Militia man accuses Japan in Oklahoma City bombing

JACL officials respond to charges
By GWEN MURANAKA

WACO, Oklahoma City...Tokyo! While the FBI has focused its attention on Timothy McVeigh, his alleged accomplice in bombing the Alfred P. Murrah Federal building in Oklahoma City and the elderly nutrition legislation already approved by the House of Representatives that would "deem" the Social Services Block Grant, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Medicaid, Children (AFDC) Block Grant and the Enola Gay exhibit dropped the first atomic bomb over Hiroshima in World War Two, the Baptist minister and gun shop owner, accused of bombing the federal office building "in retaliation for the U.S. gas attack of the Japanese people," dropped his "innocent" claim on July 12 and injured thousands as retaliation for the declining value of the dollar against the yen. The Japanese police have focused their investigations of the attack on the Aum Shinrikyo (Supreme Truth) Cult and its leader Shoko Asahara after finding chemical and other gas-making materials at the group's compounds near Mt. Fuji. Olson said he was issuing the allegations "against the wishes of the command. We want everyone to know we are in control."

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Denny Yasuhara, JACL national president, said in response, "When ignorance and racism are combined, it is a dangerous mixture. The Norman Owens of this world make harmony more difficult."

Immediately after the Oklahoma bombing and prior to the capture of McVeigh, Yasuhara issued a statement condemning anti-Arab and Muslim scapegoating.

"The JACL is concerned that this situation may lead to the singling out of the Arab American community. Such an action could result in potentially harmful misrepresentations of that group by the general public and which, more seriously, could lead to acts of violence against Arab Americans," said Yasuhara.

In light of Olson's claims against Japan, the president said, "The increasing numbers of hate crimes in America is cause for alarm for all Americans. The Michigan Militia took the proper course in removing the Aum Shinrikyo from our midst.

Call-in day urged to defend legal immigrant benefits

A coalition of Asian Pacific American (APA) groups announced a "National Call-In Day for May 17, 1995, to protest Congressional proposals to deny federal benefits to legal immigrants."

On May 17, Senator Alan Simpson (R-Wyo.) is expected to vote on a bill (S. 2609) in the Senate Subcommittee on Immigration that he chairs. The groups are urging all Asian Pacific Americans to call their senators to urge them to vote against any legislation that would eliminate benefits for legal immigrants.

The groups, concerned that legislation already approved by the House of Representatives that would completely deny legal immigrants access to Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Medicaid, Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), Black Card Grant and the Social Services Block Grant. In addition, it would "deny" for life or lifetime citizenship all federal, state and local needs-based programs, which include child nutrition, child welfare, planed job training and elderly nutrition programs. The federal bill would also give states permission to limit state-funded needs-based assistance to legal immigrants.

According to Karen Nara, the head of the Senate Caucus of APA legislative staff, "It's the first time that APA groups...affirmed the need to defend the rights of legal immigrants." 

Smithsonian director resigns over controversial Enola Gay exhibit

WASHINGTON—The director of the National Air and Space Museum resigned May 2 over a dispute with the Science Museum Trustee Board over the Enola Gay bomber, which dropped the first atomic bomb over Hiroshima in World War Two, according to the Reuters news service.

The Smithsonian Institution announced that Martin Harwit, veteran director of the air and space museum, was leaving the museum in the world—had resigned as of July 1.

He will be replaced temporarily by Robert Hoffman, the acting provost of the Smithsonian.

Harwit, 64, is the Smithsonian Secretary L. Michael

JACL tri-district conference, April 28-30, 1995, Reno

With 'Eye on Future,' members discuss new, old JACL issues

DENNY YASUHARA

Yasuhara says affirmative action is JACL priority

In the April 28-30 tri-district meeting, the Nevada-Pacific-West district (JACL Nevada-Pacific-West district), Yasuhara said that affirmative action is the most important civil rights issue facing JACL.

In meetings with both the NCWNP and FSW districts, Yasuhara said that he felt JACL should focus its attention on battling for affirmative action within California and would allocate resources from the national budget.

The most immediate problem is affirmative action. The stand has to be taken in California. We have the most members here in California, it's where the bulk of our chapters are," said Yasuhara, speaking April 30 at the FSW meeting. "I have raised the issue with Bill Clinton. We have to make the strength of the organization lies in its chapters and districts."

Yasuhara, speaking April 30 at the FSW meeting, "I have raised the issue with Bill Clinton. We have to make the strength of the organization lies in its chapters and districts."

While the olive branch was extended, "I am attempting to bridge the gap in order to work together," said Yasuhara.

The expectations of the Aum Shinrikyo (Supreme Truth) Cult and its leader Shoko Asahara after finding chemical and other gas-making materials at the group's compounds near Mt. Fuji. Olson said he was issuing the allegations "against the wishes of the command. We want everyone to know we are in control."

The expected response is that we can appreciate that. We are working on that in an attempt to bridge the gap that exists on the National Board so that we can move the organization forward."

Yasuhara said that he would "like to have three ad hoc committees, which would include the NCWNP, FSW district and Kim Nakashima, chair, national youth/student council, said, "In good faith, I choose to exercise our right to discuss the matter, and I will not collapse."

The statement of office that is being debated is called 'a bellweather state,'" Yasuhara said, "There is no chance in the other states, we just don't have the numbers. Our best chance is in California. The way California goes, so goes the western states. We need to do it before it gets to Washington, D.C. By that time the tide is already cast.

The president said that while affirmative action is in the future, we need to focus long-term efforts on changing attitudes on diversity in society.

Critical criticism continues

While the olive branch was extended, sharp words, complaints and criticisms on a variety of issues throughout the two-day tri-district meeting indicated the dissatisfaction of some members with the current state of the organization.

Yasuhara, JACL national president, met independently with each of the three districts attending the conference to answer their questions and hear their concerns. There was also a question and answer period Sunday morning with the National Board members present including, Yasuhara, who had to leave early to attend the tri-district conference.
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JACL calendar

Eastern
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Thu-Sun, July 20-23—EDC-MPCD Tri-District Conference, Albuquerque, N.M., Marriott Hotel.
New Mexico

New York
Wed, May 15—Monthly Board meeting, 6:45-8:30 p.m., JAA Office, 15 W. 44th, 11th Fl. NOTE—Dr. Frank Naitoh (MIS), luncheon speaker.

Midwest
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Thu-Sun, July 20-23—EDC-MPCD Tri-District Conference, Albuquerque, N.M., Marriott Hotel.
(See below, NEW MEXICO)

Friday, Oct., 6—Fall MDC session, Twin Cities Chapter host.

Cincinnati
Sun., May 7—Board meeting at Ken Oya's, 513/792-9727.

Hoosier
May—NAJHS "Go For Broke" photo exhibit, Ramsburg Gallery, University of Indianapolis. NOTE—In conjunction with Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, Nisei veterans in the Midwest are being invited to participate in opening ceremony. Their names and addresses requested by Charles Matsuno, Hosseier, 849 Reda Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46227, (317) 866-8650. Monetary support for exhibit also requested by chapter.

Mountain-Plains
NEW MEXICO
Thu-Sun, July 20-23—EDC-MPCD Tri-District Conference, Marriott Hotel, Albuquerque. Workshops: Total quality management for chapters; Finance and accounting for chapters; Grant writing; Multicultural persons and families in JACL. Interest/conflict: Latin American and African American themes. Second Amendment and Asian Americans: Is JACL dying?; The atomic bomb 50 years later: what have we learned? Booster activities and tours. Info: Randolph Shibata 505/983-1255.

SOUTHEAST
Sun., June 11—Japanese cooking demonstration, 3-5 p.m., Benihana in downtown Atlanta. Info: Glenn Nomura. NOTE—2 p.m. board meeting precedes.

Sun., Aug. 13—Japanese American Heroines During WWII, video and speakers, 3-5 p.m., Georgia Power Bldg., Auditorium, downtown Atlanta; Hailey Tsuno Furukawa, 404/632-8008. NOTE—3 p.m. board meeting precedes.

October—Mixed Race / Cultural Identity Forum, co-sponsored with local Japanese community, Japanese Tea House, 2147 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave., S.M.; RSVP, $45. 2 p.m. board meeting precedes.

Correction:
To correct the story that appeared on the front page of the April 21-May 4, 1995 issue of Pacific Citizen with reference to the March 18 "emergency meeting" in San Francisco, the names of Alan Nishikawa and Kim Nishihara were inadvertently omitted as being among the six who called for the meeting and attended. Ken Yoshida did not attend the meeting due to family reasons.
Convicted Sacramento firebomber gets maximum sentence

Richard Campos, the 19-year-old convicted of a series of freemasonry attacks that terrorized the city of Sacramento in 1993, was given April 20 a maximum sentence of 17 years and four months in prison, said the Sacramento Bee.

The Bee reported that Campos, a white supremacist, smiled and rolled his eyes as Judge James T. Ford handed down the stiff sentence. Campos was convicted of a string of racially motivated firebomb attacks including the Sacramento JACL office, the home of Sacramento City Councilman Jimmie Yee, the NAACP, and the home of Sacramento Bee.

Speaking on behalf of JACL's 118 chapters, Yee urged the judge to give Campos the maximum sentence.

"It's the maximum sentence on the defendant would send a very clear and necessary message that the American judicial system will not condone or even tolerate acts of violence rooted in racial bigotry. Especially in these times of growing intolerance, this is a critical message for our criminal justice system to convey to the people of California, and in particular, to all Asian Pacific Americans throughout this great country," said Yee.

Fukushima told the judge that the fear community members felt during the firebombing incidents.

"During the course of the many firebombings, no one in the Japanese American community felt safe. The crimes had a profound emotional and psychological impact on the community. These crimes were calculated and conducted to terrorize and intimidate innocent victims," said Fukushima.

The Sacramento chapter president said the attack forced chapter officers to undergo a security review and that members were urged by law enforcement to keep a low profile while the perpetrator was still at large.

"While we understand that Richard Campos was at a young age when he committed the crimes, he knew what he was doing was wrong and that people could be hurt or killed," said Fukushima.

The national president said that the firebombing which destroyed the JACL office was indicative of growing anti-Japanese sentiment in America.

"The impact of the firebombings has not been limited to the Sacramento JACL Chapter, its dedicated leadership and membership and to the Sacramento community in general," said Yee. "We know from first-hand experience that hate violence targeting Asians and Pacific Islanders is a growing, serious and pervasive problem. In 1993, the fire of the JACL firebombings was 305 reported incidents of anti-Asian violence and at least 200 of those attacks were hate crimes because of widespread unreported incidents.

Campus' lawyer Michael K. Brady acknowledged that Campos felt no remorse for the harm he caused. "I urge the judge not to punish him for the racism in society," said Brady.

With the maximum sentence, Campos could be eligible for parole in about six years. Judge Ford said he was sentencing Campos for his violent acts and not his racist opinions. "Those views do not threaten our community. They will low in the competition of ideas, and because of our Constitution, we have a right to that Constitution," said Ford.

CRITICISM
(Continued from page 1)

because he had to catch an airplane, Jonathan Kaji, secretary-treasurer, Rod Minabe, FSW district governor; Trisha Murakawa, co-chairs John Hayashi, NCWNP district governor; and Lucy Kagawa, former NCWNP governor.

The issues members registered concern about included:

• Staff reorganization

During the question and answer period, a noted civil rights attorney who has represented the JACL leadership "makes decisions too quickly" and asked if the board had considered options other than staff reorganization to solve JACL's financial problems.

Minabe, who voted against the staff reorganization, said, "We did make a decision. I don't think we considered the impact on the program for Asian Americans. It was a knee-jerk reaction. In the future, we need to make decisions as if we were a corporation.

Nishi, speaking as one who has served several terms on the National Board, said, "we tend to act before considering all of the options. I wish we could slow down, look at the options and then make a decision.

Sakai, who voted for the reorganization, said, "As a member of the board, when I attended that meeting I voted. Now that we have had a financial problem for several years, I don't think it was a hasty decision. It reached a point where something needed to be done.

Kaji said that the board's decision to reorganize was made without complete information.

"My own opinion is that we did not have complete information. We had a lot of information, but as time goes on, in hindsight I would say we didn't have enough information," said Kaji.

"Communication: At the JACL National Meeting with the national president, Kimi Yoshino asked Yee what he would do to improve communication within the National Board and solve its internal problems.

Yee said that "Communication is a two-way street. If you want to talk to me about something, I'll be there. But you have to respect me as an individual, but the position must be respected. I will try to mend fences but it is a two-way street.

At the session with the National Board, board member Travis Nishi asked Yee what he said the board needs to be more open about its decision-making processes.

"The biggest thing we can improve is the aspect of communication. With long executive sessions and too many decisions, the board is not very democratic," said Nishi.
Move to include Asian American studies hits more campuses

Protests and a hunger strike demanding Asian American studies at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., have set off similar calls across the country, according to the campus newspaper, the Daily Northwestern.

Students at Stanford, Princeton and Columbia University have joined in recent protests calling for Asian American studies programs. "The students are not just fighting for the teaching of Asian American studies; they are fighting for the recognition of their existence," said William Yoshino, president of the American Studies Association, which represents more than 1,000 faculty members in the field.

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The American Studies Association is a non-profit, non-partisan, education organization that promotes the study of American history, culture, and society. The organization's mission is to foster research and scholarship in the field of American studies, and to promote the teaching of American studies in higher education. The organization is based in Washington, D.C., and is supported by a diverse group of faculty members and scholars from across the country.

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**JACL tri-district conference**

**Youth discuss how to attract new members**

By GWEN MURAHANA

Assistant editor

Before an intergenerational audience, youth/student members of JACL said that there are a number of ways to attract more young people to the organization, focusing on civics and leadership training to social gatherings.

Kimi Yoshino, National Board representative, national youth/student council, said, "It's going to take a while to start a (youth/student) program. It's absolutely crucial that there's a strong commitment. It's not going to be an easy thing to get started, you need to determine what focus you want your youth chapter to take.'

Other participants in the panel included: Kim Nakahara, chair, JACL youth/student council; Ross Nakahara, NGWN youth representative; Hiroshi Smith, PSW youth representative; Christine Sato and John Hayashi, Young Adults of the South Bay JACL.

Nakahara said, "The key to starting a youth/student group is to look at your area, identify a need and then tailor it to your area.

Nakahara, a student at UC Davis, said that in Sacramento, the focus of youth groups has been on leadership training.

"In Hawaii, student groups are more issue-oriented. In Sacramento the emphasis is on leadership development and community involvement with a focus on Asian American studies, programs and issues like the California Civil Rights Initiative," said Nakahara.

Sato said that the South Bay group started out with financial and moral support from senior members of the South Bay Chapter, JACL.

"We are currently in our second year. We have our own cabinet, and banking account. There are currently 60 members with 50 on our mailing list."

Hayashi said that South Bay young adults have started their own newsletter and telephone number which gives an updated list of coming events.

Their chapter fills a need for people coming out of college who still want to stay involved. We have members who come from all over southern California," said Hayashi.

Smith, a member of the SELANOCO chapter, said, the chapter established ties with the Japanese American student group Tomo no Kai at University of California at Irvine.

"SELANOCO has been very supportive of Tomo no Kai. For our chapter to keep the chapter bought advertising and went to the function. They have also helped finance people going to the National Youth Council conference last year," said Smith.

John Yamada, Eden Township, said that his chapter focused its attention on recruiting high school members.

"Eden Township has a youth group which is 100 percent high school students. There are currently 55 members, with about half being Chinese American. They have many activities including helping Alzheimer's patients," said Yamada.

Yamada, a Nisei, said the chapter has a point system where youth members receive points each time they participate in a chapter activity which goes towards special events.

Shigemasa, Takahashi, Rafu honored

At the awards ceremony, Saturday, April 29, Tom Shigemasa, Mae Takahashi and the Rafu Shimpo newspaper were honored by the Western Pacific District, which includes Western Nevada-Peak Central, California, and Pacific Southwest Districts.

Shigemasa, assistant chief police at the San Jose Police Department, has distinguished himself in his profession as well as in the area of civic rights. He currently serves as chair of the 1996 JACL national convention committee.

In the San Jose Police Department, Shigemasa serves in a variety of capacities, including deputy chief of investigations, deputy chief of administration of investigations, lieutenant in charge of narcotics, traffic enforcement and street crimes unit, and sergeant in the Internal Affairs unit.

Shigemasa was co-founder and past chair of the Coalition of Asian Americans for Publicity, Asian Officers Association of City Employees, and South Bay Chapter of the Asian Peace Officers Association. He is also the first and current president of the National Association of Asian American Law Enforcement Officers.

Takahashi, a pharmacist who owns and operates Valley Medical Pharmacy, Inc. in Fresno, Calif., was honored for her years of service and dedication to JACL and the Asian American community.

Most recently, she was asked to chair the JACL Budget Analysis Committee. She is active in the Davis Chapter, JACL, and has served as district governor from 1987-88. She has also served as treasurer of JACL Legislative Education Committee.

In addition to her JACL involvement, Takahashi has served on many civic boards, including the Symptomismatic International. She was the co-founder and charter president of the California Asian Pacific Women's Network. President George Bush appointed her to serve on the USDA Citizen's Advisory Board to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, 1991-93.

The Rafu Shimpo, a Los Angeles-based daily newspaper, was honored for its "vital role in the Japanese American community throughout its distinguished history." The newspaper began in 1903 as a Japanese language publication. The first English section was published in 1926 and in 1952, the Rafu Shimpo began publishing in both Japanese and English.

The newspaper's publisher and president in Michael Komai, who succeeded his father, Akira, and his grandfather, H.T. Under Komai's leadership, the newspaper has covered issues that affect the Japanese American as well as Asian Pacific communities.

PSW also acknowledged the Rafu Shimpo's role in the community with its cultural nights such as Nisei Week, the Japanese American National Museum, and JACL.

English editor Naomi Hirahara accepted the award on behalf of the newspaper.
Panelists give views, insights into JACL financial situation

By GWEN MURANAKA
Assistant editor

Where do we go from here? The opening workshop at the CCDC, NWNP-PSW Tri-District meeting in Reno, Nev. April 30 titled "JACL financial crisis: An organization at crossroads," presented various perspectives on the complicated topic of JACL finances.

The workshop panel included: Dale Ikei, moderator; John Hayashi, vice governor, NWNP; Toshio Murakawa, financial vice president and deputy director; Alan Nishi, NWNP district governor; Mac Takahashi, chairman, and Ken Inouye, member, Budget Analysis Committee, and the late Jonathan Kaji, JACL national secretary-treasurer, who flew in from Japan.

Following are comments by each of the panelists:

Nishi, who was JACL secretary-treasurer for two terms in the '80s, related that JACL was able to work through earlier deficits through teamwork, spending cuts, and an accounting manager. He said that in 1992, when JACL had a deficit of $75,000, "I had a good budget and a good national director. As a team we were able to work through it." Nishi had an understanding of budgeting and was very comfortable with computers. He was the budget finance committee chair from 1985-87.

Takahashi stressed that in order for JACL to get its finances in order, it would be necessary, as soon as possible, for a computer accounting system which could distribute timely financial information to the National Board and JACL members. "The accounting system should allow JACL to establish a chart of accounts, manage assets, and track and report on accounts payable and receivable," she said.

She blamed a lack of accountability on deficiencies within JACL's bylaws, citing the JACL's financial statement by example. JACL started as a 'mom and pop' operation and quickly grew into a prominent national organization with 66 million in assets. During this transition, we neglected to establish appropriate management policies and procedures," she said.

Inouye, who is a CPA, presented a preliminary draft of unaudited '94 revenue and expense reports which he had worked on with the help of Patji Paganini, former JACL business manager.

Concerning whether there was a $1,000 surplus or a $75,000 deficit in '94, he explained that the numbers can be interpreted in several ways, and saying JACL had a $110,000 surplus was telling only "half the story." JACL had run business as usual, we have had a deficit, a $100,000, he also said. "You have to remember that people on either side of this issue had JACL's best interest at heart.

Mukoawa, who voted against the December '94 National Board decision to reorganize, prefaced her remarks by saying she is "laissez-faire," not a financial professional. She agreed with Takahashai's recommendation for a computerized accounting system and after her presentation was over, explained that his charts indicated JACL had a $75,000 deficit and on a cash basis and a $31,000 surplus if read on an accrual basis. "JACL's finances are recorded on an accrual basis, which is the generally accepted accounting practice," she said.

Hayashi also works with finances but is not directly involved with JACL's current financial problems. He identified one area for a point recommendation for avoiding such problems: 1) Preparation of accurate reports and taking responsibility for communication with leadership and membership. 2) If you are going to spend $1,000 first, find the money later. 3) Lay and go. "This is the essence of fund raising. If you promise someone to help, you have to make sure that you deliver.

Kaji, who was not a member of the panel, told the audience without getting into specifics that he is hopeful he will be able to present to membership a full and accurate disclosure of JACL's financial situation.

"I am hopeful that there's a sentiment that in order to make good decisions you need membership and board. There have been disagreements on in this and other similar situations," she said.

"It is important for them to know that although the legal permanent residents may not be able to vote, Asian Pacific American voters will be judging their actions on this in the electoral ballot. The Senate needs to be told the safety nets applicable to U.S. citizens, the Asian and Pacific Islander community, which is two-thirds foreign born. History has taught us that we cannot allow politicians to unfairly target Asian Pacific Americans without letting our voices be heard.

Dong Suh, policy analyst for the Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium (APALC), pointed out that the attack on immigrants is at an all-time high. "At the same time that Congress is making it harder for legal immigrants to be eligible for public benefits, it also is moving to cut programs that would ease the naturalization process. Congress needs to hear that immigrants come here to join their families, work, and contribute in many ways to the United States. But most of all, they are pursuing the American dream," he said.

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Calling for action to the JACL members, Suh identified four points: (1) Legal immigrants, just like U.S. citizens, pay local, state and federal taxes and must register for the draft, and contribute to the safety nets applicable to U.S. citizens. (2) Any welfare costs saved at the federal level will result in a cost-shift to local and state governments; (3) immigrants on the whole do not abuse programs, it is important for them to know that although the legal permanent residents may not be able to vote, Asian Pacific American voters will be judging their actions on this in the electoral ballot. The Senate needs to be told the safety nets applicable to U.S. citizens, the Asian and Pacific Islander community, which is two-thirds foreign born. History has taught us that we cannot allow politicians to unfairly target Asian Pacific Americans without letting our voices be heard.

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CALL-IN

Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium (APALC), "Senators are saying that they are cutting any program they can without any opposition from their constituents.

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Apache faces."

The United States Senate can be reached at 202-224-3121. In some large cities, a local office may be listed in the phone book. If so, callers should request a response from their senator and provide their name, address, and phone number.

The National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium, the Organization of Chinese Americans, the Asian and Pacific Islander Health Forum and the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance advocate on behalf of the Asian Pacific American communities in the United States. All main offices are in Washington, D.C.

Extended Deadline

JACL NATIONAL DIRECTOR
Japanese American Citizens League

JACL is seeking a highly motivated, dedicated and innovative individual, with demonstrated administrative experience and leadership skills to carry out the mission of this non-profit, non-civic rights organization.

Must implement organization's programs.

Must serve as a spokesperson for JACL.

Must have experience in community and private sector leadership on a variety of tasks and projects.

Must be responsible for direct supervision of staff: accounting, budgeting, personnel, staff supervision, gift solicitation and grant research and writing.

Individual should possess

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We must be concerned with anti-immigration laws

Viewpoint is a Pacific Citizen feature that provides an opportunity for columnists to express opinions on issues affecting the JACL or the Japanese American community in general.

Nearly all JACL members are U.S. citizens. Why then, should we care about laws that affect legal immigrants, proposals to end or restrict immigration, or recommendations to set up a national employment verification system? Let us consider our history. 

A 1917 California law was aimed at Japanese immigration, and Chinese immigrants in the late 1800s and early 1900s faced discrimination, hostility, and violence when they came to this country. 

Of course, immigration in the early 1900s differed from immigration today. We would not be having an immigration debate if most immigrants were from Europe rather than from Asia and Mexico. Japanese Americans would not be the targets of violence unless it was dangerous and wrong. 

Racial hatred is readily ignited, as we saw in the proposals to intern Arab Americans during the Gulf War and in the accusations of anti-Semitism directed at Middle Eastern and Latin American journalists during the 1995 Webster Hubbell scandal. 

The national government's extreme action was aimed at Japanese immigrants. 

Today, we are faced with the same issue. The activists that Islam fundamentalists must be responsible for the bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City in April. 

Japanese Americans do not hold exonerating reasons by reason of citizenry. We know how easy it is for other Americans to forget our history, almost as much as we forget the Asian exclusionary acts of the 1800s.

Similar strains of xenophobia and thinly-veiled racism are again in play today. We would not be having an immigration debate if most immigrants were from Europe rather than from Asia and Mexico. Japanese Americans would not be the targets of violence unless it was dangerous and wrong. 

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In fact, only 2% of legal immigrants to the United States in 1994 were from Japan. If we reduced the level of immigration from Japan, we would weaken these families and the social structure of our nation.

Media reports about legislation to cut off benefits to immigrants in the 1996 federal budget highlight the problems. 

Yes, we must be concerned with anti-immigration laws. 

Three months after the cancellation of the planned exhibition, the controversy still continues. I believe that nothing less than my stepping down from the directorship will satisty the museum’s critics and allow us to move forward with important new projects.

Martin Harwit
From the frying pan

BILL HOSOKAWA

Asian American voting unpredictable

Although Democrats were in power when Japanese Americans were locked up in detention camps, they tend to vote Democratic. On the other hand there are of late signs that Nisei in their old age and elder brothers are tending to favor more conservative GOP policies.

One recent survey indicates that Korean Americans, with a large number of small businessmen, Chinese and Taiwanese are nominally Republican, a serious reminder to other Americans, while Filipinos are said to be Democrat. In other words, the Asian American bloc is far from monolithic. Even a single segment, like Japanese Americans have widespread differences, as witness the fuss within their only national organization, JACL.

It may not be altogether had thing for the politicians to continue thinking of Asian Americans as a tight voting bloc. In numbers there is strength. Keep them guessing as they angle for our votes. For a change, it will be nice to be woed.

Hosokawa is the former editoral page editor of the Denver Post. His column appears in the Pacific Citizen.

East wind

BILL MARUTAN

The Hikiahe-sha's

In the post-war period in Japan I was assigned to the operation of Bessho's (achain stores) most of whom came from Manchuria. One boatload in particular, consisting of returning Japanese troops from China, sticks in my mind. The ship, it may have been the Takasago-Maru, arrived at the harbor and asked to meet with the officer in charge. After returning his salute, I suggested that he there surely more senior men aboard and that I would like to confer with the senior officer. We had a cup of the ship's manifest so I knew there were several officers of rank aboard. The sergeant excused himself and shortly from among the assemblage, out stepped an elderly man, short and slight of build, with no insignia to reflect his rank. Without a doubt, this was the Japanese general in command.

I conveyed preliminary directions as to procedure for disembarking, responded to a few inquiries he had. It was all very business-like.

Years later, I think it was in the early 1970s, Vicki and I were on a group trip where we arrived at the Takasago-Maru at the Hakone port (near Sasebo in Kyushu). Among the items we confiscated were the Nippon-sha's (a chain stores) clothing, and preserved as an irreplaceable family treasure. I realized it too late but there is a sizable and invigorating size of Japanese Americans across the continent of America.

However, it's not clear whether the political strategists understand that Asian Americans are not a bloc. The politicians would be making a serious mistake if they assumed that, because most Asian Americans are black hair and eat a lot of rice, they have the same political interests.

Those of us who are members of the community know that some Asian Americans have been Americans for four or five generations and others are recent arrivals. Some are high-paid attorneys and scientists, and businessmen, and some wash dishes for a living. Some run corporate farms and others do the sweaty work in the fields, including the huge warehouse farms and others do the sweaty work in the fields.

The current numbers have not escaped notice. The ship, it may have been the Takasago-Maru, arrived at the harbor and asked to meet with the officer in charge. After returning his salute, I suggested that he there surely more senior men aboard and that I would like to confer with the senior officer. We had a cup of the ship's manifest so I knew there were several officers of rank aboard. The sergeant excused himself and shortly from among the assemblage, out stepped an elderly man, short and slight of build, with no insignia to reflect his rank. Without a doubt, this was the Japanese general in command.

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made several false starts before finally settling on a title that I thought I might use. I hesitated to add to the reams of paper about the JACL. Particularly since most of it has been, in my opinion, negative, divisive and mean-spirited.

My decision to do it now is because I believe in the JACL, not in its past accomplishments, but in what it still means to us as a force for good at a time when we badly need it. I also felt that pride in having served as its national president and in the recognition accorded me, dictates that I speak up.

We must all know by now that some members of the, Tanimori, Taniguchi, Frank Chin, Uyehara, Hank Sakai, Bill Hosokawa and others are not friendly to the JACL. Members of Denny's response committed a disservice to the JACL, which claimed that the exhibit suggested that they planned to use the A-bomb. Moreover, research on the bombing has shown that bombing probably wouldn't have ended the war. This would have been a huge loss of American lives.

I am encouraged by the views of Terry Yamada and Trisha Nishi (April 25-May 4). They want to channel their anger dealing with the crisis and moving on, will guide the board at its coming meeting. It is also hoped that the so-called dissenters will quit their divisive campaign and get with the program, if indeed, their motivation is restoring JACL stability and credibility.
**Around the world...**

**PEACE**

By GWEN MURANAKA
Assistant editor

JUDY TERU IMAI
Global tour of cultures

uch has been said in the media about the world of the late 20th century has become: how fax machines, cellular phones and computers have connected the world to a global village. Judy Teru Imai knows a different world.

In her three-and-a-half-year, "Global Walk for a Livable World," Imai walked over 9,000 miles and wore out four pairs of shoes, seeing, smelling, tasting the cultures she visited and intergenerational barriers.

**On the last leg of her walk, Judy Teru Imai, third from right with hat, poses with friends in Hiroshima where they participated in a peace ceremony.**

"I wanted to provide the Japanese American seniors with a forum to discuss aging issues and present the latest information available, because more people are living longer," said Imai.

**Free Alzheimer's workshop set for May 27 in S.F.**

A free Alzheimer's Association "Safe Return Program" workshop will be held Saturday, May 27, 10:30 a.m. to noon, at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, 244 S. San Pedro St., Los Angeles.

Mary Fu, of the Alzheimer's Association, will be the featured speaker.

**JACL national singles event planned**

The past two JACL National Singles conventions, in Denver and Chicago, were successful and the next one is anticipated with equal expectations.

The 5th JACL "Let's Do Lunch" and "Singles into Doubles," and there's a free get-to-know-you raffle.

A bargain optional Las Vegas package is planned, and an excursion to the Japanese National Museum.

Mark your calendars for September 1-3, 1995.

Information: write to 7th National JACL Singles Convention, Box 402, Bluffton Beach, CA 92629, or call 714/496-7779.
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