California Changes Policy for Medi-Cal Patients Due to Receive Federal Redress Payment

SACRAMENTO--Assemblyman Patrick Johnston released late last week an information sheet for those individuals who are receiving Medi-Cal benefits with regard to upcoming redress payments to Japanese Americans. The information sheet has been reviewed and approved by the Department of Health Services which administers the Medi-Cal program, and contains policy changes which were adopted in the past week.

In 1988, a legislative act allowed Medi-Cal recipients to accept redress payments from the federal government without endangering their Medi-Cal benefits. It was the intent of that legislation to allow Japanese American Medi-Cal recipients to receive this long overdue recompense from the federal government without fear of losing their Medi-Cal benefits," said Assemblyman Johnston.

"It was disturbing to me that the Department of Health Services was apparently not aware of this legislation and subsequently adopted a policy in December 1989 which restricted a Medi-Cal recipient's ability to distribute his redress money as he pleased. I did not feel the State should dictate what a person could do with his redress money.

"I am pleased that the Department has revised their policy and clarified the Department for their sensitivity to this issue," continued Johnston.

The new policy allows a Medi-Cal recipient to give away their redress money, if they so choose, anytime during his or her lifetime, providing the money is kept in a separate account and is not commingled with any other assets. Previously, the Department had stipulated that such transfers of money could only occur within a two-month period.

"Because of the last-minute nature of the new policy, there may be a great deal of confusion among social workers and Medi-Cal recipients about the treatment of redress money. I feel it is important Medi-Cal recipients understand the implications of the new policy," said Johnston.

Any person experiencing difficulties with regard to Medi-Cal benefits because of their redress payments, or any person with questions, may call Priscilla Ouchi of Assemblyman Patrick Johnston's office at (916) 445-7931.

NEW LETTER DEALS WITH MEDI-CAL

By Priscilla Ouchi

I n December 1989, the California Department of Health Services issued a letter to all counties about the treatment of redress payments to Japanese Americans as it pertains to the Medi-Cal program on Oct. 4, 1990.

The Department issued a new letter last week that changed its Medi-Cal policy with respect to redress payments to Japanese Americans. The following information is based on the Department of Health Services new policy letter and verbal information received from the Medi-Cal eligibility branch.

The following applies ONLY to those who are on public assistance and/or the Medi-Cal program. Medi-Cal is a California's public health system. Eligibility is limited to those deemed to be impoverished, and is a welfare program.

• Medi-Cal is NOT to be confused with the federal Medicare program which is available to all Social Security recipients.

• Redress payments will NOT affect a person's eligibility for either public assistance or Medi-Cal (pursuant to Assembly Bill 487 which was adopted in 1985). However, any interest or income generated from the $20,000 will be counted as income and may reduce the amount of public assistance benefits or affect a person's eligibility for public assistance and Medi-Cal benefits.

• Peron Enacts Sweeping

Law to Save Amazonia

WASHINGTON: President Bush has enthusiastically signed last week a law which makes permanent the protection of the Amazon rain forest. The legislation was introduced by Sens. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Pete Domenici (R-N.M.) in January. The bill passed the House in May and was signed by the president.

The law, which is a five-year extension of the current program, and extends the program through the end of 1990. The program provides $2 million annually to support conservation projects in the Amazon region.

• U.H. Peace Institute Renamed for Matsunaga

TOKYO: The recently opened Institute for Peace Studies at the University of Tokyo was renamed for University of Hawaii Professor Yukio Matsunaga. The University announced at the dedication ceremony that the institute would be renamed to honor Mansaku, who is the late senator who helped establish the national Institute of Peace of Japan.

The institute was opened in April and is supported by the University of Hawaii and the Japanese government.

• Asia-Pacific Studies for School Teachers Boosted

HONOLULU--More school teachers were to take part in the East-West Center based program to strengthen their Asia and Pacific studies in grades kindergarten through 12 under a $90,000 state grant. The state-sponsored Consortium for Teacher Asia and the Pacific in the Schools will involve private and public school teachers and eight mainland schools, according to project leader David Grossman. He predicted the consortium, now in its third year, will become models for schools across the country.

First 15,000 Checks in the Mail Now

LOS ANGELES--The first 15,000 redress checks in the amount of $20,000 and accompanied by a letter offering a sincere apology, signed by President Bush are in the mail and nearly half (6,000) carry a Los Angeles address, according to Bob Bratt, administrator, Office of Redress Administration. (Some were reportedly received in the mail Monday.)

The San Francisco Event

SIX REDRESS RECIPIENTS

San Francisco, Calif., Thursday Oct. 12 - Five elderly Japanese Americans received redress checks in San Francisco last week from the Justice Department's Great Hall in Washington.

Among the group was 90-year old Isao Nakamura, who received a check for $20,000 for the death of his mother, a 91-year old woman interned in the Tule Lake camp during World War II (1945).

The announcement came during the regional presentation of redress checks. The Justice Department recently sent checks to 15,000 Japanese Americans, or anyone who could prove to a judge he or she was a member of a family who were removed from California to concentration camps during World War II.

NEWS IN BRIEF

PSW JACL Director Sees

Next 'Post-Redress' Issue

LOS ANGELES--Jimmy Tokeshi, recently appointed Pacific Southwest JACL regional director, told the Los Angeles Times last week that the possibility of some type of reparations for African Americans, who are descendents of slaves, has come up.

He noted the Congress bill in the House calling for a federal study on pre-Civil War slavery, supposedly modeled after the Japanese American redress bill.

There are strong parallels between the internment experience and slavery. Both were grounded in race prejudice, and existed because of our political leaders' failure to adhere to human rights. There are differences also. During slavery, there was no redress, no finding compensation and not guaranteed any rights. Even though the atrocities that they suffered for those Japanese Americans were put through, the government has allowed the citizenship difference to blur the issue," Tokeshi commented.

U.H. Peace Institute Renamed for Matsunaga

HONOLULU--The University of Hawaii Institute for Peace was renamed the Spark M. Matsunaga Institute for Peace in recent ceremonies on the UH-Manoa campus. The institute was opened in 1986 and offers an undergraduate degree and education resources for primary and secondary schools. World peace was the dream of the late senator who helped establish the National Institute of Peace, a federally funded research-granting body begun by Congress in 1948.

Asia-Pacific Studies for School Teachers Boosted

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New History Text Adopted for Calif. Schools

SACRAMENTO--The California State Board of Education planning committee adopted a new 5-vote on Oct. 11 for new history books which depart from the traditional format of dates and names for primary and secondary classes. The "melting pot" concept of American diversity as taught to generations of students has been toned out in favor of the "salad bowl" approach. The committee approved Highsmith's "social studies for kindergarten through eighth grade, two eighth grade books, one by Holt, Rosehart & Winston, and the other by Scott, Foresman & Co. Publishers made several corrections after complaints from several ethnic and religious groups, including JACL."
SUSAN A. KAMB OF MALIBU: 'The National' Calls Over a Sansen from 'Sports Illustrated' to Top Post

MALIBU, CALIF.

Back in the '60s on Sunday afternoon, when gridiron was probably the most2-PACIFIC CITIZEN / Friday, October 19, 1990

What started was her interest in sports. It has culminated with her becoming one of the highest positions held by a woman in the world of sports administration—or as she likes to call it, editor-in-chief of The National, the first and only sports daily in the U.S. that kicked off last year.

Susan who attended schools in Malibu (the Kamis for years were the only Japanese American students) in the first graduating class at Malibu Park Junior High and finished Santa Monica High. She was graduated with honors from UCLA in 1974—where her talents in journalism were honed further.

The Los Angeles-born Susan was an accomplished athlete—tennis, soccer and track—and tennis at Santa Monica College.

Her brother, Jim, who died a few years ago, was a screenwriter.

SUSAN A. KAMB

REDDRESS CHECKS

Consented from the First Page

It seems appropriate to me to give second the stop for the weekend of ceremonies in distributing checks. Travelling with my mother, I met a former Attorney General for Civil Rights who called the special occasion "a day to redress the record." Redressing the record for which this Nation was founded and to honor our commitment to uphold them.

Brat recognized the volunteer efforts of communities and individuals and those handing up the collection boxes to the Japanese American; community.

Mio Yotsuda, Mike Matsukis, Alan Nakita; who were eager; Kathy Mushiko of NTC, George Osada, John and Carol Sato, and Miko Sono of JACL.

Other presentations included the Redress checks Friday afternoon at the U.S. Federal District Courtroom in Fresno, 2nd anniversary rededication of the Japanese American National Museum in San Francisco's Hiroshi Tower in Nihonmachi, 15th year of the San Jose Japanese Memorial Center at 12:30; and at Sacramento's Japanese United Methodist Church.

The presentations continued this Thursday in Saturday at the NVC Hall and Malibu, the Hawaiian State Capitol with (attend accommodations.

Changing Diapers,

Pacific Citizen, Friday, October 19, 1990

Mai Ishihara, first woman in the market in Japan is to launch. There are more than 20,000 sales, operated under the name of a company, according to Japanese in Tokyo.

Marie Kamb ...

Salinos Valley, Monterey Peninsula, Watsonville, Carmel, and Pacifica Lido on KONDO SANLINES A very fortunate group of JACL well wishes from Central Coast chapter honoree George Kondo, regional director of Northern California-Wesern Pacific District Council with a retirement dinner at the Carpe Cañada Golf Club in Carmel on Sept. 19.

The warm friendly affair was "An Evening With George." Responding with many fond memories and organizational experience with much gratitude and thanks for a job well done in behalf of the chapter, was George Kondo. David Kusbah, Watsonville, John Kido, Galesville, Thomas Oku, Monterey Peninsula, and Harriwa, Salinas Valley.

Maitre d' Ceremony. Rick West of Monterey surprised Kondo by presenting him with a engraved gold wrist watch for his fifteen years of loyal, dedicated service.

The honor reded in June after dividing the league's single largest district council of 34 chapters that spread from San Francisco, Nevada to Honolulu and Tokyo. Kondo and wife Chie are planning to move from San Francisco to Pennsylvania this year, bringing them closer to her daughter, Jean.

Joy Maramento was recently appointed to succeed Kondo.

L.A. Retirement Home Residents Helping Peru

LOS ANGELES—Eligible residents at the Japanese Retirement Home have presented $850 to Fred J. Wada of Panama Nikkei Assn-USA as aid for Peru.

The sum was originally gathered as funds on the passing away of Wada's stepbrother. But in deference to his wishes, the money was diverted to Panama's National Committee to Peru and as President Fujimori's outreach.

Wilson has been a major fund raiser for PANA-USA's campaign to assist the people of Peru.

"Fusion"—J.A. Anthology Seeks Material for 1991

SAN FRANCISCO—"Fusion, the annual anthology published by the Asian American Studies Department of San Francisco State University, is seeking material from fiction, poetry, creative expres through the Medicial Re-...
Delightful seafood treats. Delicious and so easy to prepare.

Become a Continental Flight Attendant

and turn your educational awareness of the Japanese American experience, and your ability to speak and read the Japanese language into a rewarding career. As part of our team, you’ll enjoy unique travel privileges. Each starting salary of $15.50 per hour for bilingual flight attendants, plus $1 per flight hour for Japanese.

To turn your knowledge of the Japanese culture into a top flight career you must have:
- High school diploma (or 4-year college degree preferred), a willingness to relocate, and the eligibility to work in the United States.
- Physical requirements include vision correctable to 20/30 or better (corrected 20/20 or better), height 5'4" to 6'2" and weight in proportion to height.

Interested applicants please and your resume to: Continental Airline Flight Attendant Recruiting Dept. J.P.O. Box 4748, Houston TX 77210-4748.


LOS ANGELES — The Southwest Regional Office of Japan Airlines has donated $6,622 to date to the Japanese American National Museum, it was recently announced by Irene Hirano, museum director and president.

The contributions, made over a period of four years, are the result of ticket sales supporting its annual cultural seminars which feature noted lecturers from Japan. The airlines will continue to raise funds for the Museum on an on-going basis.

Brock T. Ono, assistant to the vice president and Southwest Regional Manager of Japan Airlines said, “We feel it particularly appropriate that the proceeds from our cultural seminars be used to fund an effort dedicated to defining the history and culture of Japanese in America. We hope that our contributions will be of great importance to the Japanese American National Museum dedicated to recording our heritage.”

Donations from these programs to date break down as follows: $1,800 in 1987, $1,000 in 1988, $1,714 in 1989 and $2,000 in 1990.

The Japanese American National Museum, due to open in late 1991 in Los Angeles, is the first museum in the United States devoted to the history and culture of Japanese in America.

Senior Editor Slated for ‘Report on Fujiyama’

LOS ANGELES — The P.C. senior editor Harry Honda will speak at the next West L.A. JACL/Annenko Journal on Tuesday, Oct. 30, 7:30 p.m., at the Westwood Community Church, 4040 Sepulveda Blvd., Westwood.


In talking about his trip to Peru, last July on Fujiyama’s inauguration, Honda will also analyze the use of Nikkei in Latin America and in the United States.

Japanese Sports System Buys PCL Baseball Club

SAN FRANCISCO — The Japanese Sports System, Inc., which owns the San Francisco Bay Area's Pacific Coast League baseball team, the San Jose Giants, announced Monday it has purchased the Vancouver, B.C., club.

The price: a reported $5 million. Neither side confirmed the deal, except that the Vancouver Blue Jays said the deal was done. The Canadians are a farm team for the Chicago White Sox.

Albuquerque — Randy Shibata of the New Mexico JACL, was elected president of the Board of Directors at its fall meeting hosted by the local JACL, chapter Sept. 14-15.

The evening banquet celebrated the Japanese American centennial of New Mexico. Twelve persons were honored for their contributions to the Japanese American community.

Guests honored: George Taro, George, Randy Shibata of the New Mexico JACL, and Nanee Hayashi, owner of the Imai family’s Gift Shoppe, New Mexico.

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Racism in Japan

EDITORIAL OF THE PACIFIC CITIZEN

T

he buzz-word in Japan these days is internationalization. Just becoming aware of their insular outlook, the Japanese are trying to broaden their horizons. It is now fashionable to learn more about other nations and become more sensitive to their cultures, to overcome the medieval chauvinism that led them to believe they were a chosen people. Unfortunately, the internationalization movement has failed to influence Japan’s political leaders. The latest to fall into ignominy and insensitivity is Senjuku Kajyama, an Old Liberal Democratic Party warhorse who is sadly miscast in the present government as minister of justice.

After Tokyo police seized foreign prostitutes in the Shinjuku red light district not long ago, Kajyama told reporters, the women, like Blacks in the U.S., “ruin the atmosphere of neighborhoods” when they move in.

Several years ago the then prime minister, Yosihiko Nakasone, observed that American rats moving into Japan were responsible for the reduction in the number of parked cars. It was that way years ago when it was a quiet hamlet in a lushly green valley north of Denver and, mostly, it still is even though Longmont has become a community of 50,000 just 40 minutes away by the interstate.

Several decades ago, when their father, Jim and George Kanemoto took over the family farm on Longmont’s outskirts, they did well because the soil was rich, the water plentiful and the sun kind, but mostly because they and their wives, Choye and Lave, worked so hard and tirelessly.

In time, Longmont grew and surrounded the Kanemoto farm. It became more valuable for development than for growing crops. Houses sprang up on land that produced truck vegetables. Some years ago the Kanemotos received a notice that their water supply was about to be cut off.

The Kanemoto family turned to their friends in town who took up their cause. Members of the National Board met with the JACL which was the umbrella group that protected their interests.

The Kanemoto farm was bordered by Interstate 25. As the new Burlington north of Denver grew, the noise of passing trucks disturbed the quiet and serenity of the Kanemoto’s property.

Then the Kanemotos erected what they called the Tower of Compassion, replica of a five-story Japanese pagoda, on one corner of the park. They gave it to the city to be admired for its grace and beauty, and to remind the citizens that compassion should be a very important part of every person’s relations with fellow man.

A few weeks ago Longmont was visited by a delegation from its sister city, China, on the green side of Denver.

The delegation consisted of eight members led by Mayor Fumio Harada. Their base of Longmont took them to Kanemoto Park.

Waiting for the visitors were 300, maybe 500—it is difficult to estimate the number of little kids—from Burlington grade school. They were sitting and standing in orderly ranks, blue-eyed youngsters and redheads and some obviously of Hispanic ancestry. They listened patiently to some brief words and then, on signal, they began to sing in unison.

The song they sang was “Sakura, Sakura,” an old and well-loved Japanese folk tune, the first verse in English and the second in Japanese. It is about the beauty of cherry blossoms blooming in spring and the melody, while simple, has a haunting quality.

Then, with great vigor, they sang “America the Beautiful.”

I think I detected tears in the eyes of some of the normally unemotional Japanese visitors. To be greeted that way in an American “sister” city, 6,000 miles from home, by children who will help run our world decades hence, was indeed a moving experience.

Whether they realized it or not, the children had captured the spirit of the Sister Cities movement that leaps over the miles and crosses oceans, that seeks to bridge differences of language and culture and nationality by understanding and friendship. And yes, comparison.

Jim and Choye and Jane Kanemoto, who had worked so hard and tirelessly, had, in the end, found a share of the moment.

Afterward, when the children filed back to the bus, I heard the voices growing louder and more exuberant. They were singing in unison.

In the end, long ago, a battle had been won. It was then the JACL did not win the battle, but it had started to win the battle, and at times to expense of themselves. This was appropriate. Racism was something that had to be done. It required for all of us to make sacrifices to make the dream happen.

But now hopefully this battle has been won. It is now time for the National Organization to help revitalize the chapters. JACL will succeed or fail not on what we on fellow Board members do but on what the chapter members do.

WHERE DO WE STAND? First, we must build leadership within the chapters. It is a fine idea to have a chapter president who is involved in the political process (such as Kaz Miyashita) or one with a chapter president who helps to revitalize the chapters.

When the chapters are well run, the JACL will succeed or fail on the success of each individual chapter.

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Continued on Back Page

BY THE BOARD
RANDY SHIBATA (MPDC Governor)
Time for Rededication

“Racism had nothing to do with the Japanese being interned during World War II. ... And they weren’t put in ‘concentration camps,’ they were ‘relocated’ to other parts of the country.”—Los Angeles KABC radio talk show host Ray Britten, 2 Oct. 1990

We’ve all heard of the Japanese who, those provably operated after school “cramp” schools to which parents send their children to prepare for entrance exams. The common stories that we hear in the U.S. are that once a Japanese high school student gains acceptance into a top-notch university, he is set for life. The academic competition starts so early that they have Java’s for pre-schoolers. This obsession is that they have to get into a top-notch university, one must come from a top-notch high school; and to get into a top-notch high school, one must come from a top-notch junior-high—for some to attend kindergarten. So pervasive is this pattern in Japan that according to statistics from a few years back, one of every two primary attend Jakarta classes and by junior high, one of every two students attend such after-school classes. In 1986, parents spent some $870 billion in jet private.

And some of us thought we had it tough.

This educational ethos has so permeated the Japanese culture that some unexpected segments of its society have gotten into the act. As far back as 1974, the Asahi Newspaper Group opened up a “culture center” in the Minami-ku area in Tokyo, offering night classes for adults and children to learn about the arts and crafts, music and dancing, cooking and the like.

In The Pacific Citizen 45 Years Ago

TOPAZ. Utah—Births and marriages have far outnumbered deaths and divorces since the center opened on Sept. 11, 1942. According to the report, there were 179 births born and 133 deaths. There were 7 marriages and 5 divorces at Topaz.

SLAIN, Calif.—An eschaton action under the California Alien Land Law was filed by the Monterey County district attorney’s office to forfeit to the state of California 30 acres of land listed in the names of Tom and Minami Miyahara. The suit contended that the present titleholders of the property, valued at about $25,000, are merely dummies for their parents.

BOSTON The army transport Sedalia Victory carrying 102 Nisei servicemen, veterans of the European war theater, docked here last week.
AS a part of our civil rights effort, we have further developed our relationships with other civil rights organizations, because coalition building is extremely important in achieving success in legislation.

During the last biennium, we made a concerted effort to become an organized member of the Executive Committee of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (LCCR). We made this effort because the LCCR is the premier civil rights coalition in the United States and we believed that our efforts would be greatly enhanced in this position. Our six-month effort succeeded with an invitation to serve on the LCCR Executive Committee in May, 1990.

The JACL is the oldest and largest American civil rights organization in the United States. We are not immune to the debate regarding the need for an organization such as ours in the upcoming decade. The proliferation of "hate groups," the continuing trend of violence toward Asian Americans, the growth in Pacific Rim racism, Japanese-bashing, a lessening sensitivity in the area of rights and the changing demographics in the number of Asian Americans all contribute to this need. The JACL must possess the will and the commitment to financially sustain itself so that we can protect the welfare and future of our members.

Through the years, the JACL has relied on its membership dues to support the work of the organization. It has had a number of years since the JACL last went on a major funddriving campaign. At the San Diego convention, the JACL Legacy Fund was established.

The JACL Legacy Fund is a program to raise $1 exemption for chapter leaders and JACL members. We can never fully right the wrongs of the past. But we can take a clear stand against hate and racism. The collection of racial, often violent, hate incidents done to Japanese Americans during World War II.

In enacting a law calling for restituation and offering a sincere apology, our fellow Americans have, in a very false, renewed their traditional commitment to the ideals of freedom, equality, and justice. You and your family have our best wishes for the future.

Sincerely,

AP President's Bush's Letter

Our monetary sum and words alone cannot restore lost years or erase painful memories; neither can they fully convey our Nation's resolve to rectify in justice and to redress the wrongs of individuals. We can never fully right the wrongs of the past. But we can take a clear stand against hate and racism. The next generation is in the hands of the young people, "on and "99" worked to accomplish the JACL Legacy Fund drive in the 1990s? At a time long past, the future work to create the will among us to accomplish the will of the JACL Legacy Fund drive in the 1990s? At a time long past, the future work to create the will among us to accomplish the will of the JACL Legacy Fund drive was getting underway as a means of accomplishing the payment of the fund drive. The JACL Legacy Fund drive was getting underway as a means of accomplishing the payment of the fund drive.

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The JACL Legacy Fund is a program to raise $1 exemption for chapter leaders and JACL members.
BOSTON — Daniel Lam, the first Asian American to run for the Mas­achusetts Legislature, was defeated in his bid for the Democratic nomination for the House of Representatives.

In comments appearing in the San Francisco Asian Week, Lam has been described as "a new and promising statewide candidate who can attract the votes of the "red state" in the years to come." He ran in the Ninth Congressional District and was supported by the state Democratic Party, the Massachusetts Asian Americans Political Action Committee, and several local unions.

Lam, who was born in Hong Kong and came to Massachusetts as a young child, is a 1986 graduate of Harvard College and a 1990 graduate of the Harvard Law School. He is a partner at the Boston law firm of Bingham McCutchen.

Takahashi, Minoru, and Kunitake, both of California, are candidates for the state Senate, and both are supported by the state Democratic Party, the Massachusetts Asian Americans Political Action Committee, and several local unions.

Takahashi, who has been a member of the state Senate since 1986, has served as the Senate minority leader since 1994. He is a member of the Democratic Party and is running for re-election.

Kunitake, who is running for the first time, is a member of the Republican Party and is running for the open seat that was vacated by the retirement of Robert D. Brown, a Democrat who represented the Fifth Congressional District.

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Year: 1986

Michael Takota was awarded the first place in heavyweight division at the 1986 American Judo Tournament held at the Los Angeles Theater Center. His accomplishments in Takeda's short history are truly remarkable. In 1988, he received a hearty award from the AIAA Foundation for his outstanding performance in the national and international competitions, where he placed first in the national and international division. Michael Takota's mental and physical strength are truly awe-inspiring. He has shown marvelous skills in Takeda's training. He is truly an inspiration to all JACs.

The Best and the Brightest of the Class of 1990

Here are the top two profiles of the year's class of National JACL scholarship winners. (See Page 14 for the initial set of profiles.

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