. Dan Glickman (D-Kan.), chair of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Administrative Law & Governmental Relations, heard from 10 witnesses, among them former internees, Reps. Hank Brown (R-Colo.), Howard Coble (R-N.C.) and Thomas Kindred (Ohio) also attended briefly.

John Kirtland, an attorney representing the Aleuts, outlined their grievances against the government.

Following the Japanese invasion of the islands of Attu and Kiska in June 1942, Aleut villages in the Aleutian and Pribilof islands were evacuated. Kirtland said that evacuation itself was a "rational wartime measure."

However, once the Aleuts were housed in abandoned canneries and other such sites, "The people in the camps were repressed. They were inadequately medical care, inadequate shelter, inadequate sanitation facilities, lack of potable water, and other life-threatening conditions," he said, adding that more than 10% of the evacuees died in the camps.

In addition, returning evacuees found that their homes and churches had been burned down. Kirtland said that he was never returned to the Aleuts.

In response to the Justice Department's position that redress would set a precedent for other groups, Kirtland stated, "In fact, the Aleuts of Attu and Kiska were never returned to the Aleuts."

Two congressmen co-sponsor bill

CHICAGO—Rep. Jim Weaver (D-Ore.) and Doug Walgren (D-Pa.) have become cosponsors of redress bill H.R. 445, announced LEC executive director Gruyce Uchihara at the first meeting of the new JACL National Board on July 23.

Weaver, who represents southern Oregon and northern California, is on the House Agriculture and Interior & Insular Affairs committees. He was elected by running for the U.S. Senate against Republican incumbent Bob Packwood.

Walgren, whose district is made up of Pittsburgh suburbs, sits on the Energy & Commerce and Science & Technology committees.

Kajihara narrowly defeats Ochi

by Robert Shimbukuro

CHICAGO—In close, hard-fought contest, LEC Fund Drive chair Harry Kajihara edged Rose Ochi, 62% to 36%, for National JACL President, and Cherry Kinoshita defeated State Director Mike Suzuki, 50% to 50%, to win the Vice President for Public Affairs race in the National JACL Convention election July 14.

A runoff for VP for Public Affairs was held after Kinoshita initially tied with Ochi and Suzuki’s 27% and incumbent Kay Mayeda’s 21%.

In the other contested races, Alan Nishi defeated incumbent Secretary-Treasurer Gene Takimoto, 67% to 54, while Mary Nishimoto held off a challenge by Judy Nitrama for the post of Vice President for Membership, 70% to 51%.

JCCCNC officially opens doors

SAN FRANCISCO—More than 400 visitors were present as Mayor Dianne Feinstein performed the ribbon-cutting ceremony to formally open the Japanese Cultural & Community Center of No. Calif. on July 12.

Board of Supervisors president Mayor John Molinaro joined Feinstein in applauding the local Japanese American community for the fundraising which made possible the completion of the first phase main office building. Makoto Wakasugi, deputy consul general of Japan, also offered his congratulations.

Yori Wada, chair of JCCCNC’s Vision ’85 campaign, called for a renewal of the community’s involvement so that an additional 500,000 can be raised to complete the second phase; an adjoining community hall/museum, Clem Oyama, representing the contributors, pledged his personal commitment and urged others to do the same.

Toshio Nagamura, California First Bank board chair, presented a check for $20,000 to support the Japanese American History Room, which is housed in the new building. Bishop Nitten Ishida presented a scroll of his calligraphy to Feinstein and to Edith Tanaka, JCCCNC board president.

JCCCNC director Charles Morimoto reviewed the center’s history and hailed the vision of its founders in proposing a facility which would preserve the Japanese American heritage for generations to come.

Mistress of ceremonies Kathy Reyes introduced Supervisor George Kuneki (D-Mission District), director of the Mayor’s Office of Community Development; George Suttle, area director of San Francisco Redevelopment Agency; District 7 Supervisor Doris Ward; and Greg Day, chair of the Office of Community Development’s Citizens Committee. A congratulatory message from Gov. George Deukmejian was read by Steve Doi, chair of JCCCNC’s Major Gifts Committee.

The building, located at 425 Japantown Art & Media WorkShop, Komincho Inc. (senior services), Nihonmachi Legal Outreach, Noburi-kai (Japanese newcomers services), and Theatre of Yugen, Info: (415) 397-5000.
Air force station to be named after astronaut Hoshizuka

CHICAGO—Reg Norman Mineka of California, announced during the JACL National Convention that Sunrayville Air Force Station in California will be named after Lt. Col. Ellison Onizuka.

The announcement was made at the Savoyana Banquet, during which Lorna Onizuka accepted the Japanese American of the Illinoisium award on behalf of her late husband.

On the day the first Japanese American astronaut, was killed in the January explosion in the Space Challenger. In May, Mineta suggested the renaming of the station, where the Air Force's Satellite Launch Center is located, as the Ellison S. Onizuka Air Force Station, in induced legislation to that effect.

This honor will assure that Lt. Col. Onizuka's contributions and heroism will never be forgotten," Mineta said of the Air Force's decision. "I think of no more appropriate memorial than naming such a vital facility after this brave man. Though he will always be honored in our minds and hearts, an expression of our regard is a great tribute we should gladly and justly bestow.

New anthology of Ninko literature and art available

SAN JOSE, Calif. — The Hanok's World: A Literature Anthology of Japanese American art and literature, has been published by Asian American Art Projects.

Included are poetry by Jim Hasekuma, Tetsu Yamamoto, and Zuzin Hiraaki, a short story by Yoshiko Uchida, calligraphy by ShaJ'Ty Verna and Natsuo Hori, an essay by written by Karen Nakata, and an essay by Renata Kuroki. The anthology is titled "Shinjuku: a collection of six costumes from six troups.

Aug. 15—Nisei Week Awards Dinner and Pioneer Luncheon will be held at Zephyr Point Presbyterian conference grounds in Southeast Los Angeles.

Aug. 29—San Pedro, 3 p.m., San Pedro between 2nd and 3rd Sts. Star Festival performance by Fujima Kanjiro Theatre.

Women's conference planned

Tackling such concerns as bi-cultural parenting, mental health, the job market, assertiveness in the workplace, nutrition of Japanese American art, and the arts has been published by Asian American Art Projects.

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Screening of ‘Big Trouble’ benefits community groups

by J.K. Yarnamato

LOS ANGELES—In a gesture intended to establish good relations with the Asian American community, the makers of “Big Trouble in Little China” invited community representatives to a benefit screening at 20th Century Fox studios July 2.

The beneficiaries of the $100-per-person affair were East West Players, an Asian American theater company; Chinatown Senior Citizen Service Center; and San Gabriel Valley Chinese Cultural Assn.

Presenting a $10,000 check to the senior center during the post-screening party was Calif. Secretary of State March Fong Eu.

Mayor Tom Bradley, who did not attend the event, issued a statement praising 20th Century Fox and the Chinese American community “for their real efforts in making the opening night beneficent, a celebration of goodwill and understanding.”

The uneven premiere of “Big Trouble” occurred sharply with that of “Year of the Dragon,” whose depiction of the Chinatown underworld led to protests and pickets by Asian American organizations across the country last year.

Described by associate producer Denny Hong as a “gamely-ghost-monster-Chinese mythological-action-adventure,” the film is about a search by two heroes and villains.” Lew was Hong (Kurt Lowry), who lives beneath San Francisco’s Chinatown.

Lew told the opening night audience that director John Carpenter has created “a real richness and mystery of the Chinese culture” in the film. “It’s a magic that tells us that the richness of the culture, reviv in both the daring and dastardly deeds of our heroes and villains. Lew was also martial arts choreographer and played the role.

Actor Horg said that “Big Trouble” is a sign that Asian depictions have caught up with the progress. “Maybe we’ll get a Cosby type of show, who knows!”

Scholarship fund receives donation

S.-JYUJ ME uae ues Los Angeles--Ashepre- BUSCH has made a donation to the Union of Pan Asian Communities scholarship fund, to be used for awards to Asian American students next year.

Robert Norman Mineta (D-Calif.), a co-sponsor of the resolution, congratulated Ken Nakano, a Seattle JACL member who actively lobbied for the measure, and Rep. Mike Lowry (D-Wash.), who introduced it.

He also thanked Reps. Augus­ hawkins (D-Calif.) and James Jeffords (R-Vt.), both members of the House Education & Labor Committee, for supporting the resolution.

The resolution “is one more step in the fight against racism and prejudice in this nation,” said Mineta.

Our motivation in bringing this resolution to the floor is simple,” he continued. “We seek to wipe out once and for all the use of the ab­ bres of “chow” and “cooch” for women.

In addition to the scholarship program, Union of Pan Asian Communities operates in-home service for the elderly, a development disabilities outreach pro­ ject for Southeast Asian refugees with disabled children, a mental health program, a refugee training program for those least skilled in the English language, and a day care program for refugee women.

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“I must complete cooking kits including 90-minute video and cookbook. Cookbook will show you easy it is to prepare hundreds of exotic oriental dishes right in your kitchen!”

The following is the offer: Rocky Aoki's “Kung Fu Chef Benihana Rest.,” including video and cookbook. The video demonstrates the chef's techniques in making authentic Asian cuisine. The cookbook provides recipes and guidance to help viewers become adept at preparing various Asian dishes.

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A 442nd Regimental Combat Team company moves out of command post.

House passes JPN resolution

WASHINGTON—By a voice vote, the House passed on July 23 a resolution calling for the removal of the abbreviation “Jpn.” for “Japan” or “Japanese.”

JACL-Blue Shield

Continued on page 6

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‘Samurai’ to be shown in 3 cities

Yankie Samurai,” a European documentary about the 10,000-man 442nd Regimental Combat Team, will be shown in Los Angeles, San Francisco and in September, and in San Jose in October.

The film’s Los Angeles premiere, set for Aug. 8-9 p.m., at Japan America Theatre, 344 S. San Pedro St., will benefit the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center, Nisei Week Festival, Go For Broke Inc., and Nisei Veterans Coordinating Council of So. Calif. Tickets are $20.

On Aug. 9, the film will be shown at 7 and 9 p.m. at the same location. Tickets: $3 general, $2 for seniors, students and groups of 20 or more.

The San Francisco showings will be on Sept. 5 and 6 at 7:30 and 9 p.m. at Laurel Heights UC Medical Center (formerly Firemen’s Fund Building on Calif. St.). Co-sponsors of the benefit are Japanese Cultural & Community Center of No. Calif. and Go For Broke Inc. Tickets, which are $10 each, will be available through board members of the two organizations.

Yankie Samurai” recounts the exploits of Nisei GIs in Europe during WW2, including the liber­ ation of Brestures, France, and the rescue of the Texas “Lost Battalion.” The perspective of the film is that of the French people, who nicknamed their liber­ ators “the little iron men.”

Asian running for Chicago council

CHICAGO—John Lee Bingham, a 31-year-old small businessman, has announced his candidacy for 40th Ward alderman.

A third-generation Korean American, he will be the city’s first Asian to hold elected office if he is successful.


He also says he will be a voice for the Asian American community on the City Council by mak­ ing sure Asians get a fair share of city contracts, hiring and serv­ ices; stressing quality education; and fighting anti-Asian violence.

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Wartime Labels
Raymond Okamura ("The Wrong Slant," May, 9 PC) has expressed an important point about the Japanese American exhibit at the Smithsonian, which he sees as "a gross distortion of history" that is both inaccurate and offensive.

"As the government hadn't caused enough mischief and misery for the camp inmates with its labels of loyal dissident, pro-American, pro-Japan, etc., along comes Okamura 44 years later with his own design to create more mischief."

For as Kure Yoneko's distinguishing letter (June 13 PC), Yoneko conveniently neglects to inform her readers that the Communist Party was one of the earliest and most persistent backers of the evacuation, and that he and his buddies were informers who denounced numerous fellow Manzanar inmates to Military Intelligence in 1942.

The T-74 document, with cover memorandum, declassified Dec. 14. It listing Yoneko's military service under "Manzanar." It states, "He was accused of being a "Tokyo筱.""

The Question Answered
by Thomas Hara
Midwest District Governor

A few weeks ago I wrote about the resolution of the JACL-LEC to request emergency grants of up to $30,000 from the principal of the Endowment Fund ("The $30,000 Question," July 11 PC). The JACL National Council, meeting in Chicago on July 23, has now settled the question.

The bailout of $10,000 was not enough for the JACL, and the council authorized the council director to do something on an independent basis, if and when they first complete payment of their pledges to repay the last "loan" and the surcharge of the National Council for Redress. Indeed, the councilorWhere the council would now be on a par to plan in business to collect more pledges, since the National Council has authorized another "loan."

Whether this new "loan" will result in generation terms and conditions, remains to be seen: the recommendation of the Endowment Fund Committee differs markedly from the resolution ultimately adopted by this National Council. It may be determined that the council cannot make a final decision upon the estate to which the National Council of the Endowment Fund Committee wishes to reduce, to zero, their exposure as lawyers, attorneys, directors, etc., who have been acting in that capacity.

In the meantime, the National Council has expressed its confidence in their ability to make interest-free and unsecured loans from the funds within their trust.

Having said all of this, I have no particular problem with the

Convention Notes
by Bob Shimabukuro

HOEG butcher of the world," wrote poet Carl Sandburg. That line, coupled with the 1968 National Democratic Convention and former Mayor Richard Daley, formed my picture of Chicago. However, that image received a jolt this past week at the JACL convention.

I was informed that the stockyards are long since gone from Chicago, over 15 years ago. But the notion of Chicago as a "meat" city still persists. Polish and Italian beef sandwiches were prescribed as the food of Chicago, along with deep dish pizza. I was only nominally impressed.

My first impressions of any city are generally visual. And the first thing I noticed was the preponderance of brick. As a woodworker, I guess I have a habit of noticing how much wood is used in construction and taking note of the exterior appearances and building materials. The Pacific Northwest uses a lot of wood. Southern California uses a lot of stucco, and Chicago is really a brick city.

I was later informed by Betty Nakamichi of Chicago that wood was banned as a major construction material after the Great Chicago Fire in 1871, so there's a good reason why there is so much brick, I guess.

Another immediate impression was the lack of Japanese cars on the road. I suppose the proximity to Detroit has something to do with that, but I wonder if someone from the West Coast, the absence was glaring.

The tour of the Todai ji exhibit at the Chicago Art Institute was somewhat noteworthy. Coming the day after the elections, it was a kind of reminder that in the 1968 centennial year people were living with two-century electronic tour guide recorded messages on some type of machine with individual pieces, and some good old-fashioned politicking went on under the watchful eye of every serious 12th-century Yaman ten.

The Windy City News, the convention newsletter edited by(started), was reporting to me the story of Susumu Nakada, who has been traveling the country to unveil the truth about the JACL convention. Since the "pre-convension more alive" since those assigned to cover events for the newsletter also doubled as "PC correspondents," it made life a lot easier for me. Again, thanks to all of you.

Upon my arrival back in L.A., my first stop was at a Japanese restaurant to get some popoh and oba. Next snack was a hurried one, followed by some late night activity. A Polish, no matter how they dress it up, is still a hot dog to me.

It is interesting to note that last week was the first time in my life that I wore a jacket and tie for a week. It must have something to do with the "weed."

I tell myself as I approach my 41st birthday. My daughter, Mira, who had been visiting me the past month, told me that even if I wanted to pursue an artist's style, I still would have to dress more conservatively. "Suspenders," she said, "suspenders look real neat." Woodworkers would never wear a jacket or a tie, I'm certain, but suspender's? I don't know.

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A half hour's drive straight north of Denver is the town of Longmont. It used to be a quiet little agricultural town, and now has a beautiful park area with trees, playgrounds, a pool and other amenities. It also has a free story park with trees, rocks and a pond.

There's a lot more to do in the U.S. than growing crops on it. Who knew? In fact, Longmont became a part of the town of Canemoto in the late 1800s. In the 1920s, apple tree farming became important in the area. Longmont became a town in 1923.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) and its affiliate, the Japanese American Citizens League of Colorado. The JACL has done a lot of good work in preserving and promoting Japanese American history and culture.

The JACL has been active in promoting Japanese American rights and understanding. It has worked to preserve Japanese American culture and history, and to promote understanding and cooperation between Japanese Americans and others.

The JACL has also been involved in advocating for education and other issues of concern to Japanese Americans. It has been active in promoting language rights and education for Japanese American students.

The JACL has also been involved in advocacy and lobbying efforts. It has worked to influence policy makers at the federal and state levels on issues such as immigration, civil rights, and more.

In conclusion, the JACL has played an important role in promoting understanding and cooperation between Japanese Americans and others. It has been a valuable resource for those interested in learning about Japanese American history and culture.

If you're interested in learning more about the JACL, you can visit their website at www.jacl.org.

I hope this information has been helpful. If you have any questions or other topics you'd like to know more about, please let me know.

Best regards,

[Your Name]
New Mexico ALBUQUERQUE—N.M.—New Mexico JACL held its sixth annual "Southwest Leadership Development Conference" in Albuquerque, May 20-27. This year's theme was the 20th anniversary of the sister city relationship between Albuquerque and Sasebo, Japan.

For the last three years, Oma Harumi has been part of the city's "Summerfest," a series of concerts, cultural performances and events held from May to August.

Oma's grandfather, Shunsuke Kunishita, was the first Japanese American to serve in the U.S. military during World War II. He and his other relatives served under a secret order to intern Japanese Americans in California and other parts of the United States. Oma's father, Harumi Kunishita, served as executive director of the JACL's New Mexico chapter.

Oma Harumi was born and raised in New Mexico and has been a member of the JACL for over 10 years. She is currently serving as the president of the JACL's New Mexico chapter.

Oma Harumi said, "The JACL has been a part of my life for over 30 years. It has been a place where I have learned about my heritage and have developed leadership skills."
Fresno Fresno community figure feted

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Page 7

President of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, who was the keynote speaker at the dinner held June 29 for Dr. Ota. The event was attended by 120 guests who came to hear his speech and to join in the festivities of the occasion. The theme of the evening was “Michigan Homecoming.”

Dr. Ota is a native of Michigan and graduated from Michigan State University. He has practiced medicine in Los Angeles for the last 10 years.

The dinner was held at the Holiday Inn and was sponsored by the Fresno-Jerome Friendship Group.

Activities of Buddist Church of Los Angeles

The Los Angeles Buddhist Church has appointed new youth directors and has announced plans for their activities during the summer months.

Dr. Hiroshi Kato, who has been the youth director for the past three years, has been replaced by Rev. Dr. Minoru Kato.

The new youth director is Rev. Dr. Minoru Kato, who has been a member of the church for over 10 years.

The church has also announced plans for its summer youth program, which will include a variety of activities such as a youth retreat, a youth camp, and a youth service project.

The church hopes that these activities will help to strengthen the youth of the congregation and to provide them with opportunities for growth and development.

NATIONAL JAPANESE AMERICAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The 10th Annual National Japanese American Leadership Conference will be held in Los Angeles from August 20 to 22. The conference is sponsored by the National Japanese American Leadership Council and is open to all members of the Japanese American community.

The conference will focus on leadership development and will feature keynote speeches by a variety of leaders from the Asian American community.

The conference will also include workshops on topics such as leadership skills, community organizing, and cultural competency.

In addition to the workshops, there will be networking events and social events to provide opportunities for participants to connect with each other and to build relationships.

The conference is open to all members of the Japanese American community, regardless of age, gender, or background. Registrants will be able to choose from a variety of sessions and workshops to best meet their needs.

For more information, please visit the conference website at www.njalc.org or contact the conference organizers at info@njalc.org.
Both these situations cry out for action. The Aleuts were different ... What ties these issues together is that they both involve a lack of freedom for people of color who were held prisoner in Japan during the Second World War, but that's about it.

In both the JA and Aleut cases, the government played fast and loose with the fundamental rights of citizens and "lack of action will weaken the foundation on which our government is based," one witness said. "Both these situations cry out for action."

Abe and Melovidov, chair of the Housing Authority, recalled that her son was shipped to Atka after the war. "It was five years since the commission listened to the testimony of fellow Americans who had been deprived, without cause, of their freedom. It is three years since the commission recommended that action be taken to verify this wrong. The response? The Administration says, 'Do nothing.'"

We hope that Congress will send another message by acting favorably on these bills."

With regard to H.R. 2415, which provides for redress for former Japanese American evacuees, the subcommittee chairman said, "The Aleuts... were the victims of mismanagement and prejudice, and lack of any minimum consideration of their welfare... We believe that the adoption of our recommenations would help to compensate for that neglect and prejudice..."

In both the JA and Aleut cases, the "government played fast and loose with the fundamental rights of citizens" and "lack of action will weaken the foundation on which our government is based," one witness said. "Both these situations cry out for action."

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