



# Pacific Citizen

National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League

School's out for  
Nikkei  
—page 5

(75¢ Postpaid U.S.) Newsstand: 25¢

#2676/Vol 115, No. 5 ISSN: 0030-8579 701 East 3rd Street, Suite 201, Los Angeles, CA 90013 (213) 626-6936 Friday, August 28, 1992

## Redress bill gains support in Congress

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Both the House and Senate versions of "The Civil Liberties Act Amendments of 1992," S.2553/H.R. 4551, are awaiting floor action. The Senate Governmental Affairs Committee passed S.2553 on August 5 and the House Judiciary Committee passed H.R. 4551 on August 11. The House bill has 91 co-sponsors and the Senate bill has 10 sponsors to date. Karen Narasaki, JACL Washington, D.C. representative, said that many of the JACL members who had written letters of support to their congressmembers were receiving responses from them citing the lack of committee action as a reason for not taking a position on the bill. Narasaki said, "Since both bills are now out of their respective committees, members of Congress no longer have that as an excuse to not co-sponsor the bill."

The Senate co-sponsors include: Brock Adams (D-Wa.), Daniel Akaka (D-Hawaii), Alan Cranston (D-Cal.), Slade Gorton (R-Wa.), Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii), Bob Packwood (R-Or.), Warren Rudman (R-NH), John Seymour (R-Cal.), Paul Simon (D-Ill.) and Ted Stevens (R-Ak.). Narasaki urged the community to meet with their representatives and senators this month when Congress is in recess and urge them to become a co-sponsor, if they are not one.

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**DIPLOMACY**—Ambassador Takakazu Kuriyama in Denver to participate in the JACL convention discussing current U.S.-Japan relations and Japanese Americans.

**Profile:**  
**AMBASSADOR TAKAKAZU KURIYAMA**  
**CURRENT POSITION:** Ambassador to the United States  
**PREVIOUS APPOINTMENTS:** Ambassador to Malaysia; Counselor, Embassy of Japan, Washington, D.C.  
**EDUCATION:** University of Tokyo; Lawrence University in Wisconsin; and Amherst College in Massachusetts.

## Japanese Ambassador says: Japanese American points of view desirable

By GWEN MURANAKA  
Assistant editor

DENVER—Takakazu Kuriyama, Japanese ambassador to the United States, in an interview with *Pacific Citizen*, said organizations like JACL can help improve understanding between America and Japan. "I think grassroots, people to people exchanges are important even though it's not easy to expand them," said Kuriyama. "Still I don't think there is any other way to improve our mutual understanding than to expand these people to people contacts on all levels. We would like to see everyone participate, that's why organizations like the JACL can play a useful role."

The ambassador, in Denver to participate in the JACL workshop on U.S.-Japan relations, said Japanese Americans can help Japanese nationals better understand America. "I don't think we are in a position to tell you what to do...but certainly, we on our part would look at Japanese Americans as we look on other Americans who are capable of understanding Japan and the Japanese from an American point of view. For that reason, I think that you Japanese Americans are in a very good position to advise us, to let us know how we should interact with America."

Speaking on the sometimes turbulent nature of U.S.-Japan relations, Kuriyama said that both Japan and the United States have to adjust their perceptions of one another.

"Until the mid '80s, America was still the number one world economy. Even though Japan had been rather successful, the Japanese economy was still rather small. Towards the latter part of the mid-'80s Japan became a major economic power, and we saw a relative decline of the United States as an economic power," said Kuriyama.

I think this has made psychological adjustments on both sides rather difficult. On the Japanese side, I think we still think we are not so rich, we are not so big. So there are difficulties in understanding what kind of responsibilities we must take up. On the American side, I think you've been used to being the unchallenged number one. Very often Americans feel that all of a sudden they are facing a big challenge from a superman, which of course is not true."

Citing President Bush's trip to Japan this past January, Kuriyama noted the Tokyo Declaration signed at that time in which both countries pledged to work together on economic and political issues as an indication of positive aspects in U.S.-Japan relations but that this wasn't picked up in the media. "The media took hold of only one aspect of the relationship. The perception was that Bush only came to Japan to sell automobiles."

Kuriyama said that the media in both

See AMBASSADOR/page 4

## Short takes

### Japanese American home vandalized with swastikas

LOS ANGELES—The home of an elderly Japanese American couple in Anaheim was sprayed with swastikas over the Aug. 23 weekend. In the same neighborhood, the home of a Vietnamese American was similarly vandalized. The racial message on the Japanese American home was, "F—YOU NIPPS," accompanied with swastikas. According to Jimmy Tokeshi, regional director of Pacific Southwest District, the letter "W" was also sprayed on the house.

Trisha Murakawa, chair of the JACL Pacific Southwest Civil Rights Caucus, said these recent incidents send "a highly disturbing message in the continuing trend of racial intimidation and violence against Asian Pacific Americans."

### Thai murder case still pending one year later

PHOENIX, Ariz.—A pair of high school students are awaiting trial in the largest mass slaying in Arizona's modern history which occurred a year ago, Aug. 10, when nine Thai Buddhists lay dead, shot execution-style in the back of the head, according to investigating sheriff deputies.

The case has been dogged by claims of coerced confessions, which the court later ruled for three men and released them for lack of evidence.

Originally viewed as a racial hate crime or an international heroin ring operation, detectives suspect robbery as the motive. Following ballistics tests and recovering valuables believed stolen last October from the Wat Promkunaram temple, authorities named Jonathan Andrew Doody, 18 (whose mother is Thai and father is a U.S. serviceman), and Alessandro Garcia, 17, as suspects.

Meanwhile, the Thai Buddhists express no animosity toward the killers, saying that someday those responsible will face "a balancing for their crimes."

## Vietnamese American dies after racially motivated beating

CORAL SPRINGS, Fla.—Luyen Phan Nguyen, a second year pre-med student at the University of Miami, died Aug. 17 of injuries sustained two days earlier in a racially motivated attack.

Nguyen was attacked by a group of party goers after objecting to racial slurs. Detective Jim Milford said the Vietnamese American student was "chased down like a 'wounded deer' and beaten about the head by 15 party-goers." In 14 years this is one of the sickest things I have seen...We saw very little remorse out of the people arrested," said Milford.

Eight white men have been charged with second degree murder and are being held without bail. Initially five men

were charged with the crime. Those charged include: Christopher Anderson, 18; Terry Jamerson, 20; Warren Mills, 18; John Liptak, 18; and Michael Primato, 18. Although one of the defendants is claiming the incident was Nguyen's fault, according to police reports, Nguyen was not aggressive at any point. Eyewitness accounts contained in news reports said that Nguyen attempted to escape his attackers, but was repeatedly punched and kicked in the head after falling. Recently released autopsy results show that Nguyen died from hemorrhage caused when his neck was broken in the attack. The funeral for Nguyen was held Aug. 20.

See NGUYEN/page 12

### Mineta condemns killing, calls for full investigation

SAN JOSE—Rep. Norman Mineta recently added his voice of condemnation to the racially motivated attack Aug. 15 which resulted in the death of Luyen Phan Nguyen.

"My heart goes out to the Nguyen family for their tragic loss," said Mineta. "We cannot afford to let this savage racial murder go unanswered. Crimes of hatred and violence have no

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## IN-SIGHT

by LILLIAN C. KIMURA  
National President JACL

As your newly elected National President of JACL, I would like periodically to communicate with you, our members, through the *Pacific Citizen*. Our members need to have an awareness and an insight into the actions and activities of the national organization. I hope this column will serve that purpose.

So that you can begin to become ac-



quainted with me, I'd like to tell you a little about myself in this and in a column to follow. I am not a "Jane Come Late" to the organization. I joined JACL after graduate school because I thought JACL was the primary spokesperson for our community and because I wanted to be involved in helping to shape what JACL would say and do. My mentor at that time was the beloved Abe Hagihara, who started and guided many young adults in Chicago on the path to community service.

My involvement in the JACL Midwest District Council (MDC) began when the then Governor, Hiro Mayeda, appointed me to serve on the National Human Relations Commission chaired by Raymond Uno. I went on to serve as the First Vice Governor of MDC. During his term as National President, Hank Tanaka appointed me to serve as an at-large member of the National Board for five years in my capacity as MDC Governor. During those years I served as chair of the Long Range Planning Committee and as chair of the Governor's Caucus.

During that time, I was also the president of the Japanese American Service Committee, a social service agency in Chicago which met the social and welfare needs of the Issei. During my tenure, the agency undertook construction of a 200 unit senior housing building, we established a day care center for the elderly and we maintained a sheltered workshop, a senior lunch program and recreational activities.

In September of 1980, my job took me to New York City where my involvement with the New York Chapter led me to serve as its president since 1986.

During the 1988 and 1990 bienniums, Cressie Nakagawa appointed me chair of the Pacific Citizen Board, as a member of the Select Committee on Resolution #7 on the "No-No Boys" and as chair of the Select Committee on Organization Structure.

I've had the good fortune to have had the opportunity to serve JACL in a variety of ways and now I look forward to serving you as your National President for the next two years.

Next, I'd like to share with you a little of my professional life with the YWCA.

No. 2,676

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## Pacific Citizen

701 E. 3rd St., Suite 201, Los Angeles, CA 90013-1817  
(213) 626-6936 / fax 626-6213

(ISSN: 0030-8579) The Pacific Citizen is published by the Japanese American Citizens League, 701 E. 3rd St., #201, Los Angeles, CA 90013-1817, weekly except the first week of the year, biweekly during July and August, and semi-monthly in December. Annual subscription rates: JACL members: \$12 of the national dues provide one year on a one-per-household basis. Non-members: 1 year - \$25, 2 years - \$48, 3 years - \$71, payable in advance. Additional postage per year-foreign: \$12 US. Air mail-US, Canada, Mexico: \$30 US. Japan/Europe: \$40 US. (Subject to change without notice.)

National headquarters: 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115, (415) 921-6229

Editorial, news and opinions expressed by columnists other than the National President or National Director do not necessarily reflect JACL policy.

Second-class postage paid at Los Angeles, Calif., and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGE TO: Pacific Citizen, 701 E. 3rd St., #201, Los Angeles, CA 90013-1817

News/ad deadline Friday before date of issue

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## Calendar

### Canada Vancouver

Fri.-Sun, Oct. 9-11—The National Association of Japanese Canadians (NAJC) sponsors HomeComing '92, a conference for Japanese Canadians. Hotel Vancouver. Registration fee: \$145. Information: NAJC, 404 Webb Place, Winnipeg, MB R3B 3J4; 204/943-2910.

### Washington Olympia

Through Sept. 2—Kenjiro Nomura, "An Artist's View of Japanese American Internment." Washington State Capitol Museum. Information: June McKivir, Nomura, project director, 206/587-2925.

### Arizona Phoenix

Thursday, Oct. 22—National Society of Fund Raising Executives' "From Ideas to Action...the Basics of Fund Raising" a minority outreach workshop. ASU Mercado location (5th and Monroe), 8 a.m. Registration: \$50. Information: Mark Trujillo, Central Arizona Shelter Services, 1209 W. Madison, Phoenix AZ 85007, 256-6945.

### Utah

#### Salt Lake City

Saturday, Oct. 10—Davis High School Alumni and Friends Reunion, Little Angel Hotel & Towers, 500 S. Main St. Salt Lake City. Cost: \$30 per person. Information: George Hirabayashi, 3042 S 1000 W Syracuse, Utah, 84075. 801/773-2285. Hotel reservations: 800/453-9450.

### Idaho

Friday, Oct. 2, through Saturday, Oct. 3—Japanese American Internment conference commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Minidoka Relocation Center at Hunt, Idaho, sponsored by College of Southern Idaho, Twin Falls. Speakers: Cressley Nakagawa, Roger Shimomura, Bill Hosokawa, Lonny Kaneko, Dr. David Adler, Raymond S. Uno, and Dr. Robert Sims.

### California

#### San Francisco Area

Through Sept. 5—Paintings by Nisei artist Yayoi Aline Shibata on exhibit, 871 Fine Arts, 250 Sutter St., Ste. 450, San Francisco.

## Festival dance



Sahomi Tachibana performs "Genjoraku," as a part of a dance festival Monday, Sept. 7, at the Kidspace Outdoor Stage, 1111 SW Broadway, Portland. One Free admission.

Sat.-Sun., Sept. 12-13—East Bay, Sacramento, San Francisco and San Jose Nikkei singles groups are co-sponsoring a picnic at the beachfront property of the Tom Yuki family in Pescadero. Cost: \$4. Information: East Bay-Gloria Morita 510/524-0101. Sacramento-Anne Miyasaka 916/391-9252. San Francisco-Fran Chan 415/386-6872. San Jose-Karen Yamada 408/982-1111.

Fri.-Sat., Sept. 18-19—The Asian Art Museum of San Francisco and Theatre of Yugen present the Nomura Kyogen Theatre of Japan, Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness, San Francisco, 8 p.m. Cost: \$30, \$24, \$14. Tickets: City Box Office (141 Kearney) 415/392-4400 and all BASS outlets 510/762-BASS.

### Fresno

Through Sunday, Nov. 22—Fresno Metropolitan Museum's "Country Voices: Three Generations of Japanese American Farming." 1555 Van Ness Ave. at Calaveras, Downtown Fresno. Mon.-Sun. 11 a.m. Admission: adults \$3, seniors \$2. Information: 209/441-1444.

## Los Angeles area

Thursday, Sept. 3—Marina JACL general meeting, Burton Chase Park, Marina Del Rey, 7:30 p.m. Topic: "Stress Management" by speaker Carolyn Okazaki, MSW. Donation: \$2.00. Information: Alice, 310/324-0582.

Monday, Sept. 7—Up With People, presented by Toyota Corp., Marse Auditorium, El Camino College The Torrance Cultural Arts Center, 3330 Civic Center Dr., Torrance. Tickets: \$10. Information: 310/781-7171.

Friday, Sept. 11—Fund-raising dinner for Onward, Calif. Mayor Nao Takasago's campaign for the 37th State Assembly District, sponsored by the Japanese American Republicans. Guest speaker: Matt Fong, Fourth District representative of the State Board of Equalization since 1991. Event held at Stevens Steak House, 5332 Stevens Place, Commerce, Calif. \$75 per person. 6:30, 10:30 hour. RSVP by Sept. 4. Information: Alvin Kusumoto, 213/977-1796, Kei Higashi, 818/337-5707, or Norma Tazoi, 714/632-2635.

Saturday, Sept. 26—Marina JACL beach party. Information: Staci 310/323-8683 or Alice, 310/324-0582.

Saturday, Sept. 26—Japanese American Historical Society of Southern California's annual awards dinner, Shogri-La Restaurant, 6 p.m. Honorees: Sue K. Embrey, Miles Hamada, Harry Honda, Koyasan Boy Scout Troop 379, and UCLA Nikkei Student Union. Cost: \$35. Information: Iku Kiriama 310/326-0600.

Saturday, Sept. 26—Orange County Senzei Singles annual picnic, La Palma Central Park. Cost: members \$7, non-members \$10, children \$5. RSVP by Sept. 14 to 818/441-4114.

## '92 Reunions

Fresno Nihonmachi Reunion: Sept. 25-27, Fresno Holiday Inn Centre Plaza, 2233 Ventura Ave., Fresno, CA 93721. Fri. registration (\$45. Ms. Chisato Ohara, 1041 N. 8th St., Fresno, CA 93702). Sat. 10 a.m.-noon, "Country Voices" exhibit, Ansel Adams photographs of Manzanar, Fresno Assembly Center, Wall of Remembrance at Metropolitan Museum, 1555 Van Ness; 12-4 p.m. picnic, Woodward Park; 6 p.m. special hour / Reunion dinner, program and dance, Centre Plaza; Sun. 8 a.m. breakfast; 10 a.m. Church services at both Buddhist and United Japanese Church.

Heart Mountain Reunion IV: Sept. 11-13, SeaTac Red Lion Hotel, Seattle. Placer County H.S. Nikkei Alumni: Sept. 19-20, Holiday Inn, 5321 Date Ave., Sacramento, Calif. Tomio Sasaki (916/456-2595).

Stockton Assembly Center 50th Year: Sept. 4-7, Stockton, Calif., La Quinta Inn (800/331-5900), Lodi Motel Inn (209/334-5422). Topaz Camp 50th Year: Sept. 4-6, Hyatt Regency, Burlingame, Calif.; Contact: Tomi Gyotoku, 826-38th Ave., San Francisco, CA 386-5607, (415/386-5607) or Sumi Ozawa Sugihara (510/758-3049).

UC Berkeley Class of 1942's 50th anniversary: Sept. 15; Convocation; California Japanese American Alumni Big Game reunion: Nov. 21, Holiday Inn, Emeryville. Information: CJAAA, Mo Noguchi, P.O. Box 15235, San Francisco, CA 94115-0235, (415/499-1666).

## For the record

• Two National JACL scholarships (see the July 31-Aug. 7 issue) were improperly identified and should have read: Masao and Sumako Iano Scholarship (on page 1) and the Nisebuoro Albers Memorial Scholarship (on page 8).

• Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii) addressed the Sayonara Banquet at the JACL national convention in Denver (see Aug. 14-21 issue) and told about his experiences during World War II as a member of the 442nd Infantry, which included a visit while in training at Camp Shelby, Miss., of the internment camp at Rohwer, Ark. He was never interned as was indicated in the story and photo caption (see page 6).

• Emergency resolution 1, Supreme Court nominations, (see Aug. 14-21 issue) was adopted by the National Council and not rejected as indicated (see page 4).

## Start a tradition



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## JACL conference seminars

## Former skinhead tells of fight with hate

by GWEN MURANAKA  
Assistant editor

DENVER—Neo-Nazi, skinheads, Ku Klux Klan—personalities of hate in its most incendiary form. At the anti-Asian violence workshop at the JACL national convention, former skinhead, Greg Withrow, told a Japanese American audience what it means to hate. Other participants include: moderator Dennis Hayashi, JACL national director, and Richard Hirschault, of the B'nai B'rith, Anti-Defamation League.

Dressed in a white tank top with several tattoos showing and speaking in quiet, hesitant tones, Withrow described an upbringing which encouraged him to hate other peoples. My father hated Oriental people, he hated Asian people, said Withrow. The reason he didn't go to Europe (during World War II) was because he wouldn't fight European people. He fought on Okinawa and told the joy of killing other races—and that was my father.

Withrow had his first encounter with the Klan while in prison and went on to work with Tom Metzger, leader of the white supremacist movement, the White Aryan Resistance. Explaining the white supremacist doctrine,

## Anti-Asian violence update

Dennis Hayashi, JACL national director, stressed the importance of keeping records of hate crimes in these times of increasing anti-Asian violence. "It's a very critical time for organizations like JACL," said Hayashi, who noted that JACL is actively monitoring anti-Asian violence.

The national director showed several versions of public service announcements produced by the National Network Against Anti-Asian Violence, encouraging victims to report crimes.

Regarding the June 1992 Supreme Court ruling in the

Withrow said, "That which is not of the Aryan race is a non-sequitur and should be exterminated or ignored. Non-whites are competitors for the limited resources of the planet."

Though it sounds clichéd, love was the reason Withrow turned away from the Klan. Relating his love affair with a waitress whose parents fled Nazi Germany during World War II, Withrow said, "It took away the veneer that you

case of Robert A. Viktora (R.A.V.) versus St. Paul, Hayashi said, "The R.A.V. case has people scrambling to determine the effect on their hate crime statutes. R.A.V. planted a seed of doubt—the whole ground of civil rights legislation is shaky."

Hayashi also updated the audience on the status of the JACL case, in which a German American challenged the constitutionality of redress. Advocating continued vigilance, Hayashi said while the case was thrown out of a lower court, there is a chance that the Jacobs case may be argued before the Supreme Court.

are only animals, you are just flossam. Whole aspects of rethinking opened up for me."

Now it's almost a fascination for me to experience other cultures, said Withrow, who noted that he has acquired a taste for Asian food and an interest in martial arts.

When Withrow left the neo-Nazi movement he did so publicly and suffered severe retribution includ-

See HATE/page 4

## Coalitions key to passage of voting rights act

By KAREN NARASAKI

Washington D.C., representative

The Senate and the House of Representatives both recently passed by overwhelming margins, the Voting Rights Improvement Act of 1992, a law which reauthorizes and expands the coverage of Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Section 203 requires counties to provide bilingual voting materials and assistance to Hispanics, Asian Americans and Native Americans in communities which meet certain threshold tests. For the past 10 years no Asian Pacific American community has been covered outside of Hawaii.

The expanded coverage provided by the bill means that bilingual voting materials must be provided, in many cases for the first time, to approximately 200,000 Asian Americans in nine counties. Japanese Americans will be covered in Honolulu and in Los Angeles. Chinese Americans are covered in three counties in New York (Kings, Queens and New York) and in three counties in California (Los Angeles, Alameda and San Francisco). Filipino Americans will be covered in Los Angeles, Honolulu, Maui and Kauai. Vietnamese Americans will be covered in Los Angeles and Orange County, California. Without the expanded coverage, only Chinese Americans in San Francisco and Filipino Americans in Maui and Kauai would be covered.

A coalition of Asian Pacific American organizations began working on this legislation over 18 months ago. The coalition in-



cludes the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA), Chinese American Citizens Alliance (CACA), Asian Law Caucus (ALC), Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California (APALCSC), Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF), Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA), Asian Americans for Equality (AAFE) and the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA).

These Asian Pacific American organizations worked in a broad voting rights coalition with the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, National Council of La Raza, Native American Rights Fund and the National Puerto Rican Coalition. Without their strong support, the expanded coverage which greatly benefits the Asian American community would not have become a reality.

The bill was viewed by most members of Congress as an "Hispanic" bill and simple extension of the bill for 15 years was seen as relatively easy to win. Expansion of coverage in a political climate that has been increasingly anti-immigrant, was seen by some as a risky move. The original formula required that the language minority group have limited English proficient citizens of voting age equal to at least 5% of a county. This meant that Asian Americans and Hispanics in large urban areas such as Los Angeles, Chicago and New York were not being covered, despite their large absolute numbers. The new alternative standard requires coverage once the relevant population numbers 10,000 in a county.

The Washington, D.C. offices of JACL and OCA helped to represent the Asian Pacific American organizations within the broader voting rights coalition in D.C. Our presence was one of the keys to preserving coverage for Asian Americans. The natural tendency, was to compromise on the new formula whenever the bill was threatened. However, any compromise would have had a disproportionate effect in reducing coverage for the Asian American communities and would have meant that there would be no coverage for Japanese Americans.

The organizations based outside of Washington, D.C. successfully mounted intense grassroots lobbying efforts to support the expanded coverage. They were successful in obtaining usually conservative Senators and Represent-

See COALITIONS/page 4

## Small kid time



## Gwen Muranaka

JACL Regional Director  
Central California

Responsible for implementing the JACL Program for Action in the Central California district. The position is located at the CCDC Regional Office in Fresno.

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## AMBASSADOR

(Continued from page 1)

countries can do a lot to improve perceptions and defuse misconceptions. "The media can really play an important role by trying to remove the myths and let people know what the facts are. I think ironically, the recent economic slowdown in Japan has some people saying this has attenuated the superman image of Japan; after all Japan is human."  
"Media can convey a balanced, objective view. In the Japanese media as well, if one keeps reporting only on drugs and urban problems then everyone (in Japan) will think America is bad."

Discussing Japan's gradual emergence as an international power the ambassador likened the nation to a man who has worked himself up from poverty to become wealthy, but still does not behave like a successful man. "Since he has reached his goal, things have to change—his whole outlook has to change and this is the big challenge for the Japanese," said Kuriyama.  
"We have had a great deal of difficulty reeducating ourselves. For example, during the Gulf War, the world expected Japan to act together with other countries in defending peace in the Middle East and many in Japan had difficulties understanding the kind of responsibilities Japan had with the United States and the United Nations."

But the ambassador also noted that Japan eventually did give \$13 billion to the allied forces and

also sent minesweepers into the Gulf after the war. While Japan has been hesitant in entering the world political arena, it has begun to do so. "Now we are moving from passivity to a more active role, but change is not easy for Japan," said Kuriyama.

Other international issues Japan has become involved include, peacekeeping efforts in Cambodia and helping monitor the nuclear power program in North Korea. "We have enacted a bill which will allow our self defense forces, for the first time in post-war history, to go abroad to participate in U.N. peacekeeping operations. So the mission is limited; nevertheless, it is a significant departure from what I would call Japan's passive posture to war—the outside world," said Kuriyama.

Discussing Japan's sometimes aggressive past as it tries to move to a peaceful future, Kuriyama said, "I think the Japanese people's commitment to the post-war constitution itself is a demonstration of the Japanese people's belief that we should never make that mistake again. Unfortunately during the war, particularly during the period leading up to World War II through our colonialism, our militarism, through our aggression we caused havoc in the Asian world."

Looking inward to Japanese society, Kuriyama talked of a "5 year plan" in Japan to reduce the average number of working hours from 2,100 hours currently down to 1,800 hours. In the United States, the average worker puts

in 1,900 hours per year. "People argue that this may not be realistic, but that's the goal," said Kuriyama.

My argument (working long hours) is different from work ethics. To work hard, to produce something which is of high quality is one thing. It's something else to work long hours. Nobody wants to work long hours anywhere in the world."

Like many in America, Kuriyama and the Japanese government are looking with anticipation to the U.S. presidential elections. While familiar with the policies of the Reagan/Bush era, Kuriyama insists that the Japanese are not hesitant about Democratic nominee Bill Clinton. "Gov. Clinton has been in Japan several times as governor of Arkansas. He tried to invite Japanese business to his states, so he knows Japan," said Kuriyama.

"From what he's been saying in public, he's a well-balanced internationalist, he's not a protectionist. What we are most concerned about is the possibility of America becoming protectionist. So whoever becomes president, whether he be Democratic or Republican, we would like to see that president continue to oppose protectionism both in this country and internationally."

"We don't think Governor Clinton is a protectionist, he's an internationalist with a good understanding of the world in which we live. So we are comfortable with him as we have been with the Republicans," said Kuriyama.

## REDRESS

(Continued from page 1)

already, and to pass the legislation as soon as Congress reconvenes September 8. Following is a list of the house co-sponsors.

Neil Abernethy (D-HI), Chester Atkins (D-MA), Les AuCoin (D-OR), Richard Baker (R-LA), Howard Berman (D-CA), Ben Blar (R-Guam), Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Albert Bustamante (D-TX), Tom Campbell (R-CA), William Clay (D-MO), John Coyne (D-CA), Ronald Dellums (D-CA), Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Julian Dixon (D-CA), Mervyn Dymally (D-

CA), Don Edwards (D-CA), Eliot Engel (D-NY), Lene Evans (D-CA), Eli Felsenberg (D-AS), Dante Fascell (D-FL), Vic Fazio (D-CA), Edward Feighan (D-OH), Hamilton Fish (R-NY), Richard Gephardt (D-MO), Benjamin Gilman (R-NY), Newt Gingrich (R-CA), Henry Gonzalez (D-TX), Frank Gurnelli (D-NJ), Charles Hayes (D-CA), George H. H. Bush (D-NY), Joan Kelly Horn (D-MO), Frank Horton (D-NY), William Hughes (D-NJ), Henry Hyde (R-IL), Andrew Jacobs (D-IN), Jim Jontz (D-IN), Joseph Kennedy III (D-MA), Dale Kildee (D-MI), Michael Kopetski (D-OR), Peter Kostmayer (D-PA), Tom Lantos (D-CA), Richard Lehman (D-CA), William Lehman (D-FL), Mel Levine (D-CA), Tom Manton (D-NY), Nick

Mavroules (D-MA), Matthew Martinez (D-CA), Robert Matsui (D-CA), Jim McDermott (D-WA), Michael McNulty (D-NY), George Miller (D-CA), John Miller (R-WA), Norman Mineta (D-CA), Pat Mink (D-HI), John Moakley (D-MA), Jim Moody (D-WI), Sid Morrison (R-WA), Robert Mrazek (D-NY), Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), Maxine Waters (D-NY), Wayne Owens (D-UT), Leon Panetta (D-CA), Ed Pastor (D-AZ), Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Charles Rangel (D-NY), Bill Richardson (D-NM), Robert Roe (D-NJ), Ed Roybal (D-CA), Bernard Sanders (I-VT), George Sangmeister (D-CD), Charles Schumer (D-NY), Jesse Serrano (D-NY), David Skaggs (D-CO), Stephen Solarz (D-NY), Fournie Pete Stark (D-CA), Louis Stokes (D-OH), Gerry Studds (D-MA), Al Swift (D-WA), Esteban Torres (D-CA), Edolphus Towns (D-NY), Delene Unsoeld (D-WA), Bruce Vento (D-MN), James Walsh (R-NY), Maxine Waters (D-CA), Ted Weiss (D-NY), Pat Williams (D-MT), Howard Wolpe (D-MI), Ron Wyden (D-OR), Sidney Yates (D-IL) ☐

## COALITIONS

(Continued from page 3)

tatives to support the legislation and defeat weakening amendments. Senators Seymour R. CA), D'Amato (R-NY) and Specter (R-NY) all voted for final passage.

These organizations also worked with county and state officials to allay their concerns about costs and implementation. Los Angeles posed a particular problem since the new standard meant that the county would be required to provide assistance in 5 languages, 4 of them Asian.

Kathy Imahara of APALCS and Steve Lizardo of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund worked together with the County to come up with a cost effective plan. Yvonne Lee of CACA and Doreen Wong of ALC worked with the Secretary of State's office on registration assistance issues and with the registrars for San Francisco and Alameda on implementation issues. AALDEF and AAPE worked with the county and city officials in New York.

The Asian Pacific American members of Congress played their usual key roles. Representatives Norman Mineta (D-CA) and Patsy Mink (D-HI) made supporting statements during the House debate in support of the bill and against amendments offered by conservatives which would have reduced coverage for Asian Americans. The bill, Congressmen Mineta worked particularly hard to help defeat an

amendment that lost in the end by only two votes. Congresswoman Mink was part of a delegation who met with Majority Leader George Mitchell to urge him to overcome Senator Simpson's stalling tactics and move the bill in the Senate. Congressman Robert Matsui (D-CA) also was a strong supporter of the bill. Senators Inouye (D-HI) and Akaka (D-HI) provided strong statements in the record, helping to defeat Senator Simpson's (R-WY) crippling amendments.

As often asked question these days is whether the various Asian Pacific American communities can work together to achieve common goals. This is an example of coalition work at its best. As Dennis Hayashi, JACL national director, stated, "This is one of the first important steps in ensuring that the growing political force of the Asian Pacific American community will be realized." The next step is to make sure that the Asian Pacific Americans take advantage of the language assistance and vote.

The legislation was introduced in the House by Congressman Jose Serrano (D-NY) and cosponsored by other members of the Hispanic Caucus and Congressman Don Edwards (D-CA). Republican support was led by Congressman Hamilton Fish (R-NY) and Steven Schiff (R-NM). The legislation was introduced in the Senate by Senator Simpson (D-WY). Other leading Senate cosponsors include Senators Hatch (R-UT) and Kennedy (D-MA) ☐

## HATE

(Continued from page 4)

ing having his throat slit, nails driven through his hands and his jaw broken in four places. "The only reason I am here, (is the) guy that had the gun to my head couldn't do it. Ironically, a black couple saved me," said Withrow.

Withrow estimated that the white supremacist movement has become more sophisticated since he left, with recruiting increasing among women and young people. Asked about hearing others get out of the neo-Nazi movement, Withrow said, "Most of them are beyond redemption. The younger ones, quite possibly can be educated. Intellectually trying to reach a racist is a waste of time," said Withrow.

Hirschault recounted how he met Withrow, who had publicly disavowed the white supremacist movement and had been savagely beaten for his defection. "Greg puts a human face on what it is like to wage a battle against extremism," said Hirschault. The ADL leader told of how Withrow asked for his help to "rub out a few swastikas" that were tattooed on his body. "Bigotry, racism, prejudice are indivisible. We must stand together," said Hirschault who works with Withrow against neo-Nazism ☐



## Opinions



From the frying pan

BILL HOSOKAWA

## Hiroshima remembered

As old anniversaries have a way of doing, the anniversary in early August of the first nuclear bomb detonated in anger slipped by this year before I could acknowledge it. But I would be remiss if I did not tell you this story.

Last spring, we took three of the grandchildren to explore their roots in Japan. They were Steve and Stephanie Bostright and Tiffany Harveson, youngsters who by their names would not be identified easily as of Japanese origin. Not to mind. They enjoyed their experience immensely.

On the itinerary was one day in Hiroshima, all that could be spared on a hurried trip. The first half of the day was spent at the atomic bomb museum which is the centerpiece of Peace Memorial Park. The museum was redone a few years ago, and it is still a vivid reminder of the horror of a city reduced to a radioactive waste.

In the afternoon some of the younger members of the Fukuda family drove us out to their home in a peaceful little valley inland from Hiroshima proper. Michizume Fukuda, the patriarch, is my cousin and I

get to see him about once every five years.

On my first visit to the Fukuda home many years ago Mrs. Fukuda told me what happened the day the bomb fell. Now, I repeated that story to the grandkids as we stood in the Fukudas' front yard looking toward the low hills that separate the home from the city.

That August morning, Isaid, Mrs. Fukuda was working in a rice field near her home when she was startled by an enormous thundering sound, louder than anything she had ever heard. Presently a huge black cloud boiled into the sky on the other side of the hills and a harsh, hot wind swept over the valley. The sky darkened. Frightened, she hurried home where she found most of the glass broken. Even more distressing, the roof had been lifted off the walls and dropped at an angle.

Hours later a stream of horribly burned people, blackened skin hanging from their arms, their eyes glazed, staggered up the dirt road in front of her home. Many begged for water. She helped them as best she could.

Next day she knew what she had to do. She took her two-wheeled hand cart and went into Hiroshima in search of relatives. Miraculously she found them all, dazed but not seriously injured, and led them all back to the farmhouse where we now stood.

The grandkids listened attentively and gazed in awe at the hills that had protected the farmhouse and at Mrs. Fukuda who is now a smiling, wrinkled grandmother, her back bent like so many elderly Japanese farm women.

When we returned home to the States I asked the grandkids what they remembered most about their 10 days in Japan. Was it the astonishing hustle and bustle of Tokyo, the friendliness of folks in Yamagata, the ancient splendor of Kyoto, the speedy comfort of the Bullet Train? Osaka Castle? The shabu-shabu dinner or the hot springs bath? The subway rides, kamikaze taxis or getting lost in Tokyo Station?

There was no hesitation. It was the visit to Hiroshima and learning about what happened the day the bomb fell. ☐



East Wind

BILL MARUTANI

## The Fugu Plan

LIKE MANY OTHERS, I've read bits here and there of a 1940 episode in Kovno, Lithuania, involving a Japanese consular official, Senpo Sugihara, who, on the eve of being ousted by Soviet forces which had taken over Lithuania, issued in a period of 19 days some 6,000 Japanese visas to refugee Jews, thereby making it possible for them to escape the on-going pogroms of both the Nazis and the Soviets. It is an intriguing saga of an official who apparently acted very much on his own, thereby risking severe reprimand if not punishment upon returning to Nippon. Indeed, somewhere I recall reading an item that Consul Sugihara was relegated to some nondescript position in Japan, although subsequently restored to a higher level. I believe I saw a brief obituary about the Consul.

What a story he had to tell!  
BEFORE THE 1940's Japanese governmental officials, with the military's endorsement, had created a plan aiming to settle and develop Manchukuo with the talent and capabilities of Jews. It will be remembered that by the mid-1930's, Japan had assumed control of Manchuria and had

installed a puppet emperor, Henry Pu Yi—whose story Hollywood produced under the title "The Last Emperor." And although Japan was able to colonize Manchukuo with a number of Nippon-jins, the primitive frontier conditions and the bone-numbing cold were not conducive to large colonies of Japanese making the place "home." And so the need to attract others to develop this frontier. This Jewish resettlement program was the "Fugu Plan."

JAPANESE AWARENESS of the Jewish people was limited, due in large part to its prolonged isolation from the Western world, prior even only by the arrival of Commodore Matthew Perry's black ships in 1853. An early highwater mark was reached when the Vice-Governor of the Bank of Japan (Baron Korekiyo Takahashi, who was doomed to be subsequently assassinated by military hothands) was in the United States during the 1904 period. Relations between Japan and Czarist Russia were somewhat strained, each engaged in staring down the other and eventually going to war. In order to stockpile needed resources for such a struggle, Baron Takahashi came to the United States to

raise funds, but without much success. Until he happened to be seated at a dinner next to Mr. Jacob Schiff, a Jewish partner in the New York investment firm of Kuhn-Loeb. It was the start of a close and long-lasting relationship, with the Baron's daughter spending three years with the Schiff family. Ultimately, loans totalling \$100 million were realized, with Mr. Schiff becoming such a hero in Japan that Emperor Meiji took the unprecedented step of inviting this gai-jin (foreigner) for lunch at the Imperial Palace.

AND THUS in the early fall of 1940, in an out-of-the-way place in Lithuania, we find a lower echelon Japanese diplomat frantically stamping and signing 6,000 visas for Jewish refugees. Following the end of the Pacific War in 1945, boatloads of hikiage-sha's (repatriates to Japan) arrived in Japan, largely to Hario (Sasebo, Nagasaki Prefecture) then Maizuru (Kyoto-fu). Every so often among them would be a Jewish Caucasian.

One wonders whether some of them received one of those 6,000 visas which had been issued by Consul Sugihara in Kovno, Lithuania. ☐

## Letters

Letters should be brief and are subject to editing. Please sign your letter but make sure we are able to read your name. Include mailing address and telephone number. You may fax letters to 213/626-8213 or mail them to Letters to the Editor, Pacific Citizen, 701 E. 3rd St., Ste. 201, Los Angeles, CA, 90013.

## A delegate's thoughts on the '92 convention

Denver may indeed be the turning point for JACL. For the first time, the national officers of the JACL are almost entirely composed of the younger generation. We heard it remarked that the average age of the group was 32 years. The only "older" person is Lillian Kimura, our new president who is age 62. Lillian is the *obasan*, and she said that she did not mind *obasan*, but please do not call her *obasan*.

Lillian will bring the strength of her maturity to the young group. We will wait and see how the actions of the new officers carry out the promises of their campaign literature. We older Nisei have passed the torch and the destiny of the Organization is in their hands.

We hope that they will never forget the pioneers who, with their personal sacrifices and unselfish deeds, made JACL possible: among them in the earliest years—Dr. Thomas Yatabe, the first elected national JACL president (1934-36); Saburo Kido, wartime president (1940-46); Sim Togsaki, our national treasurer in those early years; Walter Tsukamoto, our legal counsel; Jimmy Sakamoto, blind editor of the *Japanese American Courier*; and Clarence Arni of Seattle. Later came George Inagaki, Hito Okada, Min Yasui and Mike Masaoka.

Along the way, JACL has made mistakes in judgment, but these were honest mistakes in the sincere belief that they were for the ultimate good of all Japanese Americans.

We have confidence that our new officers will, by their actions, carry on the traditions and principles of JACL for the ultimate good of all Japanese Americans.

Fred Y. Hirasuna

Fresno, Calif.

Mr. Hirasuna was introduced during the convention as a delegate to the first national JACL Convention held in Seattle in 1930. He is 84.

## Have Nisei forgotten the other internees?

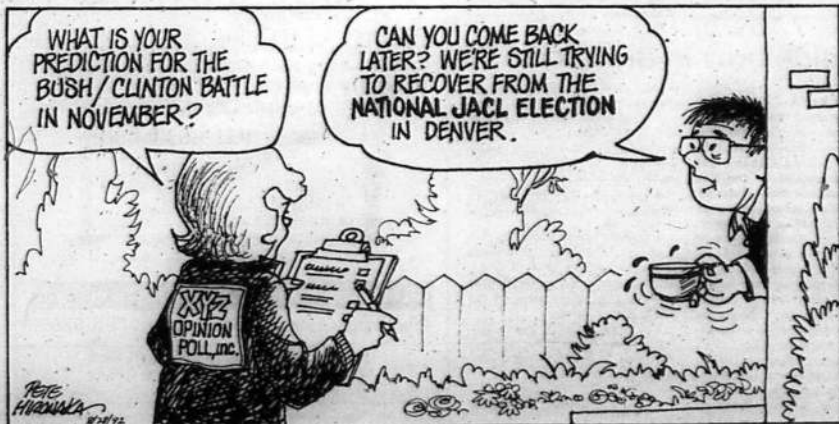
I read with concern Karen Narasaki's article which appeared in the June 19th issue of *Pacific Citizen*. "Redress stalls in Committee." Since Congressman Levine had been so attentive to responding to an earlier request for his support, I thought I would write him again to provide us with some insight into the situation and where the Redress program is headed. I have enclosed a copy of my letter to the Congressman.

It appears that the third and final age group for consideration under the original Redress program might not receive their entitlement. I have not seen much support from the media or from fellow concerned Issei and Nisei internees, who by now have received their Redress payments as the first and second age groups. It seems as if they have turned their backs on the "youngest" group, now that they have purchased their luxury cars and gone on their once-in-a-lifetime vacations. Please excuse my sarcasm, but we in the younger group are the ones who were robbed of our infancy, toddler and childhood years behind barbed wires.

Can we once again push more aggressively to emphasize the importance of the support and passage of HR 4551? It would not be fair to discontinue the Redress payments before ALL internees have been recognized.

Darleen A. Fujita

Los Angeles, Calif.





## Report of the national president

Life after redress

## A quest to define JACL's future

By CRESSEY H. NAKAGAWA

The following article is a review and "State of the Organization" message from outgoing President Cressey Nakagawa, presented at the 32nd JACL Biennial Convention. Nakagawa characterized his four years in office as a new "foundation for the future of JACL," and called upon the organization to reshape American attitudes towards Japanese and other Asian Americans as people... and to improve person-to-person relations within the circle of people of color and outside of that color circle. Here are key portions of his report:



CRESSEY NAKAGAWA

The theme of this convention—"JACL—Solid as the Rockies"—succinctly provides what I believe is a good snapshot of the current condition of our organization.

To understand why this description of the organizational condition is sound, we must understand that at our National Convention in Seattle in 1988, HR 442 became reality. Redress legislation was signed by President Reagan on Aug. 10, 1988; the day our convention adjourned. Thus after our 30th Biennial National Convention, the question that appeared in the minds and vocalized from the lips of many JACLers was: What is there after redress?

My responses were several: that we still have redress appropriations to accomplish before the redress program can be finally completed; that human relations problems in Japan for Japanese Americans will not disappear automatically with the enactment of redress legislation; that our education system and textbooks need revamping in order to create an understanding of the American constitutional crisis that occurred with the Japanese American internment camp experience 50 years ago; that the rise of economic power in Asia, particularly in Japan, will exacerbate tensions in human relations for Japanese Americans and other Asian Americans with other segments of the American population.

The organizational challenges for the past four years have been: (1) what should be the relevant goals and objectives for the future of JACL; (2) what financial base can we build for the future of JACL; (3) what can we do to improve our national working relationship on mutually agreed issues with other national civil and human rights organizations; (4) what can we do to proactively improve the dialogue between JACL, Japanese Americans and Japan so as to avoid American backlash against Japanese Americans and other Asian Americans from trade tensions or otherwise; and (5) what should be done to improve the organizational linkage between chapters and national.

This State of the Organization report is presented to set forth the highlights of the organizational and personal responses to the organizational concerns that have been the focus of JACL for the past four years during my two terms as your National President.

## Long Range Planning: Program for Action

For too long, the organization had operated without a prescribed set of goals and objectives. To accomplish the task of identifying these goals and objectives and, as well, to reassess our organizational mission and purposes, a process was needed to be established whereby the Long Range Planning Committee could address some very fundamental concerns of the organization.

The effort to achieve this strategic plan for the JACL was long and arduous, spanning the entire 1988-1990 biennium. In the process, every JACL District Council participated in formulating recommendations. Finally, the JACL mission, goals and objectives recommended by the Long Range Planning Committee were reviewed, accepted and prioritized by the National Council in San Diego.

During the 1990-1992 biennium, the Program for Action provided the blueprint which guided the work of the National Board and the staff. Great credit is due Henry Tanaka and his committee for their efforts and for the quality of its final product.

The development of the Program for Action has addressed the question of what it is that the organization does on a programmatic basis during each biennium. What remains is the manner, or how, the organization effectively and efficiently carries out the Program for Action. It is for this reason that we put into place the Select Committee on Organization Structure. The National Board directed the committee to review JACL's governing and operating structures and to submit findings and recommendations which would strengthen all segments of the JACL. In undertaking this task, the committee, chaired by Lillian Kimura, has submitted a set of recommendations on organization structure which have been approved by the National Board. The recommendations reflect structural changes that will better enable the JACL to achieve its vision and implement its Program for Action.

(Editor's note: the reorganization proposal was defeated at the convention but will be reexamined and reworked for discussion and review by membership.)

## Long Range Funding: JACL Legacy Fund

One of the most important JACL projects initiated in the 1988-1990 biennium... was the ultimate creation of the JACL Legacy Fund which was adopted by the National Council at San Diego in 1990. With a goal of raising at least \$10 million over three years, as of June 30, 1992, approximately \$3.5 million have been raised. Even though we are still below the original goal it is important to continue our fund-raising efforts so that the JACL has reliable sources of future income to sustain its important work.

## Long Range Coalition Work:

The work we undertake as an

organization must extend beyond our own community and beyond our own interests. The divisiveness in our society tells us that we must reach out to create understanding about our community and about Asian Americans... The following is a sampling of some of the coalitional work accomplished during the past four years.

During the 1988-1990 biennium, we made a concerted effort to gain a seat on the Executive Committee of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights. We made this effort because the LOCCR is the premier civil rights coalition organization in the United States and because our effectiveness would be greatly enhanced in this position. In May, 1990, JACL was invited to serve on the Executive Committee, a position we still hold.

In June, 1991, members of the JACL National Board hosted a meeting with the national leadership of both the American Jewish Committee and the Organization of Chinese Americans. This unique meeting culminated a year long effort of planning... The value of this meeting was in what we were able to learn about each other and the opportunity it provided to establish a solid working relationship among our leaders. We have since joined with the American Jewish Committee in their national newspaper campaigns which appear in the *New York Times* and elsewhere denouncing racism.

In August, 1991, I traveled to New York prior to attending the Tri-district meeting in Philadelphia. My purpose in New York was to meet with national representatives of the American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League at their respective national headquarters. This was yet another opportunity to establish organizational working relationships and to possible joint programming between our organizations.

In July, 1990, I was invited to attend and participate in the national convention of the Organization of Chinese Americans. This was followed by an appearance to deliver a keynote address at the 1991 OCA Convention in Houston, Texas.

Beginning in August, 1990, we publicly began denouncing acts of anti-Arab American sentiment following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. We continued to admonish against anti-Arab American sentiment during the Persian Gulf War in 1991.

In October, 1991, our National Board took action to urge the repeal of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 3379, a resolution adopted in 1975 which equates Zionism with racism. In doing so, we joined in and supported the position of the United States government. This position was also supported by Japan shortly thereafter.

On September 19, 1991, at the request of the Organization of Chinese Americans, we urged the Postmaster General to issue a stamp commemorating the 50th anniversary of the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act in the belief that such a stamp would provide important educational value on the experience of Chinese Americans. The commemorative stamp has been approved.

See REPORT/page 6

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## REPORT

(Continued from page 7)

### Long Range Concerns: About U.S.-Japan Relations

At the 1982 Gardena Convention, the National Council adopted a resolution mandating that the JACL "become involved in matters of concern in the Japanese American partnership" so long as the involvement, either in image or in fact, does not become "a front or propaganda for Japan." This was reaffirmed as a priority program of JACL at the 1984 convention in Honolulu through the adoption of Resolution 9 introduced by the Sacramento Chapter.

At the 1986 Chicago Convention, the National Council adopted Resolution 6 introduced by the South Bay Chapter. That resolution charged the National Council gathered there to create a plan for our involvement in U.S. - Japan relations. No such plan was enacted at the convention.

In 1988, at our Seattle Convention, the National Council adopted four resolutions bearing upon U.S. - Japan relations.

Resolution 1 introduced by the Midwest District Council was adopted to direct JACL's involvement in U.S. - Japan relations to protect the human and civil rights of Americans of Japanese ancestry and of all people.

Resolution 8 introduced by the Pacific Northwest District Council was adopted to create the U.S. - Japan Educational Committee. The committee was empowered to recommend educational programs and activities to the National Board. Since 1988, this committee has acted to present educational workshops on understanding the U.S. - Japan relationship at our national conventions.

Resolution 17 introduced by the Nikkei Leadership Association expressed the concerns of JACL on allegations regarding Japanese violations of civil and human rights towards Korean residents in Japan. Direct communication of our concerns regarding this international civil rights matter was presented to the government of Japan.

Emergency Resolution 12 introduced by the Washington, D.C. Chapter resolved that JACL should urge and help the Japanese Government and Japanese people to understand and become more sensitive to human and civil rights as understood by Americans. The relevant portion of ER12 reads as follows:

"And be it further resolved that the Japanese American Citizens League call upon the Japanese Government and people, and especially its Ministry of Education, to develop a program to promote sensitivity to human and civil rights as understood by Americans; that various quasi-governmental trade, industry and commercial associations be constantly and continuously warned by the Ministries of International Trade and Industry, Finance, Agriculture, Foreign Affairs, and others involved in such oversight operations about not humiliating minority Americans, for instance, by producing, exporting, displaying and promoting articles and merchandise offensive to good taste and human values;"

During the past four years, the following steps have been taken to advance our interest in U.S. - Japan relations as set forth within the policy guidelines of JACL.

● In February, 1989, I participated in a live interview on CNN with Patrick Buchanan, as moderator. The focus of the program was on the question of whether the President should attend the funeral of Emperor Hirohito. Because Howard Garber, an outspoken foe of redress was on the same program, I appeared to defend the redress program while concurring

with Patrick Buchanan that the President should attend the Emperor's funeral.

● In October, 1989, I visited Japan. The purpose was to develop a better understanding of the Japanese perspective of U.S. - Japan relations through close person-to-person relationships. As a part of the trip, I met with the Japan Chapter at the Foreign Press Club. I urged the chapter to help create a better program of education on U.S. - Japan for NHK created an opportunity to show our redress videotape in Japan. A visit then to the Japan Times gave us the opportunity to enjoy a reduced subscription rate to the International Edition of the Japan Times. A visit then to the rabbi of Japan clarified what appeared to be an upsurge of anti-Semitism through popular publications.

● In December, 1989, after several meetings with Consul General Shunji Yamai in San Francisco to open a dialogue on U.S. - Japan issues, I participated in a meeting between the Consul General and the Greenline Coalition. The purpose of doing so was to foster a better dialogue between the parties where the coalition was desirous of pushing Japanese banks to invest within low income urban communities.

● In February, 1990, I was invited to speak in Atlanta, Georgia before the annual meeting of Japanese Consul Generals, the ambassador and selected Japanese business representatives from the 14 regions where offices are situated. The subject matter of my speech was "Why Japanese Americans Are Not Involved in U.S. - Japan Relations." As I was told by the Ambassador, this was the first time in 27 years of such meetings that anyone from outside of that circle of Japanese government and business interests had been invited to speak to them.

● In May and June, 1990, working with the offices of the Consul General and our U.S. - Japan Educational Committee, we had the Honorable Michio Mizoguchi, Japanese Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Pacific Rim participate in our U.S. - Japan workshop at the San Diego Convention. In an extraordinary and frank presentation, Ambassador Mizoguchi described how JACL can contribute to the betterment of relations. The workshop dialogue summary which was printed in an edition of the Pacific Citizen in July, 1990, sets forth Ambassador Mizoguchi's conclusions as follows:

"The JACL should continue to be good and useful citizens of the USA. In line with the competitive Western society, the JACL should speak out both publicly and privately and express their views. You should not be an advocate of Japan for you are not Japanese but Americans. You should be well-informed and give honest opinions including criticisms of Japan's shortcomings. Do not criticize Japan just to demonstrate you are loyal Americans but give good balanced views; talk of U.S. - Japan relations not only to Americans but also to the Japanese here in the U.S."

● In October, 1990, I was in Washington, D.C. for the redress ceremony at the Department of Justice. On that occasion I visited Ambassador Ryohji Murata to convey to him the serious concern that the JACL had about the negative remarks of Justice Minister Kajiyama towards African Americans. He asked me to present any proposals that could help avoid such problems in the future. I did so in a letter dated November 13, 1990.

● In January, 1991, I was in Washington, D.C. to review the redress program with the Department of Justice. On that trip, I received a telephone call from

Ambassador Noboru Matsunaga, former Ambassador to the United States, about American reactions to the increase of Japan's financial contributions to the Gulf War. Encouraged by Ambassador Matsunaga to do so I visited Ambassador Murata.

That visit and discussion with Ambassador Murata involved the question of what Japan might do, if anything, about improving Japanese understanding of diversity and race relations. We also discussed the impending 50th anniversary commemorative activities surrounding Pearl Harbor. I suggested that a timely apology by Japan could decrease the build up of tension that would surely arise as December 7th drew near. Although Ambassador Murata did not believe such an apology would be possible, several newspaper articles shortly thereafter contained news "teasers" about such a possibility.

● In August, 1991, I was invited to address a forum in Tokyo which sought an explanation of how our redress program differs from the German program of payment for Nazi victims of war. Discussions with Japanese historians, lawyers and other people at the forum provided a great deal of insight into Japanese wartime history.

● In November, 1991, after a meeting at the White House on the concerns that we may have about Pearl Harbor activities, I had a meeting at the National Press Club with representatives of the Japanese news media. I explained the nature of the meeting at the White House. The purpose of doing so was to educate the Japanese press about our concerns over American reactions to the Pearl Harbor ceremonies. I asked them to be careful about how they portrayed Americans and American feelings as December 7th drew near; the concern being that Japanese news media have the same habit as American news media in creating sensational news. A copy of the JACL press packet on Pearl Harbor was given to them.

● In January, 1992, at the invitation of Consul General Hirai in Seattle, I attended a dinner at his residence with the District Governor of the Pacific Northwest District and other JACLers to promote a better working relationship.

● In early May, 1992, on a speaking engagement in Chicago, our Regional Director, Bill Yoshino, Ross Harano and I met with Consul General Takekichi Nakamura to discuss the potential urban problems in Chicago as such problems surfaced in the Los Angeles riots.

● In late May, 1992, on a speaking engagement in Kansas City, Kansas, I met with Consul General Wada to discuss urban problems and race relations in his region.

● In June, 1992, I met Ambassador Takakazu Kuriyama in Washington, D.C. to hear JACL's concerns on U.S. - Japan relations. Shortly after this meeting, Ambassador Kuriyama agreed to deliver the keynote speech at our U.S. - Japan Educational Committee workshop in Denver.

● In July, 1992, I had the opportunity to visit with the newly appointed Consul General Koichi Haraguchi in Los Angeles. Our discussions touched upon the Los Angeles riots, and the recent response by the Japanese Government to the surfacing of anti-Semitic articles in Japan.

### 50th Commemoration of Pearl Harbor: A Continuing Historic Concern

The potential for negative American sentiments surrounding the 50th commemoration of Pearl Harbor concerned me after



## REPORT

(Continued from page 8)

the 1990 convention in San Diego. I raised this subject before the National Board and we decided to create a campaign to lessen the potential for adverse reaction. During the latter part of 1990 and the first half of 1991, the National Board devoted considerable energy to outline a campaign. Our objectives were to enlist the support of public officials and organizations to promote our concern that the anniversary not be used to exploit racism; request their assistance in condemning negative incidents should they occur; to launch a challenge to the media to refrain from negative coverage that could cause harm to Japanese Americans and instead to offer stories concerning the experiences of Japanese Americans, and particularly the internment experience; and to provide opportunities to increase awareness and understanding of the Japanese American and Asian American communities.

The result was that we gained a great deal of support for our concerns from organizations and public officials in the form of resolutions and public statements. We handled numerous media requests at all of our offices, and many of our chapters have responded that they also fulfilled many media requests. Because the commemorative activities were focused in Honolulu, National JACL had to rely on the groundwork of our Hawaii Chapter.

In this campaign, special recognition must be extended to our Vice President of Planning, Bill Kaneko (now Vice President, Public Affairs), and the Honolulu Chapter for all that they accomplished and endured in cultivating and fulfilling demands from the media and many other quarters including National JACL. The groundwork they did in preparing the organization for the commemorative was outstanding.

In addition to the preparation of a new media defense to American negativism towards Japanese Americans and other Asian Americans because of the 50th commemorative activities, we needed a proactive message to Americans from the President. We were fortunate in that our early efforts to publicize our concerns led to a White House meeting on Nov. 15, 1992. I was in Washington, D.C., at the time that Grayce Uyehara reached me by telephone about the meeting. JACLers from the East Coast, two from the West Coast, Pentagon personnel, Hawaiian representatives, members of the administration and others attended this meeting. Several Nisei veterans spoke about their concern that many other Americans do not know about nor appreciate the contributions of Nisei veterans, including the Military Intelligence Service Veterans during World War II. After Administration spokespeople stated that the President's speeches had not yet been written, I offered an outline of this address broken into three parts: the first covering the horrors of the attack on Pearl Harbor; the second being an admonition to Americans that this country failed its own people by internment Japanese Americans in the hysteria of war conditions and that Japanese Americans valiantly fought the war in Europe and in the Pacific; and the third part being that 50 years after that event, the two countries of Japan and the United States are now friends not foes.

After the meeting, Grayce Uyehara presented our JACL press packet to an assistant for the speechwriter for the President. Tom Kometani separately caused additional information about Japanese Americans to be delivered to the administration representatives present at the meeting. I communicated information about the MIS and the 442nd RCT to Pentagon representatives after my return to San Francisco.

On Dec. 5, 1992, I received a call at our media center in Honolulu from the Pentagon. Bill Yoshino, Bill Kaneko and I learned about the content of Secretary Cheney's speech to be delivered in Honolulu on Dec. 7. It contained a significant paragraph on the contributions of Japanese American veterans of World War II.

On Dec. 6, 1991, we received word that Japan had expressed its apology for the attack on Pearl Harbor. We also reviewed a UPI dispatch that President Bush was going to express a public apology for the evacuation and internment of Americans of Japanese ancestry in the wake of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

On Dec. 7, 1991, President Bush delivered three speeches. One at the National Cemetery of the Pacific. A second at the U.S.S. Arizona Memorial. The third was delivered at Kilo Pier 8 next to the U.S.S. Missouri. In all three speeches, he recognized and praised the wartime contributions of Japanese Americans. He further expressed his hope that notwithstanding the memory of our losses as a nation 50 years ago that racism towards Japan will subside if not disappear.

### Visibility Of National JACL: Linkage to Chapters and Beyond

During the past four years I have tried to accommodate as many requests to appear at chapter installation dinners or other events, District events and community events so long as my schedule was open and appropriate travel arrangements could be made. All of the trips related to chapter or district activities were scheduled by me upon receipt of an invitation from a chapter or district to appear.

In addition to direct organizational activities, members of JACL around the country have asked me to speak before other organizations on subjects ranging from foreign policy to U.S. Japan relations to concerns about race relations. The same conditions were imposed by me on accepting such outside invitations and where there were competing JACL events took priority.

The reason for accepting such invitations is simple. During my travels among the Districts in early 1988, I heard from many members, especially outside of California, that there was no local visibility of the connection between the Chapter and National JACL. Thus, I decided that Chapter visits were necessary and that a degree of visibility with other organizations would also produce salutary benefits for National JACL. (Editor's note: 19 trips are mentioned in the full presidential text.)

Some of these trip expenses, either airfare or lodging, were covered by a chapter or District Council. Because the requests for appearances grew, I caused charitable contributions from private foundations to be made to JACL to cover these additional travel expenses. All other incidental travel expenses were absorbed by me over the past four years.

### Our Legislative Activities

During the last two bienniums, other than redress appropriations, one of the major legislative priorities was to gain passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1991. First introduced in 1990, the act was designed to overturn the effects of six Supreme Court decisions that sharply limited the rights of victims of employment discrimination. Through our Washington office, we worked closely with the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights participating in the delib-

eration of strategy and utilizing our network of regional offices and chapters to assist in lobbying for its eventual passage in the fall of 1991. Other issues that were advocated by JACL during the 1988-1990 biennium included Immigration Reform where JACL actively promoted the family reunification provisions of the legislation. We also advocated for the repeal of the Employer Sanctions provisions of the 1986 Immigration Act. The JACL was involved in the Vietnamese Fishermen's case in which Vietnamese Americans were being prosecuted under a 200 year old law barring non-citizens from owning or operating fishing vessels in coastal waters. The case resembled that of *Takahashi v. Fish & Game Commission* of an earlier era that used a similar state provision against Japanese Americans.

We have maintained an involvement in other issues which are highlighted by the following:

- During 1990 and 1991 we made appeals to the Commerce Department to proceed with an adjustment of the census to correct an undercount in the Asian American community based on concerns that the 1990 census is the first to be less accurate than the previous census, that the overall undercount was nearly 6 million and because the 1980 undercount of Asian Americans was placed at more than 3%.

- Advocating in 1991 for the removal of the "Alien Terrorist" provision in the Administration's crime bill. The provision, strongly opposed by Senator Inouye, would have allowed for the deportation of aliens utilizing secret proceedings and evidence, thus ignoring due process.

- On May 21, 1991, we testified before the House Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands in support of HR 2351 the "Japanese American National Historic Landmark Theme Study Act" which would authorize a study to identify important sites, buildings and structures in Japanese American history during the period 1941-46 for the purpose of their evaluation and nomination as national historic sites. During this hearing, we also testified in support of HR 543 which would establish Manzanar as a national historic site.

- In the fall of 1991 our National Board took action to oppose the nomination of Clarence Thomas based on his demonstrated lack of sensitivity to civil rights issues and his opposition to affirmative action programs. Our opposition to the nomination was transmitted to the Senate Judiciary Committee prior to their recommendation to the Senate.

- In 1991, we urged the reauthorization of the bilingual provisions of the Voting Rights Act and we supported S.1264, a bill providing reauthorization of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

In addition to the long range activities highlighted above which cover the past 4 years, we also dealt with the issues presented by Resolution 7 introduced at the 1988 Seattle Convention. We also worked with our Legislative Education Committee to successfully achieve what is now the initial appropriations process to implement the redress program. Both activities were reported to the National Council at our 1990 Convention in San Diego.

### Conclusion

I believe that the foundation for the future of JACL has been poured over the past four years. Where we were once an organization that fought for survival of the Japanese American community, survival is no longer the challenge. Our challenges for our future are to become an organization that reshapes American atti-

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## REPORT

(Continued from page 9)

tudes towards Japanese and other Asian Americans as people within a society based upon Western values and to improve person-to-person relationships not only within the circle of "people of color" but outside of that color circle. To do so, we need to develop the interest and will of the organization to help create policy directions for this nation as it struggles to understand and deal with the emergence of Asian nations as economic competitors.

Failure to pay attention to the economic arena and to understand that pocketbook concerns always creates tension or friction between those who have and those who want to get shall result in failure to attack one of the causes for anti-Asian sentiment in this country. Kenichi Ohmura has written that free trade among nations in the absence of war is leading to a "borderless economy." If true, our ultimate challenge is to understand that we shall then have to deal with a potential "borderless society."



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## NGUYEN

(Continued from page 1)

Reaction to the killing was quick throughout the Asian American community. Speaking from Florida, the Asian American Federation of Florida said, "This deadly and unforgivable act of racial hatred underscores the racism and blind hatred within our own communities that must be properly addressed and solved by not only our elected officials and law enforcement agencies, but the Asian American communities and general public of South Florida as well."

The Federation also commended the Coral Springs Police Department for its quick action and asked for any people with information related to the crime

to step forward. The National Network Against Anti-Asian Violence joined the Federation in asking for a full investigation of the killing as a hate motivated crime. In addition, the Network has notified John Dunne, assistant attorney general in charge of the U.S. Justice Department's Civil Rights Division of the killing and has also sent letters to Florida Senators Connie Mack and Bob Graham.

In San Francisco, Doreen Wong, Korematsu civil rights attorney at the Asian Law Caucus, condemned the act saying, "This killing is another blatant example of racism at its worst. It comes at a time of rising anti-Asian sentiment, Japan-bashing rhetoric, immigrant scapegoating, and racist comments which have been all too common lately."

## Obituaries

IN MEMORIAM  
TAKESHI "TAK" KAWAGOE  
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Helen Kawagoe  
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(Tak passed away on August 11. Services and burial were held August 15 at Green Hills Cemetery, Rancho Palos Verdes.)

Abiko, Sade, 98, Los Angeles, March 24, Shizuoka-born, survived by daughter Yoriko Julia Abiko.

Hameda, Ben, 71, Anaheim, March 22, Hollywood-born, survived by wife Matsuko, sons Ron, Kent, daughter Keiko Crane, Joanne, 3 grandchildren, brother George, sister Name Okada.

Honda, Mitsuo, 70, Oceanside, March 20, Torrance-born gardener, survived by wife Andrea, sons Dean (Enzonias), Larry (Muriel), daughter Carolyn Yap (Montebello), brothers Jack (Los Angeles), Roy (Monterey Park), Henry (East Los Angeles), 6 grandchildren, sister Martha Makiyama (Norwalk).

Iijima, Rev. Kenjiro, 78, Granada Hills, March 22, Tokyo-born minister of Dharma Yoga Church Institute (over 50 years), survived by sons Byron, Bryan, daughters Rumeo Nakatani, Sumi Gullikson (Wyoming), Nancy Folick, 9 grandchildren.

## MINETA

(Continued from page 1)

place anywhere in America. It is the vital responsibility of the police, prosecutors and the courts to see that justice is done," said Mineta.

Mineta praised the quick response of police, prosecutors and Mayor Jeanne Mills of Coral Springs. "Too often, the first hurdle to be overcome in these cases is the reluctance of law enforcement and political leaders to recognize the seriousness of these crimes for what they are. Fortunately, given the way this investigation is being conducted at this early stage, other areas of the country could learn a lot from the way Mayor Mills, the local police and prosecutors have responded to this outrage," said Mineta.

## FUSAKO N. ABE

Fusako N. Abe of Farmingdale, New York passed away on August 8, 1992. Born in Alameda, CA to Toshio and Naoko Nakata. Beloved wife of Doctor Harry F. Abe, D.D., mother of Douglas (Betty) Abe of Rockaway, New Jersey and Carolyn (Chris) Ishii of Pasadena, Calif. Also survived by 5 granddaughters, 3 sisters: Hiroko (Mack) Shikuma, Haruko Akamatsu, Shizuko (Yoshida) Suzuki and 2 brothers: Masao (Sage) Nakata and Toshiro (Mimi) Nakata. Predeceased by sister Yoshiko Yamashita and brother Aki Nakata.

Memorial service was held on August 13, at the Charles G. Schmidt Funeral Home, Seaford, New York, officiated by Rev. Hironaka Suzuki and 2 brothers: Masao (Sage) Nakata and Toshiro (Mimi) Nakata. Memorial contributions may be made to: Mid-Island Hospital Nursing Scholarship, 4295 Hempstead Turnpike, Bayside, N.Y. 11714 or The American Cancer Society.

Suzuki, Fred Masami, 69, Los Angeles, April 19, Honolulu-born, survived by wife Michie, sons Norman (Seattle), Douglas, Randy, 1 grandchild, mother Sakuyo Suzuki (Hawaii), brothers George, Herbert, Edward, Akin, sister Edna Soto (all Hawaii), sister-in-law Iris Uyemura.

Suzumoto, Thomas, 71, Las Vegas, March 11 (funeral): Hialeah-born WWII veteran, survived by wife Jean, brother Minoru (Hawaii), sisters Leatrice Gina, Mary DeAngelo (both Hawaii).

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