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**Redress: the work is not done**  
page 5

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Friday, March 6, 1992



S.I. HAYAKAWA

## S.I. Hayakawa (1906-1992)

**Controversial but helpful, senator jostled with JACL**

By HARRY K. HONDA  
Editor emeritus

After reading the reams of copy in the media devoted to the late U.S. Sen. Samuel Ichijo Hayakawa, who died Feb. 27 at Marin General Hospital, Greenbrae, Calif., what remains to be said in the *Pacific Citizen* were his tiffs with JACL over the Walter-McCurra Immigration and Nationality Act.

His opposition in 1978 to redress which he called "ridiculous" and individual payments a "\$25,000 handout," as well as his timely boost to urge President Gerald Ford to pardon Iva Toguri, and voting for formation of the Commission of Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians are cited in the book, *JACL in Quest of Justice*, by Bill Hosokawa.

Hayakawa, 85, is survived by his wife Margeant (of Greenbrae), son Alan, Mark (who has Down's syndrome) and daughter Winnie.

In October, 1952, then teaching at Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, his long letter against Issei naturalization bill was published in the *Chicago Shimpō* and also submitted to the Presidential Commission on Immigration and Naturalization.

See HAYAKAWA/page 4

Rep. Norman Mineta comments on colleague's passing/page 5

## 2 Japanese students attacked in San Diego

SAN DIEGO—Two Japanese exchange students were attacked Feb. 22 in Clafremont in what San Diego police are investigating as a hate crime.

According to the San Diego Tribune, three African American teen-agers approached Hidekazu Kobayashi, 20, and Yutaka Ozaki, 20, at 3:30 p.m. while they were on their way to buy compact discs. During the attack, Kobayashi was repeatedly kicked and he suffered a black eye and cracked nose. Ozaki was also struck in the shoulder and right arm. He reportedly said, "I'm sorry," in an attempt to mollify his attackers.

The students are part of a one-month language exchange program sponsored by the Japanese newspaper *Yomiuri Shimbun* at the University of California at San Diego (UCSD). Speaking to the San Diego Tribune through an interpreter, Kobayashi said, "I'm afraid to even walk outside. We came here to learn to speak English. I never thought this could happen."

## In-depth report reveals many misconceptions

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Asian Americans are the victims of pervasive bigotry, discrimination, and even violence, according to two-year study released Feb. 28 by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

Japan-bashing, the commission said, contributes to this widespread problem, and agency called on political party leadership to refrain from "race-baiting" tactics in the upcoming election.

The 233-page report, "Civil Rights Issues Facing Asian Americans in the 1990s," was prompted by a series of 1989 roundtable conferences conducted by the Commission in Houston, New York, and San Francisco. The document outlines 44 specific recommendations for action intended to alleviate the serious problems that beset the rapidly growing Asian American population of about 7.3 million.

In his letter accompanying the report sent to the president and Congress, Commission Chairman Arthur A. Fletcher wrote, "Asian Americans suffer widely the pain and humiliation of bigotry and acts of violence. They also confront institutional discrimination in numerous domains, such as places of work and schools, in accessing public services, and in the administration of justice."

The Commission's report calls for strong moral and political leadership to deal with such complex and deeply rooted problems as bigotry and violence, including murder, that occur with alarming frequency.

### Getting the report

Copies of the report are available free, so long as the supply lasts, from the Commission's Clearinghouse Division, Room 709, 1121 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20425.

## JACL, Law Caucus approve of study

SAN FRANCISCO—The Feb. 28 release of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights report, "Civil Rights Issues Facing Asian Americans in the 1990s," was characterized by the JACL and the Asian Law Caucus as an important first step.

In particular, the JACL hailed the commission's findings that a direct link exists between "Japan bashing" and the increase in anti-Asian prejudice.

In light of growing anti-Asian sentiment in this country coupled with the increasing frequency of violence and threats directed against Japanese Americans and Asian Americans, Dennis Hayashi, JACL national director, said it is noteworthy that the commission decries the need for "moral and

political leadership" from all quarters of society. The commission found that with the escalation of racial tensions in this country, "political leaders have done little to diffuse them, and some political candidates have even exacerbated racial tensions by using racial rhetoric in their campaigns."

"It is important that the commission recognizes and acknowledges the kinds of civil rights issues confronting America's fastest growing minority group," said Hayashi. "While Asian Pacifics are obviously not a monolithic group, there are innumerable issues which unite us. Dispelling

See JACL/page 5

quency.

Blame for the bigotry and violence, the report contends, must be shared by the schools for not teaching about the histories, experiences, and contributions of Asian Americans, by the news media for giving hate crimes directed at Asian Americans too little attention, and by political leaders for lashing out at Japan as the cause of the country's economic problems.

Three factors are cited as the key contributors to the civil rights challenges facing Asian Americans: stereotyping, cultural and language barriers, and inadequate access to the political process.

The "model minority" stereotype envies Asian Americans as hardworking, intelligent and successful but, as complimentary as it sounds, this stereotype has damaging consequences. It deprives Asian Americans of their individuality and humanity in the public perception, which can foster prejudice. It leads people, for example, to overlook the serious social and economic problems faced by many segments of this population, particularly

SEE STUDY/page 5

## Commission's executive summary

This U.S. Commission on Civil Rights statutory report presents the results of a broad-based investigation into the civil rights issues facing Asian Americans that was undertaken as a follow-up to a series of Asian Roundtable Conferences held by the Commission in 1989. Contrary to the popular perception that Asian Americans are a "model minority," the report reveals that Asian Americans face widespread prejudice, discrimination, and denial of equal opportunity. In addition, many Asian Americans, particularly those who are immigrants, are deprived of equal access to public services, including police protection, education, health care, and the judicial system.

The report identifies several key factors contributing to the civil rights problems facing today's Asian Americans.

See SUMMARY/page 5

## Murder of Japanese man remains mystery

### Hate crime or yakuza?

Hate crime, or *yakuza*, or something else? The murder of Japanese real estate investor Yasuo Kato unleashed fears of anti-Japanese violence within the Japanese American community and thrust the small town of Camarillo into the international spotlight, but the facts of the case have left more questions than answers.

The facts of the case are that Kato was murdered Feb. 25 as he unloaded groceries sometime between 9:30 p.m. and midnight. A blood-stained hunting knife was found at the scene, and Kato, a martial arts champion, died with no apparent struggle, of two closely spaced stab wounds to the heart.

On Feb. 9, Kato reported to the police that he received a death threat from two

bikers trying to extort money from him because he was Japanese.

The media attention has been intense. *Pacific Citizen* received calls from NBC News, the Canadian Broadcasting Company, *Newsweek*, the Los Angeles Times, and *L'Indépendante* of Milan, Italy. But after three weeks of intense scrutiny, there are new questions about the murder. Speculation has arisen that the murderer could be a *yakuza* hit. According to the Japanese newspaper, the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, Kato left his company in Japan with considerable debt. Refuting earlier claims by

son Toshiyuki Kato in the Los Angeles Times, Kato did not give his company Hikari Seiki to his employees out of gratitude, but took out and paid off \$886,000 in loans over five years before selling the building for \$1.5 million and

"My concern is that the incident is going to send such fear through the Japanese American and Japanese communities."

Steve Clemons  
executive director, Japan America Society

leaving the country.  
Steve Clemons, executive director of  
See MYSTERY/page 5

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# Pacific Citizen

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**News/ad deadline Friday before date of issue**  
Editor/General Manager: Richard Suenaga  
Assistant Editor: Gwen Muranaka

Editor Emeritus: Harry K. Honda

Advertising Manager: Jim Hensley

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## Calendar

### Colorado

#### Denver

Aug. 3-6, 1992—JACL's 32nd Biennial National Convention, "JACL Solid as the Rockies," Denver. Information: 303/892-6003.

#### Brighton

Through Mar. 31—"Kenjiro Nomura: An Artist's View of the Japanese American Internment," will be at the Adams County Historical Society in Brighton. Catalog available. Information: Patricia Erger 303/659-7103.

#### Utah

#### Salt Lake City

Saturday, March 21—The National JACL Credit Union's annual meeting, 6 p.m., Clarion Hotel, 999 S. Main, Salt Lake City. Cost: \$10 member advance reservations; \$12 nonmembers with reservations; \$15 at the door. Two positions on the board of directors are up for election. Nominations for the positions must be in the credit union by Mar. 14. Brief resume required. Information: 801/355-8040 or 1-800-544-8828.

Saturday, March 21—IDC spring meeting, Clarion Hotel, Salt Lake City, noon to 5 p.m. Information: Randy Harano, governor, 503/889-5532.

#### Arizona

#### Scottsdale

Friday-Saturday, May 15-17, 53rd Infantry Association's 32nd annual reunion, Safari Resort, Scottsdale. Information: Joe Allman, 602/942-2832.

#### California

#### San Francisco Area

Monday, March 9—"Singapore: A Gateway for Your Southeast Asia Trade and Business Strategy," sponsored by University of San Francisco's Center for the Pacific Rim, 2 to 6 p.m., Federal Reserve Bank, 101 Market St. Speakers: Reservations, Information: USF Center for the Pacific Rim, 415/666-6357.

Sunday, April 11—Nisei Widowed Group monthly meeting, 2-4 p.m., 558 Sixteenth Ave., San Francisco. Information: Elsie Uyeda Chung, 415/221-0266, or Yuri Moriwaki, 510/482-3280.

Saturday, April 11—3rd Invitational Golf Tournament, East Bay Nikkei Singles, Tony Lema Golf Course, 28800 Neptune Dr., San Leandro. 18-hole medal play golf tournament for men and women; low net, closest-to-pin and best effort prizes. NCGA, PWGA or club handicap (those with no handicap will use maximum 36 handicap), \$30 entry fee includes electric cart (mandatory) 10 a.m.; registration, 11 a.m., first tee-off, 36-player maximum; deadline March 20. Dinner at clubhouse restaurant, 6 p.m., \$20. Information: Yuko Shihata, 510/352-3115; Hank Hamataku, 510-

525-9048; Tee Yoshiwara, 510/523-5205; Millie Nakano, 510/223-5619.

#### San Jose

Saturday, March 21—New Members Potluck, West Valley, JACL, 6 p.m., chapter clubhouse. Members bring main dish, dessert, beverages provided. New members will be guests. Information: Alko Nakamura, 408/378-8877.

Sat-Sun, April 11, 12—West Valley JACL youth group, "The Next Generation" is hosting a coed volleyball tournament at San Jose State University. Tournament is a benefit fundraiser for the West Valley JACL Seniors Club. Cost: \$100 per team. JACL teams will have priority if registration received by March 14. Tournament welcomes those with limited volleyball experience. Prizes awarded. Information: Daniel Yoshikawa (day) 415/573-6222 (eve) 415/571-8049.

Sunday, April 26—Yu-Ai Kai's 13th annual fashion show, "Colors in Motion," Red Lion Inn, San Jose. Tickets: \$35 each. Information: 408/294-2505.

#### Modesto

Saturday, March 21—Reunion of residents and friends of pre-evacuation Japanese American community of Modesto, Elks Club. Speaker: Cressey Nakagawa. Contact: Modesto Reunion Committee, 1555 Oakhurst Ave., Los Altos, CA, 94024.

#### Los Angeles

Sunday, March 8—Nikkei Widowed group, annual installat, in lunch, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Almansor Court, Saloon 1, 700 South Almansor St., Alhambra. Cost: \$19 (send checks to Ben Morishita, 4145 Tracy St., Los Angeles, 90027. Information Jim Oka, 310/327-8684, or Geni Okada, 310/327-2280.

Friday, March 13—Greater Los Angeles Singles Chapter,AADAP talk on drug abuse in Asian American community, 8:30 p.m., Founders Savings & Loan, Gramercy & Redondo Beach Blvd., Gardena. Information: June Furuta, 213/323-2763.

Saturday, March 14—Improving planning and funding skills workshop for new and developing Asian non-profit organizations, sponsored by The Gas Company and the Asian Planning Council, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.; \$10 per person, including lunch, American Red Cross, 2700 Wilshire Blvd., Information: 213/680-9956.

#### Redress workshops

• San Jose—Wednesday, March 18—Wesley United Methodist Church, 566 N. 5th St., 4 p.m.-7 p.m. (more locations to be announced)

• Los Angeles—Friday, April 13—East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center, 1203 W. Puente, West Covina, 4 p.m.-7 p.m.

## Orange County

Saturday, March 28, So-Phil of Orange County annual fashion show luncheon, Anaheim Hilton and Towers. Charity event features fashion consultant Lois O'Hern. Tickets: Ahrene Lee, 714/531-2666.

#### Sacramento

Saturday, March 14—The Sacramento Tsubaki Dance Club is sponsoring its Spring Dance from 8 p.m. to midnight at the Flora Buddhist Church, 7235 Pritchard Rd. Admission: \$10. Information: 916/481-5403.

Saturday, March 14—Jan Ken Po Gakken's annual Children's Day Session—arts, crafts, music and games, from 9 a.m. Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Church, 6929 Franklin Blvd., Sacramento. Open to children preschool 6th grade. Cost: \$2.50. Information: Yumiko Kitada 916/782-3374.

Saturday, March 21—Off Broadway Dance Club Spring Ging, Sacramento Buddhist Church, 2401 Riverside Blvd., 8 to 11 p.m., \$5 per person. Information: 916/355-2615.

Saturday, April 4—Third Annual Men's Club Ballroom Benefit Dance, 8 to 11 p.m., Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Church, 6929 Franklin Blvd., \$10 per person. Information: 916/355-2615 or 916/421-1017.

**Calendar items must be submitted at least THREE WEEKS in advance of the day of event. Include day or night phone numbers for further information.**

## Reminders

• Free tax counseling for seniors over age 60, Yu-Ai Kai, Japanese American Community Senior Service, Wednesdays, through April 15, 10 to 2 p.m. Sessions for federal and state forms, renter's credit. Appointments: 408/294-2505.

• A Gila River Relocation Camp pilgrimage scheduled for October, 1992, is now being planned. Interested parties should contact Mrs. Helen Mishima, 576-B Manele Lane, Hilo, Hawaii, 96720.

• 23rd Annual Pilgrimage to Manzanar, Saturday, April 25, commemorating 50th anniversary of signing of EO 9066. Chartered air-conditioned buses equipped with toilets are offered. Buses will be available from various locations in the Los Angeles area. Non-refundable \$10 fee. Information: Sue Embrey, 213/662-5102.

• "Perceptions/Reality," 13th annual Asian Pacific American Heritage Festival, sponsored by the University of Southern California, through March 15, art, music, and other entertainment, Hawaiian luau. Information: 213/740-4999.

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## Day of Remembrance events

Through March 22—  
LOS ANGELES—Personal Remembrances: A Visual Art Exhibit (personal artifacts, camp documents). JACCC Dolziki Gallery, 244 S. San Pedro St., 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Through May 30—  
SACRAMENTO—Continuing Traditions—Japanese Americans: Story of a People 1869-1992; History Museum, Stanford Blvd., Old Sacramento.

Saturday, March 14—  
SAN FRANCISCO—Bill of Rights and Japanese American Internment Cases, (High school teachers to present lesson plans), UC Hastings College of Law, 198 McAllister St., 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. (415) 431-5007.

Sunday, March 15—  
SAN FRANCISCO—Asian American 1992 International Film Showcase, (Rei Tajiri's "History and Memory," John DeGraff's "A Personal Matter," Gordon Hirabayashi vs. U.S.), Kabuki 8 Theaters, 1881 Post St., 3 p.m. (415) 863-0814.

Friday, March 27-Saturday, March 28—  
NEW HAVEN, Conn.—Undo Process: Legacy of J.A. Internment, Yale

University D.O.R. (two-day program featuring Hisaye Yamamoto, Don Nakanishi, Sue Embrey, Bert Nakano, Bill & Yuki Kohiyama, Grayce Uehara and others TBA) (203) 436-0661, 436-1154.

Saturday, March 28—  
ALBANY, Calif.—NCRR Workshop: Teaching About the Internment of Japanese Americans, Albany Middle School, 1000 Jackson St., 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., \$5 registration includes bento and handouts, (510) 266-2848 day, 524-2093 evngs.

Saturday, April 4—  
BERKELEY—Symposium: Internment and the Japanese American Community (2 panels), UC Berkeley 145 Dwinelle Hall, 1 p.m. (510) 642-0605, (510) 266-2848 day, 524-2093 evngs.

Wednesday, April 8—  
SAN FRANCISCO—Civil Liberties Act of 1988: Its Significance Beyond the Japanese American Community (panelists: Michael Omi, Paul Isgas, Dean Ito Taylor), USF McLaren Center, 250 Golden Gate (Masonic & Parker); 7:30 p.m., (415) 641-1607.

Wednesday, April 8—  
LOS ANGELES—24th annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, Sue Embrey (213) 662-5102.

662-5102.

Thursday, April 30—  
LOS ANGELES—Grand Opening National Japanese American National Museum, E. 1st & N. Central, (213) 625-0414; gala dinner May 2 (Sat.).

May 9 (Sat.):  
SAN FRANCISCO—Impact of Camps on Family Life (panel), Christ United Presbyterian Church, 1700 Sutter St., 1-4 p.m., (510) 233-9595. [Not wheelchair accessible.]

Friday, May 22-Monday, 25—  
SACRAMENTO—Tule Lake Reunion.

Saturday, May 23—  
DENVER—Annual trip to Amache Internment Camp site.

Sunday, May 24—  
DENVER—Memorial Day observance and Tribute to Colorado Gov. Ralph Carr, Fairmount Cemetery.

Tuesday, May 26-Wednesday, March 27—  
TUESDAY, MAY 26—WEDNESDAY,

# L.A. councilman answers charges of Japan-bashing

By GWEN MURANAKA

Assistant editor

**LOS ANGELES**—Instrumental in the rescinding of the Sumitomo transportation contract for the Metro Green Line, Los Angeles City Councilman Zev Yaroslavsky staunchly defended himself amid charges of being a Japan-basher.

"I've met locally with some members of the Japanese American community locally in an effort to clear the air. Because the fallout of the Sumitomo-Green Line controversy has obviously left a very bad taste in people's mouths, especially the Japanese American community," said Yaroslavsky.

Yaroslavsky said his opposition to the Sumitomo contract was not about Japan bashing, but about economic good sense. "It had nothing to do with it being a foreign firm, it had to do with cost." Similarly, he defended his bid preference proposal which would favor local companies saying, "If we could get 100 jobs here versus Charlotte, North Carolina, we would prefer to have the jobs here."

"I would never do anything consciously to anyway violate or infringe on anyone's dignity, or civil liberties, or civil rights. The last thing that Zev Yaroslavsky is ever going to be justly accused of is unleashing a campaign of hate against Japanese Americans," said Yaroslavsky.

"I think you can take a hardline on the Green Line issue and educate people about not being Japan-bashers at the same time. I don't think the two are mutually exclusive. If they are, we're in trouble."

The councilman noted that since the Green Line controversy he had received a number of anti-Semitic letters from Japanese Americans. "I think our communities need to understand each other better. Our communities have a lot in common, we're all family-oriented, we're all intensely competitive, we all have the old country that we look back to. We're all victims of persecution. As such, there needs to be more common ground. I think all of us need to communicate," said Yaroslavsky.

Yaroslavsky was disturbed by comments by Mas Fukai in the Jan. 31 issue of the *Pacific Citizen* in which Fukai said, "Yaroslavsky (is) very active in the Jewish community, if it was built in Israel, I wonder if he would have had the



ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

Clearing the air with JA community

same complaints." Yaroslavsky, reacting to Fukai's comments, said, "I was appalled by Mas Fukai's comment in the *Pacific Citizen*. It has blown my mind. That, in my community, is viewed as an anti-Semitic comment. I understand Mas Fukai's personal history, I understand his intense feelings at the time he made the comment, but that was uncalled for."

Responding to Yaroslavsky, Fukai called the charges of anti-Semitism "ridiculous" but at the same time "welcome the councilman's overtures to the Japanese American community. "I accept his explanation, but I want him to know that it came out as Japan-bashing as far as the Japanese American community is concerned."

In an example of animosity directed at Yaroslavsky from the Japanese American community, Yaroslavsky showed a fax he had received from an angry Japanese American. In the letter, the writer blamed Yaroslavsky for the recent murder of Camarillo, Calif., real estate developer, Yasuo Kato amid early reports that it might be a hate crime. The letter read, "I hold you personally responsible for this man's death. Your recent action has encouraged the likes of the perpetrator of this crime." The writer of the letter also included a copy of the L.A. Times article about the murder with the caption, "His blood is on your hands!" printed on top.

Yaroslavsky blamed his repu-

tation as a Japan-basher on the media. "The last thing any reporter was interested in the first couple weeks of January was my views on Japan-bashing. And then, when it finally erupted my colleague (Councilman) Joel Wachs, who said this wasn't about Japan-bashing was almost made a caricature of. I must have seen his quote on every network in the country. It was almost as though it was sarcastically reported," said Yaroslavsky.

Yaroslavsky also criticized Mayor Tom Bradley for turning criticism of Japan-bashing into a partisan issue. "I would have preferred that the mayor had called me up and said 'Zev, why don't you come to this press conference and stand with me and condemn Japan-bashing and xenophobic behavior, but he didn't do that. I think Councilman Wachs would have jumped at the opportunity." Mayor Bradley called a press conference in which he accused Yaroslavsky among others of increasing anti-Japanese bias through their opposition to the Sumitomo bid.

Yaroslavsky vehemently denied Bradley's charges saying, "They've got the wrong guy when they say I'm Japan-bashing, they've got the wrong guy when they accuse me of being a racist. They've got the wrong guy when the mayor says I've unleashed the genie of racism and bigotry in this community. I'm sorry, if I had thought I had unleashed it (racism), I would not have unleashed it. We did not unleash it. But they've got the wrong guy."

"It's taken me some weeks to appreciate why some members of the Japanese American community reacted to me personally in that way. I certainly understood why they reacted generally to the situation, but I just need to make it clear. Think what you want to think about Zev Yaroslavsky. Agree or don't agree at my views on the Green Line controversy or bid preference proposal which is another that has been misunderstood and misconstrued. But the fact of the matter is no one can put me in the category of being anti-Japanese or racist or bigoted. That's just absurd in its face and people who know me know that. Obviously, the Japanese American community doesn't know me well enough to know that."

## Drum beat



The San Jose, Calif., Taiko drum ensemble presents music inspired by traditional Japanese drumming in "Spirit of Taiko: Echoes of the Soul," March 27-28, 8 p.m., and March 29, 2 p.m., at the Mayer Theater, Santa Clara University, Franklin and Lafayette. Tickets: in advance, adults, \$18; children/seniors, \$15; at the door, adults, \$20; children/seniors, \$17, available at BASS ticket outlets or call San Jose Taiko office, 408/293-8922.

## Redress funding still needs more support

By DENNIS HAYASHI

JACL national director

During the week of February 17th, I traveled to Washington, D.C. to take part in the symposium convened by the Smithsonian Institution marking the 50th Anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066. This trip offered me the opportunity to meet with various members of Congress and with the Office of Redress Administration (ORA) to discuss the current status of redress payments and to clarify other issues related to the fulfillment of the provisions of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. In particular, discussion focused on President Bush's proposed budget for the Fiscal year 1993 and proposed legislative amendments to the Civil Liberties Act.

Originally, a mandatory advance appropriation of \$250 million was allocated in 1990 to cover payments for the third year of reparations. An initial estimate of the number of individuals eligible for payment was pegged at 60,000. Diligent work by the ORA, however, found that estimate to be low by as much as 15,000 individuals. This meant that the \$250 million originally appropriated needed to be supplemented by an additional \$250 million.

Given the Federal fiscal picture, it was unclear whether the Administration would recommend that such an appropriation be made. Both Representative Robert Matsui (D-CA) and Representative Norman Mineta (D-CA) formally petitioned the ORA and the Office of Management and Budget to include the additional \$250 million.

When the President's budget

was released, it included the recommendation for the additional \$250 million, for a total of \$500 million for the next fiscal year. There was, however, a major catch. The supplemental appropriation was characterized by the Administration as "pay as you go." Simply put, the \$250 million extra for redress must be found somewhere else in the budget, essentially forcing Congress to take money from other domestic programs to fund the supplemental appropriation.

Given the current economic problems surrounding the budget, and other competing programs for funding, the additional funding is placed in jeopardy. And given that there is another Administration proposal, discussed below, that would terminate the program in 1994, the urgency of appropriating the \$250 million this year is self-evident.

For a copy of the Voting Rights Act or the Voting Rights Survey, contact: Language Rights Project, Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California, 1010 S. Flower Street, Suite 302; Los Angeles, CA, 90015.

sional members and the Administration on ways to eliminate the "pay as you go" designation. Support from our community for Congressional members seeking to obtain the supplemental appropriation will be critical given these difficult circumstances.

As for proposed amendments to the Civil Liberties Act, the Congressional Record, dated February 7, 1992, carried legislation proposed by the Administration to significantly amend the Act. The proposed amendments include expanding the eligibility criteria to include non-Japanese spouses and parents interned with spouses and children of Japanese ancestry, thus making them eligible for redress payments. Also proposed are amendments to sunset the Act on September 30, 1993, as opposed to August 10, 1998. There are two proposed amendments dealing with litigation of disputes arising from denial of redress payments. The first covers situations where an heir to an eligible recipient is not reported to ORA by other heirs making a claim to payment. An improperly excluded heir would have to sue the other heirs for any share of the payment, not the Justice Department.

More importantly, another amendment would require that those whose claims are denied by ORA and the Justice Department to file lawsuits only within the U.S. Claims Court, rather than in Federal District Court. Such a limitation would permit legal review of such denials based on existing standards.

Finally, and perhaps most controversially, the Administration has proposed canceling the Public Education Fund as established by the Act to underwrite continuing education about the internment. Although an original appropriation of \$50 million was made, that would now be eliminated. The JACL is concerned about elimination of the Fund, because education about the internment and its historical lessons is crucial to fully understanding the basis for the monetary redress payments authorized by the bill. Continued support for the Fund must remain a high priority.

From my discussion with Congressional members and with the ORA, it is eminently clear that the final phase of the redress program is in doubt. It is incumbent upon us to urge both Congress and the Administration to jointly carry out the promise of acknowledging and correcting the fundamental injustice of the internment.

## Senate hears testimony on voting rights

The U.S. Senate subcommittee on the Constitution completed testimony March 4 on the re-authorization of Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act which expires on Aug. 6, 1992. Section 203 is vital because it prohibits discriminatory voting practices based on language and literacy and significantly in opening the electoral process to language minority citizens.

Section 203 requires some counties to provide registration or voting notices, forms, instructions or other information relating to elections, including bilingual ballots, in other languages. "This is perhaps one of the most significant aspects of the Voting Rights Act," said Kathryn Imahara, staff attorney with the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC). "For example, when citizens naturalize, they are tested for a 5th grade literacy rate, and voting information and ballots are far beyond a 5th grade reading level. So, bilingual ballots and verbal language assistance will significantly increase a potential voter's interest and knowledge of the law."

The rapid population increase of the Asian and Pacific Islander communities due to heavy immigration since 1975 is likely to have increased the number of naturalized citizens who are eligible to



KATHRYN IMAHARA

vote, and they are expected to benefit from a reauthorized Section 203.

"A Voting Rights Survey" was conducted by Jill Medina, education coordinator of the Language Rights Project of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California.

This survey found that 84% of all respondents believe bilingual ballots would be helpful. It was also found that Asian and Pacific Islanders surveyed would be more likely to vote if bilingual ballots and/or verbal language assistance were provided: of the 30% not registered voter respondents 56.6%

responded "yes" they would vote or be more likely to vote if bilingual ballots were provided; and 63.3% responded "yes" they would vote or be more likely to vote if verbal language assistance were provided.

"This survey is significant because it shows us that Asian and Pacific Islanders are more likely to participate in the electoral process if either bilingual ballots or verbal language assistance were provided," Medina said. "It is essential for all eligible citizens to vote, and the barriers prohibiting Asian and Pacific Islanders from voting will be eased with the reauthorization of Section 203."

Medina also pointed out that "it is the director of the Census who is charged with determining the members of a single language minority who do not speak or understand English adequately enough to participate in the electoral process, ironically, the necessary data that will be needed to determine this will not be available until 1993."

For a copy of the Voting Rights Act or the Voting Rights Survey, contact: Language Rights Project, Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California, 1010 S. Flower Street, Suite 302; Los Angeles, CA, 90015.

At present, intense discussions are occurring between Congress-

## James Clavell writing contest open

Short story entries for the 14th James Clavell American Japanese National Literary Award contest are now being accepted.

The contest, sponsored by novelist James Clavell, is open to Americans of Japanese ancestry writing about the Japanese-American experience (including Canada and Latin America).

Submissions for the contest must be original and previously unpublished by a national outlet (2,500 subscriptions or more). A letter stating this fact must be submitted with each entry. Entries must be postmarked by Saturday, May 30, 1992.

Entries should be sent to the American Japanese National Literary Award, 1870 N. Vermont Ave., No. 530, Los Angeles, CA, 90027. Hand deliveries will not be accepted. The contest is open to all Japanese Americans regardless of age. The writer must have at least one parent of Japanese ancestry.

Short stories should be 5,000 words in length or less and must be written in English. Standard plot development is expected and poetry is not eligible. Professional writers and past winners as well as amateurs are encouraged to submit their work.

The first place winner will receive \$1,000.

For a copy of other contest rules, write to the American Japanese National Literary Award, 510 Justin Ave., No. 205, Glendale, CA, 91201.

Winning entry will be announced in June.

The winner will be recognized at the Nikkei Foundation Dinner held in July in Los Angeles.

Juliet S. Kono of Hawaii won the 1991 contest for her entry titled "Soup," a story about a young Hawaiian girl who discovered prejudice against her friend who is of Okinawan ancestry.

## 'Go For Broke' monument design contest reopened

The design competition for a national monument to be erected in the Washington, D.C., area honoring the spirit of Americans of Japanese descent who served in World War II has been reopened, according to the Go For Broke-National Veterans Association (GFB-NVA). Changes in legislation that would authorize the building of the monument had previously caused a postponement of the competition, according to a spokesperson for the organization.

The new deadline for entries is Oct. 15, 1992. Winning designer will be notified on or before Feb.

15, 1993, after full consideration by a panel of judges selected by GFB-NVA.

Estimated cost of the design and construction of the monument is \$1 to \$1.5 million. Only one award will be made—\$5,000 to the top designer. All designs become the property of the GFB-NVA.

Interested parties should write for a copy of the specifications and requirements. James T. Suzuki, chairman, design committee, Go For Broke-National Veterans Association, P.O. Box 358, Woodinville, WA, 98072.

The monument will bear quotes

and statements from U.S. Army generals of that period in addition to quotes from three past presidents of the United States.

Designers are encouraged to exemplify the "Go For Broke" determination of the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in the European Theater, and by those who were with the Military Intelligence Service in the Pacific Theater.

The Go For Broke-National Veterans Association is a non-profit organization, primarily, but not limited to, Japanese American war veterans.

## Youths to participate in Asian Pacific conference

A group of 51 high school students throughout California will participate in the second annual Asian Pacific Youth leadership project April 10-12 in Sacramento.

The statewide conference, sponsored by the Asian Pacific Youth Leadership Project, is an effort to reach out to the younger members of the community to build on their understanding of what it means to be a member of the Asian Pacific community in today's culturally and ethnically diverse society.

Objectives of the project are:

- To encourage Asian Pacific youth to explore opportunities for assuming leadership roles in the political and public service arena.

- To provide a forum for Asian Pacific youth to be exposed to a variety of perspectives on critical issues.

- To foster an environment for the development of positive relationships among Asian Pacific youth from a variety of backgrounds.

The three-day, all-expenses-

paid conference will feature group workshops on leadership development, cultural identity and awareness, the legislative process, and developing public speaking skills. Additionally, students will participate in mock legislative sessions, a presentation on higher education opportunities, and social activities.

More than 800 high school students from across the state applied for the conference. The 51 attendees represent all Asian Pacific Islander subgroups.

centrations camps."

Akagi pointed out JACL had a "justifiable selfish" reason for pushing hard to override President Truman's veto of the bill in mid-1952. Financial support came largely from the Issei, well in their 60s, Akagi said, "because if we don't get citizenship privileges for them within the next five or six years, the whole business becomes meaningless."

Hayakawa had objected to the Act because of fewer quotas for Mediterranean and Eastern European immigrants, more grounds for denaturalization and deportation and belittled JACL for going against the same groups which "helped us in a time of need" during and after World War II. His contention was that "JACL purchased the naturalization rights of Issei at too high a price."

In 1936, then a Ph.D. teaching English at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, Hayakawa was one of the Canadian activists, who appeared before the federal election committee in Ottawa to secure for Japanese Canadians their right to vote in the province of British Columbia. Elsewhere in

### Mineta: 'He was a pioneer'

In Washington, D.C., Rep. Norman Mineta (D-Calif.) expressed his sorrow at the death of former Sen. S.I. Hayakawa (R-Calif.). "Hayakawa's service in Congress was pioneering for Americans of Japanese ancestry. He and I disagreed on many issues. But what we had in common was the belief that California and the U.S. are made stronger when Americans from all ethnic communities join together to participate without discrimination in government and in other public institutions."

the provinces, Canada-born Nisei had full citizenship rights and the franchise, but British Columbia did not and only relented in 1949.

Hayakawa obtained his U.S. citizenship, thanks to the 1952 Act he had opposed. He was born July 18, 1906, in Vancouver, B.C.

## HAYAKAWA

(Continued from page 1)

tion.

Many ethnic, religious, scientific and labor groups testified, either seeking repeal or modification of the Act, which JACL was alone as a civil rights organization lobbying for passage because the Issei were denied citizenship and immigration due to ancestry.

Richard Akagi, testifying for JACL-ADC, reminded that the subject of immigration and naturalization was a primary concern of the organization since it was founded. He said, "For immigrants of Asian origin, the country in which they sought shelter - U.S.A. - provided them, as it were, a house with a rotting floor and a sieve-like roof.... Out of ineligibility to naturalization spouted the infamous alien land laws of the Western states, (and) legal sanction to spread anti-Oriental and anti-Japanese prejudice on the west coast."

"It is small wonder that this kind of atmosphere was ripe for the hysteria (following) Pearl Harbor ... and to America's first con-

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by Gwen Muranaka

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—Lefty Kuniyoshi, 442nd veteran, survivor of "Lost Battalion" rescue

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—Richard Kurohara, 442nd veteran

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—Susumu Ito, 442nd veteran

## SAN DIEGO'S KIKU GARDENS SEEKING MORE APPLICANTS

Kiku Gardens, a 100-unit, Section 8-202 rent-subsidized senior housing project owned & operated by the Nikkei community of San Diego, is seeking additional names to place on its waiting list of prospective tenants.

This list is compiled for seniors 62 years of age & older w/an annual income of no more than \$14,450 single or \$16,500 couple.

The project was opened in Nov. 1983, is professionally landscaped, is located close to shopping & health services, & has maintained an excellent record of safety & security.

All interested persons are requested to call (619) 422-4951 or write to Joe Owashi, chairperson of Kiku Gardens admissions committee, 1260 Third Ave., Chula Vista, CA 91911.

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## Officially speaking



The Wisconsin Chapter, JACL, recently held its inaugural event with guest speaker Judge Lynne Kawamoto, the first Asian judge in Illinois. From left are: Roy Mukai, treasurer; Shiro Shiraga, board chairman; Diane Aratani, ex-board chairwoman; Kawamoto; Art Mejchar, program chairman; Al Hida, 1992 MDC governor and chapter member; Andy Hasegawa, membership chairman. Not present were Jim Miyazaki, 1992 chairman, and Ron Minami, vice chairman.

## STUDY

(Continued from page 1)

poorer, less successful Asian Americans.

The commission report also points out that "Such basic needs as interpretive services to help limited English-proficient Asian Americans in their dealings with government agencies, culturally appropriate medical care, bilingual English as a Second Language education, and information about available public services are largely unmet."

Inadequate political representation also has damaging consequences. "This lack of political empowerment," the Commission believes, "leads the political leadership of the United States to overlook and sometimes ignore the needs and concerns of Asian Americans."

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan federal agency. Arthur A. Fletcher is chairman and Charles Pei Wang is vice chairman. The other commissioners are Carl A. Anderson, William B. Allen, Mary Frances Berry, Esther G.A. Buckley, Blandine Cárdenas Ramírez, and Russell G. Redenbaugh. Wilfredo J. Gonzalez is staff director.

## JACL

(Continued from page 1)

the 'model minority' stereotype attached to all Asian Americans, for example, is a symbolic step in tearing down the barriers before us."

The Asian Law Caucus of San Francisco said, "The report documents the rising tide of anti-Asian violence exacerbated by scapegoating during this economic recession as well as the historical tradition of anti-Asian sentiment and violence in the United States. It also indicates the linkage between these acts and the scapegoating in the media and by politicians against immigrants and Asian nations. The report explores often-neglected issues that Asian Law Caucus has been involved with, including the discrimination against Asian American citizens and residents produced by the employer sanctions law and the plight of battered Asian American immigrant women."

The commission's report addresses many of the problems that have long been priority issues for the JACL as well as other Asian American organizations, including prejudice, anti-Asian violence, and institutional discrimination in the areas of education and health access, for example, employment discrimination, and the lack of political representation and empowerment.

"We believe that all candidates, and in particular those running for national office, must incorporate the commission's recommendations on this issue as part of their campaigns," added Hayashi.

The basic underlying message

is that there needs to be a concerted effort toward advancing civil rights issues which directly and indirectly affect Asian Pacific Americans," added Hayashi. "We urge that the commission's recommendations, which are broad and wide-ranging, be vigorously pursued. Japanese Americans and other Asian Americans must continue to build and work with coalitions. With the rapid growth and evolution of the Asian Pacific American community, we are in a position to change the perception that we lack the strength and finesse to impact issues on a national scale. Our time has certainly come."

## SUMMARY

(Continued from page 1)

Cans. First, Asian Americans are the victims of stereotypes that are widely held among the general public. Perhaps the most damaging of these is the "model minority" stereotype, the often-repeated contention that Asian Americans have overcome all barriers facing them and that they are a singularly successful minority group. This stereotype causes resentment of Asian Americans within the general public and often leads Federal, State, and local agencies to overlook the problems facing Asian Americans.

Second, many Asian Americans, particularly immigrants, face significant cultural and linguistic barriers that deny them equal access to public services and from participating fully in the American political process. Many Asian American immigrants arrive in the United States with minimal facility in the English language and with little familiarity with American culture and society. There has been a widespread failure of government at all levels and of the nation's public schools to provide for the needs of these immigrant Asian Americans. Such basic needs as interpretive services to help limited English proficient Asian Americans in their dealings with government agencies, culturally appropriate medical care, bilingual English as a Second Language education, and information about available public services are largely unmet.

A third, but equally important problem confronting Asian Americans today is a lack of political empowerment. Asian Americans face many barriers to participation in the political process, and the large majority of Asian Americans have very little access to political power. As a result, the political leadership of the United States often fails to address the needs and concerns of Asian Americans.

This summary offers a brief overview of the report's findings, which form the basis for 44 recommendations to strengthen civil rights protections for Asian Americans in areas ranging from bigotry and violence against them, to discrimination in education and employment and access to public services.

**Bigotry and Violence Against Asian Americans.** Bigotry and violence against Asian Americans is a serious national problem. This report recounts numerous incidents of bigotry and violence directed against Asian Americans. These incidents include the vicious bias-related murders of Vincent Chin, Jim Loo, Navrose Moddy, and Hung Truong, and the recent massacre of Southeast Asian schoolchildren in Sacramento, California; attacks on Asian American homes and places of worship; racially motivated boycotts against Asian-owned businesses; racial harassment

of Asian Americans on college campuses; and racial slurs made by public figures.

The root causes of bigotry and violence against Asian Americans are complex. Racial prejudice; misplaced anger caused by wars or economic competition with Asian countries; resentment of the real or perceived success of Asian Americans; and a lack of understanding of the histories, customs, and religions of Asian Americans all play a role in triggering incidents of bigotry and violence. The media, the schools, and the political leadership all contribute to prejudice by promoting or failing to combat stereotypes of Asian Americans, especially the model minority stereotype, by not providing accurate and in-depth information about Asian Americans to the general public, and by failing to exercise moral leadership in this area.

**Police Community Relations.** There are serious fissures in the relationship between the Asian American community and the police that leave many Asian Americans without effective access to police protection and some with the fear that they themselves may become the victims of police misconduct.

For many Asian Americans, recent immigrants in particular, access to police protection is severely limited by their lack of English proficiency. Interpretive services are rarely provided by police departments across the country, and when provided, they are generally inadequate. As a result, limited English proficient Asian Americans are often reluctant to call the police, and when they do, they often have difficulty in making their side of the story known to the police. This miscommunication frequently results in incomplete police reports, and sometimes in police harassment or false arrests of limited English proficient Asian American witnesses.

Few police officers across the country have been given sufficient training about Asian cultures, and as a result, Asian Americans often receive culturally insensitive treatment from police officers. Even more seriously, our investigation revealed that there have been incidents of police misconduct in all parts of the country, ranging from harassment of Asian American youth to cases of serious brutality against Asian Americans. Asian Americans' access to police protection is further limited by the under-representation of Asian Americans among police officers in most law enforcement jurisdictions across the country. This lack of representation severely restricts police access to information about crime in Asian American communities, which in turn hampers police efforts to protect these communities from growing criminal activity.

Some police departments across the country are experimenting with alternative ways of reaching out to the Asian American communities in their cities. These alternative approaches, commonly known as "community policing," have been reported to help bridge the gap between Asian Americans and the police.

**Access to Primary and Secondary Education** — Immigrant Asian American children. Many Asian American immigrant children, particularly those who are limited English proficient (LEP), are deprived of equal access to educational opportunity. These children need to overcome both language and cultural barriers before they can participate meaningfully in the educational programs offered in public schools. Our investigation revealed that the needs of Asian American LEP students are being dramatically underserved. In particular, there is a dire national shortage of trained bilingual/English as a Second Language teachers and counselors.

See SUMMARY/page 7

## MYSTERY

(Continued from page 1)

the Japan American Society of Southern California, said, "So many people want to say here is an obvious manifestation of a hate crime, which is just speculation that the police need to sort out."

Clemens added, "My concern is that the incident is going to send such fear through the Japanese American and Japanese communities. It might trigger other sick people in society and increase the risk of another murder. I'm afraid of that trigger being pulled. If you look at the crime, it doesn't look like the work of a raging lunatic bashing over with racist furor."

Dennis Hayashi, JACL national director, met with Ventura Sheriff's Department officials Feb. 27 to express concern over the incident, but he was also cautious about quickly labelling the murder a hate crime. "We told sheriff's officials that we were trying to find out what evidence existed to suspect the murder might be racially motivated. Aside from the incident reported in the press, he told us there's nothing to support the racial theory." Other community leaders who attended the meeting included Jill Medina, education coordinator, Asian Pacific American Legal Center; Dr. Tsuji Kato, Ventura JACL chapter president; and Jimmy Tokeshi, regional director, Pacific Southwest District of JACL.

Hayashi said that the Sheriff's Department was sensitive to the concerns that this murder might be racially motivated and hadn't ruled it out as a possibility. The same day Hayashi met with the Ventura Sheriff's Department, the FBI offered said it was monitoring the investigation and offered its services. "The level of apprehension in the community is very high. It is important (for the Sheriff's Department), without disclosing the evidence, to make some type of statement on what's going on. If they receive evidence that eliminates race as a motive, it is important to tell it to the general public."

The level of apprehension in the community is very high.

Dennis Hayashi

Clemens, who spoke to many Americans and Japanese about the incident, offered insight into how the murder was viewed differently by both sides. "The Japanese almost uniformly thought it was not Japan bashing; while most Americans thought it was a Japan-bashing incident. I think Japanese had a gut feeling. It didn't sit with what they conceive might happen. The death is very unfortunate, but it doesn't make sense to a lot of people. Japanese, through their human network, were able to get a fix on this guy (Kato) much faster than Americans."

## Hotline announced for Asian Pacific disabled

Los Angeles Councilman Michael Woo launched a new Asian language hotline for the disabled at a scheduled March 5 press conference.

The toll-free hotline will help Asian Pacific disabled people receive information about their rights under the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), and will help property owners and employers comply with the new access requirements.

The recently signed into law ADA act is expected to have widespread impact on disabled people throughout the country. The hotline is the first attempt to provide information to Asian language speakers in California.

In making the announcement, Woo was joined by Alan Woo of Asian Rehabilitation Services and Tina Kerrigan of the Foundation on Employment and Disability.

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## Arts



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## Just for laughs

East West Players present "Very Funny People," an evening of comedy featuring Dennis Dun, Amy Hill, Dan Kwong, Jude Narita, Lauren Tom, and Gedde Watanabe, with George Takei as emcee and Philip Tan Gotanda as host, Sunday, March 8, 7 p.m. Proceeds support the national's oldest Asian American theater. Tickets: \$100, including champagne buffet reception; special Gold Circle seating at \$250. East West Players is located at 4424 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles. Information: John Kobara, 213/206-8962.

## SUMMARY

(Continued from page 5)

Although information on how Asian American immigrant children are faring in public schools is scarce, available information suggests that many Asian American immigrant students perform well by some measures, but are leaving our public schools with serious deficiencies, particularly in the areas of reading and writing, and that some subgroups have high dropout rates.

Asian American immigrant students frequently encounter fellow students, teachers, and administrators who know little or nothing about their cultures and histories. Oftentimes, school officials do not understand their new students and are unprepared to help them cope with their transition into American schools; their fellow students have no background to help them appreciate why their new classmates are different and are likely to react to them with hostility. Asian American students are frequently the targets of racial remarks by fellow students, and are often provoked into physical fights because of their race or national origin. School officials often fail to take appropriate or preventive steps to deal with the racially charged environment.

**Admissions. Discrimination Against Asian Americans in Higher Education.** In the early

1980s, the admit rates of Asian American students to elite colleges and universities fell at a time when the number of Asian American applicants to these colleges and universities was increasing rapidly. Many suspected that colleges and universities were placing ceilings on the numbers of Asian American students admitted and that Asian American applicants were discriminated against in the admissions process relative to white applicants. This report reviewed the admissions discrimination controversy at three universities: Brown University, the University of California at Berkeley, and Harvard University. Internal investigations revealed serious problems both at Brown and at Berkeley, and these universities took steps to correct them.

At Harvard, the issue prompted a Title VI compliance review by the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR). In late 1990, OCR issued its report finding that Harvard had not discriminated against Asian American applicants and that the lower admit rate for Asian American applicants in comparison to white applicants could be explained entirely by admissions preferences given by Harvard to athletes and children of alumni ("legacies"). In finding that Harvard did not discriminate against Asian American applicants, OCR concluded that Harvard's policy to give preferential consideration to legacies does not violate Title VI. Nevertheless,

the issue of the legality under Title VI of legacy preferences remains unresolved. To date there is no established federal policy guidance on when a university admissions policy with a disparate impact by race, color, sex, religion or national origin can be justified under Title VI.

**Employment Discrimination.** Asian Americans face a number of barriers to equal participation in the labor market. Many of these barriers are encountered to a greater degree by the foreign-born, who often confront linguistic and cultural barriers to finding employment commensurate with their education and experience, but even third or fourth generation Asian Americans find their employment prospects diminished because employers have stereotypical views of Asians and prejudice against citizens of Asian ancestry.

The perception that there is a "glass ceiling" barring many Asian Americans from attaining management positions (especially upper-level management positions) for which they are qualified is perhaps the concern most frequently voiced by Asian Americans across the country. Because the choice of whom to put in a management position is usually a highly subjective decision, Asian Americans are vulnerable to managers who are biased against Asian Americans or who subscribe to stereotypical views of Asian Americans as not having managerial skills. The evidence accumulated in

this study convinces the commission that the problem is a serious one and that it pervades both private corporations and government agencies.

Our investigation revealed that many Asian Americans, particularly immigrants, face unlawful discrimination in the workplace because of limited English proficiency, accent, or the desire to speak their native language on the job. Asian Americans with limited English proficiency or who speak accented English are unnecessarily barred from jobs and promotions because of artificially high English proficiency requirements imposed by employers, and many Asian Americans have found the use of their native languages on the job arbitrarily banned by employers when there is no compelling business justification for doing so.

Many Asian Americans who received their professional training outside of the United States have difficulty obtaining jobs commensurate with their education and experience in this country. Sometimes they are unable to provide documentation of their professional training and experience in their countries of origin and are forced to retrain in the United States or to switch careers. In many fields, state professional certification boards have different requirements for foreign-educated professionals than for U.S.-educated professionals, and many Asian American immigrant professionals suspect that the differential treatment they receive as foreign-educated professionals is a pretext for discrimination on the basis of national origin. State certification boards, on the other hand, contend that differential certification requirements are necessary because persons trained abroad often are not trained up to U.S. standards or because it is difficult to ascertain the quality of their training.

The Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA), enacted in 1986, imposes civil and criminal penalties, (i.e., "employer sanctions"), on employers who hire unauthorized workers. Although IRCA also contains provisions aimed at preventing discrimination against foreign-looking and foreign-sounding workers, there is considerable evidence that many Asian Americans, along with other minorities, have been discriminated against because of IRCA's employer sanctions provisions. In addition, many Asian Americans are not aware of their rights under IRCA and do not know where or how to file IRCA-related complaints. The Office of the Special Counsel of the U.S. Department of Justice, which has as one of its duties the dissemination of information about the IRCA's antidiscrimination provisions, directs most of its dissemination efforts towards Spanish language speakers.

The commission has received allegations that Asian Americans are virtually shut out of construction unions in New York City and as a result are forced to take lower paying jobs restoring or repairing buildings. Available statistics confirm that Asian Americans are underrepresented in construction unions in New York City.

Although Asian Americans of both genders encounter employment discrimination based on their race, the barriers to equal employment opportunity may be greater for Asian American women because of their gender. Isolation from their co-workers, ignorance of their rights, and reluctance to complain all make Asian American women, especially immigrants, particularly vulnerable to sexual harassment in the workplace and other forms of employment discrimination.

**Political Participation.** There are very few elected Asian American officials across the country, and Asian Americans as a group have low participation in the political process. This report has identified several barriers to Asian Americans' participation in the political process.

Limited English proficiency is a serious barrier to the political participation of many Asian Americans. Section 203(c) of the Voting Rights Act of 1962 requires states and political subdivisions to provide bilingual election materials in non-English languages when persons of that language group constitute more than 5 percent of the citizens of voting age in a district and have a higher than average illiteracy rate. Asian Americans with a single language almost never constitute five percent of a district's voting-age population, however, and as a result, Asian Americans almost never receive federally mandated bilingual election materials.

In the past, Asian American political power may have been diluted by apportionment schemes that split the Asian American population in an area into several districts and by at-large election systems within districts. As the fastest growing minority group in the nation over the past decade, however, Asian Americans are increasingly becoming involved in the redistricting process, and several redrawn districts across the country have large Asian American populations.

Because of its impact on reapportionment and on the provision of bilingual voting materials, it is critical whether the 1990 Census can provide an accurate count of Asian Americans. As important as the accuracy of the data, however, is their timely release, since the data are critical for gaining support for programs to help Asian Americans. The Census Bureau has agreed to release the 1990 data with

See SUMMARY/page 9

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w/3 story home near National Forest. Prime location. 4600sq ft. 7 bdrm, 3 1/2 bth, 2 frpc, 2 car gar, wood deck & patio, picnic area, fish, golf, schis, hosp & rec w/in 15 min. Excellent invest. \$650K. (714) 585-0457. Fax (213) 469-4935.

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