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Friday, November 20, 1987

City Treasurer Eyes \$290,000 Investment Loss

BELFLOWER, Calif.—City Treasurer Mike Sakamoto, 43, is a key figure in an investment deal which has gone sour, the *Los Angeles Times* reported Nov. 12. While the case is under investigation by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), which the SEC has not confirmed nor denied because the matter is confidential, it involves a loss of \$290,000.

Last December, the city of Bellflower began purchasing zero-coupon U.S. Treasury notes through E.F. Hutton. The investment totaled \$717,827. On Oct. 26, the city sold the bonds for \$425,000, Sakamoto reported. The bonds were to have a yield of 8.25% over 25 years.

Zero-coupon bonds pay all their accumulated interest at maturity instead of at regular intervals, such as every six months. That makes their prices sensitive to interest rates. They are known as one of the more volatile types of bond issues. Although the California Government Code allows cities to invest in Treasury notes, using public money for speculative investments in hopes that the market will rise or fall is forbidden, according to Zenda James, president of the California Municipal Treasurers Association.

Treasurer's Responsibility

As treasurer, Sakamoto has the authority to invest city money and review investment policies, Bellflower city attorney Maurice O'Shea explained as the city council has no knowledge of these specific types of investments. City administrator Jack Simpson said it is usual procedure to invest without consulting the council.

The city council was surprised and angry when it learned of the loss. Mayor Pro-Tem Ken Cleveland commented, "We should have never been in this market. . . I'm not sure Mr. Sakamoto did anything wrong, so until I find out who did, I am not firing anyone." Councilman William Pendleton said, "Whether we made money or didn't, it was an improper investment. As far as I'm concerned, it was E.F. Hutton's mistake."

Continued on next page



CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY—Representatives from various Asian American groups testified on anti-Asian violence before the Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights on Oct. 10 in Washington. (l-r) Arthur Soong, president, Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund; James Tso, president, Organization of Chinese Americans; and Floyd Shimomura, chair, JACL Anti-Asian Violence Committee. Not pictured: Kim Cook, executive director, Mutual Assistance Associations Consortium.

Chicago JACL Calls Kennedy Immigration Bill 'Racist'

By George Johnston

CHICAGO — The Chicago JACL Board of Directors voted to symbolically oppose the passage of identical immigration reform bills, S. 1611 and H.R. 3143 in its October meeting. "The implications of this bill . . . are clearly racist," said Chicago JACL President Paul Igasaki. The New York-based Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF) and the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) have also raised concerns about the immigration reform bills, which would make modifications in immigration reforms which took place in 1965.

Background

The Senate bill, also known as the "Immigration Act of 1987," was introduced by Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Sen. Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.) Aug. 6. The identical H.R. 3143 was introduced by Rep. Brian Donnelly (D-Mass.). The Senate Immigration Subcommittee heard testimony on S. 1611 on Oct. 23; H.R. 3143 has not yet undergone hearings.

In 1965, Congress enacted legislation to end special preference given to immigrants from Europe, giving people from all countries of the world an equal chance to come to the U.S., with family reunification its foundation. A ceiling of 270,000 people a year, worldwide, was set with a maximum of 20,000 immigrants per nation. Since that time, most of the recent legal immigration has come from Asia and Mexico.

'Adversely Affected' Nations

Part of the opposition to S. 1611 is the criteria for immigrants helped by the creation of 50,000 additional non-preference visas. The additional 50,000 is supposed to help those nations "adversely affected" by 1965 reforms, or immigrants who no longer have living relatives in the U.S. The new legislation would establish a point system based on education, professional background and English language literacy to determine eligibility for . . . 50,000 additional visas for older sources of immigration — especially the traditional ethnic flows from Ireland, Italy, other nations of Western Europe, Canada and other countries.

The point system would require an applicant to total at least 70 points to qualify to register for a visa. The English language requirement would give 10 points to English-speaking immigrants and an additional 30 points

Continued on Page 3

Vincent Chin's Mother Leaves U.S. in Disgust

By Judith A. Lyons

DETROIT — Months after the man who murdered her son Vincent was acquitted by a Cleveland jury, Lilly Chin has decided to return to China—perhaps forever.

"She said she had to leave because she couldn't find justice in this country," said Henry Yee who was appointed by the state to represent Chin's estate. "There were just too many reminders and memories for her here and she was fed up and depressed."

The "justice" that the widowed housewife, and mother of adopted son Vincent, couldn't understand was the jury's May 1 decision to acquit her son's confessed killer Ronald Ebens on charges of civil rights violations.

Ebens and his nephew Michael Nitz got off with light sentences for

second degree murder—three years parole and a fine of \$3,780 each.

The two defendants who had worked in Detroit auto plants, allegedly confused Vincent Chin for Japanese and blamed him for the layoffs in the industry. After a dispute in a bar, Ebens struck Chin with a baseball bat in a parking lot. Four days later on June 22, 1982 Vincent Chin died.

James Shimoura, a Detroit attorney and member of the American Citizen's for Justice, said that Chin, 67, will live in Canton where her 88-year-old mother and relatives live.

"We just got a postcard from her the other day so we know she has arrived," said Shimoura. "It really has been a real hardship and heartache for her these past five years. I guess she just wanted to get away from it all."

He said she continues to use her Oakpark, Michigan house as her legal residence and thinks she will return to the United States someday, "although it may be a number of years before she does."

Yee disagrees with Shimoura and thinks Chin will not return to America and the memories that drove her away.

"She just broke down and said she wanted to go back. I don't think she will return. I don't think so," said Yee.

Yee said that Chin is receiving \$50,000 in life insurance for Vincent and restitution of \$200 a month from Ebens and \$30 a month from Nitz.

"She plans to take the proceeds and build an elementary school in her village with it," said Yee.

—reprinted from Asian Week

JACL Urges Federal Tally of Anti-Asian Violence

By George Johnston

WASHINGTON — Increased anti-Asian violence was the topic at an Oct. 10 hearing before the Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights, chaired by Rep. Don Edwards (D-Calif.). Individuals and groups presenting testimony were Rep. Norman Mineta (D-Calif.); Rep. Bob Matsui (D-Calif.); Floyd Shimomura of the JACL Anti-Asian Violence Committee; Arthur Soong, president of the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund; Kim Cook, executive director of the Mutual Assistance Associations Consortium; and James Tso, president of the Organization of Chinese Americans.

Shimomura's Testimony

Floyd Shimomura, a deputy attorney general of California and part-time teacher at the University of California at Davis School of Law, appeared on behalf of the JACL and reported the reasons why he thought anti-Asian violence re-emerged in the 1980s. According to Shimomura, "First, often overlooked, is the simple fact that America, during the last 45 years, has fought three major wars in Asia . . . In each war, hundreds of thousands of young Americans were sent to Asia to fight an Asian foe . . . The emotional scars and hostility created by such conflicts do not disappear overnight."

"Second, the rapid increase in Asian immigration has caused strains . . . now three out of every five Asians (in the U.S.) are foreign born." Shimomura cited "trade friction caused by competition from Asian countries" as the third cause of anti-Asian sentiment whereby Asian Americans have become the scapegoat.

'National Tragedy'

Matsui testified that existing evidence shows an increase of racially motivated crimes, often referred to "hate crimes," citing a Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission report that showed Asians as 24 percent of all hate crime victims in 1986, up from 14 percent in 1985.

"What today is a pernicious problem," he said, "could soon explode into a national tragedy." Matsui also cited 1986 statistics from Boston, where Asians constitute three percent of the population, but were victims of nearly one third of the attacks police considered racially motivated.

Inflammatory remarks by government officials and American industrial leaders, as well as negative portrayals in entertainment media, were also cited by Matsui as possible causes for increased anti-Asian sentiment. "When a deputy U.S. trade representative refers to the Japanese as 'Nippers' or when the chairman of a major auto manufacturer says that his goal is to 'beat the hell out of the Japs,' tension is created and scapegoats are found," noted Matsui. "The result of these stereotypes—whether created by business leaders, public officials or Hollywood—is that the public lumps all Asians together. The fact that an Asian may be an American becomes of no consequence."

Testimony supplied by the JACL also pointed the finger at the enter-

tainment media, not only for the lack of Asian American and Asian portrayals, but for being negative when shown at all. According to a 1979 study by the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg School of Communications, only 2.5 percent of the characters on prime time television during the period of 1970-76 were Asian. The JACL report also referred to the American Telecommunications Association, which identified recent movies that characterized Asians in a negative manner, including "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom," "Revenge of the Nerds," "Sixteen Candles," and "Gremlins." "Year of the Dragon" was also cited in the JACL report as a movie that "outraged the Asian American community with its negative portrayal of Asian Americans."

Remedies

Matsui felt that documentation was the first step to combat anti-Asian violence. A bill introduced by Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.), H.R. 3193, would require the attorney general to collect and publish statistics for a period of five years "on crimes which manifest prejudice based on race, religion, sexual orientation or ethnicity." According



Robert Matsui

to Matsui, "We simply must know more about hate crimes and their numbers if we are to respond to them effectively." Matsui also felt that stiffer penalties for hate crimes, including crimes of vandalism toward houses of worship and other religious institutions, would be appropriate.

Shimomura, in giving the four-point JACL stance, echoed some of Matsui's sentiments to remedy the situation. The first point would strengthen criminal sanctions for hate crimes, making misdemeanors into felonies, if crimes are committed because of racial, ethnic or religious hatred.

Continued on page 5

NOTICE TO JACL CHAPTERS AND CONTRIBUTORS

1987 Holiday Issue DEADLINE

Monday, Nov. 30 All Ads and Stories

SEE PAGE 6 — BOXSCORE Bulk-Rate Reservations from Chapters Should Be Made Now!

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TREASURER

Continued from page 1

Spokesman Steve Nelson for E.F. Hutton's headquarters in New York said the firm is not responsible and attributed the loss to "the dramatic drop in fixed-income market in 1987."

Declares He Was Misled

Sakamoto declared he was misled. When asked if he was aware that the bonds were bought on margin, Sakamoto said: "It's almost im-

possible to read what's on those confirmation slips." He told the *Times* there are many areas "I cannot get into because of potential litigation. But our office's understanding was that this was a proper investment."

Sakamoto also serves as assistant city administrator. He was appointed city treasurer by the city council in 1980. Before joining Bellflower, he was a grants consultant for several L.A. county communities, including Bellflower, Paramount and Culver City.

Speedy Gift Idea:

'They Call Me Moses Masaoka' from P.C.

William Morrow & Co. is shipping to the Pacific Citizen Mike Masaoka's story, *They Call Me Moses Masaoka: An America Saga*, with Bill Hosokawa, for the Holiday Season sale. The books are expected here by time this notice is in print.

Aware of delays in 4th Class mail service, the P.C. will ship the book as a JACL membership service by 1st Class Priority Mail anywhere within the U.S. at \$22 per copy. To Japan via air: \$41US.

The book is available at book stores at \$18.95.



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Two of Senator's Proposals Accepted

WASHINGTON — Two major proposals authored by Sen. Spark Matsunaga (D-Hawaii), which would aid the flow of international trade and authorize a new round of multilateral trade negotiations, were approved Oct. 22 as House and Senate conferees began negotiations on historic trade legislation.

One of Matsunaga's amendments, approved as a floor amendment to the Senate's Omnibus Trade Bill, would lead to direct implementation on Jan. 1, 1988 of the Interna-

tional Convention on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System, basically setting a common international language among trading nations.

"The adoption of a uniform system will yield substantial benefits to companies involved in international trade," Matsunaga said. "Record-keeping will be simplified, tracking goods between countries will become easier, and compliance with restrictions on imports, such as licensing requirements, will become more certain."

The Harmonized System is scheduled to be put into use on Jan. 1, 1988 by more than 40 of the world's major trading nations. It will be the first time that most of the world's trade will be conducted based on a uniform record-keeping system.

In designing the amendment, Matsunaga said that meeting the internationally set deadline of Jan. 1, 1988 was of critical importance and so he proposed direct implementation in place of earlier language providing for "fast-track" approval procedure.

The conference also approved the renewal of the president's authority to continue negotiations in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks. Present authority expires on Jan 3, 1988. Matsunaga introduced legislation to extend the negotiating authority last February and the legislation was included in the Senate's Omnibus Trade Bill.

"Some of the problems that are casting a long shadow over the international trading system today, such as the distortions in agricultural trade, can only be resolved on a multilateral basis," Matsunaga said, adding that the Senate bill recognized that theory.

Matsunaga, chairman of the International Trade Subcommittee, said acceptance of the Harmonized Code and renewal of negotiating authorities were major legislative goals of the Reagan Administration.

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Education Fund Offers Internships to AA Students

SAN FRANCISCO — Asian American Communities for Education (AACE) has announced the inaugural year of the Jessie Cheng Education Fund.

AACE has served the educational advising needs of the city's college-bound residents since 1979. To date, over 20,000 youths and adults have been assisted with college, financial aid and career information. Over 5,000 have been placed in post-secondary education programs.

AACE is now expanding its services to include internships for Asian American high school students interested in civics and government.

This program is made possible by Jessie Cheng, a Honolulu philanthropist who has been supportive of Asian American organizations.

She makes annual contributions to the Organization of Chinese Americans to make it possible for students in Hawaii to participate in government internship programs in Washington, D.C. She is also active in senior service organizations such as the Golden Age Association. She also promotes Chinese arts and cultural activities.

Through the Jessie Cheng Education Fund, high school seniors in San Francisco can participate in internship programs with the offices of various elected officials and local governmental agencies.

Supervisor Thomas Hsieh said of the program, "Ultimately, this would promote the awareness of Asian Americans in the political process and their interest to participate. This valuable program is the first of its kind in San Francisco and I strongly encourage all eligible students to apply."

Participants will learn how governmental regulations and laws affect the local citizenry, provide assistance to constituents, and work closely with staff on current issues. The program is a semester-long internship with a \$500 stipend. Three students will be selected for the spring 1988 semester, with additional placements in succeeding semesters.

Application deadline is Nov. 31. For additional information and an application, contact AACE, 2012 Pine St., San Francisco 94115; (415) 921-5537.

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46 Years of a Warm Association

By Shig Kahara

In the fall of 1941, weeks before Pearl Harbor, a U.S. Army/JA scene occurred at the Presidio of San Francisco. Lt. Col. John Weckerling, 4th Army G2, was having difficulty persuading Private John Aiso to accept the position of chief instructor of the Japanese Language Intelligence School. Finally, the tall, lean West Pointer stood up, put his hand on John's shoulder and said, "John, your country needs you." John had never been told by anyone of authority that America was his country. To the contrary, John had been told again and again that America did not want him.

In 1923, John had been elected student body president of Le Conte Junior High School in Hollywood, but parents of the Caucasian students forced the principal to cancel student government until John graduated. In John's senior year at Hollywood High School, he won the Southern California debating championship with the right to speak in the national championships in Washington D.C., but he was denied the opportunity on some lame, prejudiced excuse.

So, "John, your country needs you" was a cultural shock, an American cultural shock to an American. But John's response was instantaneous and intuitive, "Yes sir. I'll do the job."

The symbolism of the scene is that Colonel Weckerling was saying to all JA's, "We consider you to be loyal

American citizens. We respect you. We have confidence in you. We trust you. We ask that you perform a vital task in national defense that no other Americans can do. Your country needs you."

Private John Aiso responded as a JA to the Army and his country saying, "Yes, we are loyal. We will serve."

This event established a personal, special and unique relationship between the U.S. Army and JA's. Respect, confidence and trust on the part of the Army and loyalty and service to America on the part of the JA soldier.

Since 1941, this understanding has endured in war and in peace, in concrete manifestations for forty six years.

When the infamous Relocation of 1942 put 112,000 JA men, women and children, the parents, brothers, sisters and friends of the first MIS students and instructors behind American barbed wired concentration camps, the confidence and trust of the Pentagon G2 did not waver, nor did the loyalty of JA men. MIS recruiting teams went into the ten Relocation Camps, to Hawaii and later to Camp McCoy where the 100th Battalion was training and to Camp Shelby where the 442 RCT was training and came out with thousands of volunteers and instructors to continue the vital task.

Six thousand MIS men, a minuscule number among the 25,000,000

Continued on page 5

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IMMIGRATION

Continued from page 1

to those from a list of "adversely affected" nations. Only two nations on the list, Japan and Indonesia, are Asian. The OCA feels this could be discriminatory to Asian immigrants since "... anyone from Canada, Great Britain or Ireland would have an automatic 40-point head start for non-preference visas."

Alterations

The bill is also controversial because it would modify eligibility requirements based on family reunification. According to the AALDEF, the bill "Restricts eligibility for family reunification immigration under the preference system by excluding from second preference immigration eligibility adult sons and daughters of permanent resident aliens, and from fifth preference immigration eligibility married brothers and sisters of U.S. citizens." Further, it "reduces by two thirds, from 64,800 to 21,600 the number of immigrant visas currently made available each year to brothers and sisters of U.S. citizens under the fifth preference, which suffers the largest backlog, largely Asian, of any

immigration preference."

The OCA believes that "S. 1611 has some good features, but also has the potential to turn back the clock. Cer-

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• Chuck Kubokawa, a former Palo Alto City Council candidate, is a new board member of the California History Center Foundation at De Anza College, Cupertino, Calif.

1987 HI Boxscore Goal

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The bulk rate chapters set in bold. Legend.
64 (min) 2 pg 288 3 pg
96 1 pg 384 4 pg
192 2 pg (g) 1-liners

Table listing 1987 HI Boxscore Goal by city/region with page counts and units. Includes cities like Alameda, Arizona, Berkeley, Chicago, etc.

ONE-LINE GREETINGS: 36 (6%)
Table listing one-line greetings by city/region with page counts and units. Includes cities like Boise Valley, Cincinnati, Cleveland, etc.

Los Angeles Japanese Casualty Insurance Assn. COMPLETE INSURANCE PROTECTION.
List of insurance agencies including Aihara Insurance Agency, Anson T. Fujioka Insurance, etc.

• Paula Shimada, a claims representative in the Bellevue Washington District Social Security office, received a Social Security Commissioners Citation on Nov. 5. It is the highest honorary award given to employees who have made a superior contribution to the Social Security Administration. She resides in Kirkland, Washington.

• Irene Kuniyuki was awarded first place in the Seattle Urban League Eleventh Annual Minority Art Exhibition. The Seattle resident's work was a photo titled "Eye of the Sole."

• Masatatsu Yonemura and Yoshio Robert Yamada are to receive Medals of Honor from the Japanese government in recognition of outstanding contributions to the promotion of mutual understanding between the U.S. and Japan.

understanding between the Japanese and American legal systems. Yamada, of Stockton, Calif., and president of Yamada Bros., will receive the Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold and Silver Rays, for his efforts to modernize agriculture, as well as for training others in his techniques.

• Yukio Yano, a research chemist at UC Berkeley, was presented an award in recognition and appreciation for his pioneering work in the peaceful application of nuclear chemistry to the study and diagnosis of human diseases. His efforts have yielded inventions and chemical methods used throughout the world.

• Lloyd Hara, Seattle city treasurer, was re-elected to a 3rd term as treasurer, winning 68,850 votes to his opponent's 19,903 votes.
• Clarence Moriwaki won the city

council position no. 1 in the Seattle suburb of Tukwila, defeating his opponent 549 to 510.

• George S. Iwasaki, an instructor of electronics at North Seattle Community College, received an award of recognition in honor of outstanding contribution to education as a community college faculty member in the Northwest. He received the award Nov. 6 at the first annual NW Community College Conference.

• Lorna Mae Nagata, a fourth grade

teacher in Alhambra, Calif., was named Teacher of the Year for California. She was chosen from among the state's 200,000 teachers. The honor includes a cash award of \$15,000. Nagata, 40, is originally from the island of Maui in Hawaii and has spent all of her 16 years of teaching at Fremont Elementary School. She is married to Carl Nagata, an administrative intern in the Alhambra City School District. They have two sons, Dean and Ian.

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