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Aug. 13-19, 1999

Payment of Redress Claims to Japanese Latin Americans Imminent

By JULIE SMALL

Co-chair, Campaign for Justice

Over a year after the landmark settlement of the Japanese Latin American redress case *Mochizuki v. the U.S.*, most of the surviving former internees of World War II will soon receive the apology and token reparation payment. The Department of Justice expects funding to become available by the end of August.

JLA advocates, however, are concerned with the DOJ's refusal to assure adequate notice of a potential Sept. 30, 1999, cutoff of the payment of claims and its denial of survivors who did not learn of the settlement in time to apply by an Aug. 10, 1998, deadline.

During WWII the U.S. government apprehended and imprisoned 2,264 JLA's to use as hostages to exchange for U.S. citizens held by Japan. The majority were civilians (citizens and legal residents) of Latin American nations.

JLA's and the DOJ reached a settlement agreement (*Mochizuki v. U.S.*) in June of 1998. The lawsuit challenged the denial of redress to the JLA former internees under the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which provided \$20,000 to Japanese Americans whose rights were violated by the U.S. government during WWII.

The *Mochizuki* settlement agreement stipulates that each survivor or eligible heir will receive a letter of apology and a \$6,500 token reparation to be paid from the redress fund estab-

lished by the Act.

The fund ran short in February of this year before the majority of the JLA's were paid, and the processing of claims was halted. In May, Congress authorized the reprogramming of \$4.3 million in DOJ funds to pay the remaining reparations, and processing of claims was resumed.

DOJ May Hold Remaining Claimants To Sept. 30 Deadline

Although no deadline was established for the completion of claims, the funding for the redress claims was authorized on an emergency spending bill for Fiscal Year 1999. As such, the DOJ may have to process all the claims before the end of the fiscal year, Sept. 30, 1999.

Robin Toma, attorney for the JLA's, is concerned that the former internees will not be given sufficient notice to comply with the potential deadline and could lose out of the settlement. Toma has urged the government to "notify all claimants immediately of any deadline and the documents which they need to submit, at least 45 days in advance of the deadline."

DOJ counsel Vicky Rosenthal has replied that until the money becomes available the government will not establish a deadline and would agree to the notification period only if it can be made 45 days before Sept. 30, 1999. To do so, however, money would

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Anti-Immigration Signs in Queens, New York, Rouses Anger and Debate

By MARTHA NAKAGAWA
Assistant Editor

Several organizations and public officials last week publicly condemned three anti-immigration billboards appearing in the racially diverse Queens community in New York.

The three billboards, sponsored by ProjectUSA, read: 1) "Most of the top scientists in the United States are educated in the United States. Are Americans stupid?"

2) "Over 80 percent of Americans support very little or no more immigration. Is anyone listening to us?"

3) "Tired of sitting in traffic? Every day, another 6,000 immigrants arrive. Every day."

The first billboard went up on May 1 in Sunnyside. It

was financed by Craig Nelsen, a Sunnyside resident and founder of the newly-formed ProjectUSA. Nelsen did not reply to the *Pacific Citizen's* request for an interview by press time but his Web page indicates that immigration is "eroding our quality of life and threatening the foundation of our country."

ProjectUSA's Web page further notes that immigration destroys the environment and that the "modern ideology of 'multi-culturalism' is wrong-headed; we believe that there is a unique and unifying American culture — that America is multi-ethnic, but monocultural."

At an Aug. 4 press confer-

ence, Queens Borough President Claire Shulman lashed out against ProjectUSA and the billboards, saying the anti-immigration advertising campaign was "totally inappropriate in the most ethnically diverse county in the United States."

"While ProjectUSA claims that it is 'anti-immigration, not anti-immigrant,' the message on the billboards and its Web site are clearly contrary to our borough's — and our nation's — tradition of accepting immigrants from around the world," said Shulman. "This is a tradition that we are justifiably proud of, and

2 million residents of Queens are foreign born. He also pointed out that New York City's Department of Planning concluded that Queens had the most diverse population in the world, with people from 112 countries.

The New York chapter of the JACL has joined with the New York chapters of the National Association of Korean Americans (NAKA) and the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) to pen a letter to Gov. George Pataki, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and various borough presidents, urging elected officials to take a strong stand

against the messages on the billboards.

Steve Nagata, New York JACL chapter president, felt ProjectUSA's billboard campaign was

nothing more than "hiding behind the guise of the American flag" to promote white supremacist rhetoric.

Leo Yu-Wan Lee, president of the New York chapter of OCA, was very concerned because ProjectUSA's billboard and Web page specifically targeted Chinese Americans. Among the books sold on ProjectUSA's Web page is *"The Coming Conflict With China."*

"What does this have to do with immigration policy?" said Lee. "To single out a particular country is unfair. ... (And) to blame immigrants for all societal ills is unconscionable."

Lee likened ProjectUSA's

See ANTI-IMMIGRATION / page 8

Backers of Bill on Hate Crimes Buoyed by Senate Vote, House Hearing

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON—After several years of lobbying, supporters of a bill to increase the government's power to prosecute hate crimes say they are closer than ever to seeing it passed by Congress and signed into law.

Three weeks ago, the Senate approved the bill without debate and added it to its version of a government spending measure for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1. The House Judiciary Committee followed Aug. 4 with a hearing.

"This is the furthest that the Hate Crimes Prevention Act has ever come and we're quite hopeful that wisdom will prevail as it has in the Senate," Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign, a lesbian and gay political organization, said in an interview during a break in the House hearing.

Hilary Shelton, director of the NAACP's Washington bureau, said the number of hate crimes that have attracted the nation's attention since the bill was introduced in late 1997 "is still overwhelming in so many different ways."

"The bill needs to be passed,"

he said in an interview. "The inaction of Congress on an issue like this is as devastating as the acts themselves in many ways."

At the hearing, chairman Henry Hyde (R-Ill.), who is undecided on the proposal, denounced hate crimes as "senseless acts of inhumanity."

The bill would add disability, gender and sexual orientation to federal anti-bias laws and make it easier for the Justice Department to investigate and prosecute such offenses, as well as to assist local law enforcement authorities.

President Clinton supports the legislation, which is sponsored by Rep. John Conyers of Michigan, the Judiciary Committee's top Democrat.

In a statement Aug. 4, Clinton reiterated that Congress must pass a hate crimes bill that removes limits to federal intervention, expands coverage and lets local authorities retain primary jurisdiction over such offenses.

"Any bill that does not include these three elements falls far short of what America needs in our battle against hate," he said.

Federal law now prohibits crimes based on race, color, religion or national origin.

Eight states, including Wyoming, have no hate crime laws. Twenty-one states have laws covering sexual orientation, 22 include gender in their anti-bias laws and 21 cover disability. Wyoming's 1999 Legislature did not pass a hate crimes law despite pressure brought on by the beating death of gay college student Matthew Shepard.

Critics say the bill is unnecessary since states prosecute hate crimes. They also say the bill would burden the federal courts and discriminate by creating special classes of people with more rights than those not in the protected groups.

"All violent crime, whatever the motivation, is wrong and all victims should receive equal protection under law," the conservative Family Research Council said in a statement distributed at the Aug. 4 hearing.

Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder defended the bill, saying that while an assault with the intent to kill is "always worthy of prosecution" an assault with the intent to kill a gay person is even more serious and worth special consideration.

See HATE CRIME / page 4

JACL Bids Farewell to National Director

SAN FRANCISCO—The national board of the JACL announced on Aug. 6 that it has accepted the resignation of Herbert Imanishi, national director.

Imanishi served from the San Francisco headquarters for the past 10 years, the longest tenure in the organization's history. He was elected in 1984. Imanishi said the organization then and in the future will continue to be a national organization.

Imanishi's resignation was announced at the JACL's 100th anniversary celebration. The event was held at the JACL's headquarters in San Francisco, California, on Aug. 6.

Established over 10 years

ago, the national JACL consists of 112 chapters and 26,000 members across the United States and the District of Columbia. It is the nation's largest Asian Pacific American civil rights organization.

Robin Koyama, national president, said, "Herb has done an excellent job in developing the financial system for the organization. Herb has ensured that the JACL has a strong financial position to achieve its goal of advancing civil and human rights for all citizens and to educate and preserve the cultural values of Americans of Japanese ancestry."

Koyama said, "We will miss Herb and wish him well."

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JACL Calendar

National

NATIONAL BOARD
Fri-Sun, Oct. 8-10—National Board Meeting, JACL Headquarters, San Francisco

NATIONAL SINGLES

Fri-Sun, Sept. 3-5—8th National JACL Singles Convention: Radisson Miyako Hotel, San Francisco; Registration \$150 before July 15, \$180 after. Golf, bowling, workshops, mixer, banquet, dance, brunch, trips. Co-sponsored by San Francisco Bay Area Nikkei Singles and Greater Los Angeles Singles. Info: Georgeann Maeda, 415/753-3340; Gale Kondo, 415/337-9981; Web site: hiphomestead.com/9991 convention.

Eastern

WASHINGTON
Fri., Oct. 22—National Japanese American Memorial groundbreaking.

Midwest

DISTRICT COUNCIL
Fri-Sun, Sept. 24-26—District Council Meeting: Quality Inn, Plymouth, Michigan; Friday Night Mixer, 7-10 p.m.

CLEVELAND

Sun, Sept. 12—1999 Community Picnic; see Community Calendar. Info: Bill Sadatoko.

COMMUNITY Calendar

East Coast

ATLANTA

Aug. 27—Exhibit Openings, "America's Concentration Camps: Remembering the Japanese American Experience" and "Witness: Our Brothers' Keepers"; The William Brennan Jewish Heritage Museum, 1440 Spring St. NW; both exhibits developed by the Japanese American National Museum. Info, hours: 404/873-1661.

MCLEAN, VA

Sun, Aug. 29—National Japanese American Memorial Foundation Luncheon-Fund Raiser, "Natsu No Owari," 12 noon-3 p.m.; Tachibana Restaurant, 6715 Lovell Ave., \$50 per person. RSVP by Aug. 15: Fred Murakami, 2511 Babcock Road, Vienna, VA 22181. Info: Kyo Yamada, 703/521-7653.

The Midwest

CHICAGO

Fri-Sun, Aug. 20-22—"Ginza Holiday," Japanese cultural festival; Littlewood Buddhist Temple, 435 W. Menomonee; featuring Waza Craftspeople of Japan, Taiko, Japanese dancing, aikido, judo, karate, kendo, exhibits, food. Info: 312/943-7801.

Sun, Aug. 29—5th annual Asian American community picnic, Bunker Hill Forest Preserve, Grove #7; softball, volleyball, 2-person gate races, piñata, Chicago Mounted Police and Canine Corp demos; bring bento: hamburgers & hot dogs provided. Info: JACL, 773/726-7170.

CLEVELAND

Sun, Sept. 12—1999 Community Picnic, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Brushwood Shelters, Furnace Run Park, Summit County Metropolitan Parks. Info: John Ochi, 440/442-6211.

ST. LOUIS

Sat-Mon, Sept. 4-6—23rd Annual Japanese Festival; Missouri Botanical Garden, 4344 Shaw Blvd; featuring Zenzaki Toldo of Los Angeles, dancers from Suwa, Japan, cooking demos, ki-mono fashion show, shibori dyeing, Raku pottery demo, children's activities & crafts, candlelight walks, marketplace, food, etc. Info: 314/577-9400 or 800/642-8842.

Northern California

PACIFIC GROVE

Thurs-Sun, Sept. 9-12—1999 Yuki Teikei Haiku Retreat, Astoria; walk, write, reflect, attend workshops; featuring Sosuke Kanda from Kyoto, Violet Kazuo de Cristoforo, Kiyoko Tokutomi; excursion to Big Sur with Claire Gallagher, Noh performance by Ellen Brooks; \$145/1 night/\$300/3 nights. RSVP: Mary Hill, 413 Feme, Palo Alto, CA 94305; www.yukiteikei.org.

SACRAMENTO

Sat, Aug. 28—Lecture and display, "Kokeshi Dolls," 7 p.m.; Belle Coolidge Community Center, 5699 S. Land Park Dr.; presented by Jan Ken

NC-WN-Pacific

SAN FRANCISCO

Sat., Sept. 18—Workday at the National AIDS Memorial Grove, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., east end of Golden Gate Park; sponsored by San Francisco chapter JACL. Info: John Hanada, 415/762-2803.

Sun, Oct. 10—Golf tournament fundraiser; Skywest Golf Course, Hayward; sponsors and donors needed. Info: Vince Asai, 650/349-3590.

WEST VALLEY

Sat, Aug. 21—Dumpling Festival in San Jose; proceeds to West Valley chapter, Senior Club and the Next Generation; see Community Calendar for details.

Central California

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Sun, Aug. 29 (date change)—District Council quarterly meeting; Merced College.

Sun, Sept. 12—Shinzen Run, Fresno; to benefit Woodward Park's Shinzen Gardens and the Central Calif. Nikkei Foundation. Sponsors wanted; call Bobbi Hanada, 559/434-1662; registration forms: Patricia Tsai Tom, 559/486-6815.

Pacific Southwest

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Sun, Aug. 29—District Council Meeting, Santa Maria.

Sat, Sept. 16—PSW District Awards Dinner, Torrance; see Community Calendar. RSVP: 213/626-4471.

Po Cultural Association; Christine Umeda, speaker. RSVP: 916/489-1291 or 916/446-9844.

SAN FRANCISCO
Fri-Sun, Aug. 20-22—Summer Film Showcase, Iwai Shunji & Stephen Chiau Sing-Chi; Trustees Auditorium, Asian Art Museum, Golden Gate Park. Info: 415/379-8879; www.naatanet.org/festival.

SAN JOSE

Fri-Thurs, Aug. 20-26—Film series, "Young & Dangerous: Asian American Cinema on the Edge"; Towne 3 Cinemas, 1433 The Alameda; includes "Bastards," "Flow," "Bao," "American Dreams" (AKA Don Bonus) and "Kelly Loves Tony." Call theater for schedule: 408/287-1433.
Sat, Aug. 21—Dumpling Festival, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saratoga Lanes Bowling Center parking lot, Saratoga Ave. near Prospect Rd.; food, farmer's market, flower market, Monte and On Kawahara music duo, Alekzandri and On Kawahara music duo, Santa Clara Myo Karaoke Club; San Jose, call 415/379-8879 for details.
Sun, Aug. 29—Japanese American Cinema, 12 noon-3 p.m.; Tachibana Restaurant, 6715 Lovell Ave., \$50 per person. RSVP by Aug. 15: Fred Murakami, 2511 Babcock Road, Vienna, VA 22181. Info: Kyo Yamada, 703/521-7653.

Southern California

LOS ANGELES

Fri, Aug. 13—Akimatsu golf tournament, 1 p.m. shotgun start, California Country Club, 1509 S. Workman Mill Rd., Whittier. Info: Dr. Roy Takemura, 909/594-3600.

Mon, Aug. 16—"Heads Up" Foundation Charity Golf Tournament, 10 a.m. check, 12 noon tee-off; Los Coyotes Country Club, 8888 Los Coyotes Dr., Buena Park. \$225 includes tee gifts, golf shirt, lunch, green fees, cart, drink on course, use of locker, dinner; Hawaiian dinner, silent auction & drawings only, \$40. RSVP: Wendy Anderson, 626/683-8243, Danny Nartoku, 714/513-9250.

Sat, Aug. 14—Roundtable discussion with performance, "I-Town, Our Town: Deep in the Heart of Little Tokyo," 1 p.m.; Japanese American National Museum, 369 E. First St., Little Tokyo. RSVP: 213/625-0414.

Sat, Aug. 14-Sun, Aug. 22—Nisei Week Japanese Festival, "Bridging Tradition with Diversity"; San Pedro St. between Second and Third, Little Tokyo. For information and to volunteer call 213/687-7193; for calendar of events visit Nisei Week Web site at <http://www.janet.org>.

Sun, Aug. 15—Slide-illustrated lecture and book signing, "The Mummies of Urnchigi," by Dr. Elizabeth Barber; Pacific Asia Museum Store, 46 N. Los Robles Ave., Pasadena. RSVP: 626/449-2742 ext. 20.

Sat-Sun, Aug. 21-22—Performances, art, music, comedy, poetry, storytelling; Tsunami Bakery & Cafe, 313 E. First St., Little Tokyo. Info: buyers: 618/315-4954, 213/613-0100.

Thurs, Aug. 19—Performance by East West Players, "Frisch off the Page," 7:30 p.m.; Japanese American National Museum, 369 E. First St., Little Tokyo.

LAS VEGAS

Sat, Aug. 21—Singles lunch, 12 noon; Makino Toldi Restaurant, 3965 S. Decatur #5; bowling to follow; Info: Rhea Fujimoto, 702/254-8060.
Fri, Sept. 11 or 17—Fund raising for PBS Channel 10, 8 p.m. Volunteers needed; call Lillian, 702/734-0508.

GREATER L.A. SINGLES

Fri, Aug. 13—Meeting/program, 8 p.m.; Gardens Valley YWCA, 1341 W. Gardens Blvd.; Lt. Darren Ikematsu, CHP, will speak on "How to be Safe: Personal Safety and Crime Prevention." Info: Louise Sakamoto, 310/327-3169.

WEST LOS ANGELES

Sun, Sept. 12—Aki Matsuri; see Community Calendar. Info: Jean Ushijima, 310/390-6914.

DEADLINE for Calendar is the Friday before date of issue, on a space-available basis. Please provide the time and place of the event, and name and phone number (including area code) of a contact person.

HOLIDAY ISSUE AD KITS READY

Holiday issue-advertising kits are currently being prepared. Each chapter should call Brian Tanaka at 800/966-6157 with the name and address of their Holiday issue advertising coordinator. Thank you.

RSVP: 213/625-0414.

Sat-Sun, Aug. 21-22—Friends of Nisei Week Japanese Beer Garden Fundraiser, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, 244 S. San Pedro St., Little Tokyo. Info: 213/687-7193 ext. 352.

Sat, Aug. 21—Orange County Senses Nisei Week Dinner-Dance, "Solid Gold: A blast from the past!" 6 p.m.-1 a.m.; New Otani Hotel, 120 S. Los Angeles St.; Los Angeles; dinner, dancing, door prizes; music by The Music Company with Manjig and Howie, DJ by Fat Cat; to benefit the National Japanese American Memorial. RSVP: Stan Masumoto, 310/830-0321.

Sun, Aug. 22—Japan America Society family fishing trip, 12:30 p.m. registration; Long Beach Marina, Seaport Village. RSVP by Aug. 18: 213/627-6217 ext. 12.

Sun, Aug. 22—Film screening and reception, "Children of the Camps," 1 p.m.; Japan America Theatre, 244 S. San Pedro St., Little Tokyo. RSVP: 213/628-3700.

Through Aug. 22—Exhibit, "The Heart Mountain Story," photos by Hansel Mith and Otto Hagel; Japanese American National Museum, 369 E. First St., Little Tokyo. Info: 213/625-0414, 800/461-5266.

Sun, Sept. 12—Aki Matsuri: 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; Venice Japanese Community Center, 12448 Braddock Dr., West L.A.; designer clothing, jewelry, hand-made stationery, cookbooks, food, books for adults & children, etc. Info: Jean Ushijima, 310/290-6914.

Sat, Sept. 18—PSW District Awards Dinner; 6 p.m. silent auction, 7 p.m. dinner; Norman Y. Mineta, speaker. Torrance Marriott Hotel, 3635 Fashion Way, Torrance. Tickets \$85; RSVP: 213/626-4471.

ORANGE COUNTY

Mon, Aug. 16—"Heads Up" Foundation Charity Golf Tournament, 10 a.m. check-in; Los Coyotes Country Club, 8888 Los Coyotes Dr., Buena Park; \$225 includes Hawaiian dinner; dinner only, \$40. Info: Wendy Anderson, 626/683-8243, Danny Nartoku, 714/513-9250.

Arizona - Nevada

GLENDALE

Tues, Aug. 24—Program, "Cherry Blossoms and Barbed Wire, Historical Sketches of the Japanese in Arizona," 2 p.m.; Glendale Adult Center, 7121 N. 57th Ave.; entertainment, origami, hors'd'oeuvres and refreshments. RSVP: 623/930-2196.

Redress Payment Information

Individuals can call 202/219-6900 and leave a message; or write to: Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice, P.O. Box 66260, Washington, DC 20035-6260.

Senate Committee Says Los Alamos Probe 'Flawed from the Outset'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON—The FBI's espionage case against a Los Alamos weapons scientist was considered "flawed from the outset" because authorities identified a number of other suspects, but failed to investigate them, a U.S. Congressional report revealed Aug. 5.

The report also disclosed for the first time that in a polygraph test in February when the scientist, Wen Ho Lee, was asked if he had passed nuclear secrets to "any unauthorized person," he failed the test.

The report by the leaders of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee described a string of mistakes, communications lapses and misunderstandings over three years that prevented the FBI from establishing a strong case against the Taiwan-born scientist.

The findings summarized information gathered during two closed-door hearings the committee held on the federal investigation into Lee. He was fired from his top-secret job last March after being the primary suspect since 1996 in the alleged theft by China of secrets involving the sophisticated W-88 nuclear warhead in the 1980s. China has denied any involvement.

Lee has not been charged with a crime, although a federal grand jury is hearing evidence in the ongoing case. In his only public comments, Lee in a television interview on Aug. 1, categorically denied providing nuclear secrets to China or anyone else.

But the Senate report disclosed

that last February, Lee was asked during an FBI polygraph test whether he had ever given specific classified computer code related to weapons testing, or "passed W-88 information to any unauthorized person."

"Wen Ho Lee failed this polygraph test," said the report.

The FBI's attempt to get clearance for a computer search, however, was made more difficult in part because of FBI bungling, the report suggested.

As early as 1996, a series of misunderstandings between an FBI field agent and Los Alamos officials failed to make clear that apparently Lee had agreed on his computer being searched and that his computer, in fact, carried a "baner" warning such searches could be made.

The failure to provide accurate information to senior FBI and Justice officials had "significant implications for the course of the Lee espionage investigation," the report said.

Last March, investigators finally searched Lee's computer and found he had transferred thousands of top-secret computer code files from the Los Alamos highly secured computer system to his unclassified office computer that was linked to the Internet. It has not been determined whether any of the data ever left the lab.

At one point, the Justice Department's office that reviewed requests for the Lee computer search described the case as "flawed from the outset" because the FBI had focused almost exclusively on Lee and his wife, also a

Los Alamos employee, while other suspects were ignored.

These other suspects also had access to the secret information at Los Alamos, traveled to China, had contacts with Chinese scientists visiting the New Mexico lab, and fit the profile that made Lee a prime suspect, the report said. Still they were not investigated in any detail, although the FBI questioned some of them earlier this year, the report said.

Appearing on CBS' "60 Minutes" program on Aug. 1, Lee admitted he had transferred top-secret computer codes — a legacy of warhead development and testing — from the highly secured computer system to his personal office computer, which is linked to the Internet.

"I do that routinely. It's a very common practice," Lee insisted. He reportedly has told investigators he made the transfers, dating back to 1996, to provide a "backup" for the codes to protect them. He claimed such transfers were a "very common practice" among nuclear weapons designers.

Energy Secretary Bill Richardson characterized as "pure bunk" the claims by the first scientist when asked on Aug. 3 about Lee's assertion. "Just everybody does it, business is just a sorry excuse."

Richardson has called the transfer — which came to light after Lee was fired when his computer was searched — a "massive violation of our security system." Congressional critics have questioned why Lee's computer had not been examined much earlier, since he became the prime target of the

FBI investigation in 1996.

At Los Alamos, nuclear weapons scientists with super-secret "Q" clearance work in two totally independent computer systems. One contains top-secret nuclear weapons codes and can be used only by a small number of scientists with no outside access. The other system has fewer safeguards, can be penetrated from outside the lab by sophisticated hackers, and is not supposed to contain top-secret material. Material also could have been sent outside through the unsecured system, although tighter controls have been installed in recent months.

Several Los Alamos weapons scientists and managers, speaking on condition of anonymity, acknowledged materials have occasionally been transferred from the secure system to the unsecured system.

But these transfers generally involved material that had been unclassified but was being used in the top-secret system. Even if there were no criminal intent, transferring top-secret codes to the unclassified system would be considered "stupid" and a momentous blunder, said one weapons scientist who has worked at Los Alamos for more than a dozen years.

The codes in question in the Lee case involved so-called "Legacy Codes" that amount to an archived history of warhead development and testing over the years. While not a recipe for making nuclear bombs, the codes would provide valuable information about

weapons development, scientists said.

"I have little sympathy for him," Richardson said when asked by reporters on Aug. 3 to comment on Lee's CBS appearance, during which he categorically denied giving nuclear weapons secrets to China or "any unauthorized person."

"The truth is I'm innocent," Lee said.

Lee also suggested in the interview that race played a part in his being targeted in the investigation. Authorities needed a scapegoat, he said, and he was the only Asian American in the weapons design group. "They think I'm perfect for them," he said.

Asked about that, Richardson reacted sharply. "The suspect unfairly tried to use the race card," he said. "He tried to portray himself as a victim after he massively violated our security system." No matter what the outcome of the ongoing investigation, he said, Lee "will never return to a nuclear plant."

Federal authorities have said it is unlikely they can build an adequate case to bring espionage charges against him, but the Justice Department is considering whether to prosecute him for other criminal charges related to the handling of classified material.

The Los Angeles Times reported this week that Lee's lawyers have submitted legal briefs in an attempt to head off an indictment. Lee's lawyer, Mark Holcher, did not return a telephone call to his office in Los Angeles. ■

Payments to JLAs Set to Begin

(Continued from page 1)

have to become available this week, an event the department deems unlikely to occur.

DOJ Denies Eligible Survivors

Another issue of contention is the DOJ's denial of claims filed by survivors after the Aug. 10, 1998, deadline established in the Mochizuki settlement agreement.

"We've appealed to the Department of Justice on several occasions to reconsider its policy toward these claimants," said Julie Small, co-chair of the Campaign for Justice, a coalition of civil rights groups who have advocated on behalf of the JLAs. Citing that survivors live in foreign countries, Small said U.S. efforts to locate them were inadequate and the time allotted to apply unreasonable.

One denied applicant, Takuo Araki, a citizen of Japan who currently resides in Tokyo, learned about the settlement in time but could not get the information on where to file.

Araki was born in 1910 in Panama, arrested in Panama on Dec. 9, 1941, and forced to go to the United States where he was held in two prison camps in North America. Araki was sent to Japan in 1943 in exchange for a U.S. citizen.

Araki read about the Mochizuki settlement and the opportunity for redress in a newspaper article in August of 1998. The article however did not explain how to file an application.

Araki's son telephoned the U.S. embassy in Japan and was told to contact the DOJ directly in the United States to obtain instructions on how to file an application.

He next accessed the home page of the Office of Redress Administration via the World Wide Web but the information also was only in English. He asked a friend to translate the informa-

tion on the Web site. By the time Araki's son was able to get how to file an application translated, the Aug. 10, 1998, deadline had passed.

"The Mochizuki settlement was supposed to provide redress for survivors of a war crime committed by the U.S. government against civilians of Latin America" says Small. "These survivors are being denied reparations because the settlement that was not adequately publicized by the government that wronged them."

Fred Okrand, legal director emeritus of the ACLU of Southern California, one of the attorneys representing JLAs, says the forgiving of the Aug. 10, 1998, deadline is within the government's ability and that Japanese Latin Americans, who had only six weeks to apply, ought to be forgiven the arbitrary deadline. "The refusal to pay survivors is unconscionable," he said.

According to Campaign for Justice, the DOJ has adequate funds to pay reparations to all the remaining claimants who it currently deems eligible, plus the late JLA applicants. In all, there are 17 such known cases the DOJ is denying, but advocates believe as many as 100 persons may be alive who did not learn of the settlement in time to apply. Attorneys for JLAs say the circumstance of other late applicants cannot be determined as the DOJ refuses to release information on the names and whereabouts of the late applicants. ■

JLA Claims Under Mochizuki Settlement	
Total Applicants	60
Opted out of Settlement	17
Paid	145
Remaining Claims	658
	\$2,800,000
Funding currently authorized for redress payment	\$4,300,000

APA Group Asks Presidential Candidates to State Position on Bill Lann Lee Nomination

WASHINGTON DC—Several member organizations of the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA) are asking the field of presidential candidates to state a position regarding the confirmation of Bill Lann Lee to be assistant attorney general for civil rights. NCAPA is a national coalition of over 20 APA organizations across the country, including JACL.

"Mr. Lee's nomination, which has been stalled for two years in the Senate Judiciary Committee, is a key issue for the Asian Pacific American community and could be a rallying point for many APA voters in the 2000 presidential election," stated Daphne Kwok, chair of NCAPA.

President Clinton first nominated Lee to the civil rights position over two years ago, but the Senate Judiciary Committee has made no progress on his nomination to date. The committee is chaired by Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), who recently entered the presidential race. In addition to



Bill Lann Lee

Hatch, the APA leaders wrote to Lamar Alexander, Gary Bauer, Bill Bradley, Pat Buchanan, George Bush, Elizabeth Dole, Steve Forbes, Al Gore, John Keyes, John McCain, Dan Quayle and Bob Smith, asking them each to state their position on Lee.

Hatch recently told NCAPA leaders that he would not move on Lee's nomination until he had completed a review of the 20

months that Lee has been serving as assistant attorney general in an "acting" capacity, and that he had no idea when he would complete the review.

"We hope that all the presidential candidates, including Senator Hatch, will focus their attention on Mr. Lee's confirmation as one that is critically important for the entire nation, as well as the APA community," remarked Nancy Choy, executive director of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association.

"The delay of the confirmation of someone of Bill Lann Lee's caliber is seen by members of our communities as terribly unfair," noted Jon Melegroz, executive director of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations. "Many view the treatment of Bill Lann Lee as an indication of how APAs and their concerns may be treated by the future political leadership. That is why we want to know now where the presidential candidates stand on Mr. Lee's confirmation. ■

Judge Delays Decision in JLA Brothers' Redress Case

The judge in the U.S. District Court in San Francisco has delayed his ruling on a motion to dismiss the lawsuit brought by three brothers who were abducted from Peru and interned in the United States to be used in exchanges for U.S. prisoners during World War II.

The three Peruvian-born brothers, Isamu Carlos (Art) Shibeyama, Kenishi Javier Shibeyama and Takeshi Jorge Shibeyama, opted out of the settlement reached in the Mochizuki v. the United States lawsuit in which Latin American internees were granted \$5,000 individual redress payments and an apology from the U.S. government. The brothers are seeking redress equal to the \$20,000 which was granted to the Japanese Ameri-

can internees under the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

The suit claims that the U.S. government committed crimes against humanity and continues to violate U.S. and international laws by denying them equal redress. Through the suit, the brothers want the government to acknowledge the scope and gravity of its violations as well as expungement of their "illegal alien" status which resulted from their abduction.

Their attorney, Karen Parker, is challenging the government's attempts to characterize the brothers' claim as merely for money damages. She therefore does not want the case to be transferred to the Court of Federal Claims in Washington, D.C., but rather to remain under the

District Court's jurisdiction, because, she says, as defendant, the U.S. government cannot assert sovereign immunity for crimes against humanity, and the relief sought concerns serious equity and compensation issues that should not be trivialized solely as claims for money damages.

According to Grace Shimizu of Campaign for Justice, a coalition which advocates for equitable compensation for the Japanese Latin American internees, the brothers are encouraged that Federal Judge Charles Legge is delaying his decision and giving further careful consideration to their claim. They hope that this will weigh in their favor so that the case will not be dismissed or transferred to the Court of Federal Claims. ■

1999 CCLPEP Update

Grant Recipients Bring 'In America's Shadow' to Elementary Schools



1999 CCLPEP grant recipients Kaleigh (left) and Kimberly (right) Komatsu talk about their storytelling project which will teach elementary schoolchildren about the history and experience of Japanese Americans.

The following is an article submitted by one of the 27 grant recipients of the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program, (CCLPEP).

CCLPEP is a three-year grant program created in 1998 to provide the California community with information and education on the Japanese American experience before, during and immediately after World War II.

Among those awarded grants under the 1999 CCLPEP were Kimberly Komatsu, a student at the University of Southern California, and Kaleigh Komatsu, a recent graduate of USC. Kimberly and Kaleigh, co-directors of the program team, are working on a

multifaceted project that will bring the Japanese American Internment experience to elementary school children within the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Kimberly and Kaleigh are currently writing a children's book about the JA experience in WWII through the eyes of a child. Drawing upon personal accounts and archival material, the book, "In America's Shadow" will delve into the past to reveal a wide breadth of human emotions and experience. Amid the turbulent times of WWII, unforgettable stories emerge of the Issei and Nisei.

"This book is not only a story about a child in a concentration camp, it is a story about dignity, perseverance, loyalty, and freedom," said Kimberly. "It is not just a Japanese American story, it is an American story."

Using archival photographs, artifacts and models, an interactive traveling exhibition based on the story told in the book is being designed. Set to begin in the year

2000, the program team will visit elementary schools within Los Angeles, implementing a storytelling time in which the book will be read, and during which children will be able to participate in the interactive exhibit. It is hoped that the exhibit will have an impact on children, thereby opening up a forum for understanding, empathy, and awareness of the past.

Kimberly and Kaleigh, fourth generation JAs, created this project to help fulfill the need to accurately inform children about the JA internment experience.

"We feel very honored to be a part of the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program. Being awarded this grant has truly been an exciting experience. We feel very fortunate to be given this opportunity to pursue a project we believe in. To be able to tell this story, and to communicate to future generations, the Japanese American experience has been something we have always wanted to do."

Information concerning CCLPEP or any of the specific grant programs funded by CCLPEP can be obtained by contacting Diane Matsuda, program director, CCLPEP, 900 N Street, #300, Sacramento, CA 95814, 916/653-9404, dmatsuda@library.ca.gov.

HATE CRIMES

(Continued from page 1)

"It's not only an attack on the individual," he said. "It is also an attack on the group that that person is a member of."

Holder also noted that since he testified on the subject before the Senate in May, a young man linked to a white supremacist group allegedly shot several people in Illinois and Indiana, killing a graduate student from South Korea and a black man walking

with his daughters. Three vigilantes in California also were arrested.

Carole Carrington of Eureka, Calif. — whose daughter, granddaughter and a female friend of the family from Argentina were killed while visiting Yosemite National Park in February — testified that they were killed "simply because they were women." The hate crimes bill needed to "send a message to perpetrators that violence against women will be punished."

August 3, 1999

Congressman Henry Hyde
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Hyde

I am Craig Kamijima and I'm 16 years old and I'm Eric Kamijima and I'm 14. Eric and I attend Palantine High School in Illinois. We are writing to ask you to support the Hate Crimes Prevention Act. We think it is important to strengthen hate crime laws because of what happened to our dad.

Our dad came to the United States from Japan 20 years ago. He owned a small store in Crystal Lake which he operated for 13 years. Last April, a man came into the store and without saying anything, he walked up to our dad, pointed a gun at him and fatally shot him. The police said that the man previously walked into another store and asked the employees their ethnic background and left saying "this is your lucky day." The man has been charged with murder and a hate crime.

It's difficult to lose our dad because he was so patient and kind. He was always fun to be with. He always thought of things to keep us entertained and he had such a silly sense of humor. His death has affected us tremendously. Our lives have been shattered because of some sick person's attitude. We will never have our dad with us to see big events such as graduations, weddings, grandchildren, etc. We miss him every day.

Our dad said he never felt prejudice in this country, and he always acted decent so others would think that Japanese people were nice. He did not want people thinking Japanese people were bad. Our dad loved the United States because he thought that it didn't matter what you were as long as you were kind and treated people fairly.

We ask you to please support the hate crimes act to strengthen our laws on hate crimes.

Sincerely,

Craig Kamijima
Eric Kamijima

San Francisco Chapter Donates \$10,000 to NJAMF



Yo Hironaka and Greg Marutani present the check from the San Francisco chapter to Cressley Nakagawa (center) of the NJAMF.

With the deadline approaching to reach the fund-raising goal required by the federal organizations for the National Japanese American Memorial in Washington, D.C., the JACL San Francisco chapter board unanimously voted to contribute \$10,000 from its reserve funds.

According to Greg Marutani, chapter president, "The reserve was built up by countless fund-raising events, primarily during the time Nisei were very active in our chapter for an important project. We all believe this is that important project."

Marutani added, "This will be

a tribute to those individuals who endured the camps during World War II, as well as those who served in the 100th/442nd MIS, and is a testament to the strength of the Constitution and a lesson on how democracy can work."

The San Francisco chapter also sent a group letter urging its chapter members to support the project, signed by prominent chapter representatives including Hats Aizawa, Yo Hironaka, Greg Marutani, Eddie Moriguchi, Cressley Nakagawa and John Yasumoto.

Included in the mailing was a brochure specially designed for this local fund-raising campaign provided by Hats Aizawa along with an envelope addressed to the foundation.

"We believe in this project and recognize the importance of what it will do to share a portion of this country's history that must not be forgotten so it will never occur again," said Yo Hironaka.

Blue Shield health plans for California JACL members

Blue Shield of California offers group health care

coverage to current JACL members age 18 and over who reside

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It Was Wartime: Need to Prove Loyalty

By FRED HIRASUNA

Generally, "Rabbit in the Moon," written by Emiko Omori, is a good documentary of evacuation and internment, but, in our opinion, it is generally anti-JACL and marred by the strongly anti-JACL remarks of Shosuke Sasaki and Chizuko Omori, older sister of Emiko Omori.

Sasaki and Chizuko Omori insist that JACL is responsible for the evacuation and internment of Japanese Americans and resident aliens in 1942. Sasaki states that the United States government collaborated with the JACL in having Issei community leaders picked up, leaving community organizations leaderless and choosing JACL as spokesman for Japanese, citizens and aliens. Sasaki states that Japanese Americans and aliens did not authorize JACL to be their spokesman and that JACL betrayed them by cooperating with the authorities in the evacuation.

Omori spoke along the same lines. It might be asked who authorized Sasaki and Omori to speak for Japanese Americans. This may be repetitious on our part, but evacuation and internment were decided by the Army before March of 1942. The Tolan Committee hearings were merely window dressing for public consumption. The decision had already been made.

In addition, the conference of Japanese leaders in San Francisco with Army authorities in March of 1942 meant nothing. The decision had already been made.

Nothing the JACL, or any other organization or individuals, did at that time meant anything. The decision had already been made. Knowing this, JACL decided to make the best of the situation and collaborated to secure as many concessions as possible to ease the burden on our people.

"There were errors of judgment along the way, but, at all times, the welfare of Japanese Americans was paramount among the wartime leaders of JACL, leaders who made great personal sacrifices for the cause."

Sasaki and Omori do for our group? What did James Omura do? If they were sincere, why didn't they have the courage that Minoru Yasui and Gordon Hirabayashi had and risk their safety to protest evacuation publicly, not just by words, but by action? What if the JACL had protested and advised Japanese Americans to resist evacuation physically, and forced the U.S. Army to use guns and bayonets to forcibly evacuate us? What if JACL had advised our people to refuse to cooperate in any way with camp life? What if JACL had advised our people to do nothing in the war against Japan, refuse to serve in the U.S. military forces in any capacity — no 100th Infantry Battalion, no 442nd Central Postal Directory, no MIS — no participation in the teaching of the Japanese language in U.S. military schools, and no participation in Japanese propaganda broadcasts to Japan?

After the war, what would have been the reception in the schools for our school children? What would have been the reception for all Japanese in American society?

Of course, our constitutional rights were violated. Of course, there should have been no need to prove our loyalty to our country. We were American citizens with all the rights, privileges and duties of that citizenship, but it was wartime, and our enemy was Japan.

Under these circumstances and for the future of our group in postwar American society, we had to prove that we were American citizens and our first loyalty was to our country. Our long-range plans had to look ahead to

our eventual return to American society. Our children had to find their place in American society. They had to be able to look with pride on our participation in the American war effort, especially on the magnificent record of our Japanese American soldiers on the battlefields of Europe and Asia.

JACL did not publicly support the Heart Mountain resisters. Constitutional rights were cited by the resisters for their refusal to be drafted.

In the heat of the conflict with Japan, that was not the time or the place for their action. Some of the resisters were sincere in their protestation of the violation of their constitutional rights.

Others may have preferred penitentiary terms to the risks of active military service. To support the resisters, JACL, to be consistent, would have had to advise against any form of participation in the war effort because of the violation of our constitutional rights. This would have been disastrous for the cause of all Japanese in America.

After the war, JACL sent Mike Masaoaka to Washington, D.C., to lobby for Japanese American citizen and alien rights. The Japanese American Evacuation Claims Act was signed by President Truman on July 2, 1948. The claims paid were very inadequate, but it served notice to Congress of the errors of evacuation and the justice of the claims.

Among other accomplishments were:

- The repeal of the Oriental Exclusion Act of 1924, eventually resulting in the ruling that of the 350,000 immigrants permitted annually, entry would be based on skills and relationship to those already here, not on the basis of race, creed or national origin.

- An amendment to the Soldiers' Bride Bill was passed to permit Japanese spouses and children of American servicemen to enter the United States, without regard to the Oriental Exclusion Act.

- Alien Japanese who had lost the right to live in the United States as treaty merchants were given a stay of deportation.

- Individual members of Congress were persuaded to sponsor more than 200 private bills benefiting specific Issei and Nisei.

- Tenure was restored to Nisei in federal civil service.

- The California Alien Land Law was declared unconstitutional.

- Miscegenation laws in various states were revoked.

- Aliens of Japanese descent were permitted to be naturalized.

- The Civil Rights Act of 1968 was passed, paving the way for redress payments and an official apology from the U.S. government.

JACL continues to fight for the welfare and the rights of Japanese Americans. We believe that the long-range policy of full cooperation during the war against Japan has been justified. They were errors of judgment along the way, but, at all times, the welfare of JAs was paramount among the wartime leaders of JACL, leaders who made great personal sacrifices for the cause. ■

Fred Hirasuna is a founding member of the Fresno JACL chapter and was a delegate to the first national JACL convention in Seattle in 1930.

JACL Owes Japanese America an Apology

By FRANK CHIN

Emiko Omori and her sister Chizuko, creators of the autobiographical documentary "Rabbit in the Moon," are to be congratulated for making art of the unspeakable JACL betrayal of Japanese America into the camps and into the draft and the unspoken Nisei resistance to the camps the JACL has, until recently, said never existed.

Instead of congratulations, JACL denounces the Omoris' documentary for drawing attention away from the accomplishments of the Nisei soldiers of World War II.

Actually, the JACL praise for the Nisei soldiers distracts attention from the fact that the Nisei soldier, both the volunteers and the draftees, did nothing to address or redress the constitutional issues raised by the evacuation and internment.

The JACL abuses the 442nd by using them as proof the camps were humane and just. The Army would not have created the 442nd if the Japanese race in America had not been interned in concentration camps.

I can't believe that the Nisei soldiers of WWII really believe they volunteered or accepted the draft only because their entire race was being held hostage.

I don't believe they really mean to say that if they had been free and not interned, the Nisei would have refused to volunteer or refused the draft.

I don't believe the Nisei veterans of WWII really mean to denounce all Nisei who saw the camps as unconstitutional and stood up to defend Nisei civil rights, as draft dodgers, cowards and traitors.

I don't believe they mean to praise all Nisei, who preferred concentration camps and a behavior modification program to the free exercise of their civil rights, as heroes.

The JACL justifies its collaboration with the FBI, Naval Intelligence and Army G-2 by asserting that the JACL could not have prevented the camps. The JACL is not responsible for camp but it is responsible for the worst policies of camp, policies designed to destroy Japanese America and extinguish the race.

"Rabbit in the Moon" tells the story of a Japanese American girl who grew up believing Japanese America entered and endured the evacuation and internment without protest or resistance because Japanese America helplessly and passively followed the lead of the JACL, a group despised by the community for its collaborating with the Army in the evacuation and internment and the restoration of the draft, without a restoration of Nisei civil rights. She belonged to a race that despised itself. Bad effects on JA self-esteem. Then she learns about the organized resistance at Heart Mountain. Bad and bound feelings about her parents, herself, her race clear up like allergies in a change of wind.

The JACL weekly, the *Pacific Citizen*, is full of rabidly JACL letters, dumping on Omori's film for not giving the JACL side of the story, meaning not having a JACL talking head on her screen. It's a phony argument.

The JACL collaboration with the Army is not a "he said/she said" question. Omori's film represents the general knowledge of the community, in camp and after camp, and does it accurately.

She goes no further than to say the JACL policy was one of "complete cooperation." She doesn't say how despised

the JACL was in the community.

The JACL scolds the Omori sisters for saying the JACL could have prevented the evacuation and internment. The Omori sisters never suggest the JACL could have prevented camp.

Prevention of the camp isn't the JACL issue in the film. The JACL's role in the government's decision to draft Nisei out of concentration camps without any restoration of their civil rights and their homes is the issue. The JACL should thank the Omoris for generously not blaming the policy of drafting the Nisei out of concentration camps on Mike Masaoaka and the JACL.

Letters and memos from the files of the JACL, the WRA (War Relocation Authority), the FBI, the War Department documents the story of the JACL thinking up and convincing the WRA to implement the worst

policies of camp. If the JACL had not usurped the WRA's sponsorship...

sored All Camp Meeting of November 1942, in Salt Lake City, and turned it into the JACL national convention and demanded restoration of the draft as a civil right, there would have been no riots at Manzanar and Poston, no beatings of JACL officers at the other camps in December of 1942, no "loyalty oath questions" based on the wording of the JACL loyalty oath, no "No-No boys," in 1943; no restoration of the draft based on the belief the Nisei wanted the draft, more than they wanted their civil rights and homes back, in 1944; and no social ostracism of the draft resisters after the war.

The JACL debate over whether or not to apologize to the resisters is another distraction from the real issue of the JACL betrayal of Nisei civil rights. The Nisei resisters, in and out of "Rabbit in the Moon," do not ask for or demand an apology from the JACL for themselves.

The JACL owes Japanese America an apology for the egregious white racist behavior of the JACL under the leadership of Mike Masaoaka. The JACL owes an apology to all of America for forcing Japanese America to submit to a white racist hysteria that did not exist. America, even after Pearl Harbor, was not unanimously white racist that JAs were being or in threat of being murdered in the streets.

And if America was as viciously white racist as JACL would have the Nisei believe, why submit to it? Why fight to appease and maintain an America that despises Japanese people, Japanese culture and the Japanese race? Isn't submission to tyranny cowardice? Isn't a policy of submission to tyranny betrayal?

And what if the JACL does the unexpected, admits Mike Masaoaka was a demagogue who led the JACL to betray away Japanese America's civil rights to enable the Army to draft the Nisei out of concentration camps without embarrassment and apologies, would Japanese America accept the apology and forgive the JACL? ■

Frank Chin is a pioneer playwright and author of several books. He is most known for co-editing "AIIIEEEEE! An Anthology of Asian American Writers" (1974) and "The Big AIIIEEEEE! An Anthology of Chinese American and Japanese American Literature" (1991).

From the Frying Pan

By Bill Hosokawa

An Apology From Both Sides

I have come up with an idea that probably deserves a bit of airing before it is shot down, as no doubt it will be. It has to do with the enduring and now-tiresome controversy about who should or should not apologize to the several hundred Nisei who declined the nation's invitation to serve in the armed forces during World War II more than a half-century ago.

These men — now called resisters — contend they were doing what any patriotic American should have done when they refused the call to military service while their constitutional rights were suspended and they and their families were locked up in detention camps for no reason other than that they were ethnic Japanese. They say they would have had no hesitation about serving if their rights and freedom were restored.

Others contend that thousands of JAs volunteered or were drafted for service as their wartime duty, that they paid a heavy price for their patriotism with more than 800 dead and thousands wounded, and there is no reason for anyone to apologize for anything. Further they say that the sacrifice of those who fought for their country contributed immeasurably to the position that all JAs — including the resisters — enjoy today, and apology deems that sacrifice and is inappropriate.

The resisters were a small minority. The figures show that the great majority of JAs supported military service. But assuming that an apology is desirable, the question is who should accept responsibility for whatever happened and do the apologizing. It's been suggested that JACL, which in 1943 vigorously endorsed military service, should be

the apologist. But in wartime, JACL was a very small organization without universal support. Today, JACL is divided on this issue. Many JACL members, particularly the younger ones who weren't even around during the war, are pressing for apology. Many older members who lived through the experience see no need for apology.

Comes now my idea for resolving this stalemate: A mutual apology. Both sides must participate, or it wouldn't work. This is the way it would go.

On the one side, some spokesman representing the community — perhaps from JACL in the absence of a more suitable constituency — would express understanding for the moral position of the resisters who refused military service while their rights were being violated, and express regret for whatever stigma the resisters suffered as a result of their action.

On the other side, a spokesman for the resisters would express appreciation that their moral position is understood at long last, and further express regret that that position exposed other JAs to suspicions of disloyalty when thousands of Nisei were demonstrating their love of country by military service, and further, express gratitude that the courage and sacrifice of Nisei who served in the armed forces was instrumental in JAs winning their rightful place in their native land.

Then the two sides could shake hands and we would go on to other matters.

Okay. Aside from the likelihood that the idea might make sense, what's wrong with it? ■

Bill Hosokawa is the former editorial page editor for the Denver Post.



East Wind

By Bill Marutani

Because of Ethnicity?

I'D BEEN invited to participate in a panel discussion being aired live on ABC's television affiliate station in Philadelphia. Entering the sound stage, I was a bit surprised to find a small but restless audience, mostly males, many wearing union buttons. I now don't recall just what the topic of that particular show was, but during the program the issue of foreign trade came up, such as foreign products flooding our country, displacing American workers. Suddenly the question was posed as to what kind of automobile — foreign or domestic — did the panel members own. By whatever lot, the first response to be made landed on my lap, the only non-white panelist, obviously Asian by sight, and an ethnic Japanese at that.

I DIRECTLY answered that I owned a Honda, which replaced a Ford station wagon; that the Ford was traded in when I discovered that the horn had been installed backwards, the trumpet facing back into the passenger compartment rather than forward; that if some clown in Detroit wanted to play pranks it was not going to be at the expense of my hard-earned money. In my discourse, I pointed out that the same question is to be directed to millions of other Americans who own Japanese automobiles — and trusted that the question of "foreign-or-domestic" wasn't being posed to me because of my ancestry.

Perhaps not surprising, but the union-bustard-wearing members in the studio audience reacted quite favorably. One mentioned that he found a coke bottle rattling behind the door panel, so he knew how I felt.

THIS EPISODE came to mind as I read in this newspaper (July 30-Aug. 5, 1999) about State Assemblyman Mike Honda's intro-

duction of "AJR 27" (Assembly Joint Resolution) calling upon the Japanese government to "firmly issue a clear and unambiguous apology for the atrocious war crimes committed by the Japanese military during World War II and to immediately pay reparations to the victims of those crimes."

Assemblyman Honda's action apparently has generated praise as well as criticism, the suggestion being what some foreign government may have done in wartime some five, six decades ago does not fall within the domain of the state legislature. Assemblyman Honda, of course, has the unfettered right to introduce whatever he deems appropriate. I do not know the good assemblyman very well; I've heard him speak perhaps three or four times, and I've read about his act of getting legislation passed for funding education about the 1942 uprooting and confinement of Americans of Japanese ancestry and their resident parents.

From what I have heard from his talks and have read about his legislative actions, I'd say thumbs up. The folks in the San Jose area have a winner.

IN ASSESSING whether a question, response or action is appropriate, there's a litmus test I've used. It's simply this: Was the question posed to me because of my ethnicity? (Such as what kind of a car, foreign or domestic, do you own?) Was Assemblyman Honda moved to introduce AJR 27 because of his (Japanese) ethnicity? Did those who praised or criticized him do so because of his (Japanese) ethnicity? If the answer is "yes" to these inquiries, the (unacceptable) implication is that Nikkei Americans, by reason of their ethnicity, are to be held accountable for actions of Japan, including wartime actions, such as Pearl Harbor.

After leaving the bench, Bill Marutani resumed practicing law in Philadelphia. His column appears regularly in the Pacific Citizen.

Heart Mountain, Wyoming Foundation Seeks Archival Donations, Volunteers

The Heart Mountain, Wyoming Foundation is seeking archival donations to be used for various exhibits and at the future interpretative center, set to be built on the former site of the Heart Mountain Relocation Center.

Any memorabilia is appreciated (pictures, letters, artwork, newspaper clippings, toys, clothes, quilts, camp-made furniture and other camp memorabilia).

If former internees or friends have Heart Mountain camp memorabilia but do not wish to part with the item, the foundation would like the opportunity to take a digital photograph of the artifact so that it may become a part of the foundation's archives.

The foundation is also seeking volunteers to serve on any of the following standing committees: development and finance; finance; program, planning and education; nominating; and property and facilities.

For more information on donation options or to volunteer for a committee, please call Pat Wolfe, board treasurer, at 307/754-2689 or fax 307/754-0119 or email <pwolfe@wave.com.net> or write to HMWF, P.O. Box 547, Powell, WY 82435-0547.

The next HMWF board meeting is set for Sept. 18, in Denver, Colo.

For more information on the board meeting, call 303/455-4987. ■

28th Annual Nisei Week KAMON EXHIBIT
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Letters to the Editor

Resisters of Conscience

What an excellent analysis on WWII resisters by Assistant Editor Martha Nakagawa. It becomes clear from all the letters and articles printed, that the divisiveness comes down to objection by many to the proposal for abject apology to the resisters, to be held at a very Japanese ritualistic group ceremony.

JACL could put reconciliation to a simple majority vote among the individual districts and then the board officers could adopt a simply worded resolution of reconciliation, printed in the *Pacific Citizen* and copies mailed to JACL members. Then the spirit of implementation is left to individual responses.

Those who have actively shunned the resisters as traitors by the Bushido code of old Japan can grapple with their heated feelings or hold group discussions to vent. Those who had ignored or avoided these families can now muster up for absolution for guilty feelings by offering friendship, or desist encouraging gossip in perpetuity. Then the rest of us who by the grace of God were not aware of their names/looks and had thought the resisters were part of the history of Japanese Americans can go on with our lives.

Some Nikkei fail to grasp principles of democracy in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights despite the lessons in the long process of redress and the vow that it must never happen again. Yet we step backwards to the Bushido code in discriminating against these men who took their stand to protest loss of personal rights guaranteed in our democracy.

Kay Shikoma,
Stockton, Calif.

The prolonged and cancerous issue of "reconciliation" of the 1943 Nisei draft resisters and JACL, now half a century later, continues to generate clouds of smoke and words.

As a longtime supporter of the resisters, may I dare to say that reconciliation need not happen? Historically isolated, the resisters will be remembered as singular civil rights heroes.

This brings to mind the episode of the martyred 47 ronin of 17th century Japan which in a spasm of passions and in isolation became the most singular moment in Japanese history.

Reconciliation now is an oxymoron wrapped in pseudo-contrition and illusions.

Ek Sugawara
Ft. Meade, S.D.

'Rabbit in the Moon'

Emiko Omori's "Rabbit in the Moon" is a brilliant film, certainly the best of the documentaries on the Japanese American experience. She portrays a significant facet of that experience that has long needed understanding: the story of the Nisei draft resisters. The courage of those resisters in confronting the government, willing to face imprisonment, is fittingly depicted. The reason that they had earned the ire of the JACL could have received a balanced presentation. Omori looks back fifty years viewing the role of wartime JACL using today's lenses. She asks, "Who appointed the JACL to speak for us?"

But, if not for the JACL, indeed who would have spoken for us? Those were desperate, intemperate days. We were alone — too young and with too little political savvy. The JACL itself was under

attack, not only by the government but by doltish groups of our own, mindlessly determined to punish its leaders for too readily accepting the evacuation. Saburo Kido, president of the JACL and Fred Toyama, among other JACLers, were brutally beaten in camp by those cowardly thugs. To Omori's discredit, she leaves the viewer with the impression that one of those interviewed was imprisoned for resisting the evacuation while in truth he was one of those thugs.

Ironically, it was the sacrifice of the men of the 100th, the 442nd, and MIS that made it possible for the pardon of the draft resisters and the restoration of citizenship to renunciants. My perception of this history required no revision. I remain indebted to the Mike Masaokas, George Inagakis, and Tom Yatabes of yesteryear's JACL.

H. Quintan Sabal
Walnut Creek, Calif.

Concerns About Patriotism Monument

In the July 30 *Pacific Citizen*, Martha Nakagawa reported on concerns over the inscriptions on the Japanese American Patriotism Monument in Washington, D.C., that have been raised in the Nikkei community.

Initially, the National JA Memorial Foundation responded with "to be honest, it is getting late," to these concerns. Fortunately, Dale Minami, Jack and Aiko Herzog, and others were able to persuade the Foundation to change their plans for the inscriptions having to do with the Supreme Court.

Chris Iijima, the law school professor from Hawaii, was quoted by Nakagawa on his concerns that there had been insufficient public input and what might be done about it.

It would be well for the foundation to be more open with their plans so that the participants in this history, the veterans who served their country, the inmates of the internment camps, and others, will have the opportunity to comment on the monument that is planned to tell their fellow Americans what happened to them in World War II. Those who gave nine million dollars for the monument should also be allowed to preview the final plans.

A. Gonal
Seattle, Wash.

The basic facts of the Japanese American Memorial are simple: in 1992 Congress authorized the creation of a "Japanese American Patriotism Memorial" in Washington, D.C., because "Nikkei soldiers fought for their country while their families were placed in internment camps" (*Rafu Shimpō*, 7/20/99). The NJAM Foundation changed the motif to the opposite — fulmination against America for our evacuation from the Pacific Coast.

Featured artwork includes two huddled Japanese cranes with earrings tangled in barbed wire, an ignominious representation of the JA spirit. It's better to have the birds soaring upward, shedding restraining wire with their claws.

Quotes in the text focus on the injustices we suffered 55 years ago. Ignored are magnificent benefits we have received because of the heroic self-sacrifice of our combat men. Why accentuate the negative?

The NJAMF refused to publicize details of what it will look like or what it will say, collecting millions with false promises that cannot be fulfilled. Strenuous ob-

jections by the 100th/442nd RCT vets were rejected.

Just months before groundbreaking, the foundation revealed the inscriptions, arousing protests against lack of public input. Cherry Tsutsumida, executive director, says it is too late to make changes. Why didn't they listen to earlier criticisms? Vigorous opposition will come from veterans and other patriotic groups, which will reflect badly on our Sansei and Yonsei.

Because of mismanagement, half of the heads-in-the-clouds intellectuals and politicians in the NJAMF should resign and be replaced by veterans of the "Go For Broke" Monument, who recently unveiled their successful tribute to the JA of World War II.

The national JACL must act promptly with wisdom and integrity on this matter for the sake of our coming generations!

Mae Odo
Renton, Wash.

Honda's AB27 Resolution Not Necessary

Mr. Mike Honda's proposed resolution is not in the domain of the California State Assembly. The Assembly is reaching out to international affairs with the proposed resolution condemning the Japanese military and the Japanese government for the Rape of Nanking. The rape should be condemned, but not by the Assembly. It has enough problems in California without reaching out into foreign problems.

If it does take such action, it should also condemn the action of the Chinese government for the massacre at Tiananmen Square and the destruction of 6,000 monasteries in Tibet. It should also condemn the action of the U.S. military in the massacre of an entire village, men, women and children in My Lai. The U.S. government should be condemned for the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the carpet bombings of Tokyo and Dresden.

If AB27 is to pass, the Assembly should pass resolutions of censure of the Chinese government and our own government. Chinese Americans should support censure of the Chinese government for Tiananmen Square and Tibet. Japanese Americans should support censure of our own government for My Lai, the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the carpet bombings of Tokyo and Dresden.

We see Mike Honda's proposal as mainly political, seizing upon the controversy engendered by the book, "Rape of Nanking."

Fred Hirasawa
Fresno, Calif.

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"Voices" reflect the active, public discussion within JACL of a wide range of ideas and issues, though they may not reflect the viewpoint of the editorial board of the *Pacific Citizen*.

"Short expressions" on public issues, usually one or two paragraphs, should include signature, address and daytime phone number. Because of space limitations, letters are subject to abridgment. Although we are unable to print all the letters we receive, we appreciate the interest and views of those who take the time to send us their comments.

Obituaries

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Digenhart, Masuyo, 71, Sacramento, July 28; Oka, Shiga-born; survived by husband James; brother, Masuo; Kishimasa; sisters Yaeiko Komatsu, Kay Johnson (all Oka).

Enomoto, Eds, 83, Atherton, July 27; survived by son Ronald; daughters Janice Matsumura, Karen Sugiyama, Cindy Chandler, 10 g.; brother Tosh Nakashima; sister Sachie Masuyama; predeceased by husband William, grandchild Katherine Chandler.

Fujioka, Doris, Charlotte, N.C., May 1; survived by daughter JoAnn Harris and husband Rick; 4 g.; 1 g.

Kameko, Alice Miyoko, 88, Los Angeles, Aug. 2; Riverside-born; survived by brother Ted Hiroshi Kameko; sisters Ruth Tsukihira, Calie Morizono and husband Mike.

Kaneyama, Kikue Sugahiro, 83, Portland, Ore., July 25; Brighton, Colo.-born, Tule Lake internee; survived by son William Sugahiro (Milwaukee); daughters Darlene Demise (Portland, Ore.), Janis McPaul (Vista), 7 g.; 3 g.; sister Mabel Yasuda (Wilder, Idaho); predeceased by husbands Dr. Tetsuo T. Sugahiro, Roy Kaneyama; daughter Shirley Hayashi.

Ikeida, Mary S., Chicago; survived by son James and wife Lynn, daughter Grace Osaka and husband Hiroshi; 3 g.; sister Alice Yoshinari and husband Mas; predeceased by husband Harry.

This compilation appears on a space-available basis at no cost. Printed obituaries from your newspaper are welcome. "Death Notices," which appear in a timely manner at request of the family or funeral director, are published at the rate of \$15 per column inch. Text is reworded as needed.

brother John Asaka; sister Virginia Morimoto.

Ito, Roy, 77, Hamilton, Ont., Canada, July 7; 33-year educator with Hamilton Board of Education, WWII Canadian Intelligence Corps linguist, author, "We Went to War - Story of Japanese Canadians Who Served During the First and Second World Wars" (1984); survived by wife Mitsy; son Robert; daughters Sharon, Carole, Lorna; 7 g.; brothers Ken, Saburo; sisters Marie Okura, Betty Taji; predeceased by sister Rose Shin.

Miura, Yutaka, 78, Villa Park, Aug. 3; Los Angeles-born; survived by wife Mary Sachiko; sons Randal Shigeru and wife Donna (Arizona), Russell Minoru and wife Lori Michiko; daughters Marilyn Takako Tagliaferri (New York), Norreen Tsyoko, 7 g.; 1 g.; brother Sam Isamu and wife Nancy Tshie; sisters Midori Nakatani, Yoshiko Kita, Yoneko Okada and husband Enro (Utah); brothers-in-law Sam Isamu Seito (Colorado), George R. Tagashira (Long Beach); sisters-in-law Yoshiko Ninomiya (Utah), Sadie Sadako Furuya (Colorado).

Nakano, Sumiko, Detroit, March; survived by son Hideaki; daughter Kazumi; predeceased by husband Dr. Hidegoro.

Ogawa, Michio Raymond, MID, Petoskey, Mich., Feb. 1; survived by three sisters in Hawaii; predeceased by wife Margaret.

Ogino, Takumi (Tak), 79, Temple City, Aug. 3; San Gabriel-born; survived by wife Jean Nobuyuki, sons Marty and wife Leslie, Paul and wife Arlene; daughter Marsha Aizumi and husband Ted; 6 g.; sister Lillie Sumi.

Sasashima, Chester, 82, Fresno, April 13; WWII veteran; survived by wife Akiko Lillian.

Shibutsu, Eiji, Detroit, March;

survived by wife Ruth; son Don; daughter Carol.

Sogo, Maschiko, 65, Denver, June 28; Yamagata-born; survived by husband Shinasaku; four sisters.

Quan, Andrew Sydney, 78, Los Angeles, July 31; Oakland-born; survived by wife Florence; sons Michael and wife Carissa, Martin and wife Mary, Melvin, Myron and wife Gay, Mack and wife Pamela, Matthew and wife Patricia; 10 g.; brothers Ferdinand and wife Gail, Warren and wife Connie; sister Annie Jeng; sisters-in-law Bessie, Billie.

Sakasegawa, Fred T., 78, Salinas, Aug. 1; Watsonville-born WWII veteran, Purple Heart recipient, retired auto mechanic and longtime JACLer; survived by wife Toshiko, sons Fred Jr. (Salinas), Bill (Reno), Mark (Ranch Murietta), Jon (San Ramon); daughter Fayee Amy (Salinas); 6 g.; 1 g.; brothers Harry, Roy George (all of Salinas), John (Japan); sisters Grace Hirano, Mary Iwamoto, Doris Yamamoto (all of Salinas), Dorothy Tabery (Boston).

Usui, Betty, Rochester Hills, Mich., March; survived by husband Rich; daughter Eriko; four brothers and four sisters.

Uyeda, Sierra H., 77, San Diego, July 22; Fresno-born; survived by husband Kenneth; sons David, Dean; daughter Carolyn H.; 3 g.

Ward, Sumiko Osawa, 76, Aurora, Colo., June 6; Tokyo-born; survived by husband Hugh; daughter Janet Delgado; 2 g.; sister Fusako Osawa (Tokyo).

Yagi, Sadaoyoshi, 87, Sacramento, July 2; Courtland-born; survived by wife Yukiko; brothers Tom and wife Shirley, Joe and wife Berny, George and wife Alice Chieko, Frank and wife Lily, Sister-in-law Helen; sisters Sadako Hamatake, Ruby Ito and husband John, Nancy Yamada and husband Bill Masakazu, Hanako Otsuji and husband Kiichiro, Elizabeth Chizuko Okamada and husband George, Ellen Yamada and husband Isamu, Mary Murakasa and husband Dave.

Yamasaki, Tomu, 72, Los Angeles, July 30; Alameda-born; survived by brother Masahachiro; sister Yoneko. ■

Whereabouts

is free and is on a space available basis. Send information to 7 Cupania Circle, Monterey Park, CA 91755; fax: 323/725-0064 or e-mail: paccit@aol.com.

COL (LTC) DICK INOKUCHI Lee Jackson and Dick Inokuchi traveled together in the IV CORPS area of Vietnam. His home was in the Monterey area. Please contact Lee Jackson, POB 8663, San Jose, CA 95155, call 408/295-1136, or e-mail: LJ-MILITARY@aol.com.

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Anti-Immigration Signs Stirs Debate

(Continued from page 1)

message to that of Hitler's blaming the Jews for all their country's problems. "We need to teach tolerance," said Lee. "ProjectUSA describes itself as patriotic, but does that mean that those who don't agree with them are not patriotic?"

John Kim with NAKA said their next step was to write letters to the building owners where the billboards are located and to the company that leased the space to Project-USA.

In addition, Kim urged "public officials and community leaders to speak out against the poisonous, deceptive messages of bigotry, and hate against Chinese and new immigrants being spread by a new, self-proclaimed 'patriotic' group called ProjectUSA" and called upon elected officials to take strong counter measures by doing the following:

- enact new hate crimes prevention laws which will ban deceptive, divisive messages attacking any group based on their race, ethnicity or national origin through billboards and public signs;
- strengthen law enforcement and monitor activities against anti-immigrant, white supremacist groups;
- provide government fund-

ing to civic groups to improve racial/ethnic relations at local and state-wide levels; and

- create a New York City commission on human relations which will serve as an independent city agency to conduct studies and hearings on hate crimes and various ways of promoting mutual understanding and respect among different racial/ethnic groups.

Steve Choi with the National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NKASEC) noted that they plan to combat the misinformation posted on the billboards with accurate facts.

"Such statements as '80 percent of Americans support very little or no more immigration' skews the facts," said Choi. "We want to try to get the right information out to the public."

Choi pointed out that immigrants are an asset to America and noted that Flushing, which is near Sunnyside, was considered a decaying town in the 1970s due to white flight but the influx of immigrants, particularly the Koreans, Chinese and Indians, revitalized the area.

Joan Ring, vice president and general manager of Sale Point Posters Inc., the company that rented the billboard space to Nelsen, said they are "sorry it happened."

"This is not a statement by the company made towards the community," emphasized Ring.

She admitted the messages had not been screened properly but added that they were legally bound by the contract to keep the billboards up. She did, however, note that the contract of one of the three billboards had expired recently. Another is set to expire at the end of August, and the third will expire at the end of September. She assured the public that on the day the contracts run out, the billboards will be covered immediately.

She also said the company has no desire to renew the contracts unless they are legally bound. The company is discussing the matter with their attorney, said Ring.

According to Ring, since a salesman in a branch office had taken Nelsen's account, she had not been aware of the messages on the billboard until a reporter from the Chinese-language newspaper, *World Journal*, had called her for a comment. After learning of the billboards, Ring had someone

go out and take photos of the billboards.

Ring said the salesman who originally took the account was on vacation and thus unavailable for comment.

Sale Point Posters Inc. handles more than 1,700 billboards in the boroughs of New York.

Ironically, one sign is just a block from the No. 7 train, whose subway line the White House had last month named as part of the "National Millennium Trail" in honor of the contributions the diverse riders have made to building America.

A community follow-up meeting on this matter is scheduled on Aug. 18 at the Asian American Coalition of force.

A similar anti-immigration billboard went up in May 1988, one year before Nelsen's bill-

board, in Blythe, Calif., along the California-Arizona border at Interstate 10.

"This billboard read: 'Welcome to California. The illegal immigrant state. Don't let this happen to your state.'"

It was sponsored by the Orange County, Calif.-based group, California Coalition for Immigration Reform (CCIR), the same organization that co-sponsored Proposition 187, the initiative which would have excluded illegal immigrants from public schools and eliminated non-emergency health and welfare services for them.

Martin Media, the national advertising company that had sold the space to CCIR, took down the sign in July 1988 after several Latino groups protested and even threatened to boycott Burger King and the Best Western Hotels for leasing billboards near the controversial sign. ■

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