

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 8, 1979

From: PEGGY NAGAE
224-4094 or 238-6882

Re: A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE
February 17, 1979
Multnomah County Exposition Center

You are invited to attend A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE on February 17, 1979 at the Multnomah County Exposition Center starting at 12:00 p.m.

February 19, 1979 marks the 37th anniversary date of the enactment of Executive Order 9066. By signing this Order on February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt gave Executive approval for the wholesale uprooting and incarceration of over 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry, 74% of whom were United States citizens.

The DAY OF REMEMBRANCE acknowledges the years of hardship Japanese America endured to make the United States home for their parents, themselves, their children and all the Nikkei generations to come. The Expo Center was the Portland Assembly Center during World War II, where the Nikkei were imprisoned from May to September of 1942 before being sent inland to concentration camps.

The DAY OF REMEMBRANCE held in Puyallup, Washington on November 25, 1978, drew about 2,000 participants. Similar events are scheduled for Los Angeles and San Francisco.

The schedule for the DAY OF REMEMBRANCE is:

12:00 - 1:30	Registration
2:00 - 3:30	Program
3:00 - 3:45	Break
3:45 - 4:15	Entertainment
5:00	Community Potluck

PARTIAL LIST OF PARTICIPANTS Speakers and Entertainers

Mayor Neil Goldschmidt
The Honorable Robert Thornton
Mr. Min Yasui
Dr. George S. Hara
Mrs. Harue Ninomiya
Dr. Toshi Kuge
Reverend Waichi Oyanagi
Mr. Masuji Ureta
Mrs. Nola Sogai Bogle

PARTIAL LIST OF SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

Portland Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)
Seattle JACL
Gresham-Troutdale JACL
Oregon Nisei Vets
Pacific Northwest District Council
Oregon Buddhist Church
Nikkei Jin Kai
Eugene Asian American Cultural Center
University of Oregon Asian Student Union

Metropolitan Human Relations Commission

Multnomah County • City of Portland

February 27, 1979

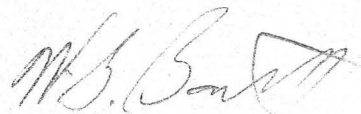
The Oregonian Forum
1320 SW Broadway
Portland, Oregon 97201

Attention: Editorial Board

Enclosed is a copy of an article on redress for Japanese Americans that we wrote for our January Human Relations Newsletter.

We thought it would be of interest for the March 5th Forum page. If you are interested, you have the permission of the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission to reprint this article.

Sincerely,



W.G. Barnett
Executive Director

WGB/blt



Corbett Building, Room 312
430 S.W. Morrison Street
Portland, Oregon 97204 • 248-4187



Redress due over camps of WW II?

SHOULD Japanese-Americans receive reparations for their incarceration in mass detention camps during World War II? That is the topic for readers' letters for the Forum page on March 5.

The Japanese-American Citizens League is seeking reparations on behalf of the more than 110,000 persons of Japanese ancestry interned in West Coast camps. It intends to have a bill introduced in Congress to authorize payments of \$25,000 to each imprisoned Japanese-American or his survivor. (Reparations for more than 3,000 Japanese-Americans from Oregon would amount to \$75 million, it is estimated.)

Opponents, including Sen. S.I. Hayakawa, R-Calif., contend the proposal would rekindle resentment and racism.

Letters on the topic should be addressed to The Oregonian Forum, 1320 S.W. Broadway, Portland, Ore., 97201. Brief letters will be given greater consideration.

Letters must be signed and include the writer's address. Deadline for their submission will be Feb. 28.

A Case for Redress

by Linda F. Calvin - MHRC Staff

By custom and tradition any American who has been injured by false accusation, arrest, or imprisonment is expected to bring the responsible parties into court and obtain a judgement clearing his or her name and collecting damages as redress. Freedom is considered so precious by Americans that even a few days of false imprisonment have been compensated with large monetary sums.

Japanese Americans have experienced the agonies of being incarcerated unjustly and have suffered the indignity of being imprisoned by their own government. Redress for the injustices of the 1942-1946 period should not be just an isolated Japanese American issue; it is an issue of concern for all Americans. During the years 1942-46 some 77,000 American citizens of Japanese ancestry and 43,000 Japanese nationals, most of whom were permanent U.S. residents, were summarily deprived of liberty and property without criminal charges, and without trial of any kind.

The governmental authority for this mass incarceration was based on Executive Order 9066, signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on February 19, 1942. Executive Order 9066 broadly authorized any military commander to exclude any person from any area. The Presidential Order did not mention any specific group, nor did it provide for detention. However, there was an understanding among high officials that the authorization was to be used for the purpose of removing and incarcerating Japanese Americans.

There were 15 temporary concentration camps scattered throughout Arizona, California, Oregon and Washington. They were mostly county fairgrounds, race tracks, and livestock exhibition halls hastily converted into concentration camps with high barbed wire fences, some of which were electrified. With search lights and guard towers completing the scene, each camp held nearly 5,000 detainees. In several instances, living quarters consisted of horse stalls, even with manure still inside. The incarceration of Japanese Americans was accomplished district by district over a five month period. The Government's actions encouraged private harassment. For exam-

ple, in one town outside the official expulsion area, the entire Japanese American community was boycotted and forced to leave town.

While the Japanese Americans were incarcerated, and unknown to them at the time, some members of Congress and the State Department proposed through legislation or executive action to strip all native-born Americans of Japanese ancestry of their citizenship and deport them to Japan after the war. One member of Congress even proposed a mandatory sterilization program. Fortunately neither of these extreme measures were taken.

Regretfully, Judges, even Supreme Court Justices were not immune from the prejudices of the time, and the judicial system failed in its constitutional responsibility to protect citizens against abuses by the executive and legislative branches.

In *Hirabayashi and Yasui vs. U.S.* (320 US 1, 115), the Supreme Court ruled that a curfew may be imposed against one group of American citizens based solely on ancestry.

The Supreme Court justified various decisions of this nature by reiterating the false stereotypes about Japanese Americans were inherently more dangerous to national security than other people merely because of their ancestry. The Court ignored the constitutional guarantees of due process and equal protection of law, and violated the basic principle of American justice that guilt and punishment must be individual, i.e., the inalienable rights to life, liberty and property cannot be deprived except upon conviction of an individual's own wrongdoing — not the wrongdoing of others nor of a group. Justice Robert Jackson stated in dissent: "The Court for all time has validated the principle of racial discrimination in criminal procedure."

The Pacific war ended in August 1945, but the last mass detention camp did not close until October 1946 and the last special internment camp did not close until 1952. The return of Japanese Americans to their homes in California, Oregon and Washington was marked by vigilante violence and the agitation of pressure groups to keep out the Japanese Americans permanently. Homes,

farms and businesses left behind were occupied by whites unwilling to return the property to the rightful owners. Homes were burned and dynamited, and Japanese Americans were targets of terrorist shootings. When news of the hostility would reach those still in the camps, they naturally were reluctant to return to their homes.

Reconstructing lives was not easy, and for some it was too late. Elderly pioneers lost most of what they worked for all their lives. Property losses alone were conservatively estimated by the Federal Reserve Bank in San Francisco to be over 400 million dollars based on 1941 figures. Congress appropriated partial restitution, but only 8½ per cent of estimated property losses were compensated. Nothing was done to compensate the tremendous increase in land values during the war years, lost income, unnecessary deaths, mental sufferings and loss of freedom.

Not only were direct losses sustained, but long lasting psychological damages resulted. Families disintegrated under the prison-type conditions, and individuals became disoriented and embittered. Most importantly, Japanese Americans suffered the indignity of being imprisoned by their own government.

President Gerald R. Ford rescinded Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1976 — exactly 34 years after its promulgation and stated: "An honest reckoning must include a recognition of our national mistakes as well as our national achievements. Learning from our mistakes is not pleasant, but as a great philosopher once admonished, we must do so if we want to avoid repeating them."

When interviewed about restitution, Harold Onishi Counselor at Washington-Monroe High School stated, "It is an issue that has been a long time in coming. Our own government has perpetrated a wrong, that is, incarcerating its own citizens into assembly centers and relocation centers,

without due process."

These grave injustices were perpetrated in spite of the fact that our government had in its possession proof that not one Japanese American, citizen or not, had engaged in espionage, not one had committed any act of sabotage.

This was a bleak period in the history of American freedom. From time to time there have been voices of protest raised against this national shame. A few isolated voices tried to protest — some clergymen, some scholars, some members of the government, the National Urban League, The American Friends Service, NAACP, and the National Conference of Christians and Jews. A surprising number of military personnel who knew the Japanese Americans and understood the true situation — but our nation was bent upon revenge.

Today the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) and the Japanese American community are working to overturn the Supreme Court cases which legalized the mass internment of people based solely on race.

Peggy Nagae, Legal Advisor for the Pacific Northwest District Council of JACL expressed, "JACL wants public acknowledgement of an American experience that has been swept under the rug. Redress is an issue for every person that wants to protect our Democratic process, and who believes that America stands for individual and civil rights as guaranteed by the Constitution."

The 3½ years that Japanese Americans spent in concentration camps cannot be given back to them. Their millions of dollars of lost property cannot be restored. Indeed people know that there is no adequate compensation for the injustice and suffering which has occurred. But as Justice Goldberg has stated, "money is the demonstration of the injustice done. It is better than a paper resolution."

Restitution does not put a price tag on freedom or justice. According to the Japanese American Citizens League the main purpose of redress is to obtain government recognition of an historic injustice and insure that it will not be repeated for any other American.

The Memory of
One Hundred Twenty Thousand Three Hundred and Thirteen
persons of Japanese Ancestry
request the pleasure of your company
for

A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Remember the Concentration Camps
Stand for Redress
with your family
on

Saturday, the seventeenth of February
nineteen hundred and seventy-nine
Registration at twelve-thirty o'clock
Multnomah County Exposition Center
West Hall

2060 North Marine Drive
Portland, Oregon
Plaque Dedication

Program
two o'clock in the afternoon
Speakers, exhibits, entertainment
Community dinner at five o'clock

R.S.V.P.
(503) 223-2454
9:00 - 3:00 P.M.

COME AS YOU ARE
COME WITH YOUR FAMILY

思出の日 プログラム

日時: 1979年2月17日

場所: マルトマ郡博覧会場西会場

12時30分~1時45分

登録, WCCA 家族番号供給

午後2時

開会式

ラッパ ~ マケシマ ジム

国旗掲揚 ~ オレゴンニモベフツ

国歌 ~ ノラ スカイ ボーグル

祈禱 ~ 大柳ワイケ 牧師 ラッドローン総合メソヂスト教会

司会者 ~ 角田 ロー

スピーカー ~ 秋山 春枝, 木下 政喜, 安井 ミン,
ニ宮 春枝, 原 ジョージ ドクター
ポートランド 市長 ニール ゴールドシュミット
オレゴン州 控訴院 判事 ロバート ソートン

記念標識献呈 ~ 久家 トシ ドクター

詩 ~ 稲田 フサオ ローソン

午後3時45分~4時

休憩, 自由行動

スライド映画, 写真展示, 收容所時代芸術品・工作品展示,
一屯感謝の日 フィルム

午後4時~5時

余興 ~ 藤波会, 高位カラ, ホカマ パット, 藤井 デイビッド

午後5時~6時

ほ系社会 パット ラフ デイナー

Thank you for your recent correspondence which has come to my attention.

You will be hearing in detail from me shortly, but I wanted you to know immediately that your communication has been received.

Kind regards.

Sincerely,



Mark O. Hatfield
United States Senator

? S 1647
Comm. on Interstate rela.

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

[Signature]
U.S.S.

RECEIVED
MAR 5 1990

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMS.

Mr. James R. Sitzman
Corbett Building Rm 312
430 SW Morrison Street
Portland, OR 97204

Metropolitan Human Relations Commission

Multnomah County • City of Portland

February 21, 1980

The Honorable Orr Packwood
United States Senate
1317 Wilson Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

RECEIVED
FEB 21 1980

RECEIVED AND COMMISSION

Dear Senator Packwood:

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission writes in support of Senate Bill 1647, the bill that would inform the American public of the true facts of Executive Order 9066 and its impact on civilians. It is our understanding that Senators Daniel Inouye, Spark Matsunaga, S.I. Hayakawa, Alan Cranston, Frank Church, and James McClure have sponsored the bill. We are greatly encouraged by the willingness of these Senators to bring this matter to the public.

It has been nearly forty years since EO 9066 was instituted; and yet, the general public is unaware of its impact on American civilians and resident aliens. The time is long overdue.

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission encourages you to join with other Senator and add your name to the list of sponsors. You will be doing our country a great service by sharing with them the precious nature of our democracy and the fragile nature of our freedom.

Please add your name to the "Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians Act." The MHRC awaits your reply.

Sincerely,

James R. Sitzman
Chairman

JRS:LR:vn

*Also send same letter to
Mark O. Hatfield*



Corbett Building, Room 312
430 S.W. Morrison Street
Portland, Oregon 97204 • 248-4187



HENRY M. JACKSON, WASH., CHAIRMAN
FRANK CHURCH, IDAHO
J. BENNETT JOHNSTON, LA.
DALE BUMPERS, ARK.
WENDELL H. FORD, KY.
JOHN A. DURKIN, N.H.
HOWARD M. METZENBAUM, OHIO
SPARK M. MATSUNAGA, HAWAII
JOHN MELCHER, MONT.
PAUL E. TSONGAS, MASS.
BILL BRADLEY, N.J.

MARK O. HATFIELD, OREG.
JAMES A. MC CLURE, IDAHO
LOWELL P. WEICKER, JR., CONN.
PETE V. DOMENICI, N. MEX.
TED STEVENS, ALASKA
HENRY BELLMON, OKLA.
MALCOLM WALLOP, WYO.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

DANIEL A. DREYFUS, STAFF DIRECTOR
D. MICHAEL HARVEY, CHIEF COUNSEL
STEVEN G. HICKOK, STAFF DIRECTOR FOR THE MINORITY

April 1, 1980

Mr. James R. Sitzman
Chairman
Metropolitan Human Relations Commission
Corbett Building, Room 312
430 S.W. Morrison Street
Portland, Oregon 97204

Dear Mr. Sitzman:

Thank you very much for your recent letter indicating the support of the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission for S. 1647, a bill dealing with the past implementation of Executive Order 9066. I, of course, appreciated knowing of the Commission's support for this legislation.

I am sympathetic to the intent of this bill, but feel a detailed analysis of its impact is needed prior to lending it my full support. You may be certain that the Commission's support of this legislation is an important factor in my consideration of this legislation. Please know that I will have your thoughts in mind as the Senate continues to consider it.

Thanks again for taking the time to write.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,



Mark O. Hatfield
United States Senator

MOH:jrrj

RECEIVED
U.S. SENATE
APR 2 1980

July 25, 1980

Linda
Do you have
This already
if not; keep
is so; file 13

Mr. Barnett:

This bill has been passed by * both houses but
House made some minor amendments. Therefore, it must
go back to * Senate again, but is expected to pass easily.

Debby Abe
Oregon Journal

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMS.

RECEIVED
AUG 6 1980

Metropolitan Human Relations Commission

Multnomah County • City of Portland

February 21, 1980

The Honorable Bob Packwood
United States Senate
1317 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20510

RECEIVED
FEB 21 1980

METROPOLITAN ARTS COMMISSION

Dear Senator Packwood:

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Please add your name to the "Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians Act." The MHRC awaits your reply.

Sincerely,

James R. Sitzman
Chairman

JRS:LR:vn

*Also send same letter to
Mark O. Hatfield*



Corbett Building, Room 312
430 S.W. Morrison Street
Portland, Oregon 97204 • 248-4187



Call 316 Dozono or
Dr. George Hara, if questions

2

96TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1647

To establish a Commission to gather facts to determine whether any wrong was committed against those American citizens and permanent residents aliens affected by Executive Order Numbered 9066, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 2 (legislative day, JUNE 25), 1979

Mr. INOUE (for himself, Mr. MATSUNAGA, Mr. HAYAKAWA, Mr. CRANSTON, Mr. McCLURE, and Mr. CHURCH) introduced the following bill, which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To establish a Commission to gather facts to determine whether any wrong was committed against those American citizens and permanent resident aliens affected by Executive Order Numbered 9066, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SHORT TITLE

SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as the "Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians Act".

FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

SEC. 2. (a) The Congress finds that—

(1) Approximately one hundred and twenty thousand civilians were relocated and detained in internment camps pursuant to Executive Order Numbered 9066, dated February 19, 1942, and other associated acts of the Federal Government; and

(2) no inquiry into this matter has been made.

(b) It is the purpose of this Act to establish a factfinding commission to determine whether a wrong was committed against those American citizens and permanent resident aliens relocated and/or interned as a result of Executive Order Numbered 9066 and other associated acts of the Federal Government, and to recommend appropriate remedies.

ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION

SEC. 3. (a) There is established the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (hereinafter referred to as the "Commission").

(b) The Commission shall be composed of ~~fifteen~~ ^{seven} members, who shall be appointed as follows:

(1) ~~three~~ ³ members shall be appointed by the President.

(2) Two members of the House of Representatives shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(3) Two Members of the Senate shall be appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate.

now includes
1,000
Aliens

(c) The term of office for members shall be for the life of the Commission. A vacancy in the Commission shall not affect its powers, and shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

(d) The first meeting of the Commission shall be called by the President within sixty days following the date of enactment of this Act.

(e) Eight members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may hold hearings.

(f) The Commission shall elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman from among its members. The term of office of each shall be for the life of the Commission.

(g) Each member of the Commission who is not otherwise employed by the United States Government shall receive compensation at a rate equal to the daily rate prescribed for GS-18 under the General Schedule contained in section 5332 of title 5, United States Code, including travel-time, for each day he or she is engaged in the actual performance of his or her duties as a member of the Commission. A member of the Commission who is an officer or employee of the United States Government shall serve without additional compensation. All members of the Commission shall be reimbursed for travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties.

*House
bill
took
the
cities
out
designated*

DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION

SEC. 4. (a) It shall be the duty of the Commission to gather facts to determine whether a wrong was committed against those American citizens and permanent resident aliens who were subjected to relocation and/or internment by the issuance of Executive Order Numbered 9066 and other associated acts of the Federal Government.

(b) The Commission shall hold public hearings in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Fresno, California; Portland, Oregon; Seattle, Washington; Phoenix, Arizona; Salt Lake City, Utah; Denver, Colorado; Chicago, Illinois; New York, New York; Washington, D.C.; and any other city that the Commission deems necessary and proper.

(c) The Commission shall submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to Congress not later than ¹⁵ ~~eighteen~~ months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

POWERS OF THE COMMISSION

SEC. 5. (a) The Commission or, on the authorization of the Commission, any subcommittee or member thereof, may, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act, hold such hearings and sit and act at such times and places, and request the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memorandum, papers, and documents as the Commission or such subcommittee or member may deem advisable.

(b) The Commission may acquire directly from the head of any department, agency, independent instrumentality, or other authority of the executive branch of the Government, available information which the Commission considers useful in the discharge of its duties. All departments, agencies, and independent instrumentalities, or other authorities of the executive branch of the Government shall cooperate with the Commission and furnish all information requested by the Commission to the extent permitted by law.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 6. The Commission is authorized to—

(1) appoint and fix the compensation of such personnel as may be necessary, without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, and without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates;

(2) obtain the services of experts and consultants in accordance with the provisions of section 3109 of title 5, United States Code;

(3) enter into agreements with the General Services Administration for procurement of necessary financial and administrative services, for which payment shall be made by reimbursement from funds of the

Commission in such amounts as may be agreed upon by the Chairman and the Administrator of General Services;

(4) procure supplies, services, and property, and make contracts, without regard to the laws and procedures applicable to Federal agencies; and

(5) enter into contracts with Federal or State agencies, private firms, institutions, and agencies for the conduct of research or surveys, the preparation of reports, and other activities necessary to the discharge of its duties.

REPORT AND TERMINATION

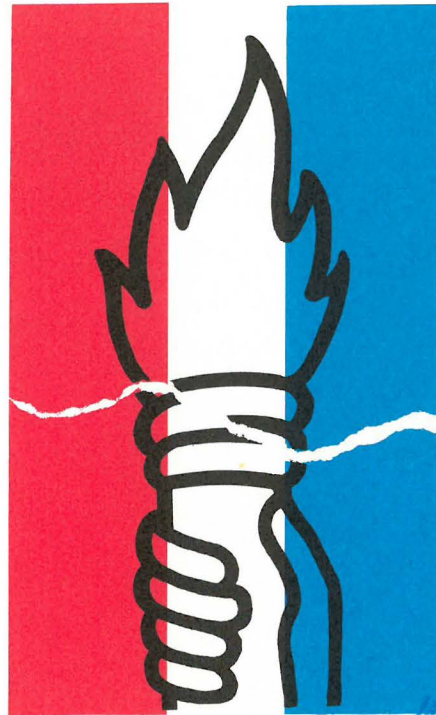
SEC. 7. (a) The Commission shall, within eighteen months from the date of enactment of this Act, transmit a final report to the President and the Congress concerning its actions and its findings and recommendations.

(b) The Commission shall cease to exist on the date six months from the date it transmits the final report unless extended by a subsequent Act of Congress.

AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 8. There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

THE JAPANESE AMERICAN INCARCERATION: A CASE FOR REDRESS



June 1978

The National Committee for Redress
Japanese American Citizens League

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE
PACIFIC NORTHWEST DISTRICT OFFICE
327 N. W. COUCH ST.
PORTLAND, OR. 97209

A Broken Promise:

A CASE FOR REDRESS

Educational Workshop

March 14, 1981
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Lewis & Clark College
Templeton Hall



Design
•

*California Historical Society, Executive Order 9066
Clem Albers WRA, Los Angeles, California, April, 1942*

- 9:00-9:30 AM** Registration
- 9:30-9:35 AM** Opening Remarks
Mrs. Miyuki Yasui — Co-President Portland Chapter JACL
Mr. Sho Dozono
Program Co-Chair Person
- 9:35-9:55 AM** Brief history and background of Japanese Americans in Oregon
Speaker: Ms. Peggy Nagae
- 9:55-10:15 AM** Film: "Pride & Shame"
- 10:15-10:30 AM** Coffee Break
- 10:30-11:15 AM** Speaker: Professor Gordon Hirabayashi
Hirabayashi vs. United States
Chairman of the Department of Sociology,
University of Alberta, Canada
- 11:15 AM-12:00 PM** Speaker: Dr. James K. Tsujimura
National JACL President
- 12:00-1:30 PM** Lunch — Stamm Dining Room
Speaker: Congressman Norman Mineta
U.S. Representative from California
Co-sponsor HR 5499 — Commission on the War-Time Relocation and internment of Civilians
- 1:30-1:45 PM** Break
- 1:45-2:00 PM** Speaker: Mr. Minoru Yasui
National JACL Redress Committee Chair
- 2:00-3:15 PM** Panel Discussion
Moderator: Dr. George Hara
Panelists: Professor Gordon Hirabayashi
Dr. James K. Tsujimura
Congressman Norman Mineta
Dr. Arthur Flemming
Mrs. Susie Sakai
Mr. Minoru Yasui
- 3:15-4:00 PM** Speaker: Dr. Arthur Flemming
Chairman: United States Commission of Civil Rights
Commissioner: "Commission on the War-Time Relocation and Internment of Civilians"
- 4:00-** Closing Remarks — Dr. Homer Yasui —
Co-President Portland Chapter JACL
Reception Following

This questionnaire asks some basic questions that are part of an expression of being Japanese in America. The experience of Nikkei from WW II to the present is important to understand. The Case for Redress is one that directly affects Nikkei, but is relevant to the civil and human rights of all individuals and organizations in this country. In short, it is a case for democracy and equal justice.

1. What if any military necessity existed in WW II to cause the imprisonment of Nikkei?
2. What percentage of Nikkei incarcerated were American citizens?
3. When did Issei (first generation Japanese) gain the legal right to become naturalized citizens?
4. Do you feel the camps were concentration camps?
5. Were Nikkei permitted to leave the camp site at any time?
6. What rights were denied Nikkei during WW II?
7. What is the definition of Redress?
 - a. an apology
 - b. compensation
 - c. punishment
 - d. education
8. What form should Redress take?
9. Should any of the following be compensated;
 - a. Those who died as a direct result of the incarceration?
 - b. Those who suffered severe mental illness as a result of their incarceration?
 - c. Those who suffered severe emotional distress as a result of their incarceration?
 - d. Those who had their property confiscated without fair compensation?
10. What effect, if any, should the present economical position of Japanese Americans have on Redress?
11. Has the camp experience affected the children of the Nikkei who were incarcerated?
12. Did you learn about the history of Nikkei in school?
13. What have your children learned about WW II and the Nikkei experience?
14. Why after 39 years is Redress and issue?
15. Do you feel what happened to Nikkei during WW II could be repeated again to Nikkei or any other group of people in the United States?

a broken promise: A CASE FOR REDRESS

LUNCHEON PROGRAM

<i>Opening Remarks</i>	<i>Dr. Homer Yasui</i>
<i>Introduction of Guests</i>	
<i>Invocation</i>	<i>Rev. Waichi Oyanagi</i>
<i>Lunch</i>	
<i>Introduction of Keynote Speaker</i>	
<i>Luncheon Address</i>	<i>The Hon. Norman Y. Mineta</i>
<i>Closing Remarks</i>	<i>Dr. Homer Yasui</i>

*LEWIS & CLARK COLLEGE
PORTLAND, OREGON
MARCH 14, 1981*

flowers donated by KOIDA BROS.

Generations of intolerance toward Asians on the West Coast created an atmosphere which resulted in one of the greatest failures of American democratic principles. On February 19, 1942, the Presidential issuance of Executive Order 9066 placed into motion the forced removal of 20,000 men, women, and children of Japanese ancestry from their homes on the West Coast. The subsequent confinement of these individuals in inland concentration camps resulted in the denial of the foremost promise of our nation: The Promise of Freedom.

This massive breach of human rights represents an issue that has never been fully addressed by the United States government. The continued failure to address an issue of this significance would be irresponsible and detrimental to our system of government.

On July 31, 1980, the President of the United States signed Public Law 96-317. This law establishes a Presidential Commission to review the facts and circumstances surrounding the evacuation and its impact on American citizens and permanent resident aliens. Further, the Commission is empowered to recommend remedies to the Congress of the United States. In order to fully review this period of history, the Commission will hold public hearings in various cities throughout the United States. The Commission will accept the oral and written testimony of witnesses related to the evacuation and internment of Japanese Americans as well as all

other individuals who were affected by the Executive Order which led to the exclusion of identifiable individuals from the West Coast.

The total Japanese American experience is a legacy about which America can be proud. It is, however, a legacy which remains blemished, for it contains an episode in which the Constitution was tested under crisis and failed. It is an episode that will remain buried unless those who lived this history are willing to express it before the Commission. The Commission is an opportunity—an opportunity to bring this bleak episode of history to light with the expressed intent that a similar tragedy will never again be repeated.

Our system of government was established with important guiding principles which seek to pursue what is true, what is right, and what is just. The Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians was established under these principles and with these explicit concerns. Professor Eugene V. Rostow once wrote: "Until the wrong is acknowledged and made right we shall have failed to meet the responsibility of a democratic society—the obligation of equal justice."



Dorothea Lange WRA EO 9066

National Committee for Redress
Japanese American Citizens League

that of equal justice of all persons before the law.
document, no principle is more fundamental than
Constitution of the United States. Within this
our nation are expressed in the
he legal foundations of

L

An American Promise

An American Promise

National Headquarters: 1765 Sutter Street
San Francisco, California 94115 415.921.5225

Washington Office: 1730 Rhode Island Avenue NW
Suite 204, Washington, D.C. 20036 202.223.1240

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Printed in USA

National Committee for Redress
Japanese American Citizens League



**JAPANESE AMERICAN
CITIZENS LEAGUE**

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS:
1765 Sutter Street
San Francisco, CA 94115

**"JACL: BUILDING
BETTER FUTURE"**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

☐ Mr. & Mrs. ☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms.

Last Name First Middle

Spouse First Name Middle

Business/Organization (Corporate Members Only)

Address

City State Zip

Telephone: Home Business

Occupation Soc. Sec. # (optional)

Check one: ☐ under 25 ☐ 25-35 ☐ 35-45 ☐ 45-55 ☐ over 55

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

(Per Individual)

- ☐ New/Renewal:
\$22.25 + Chapter & District dues*
- ☐ Family (Husband & Wife):
\$39.50 + Chapter & District dues*
- ☐ Student (College): \$10.00
- ☐ Youth: \$2.50

NATIONAL DUES: _____

CHAPTER DUES: _____

TOTAL DUES: _____

*LOCAL CHAPTER & DISTRICT DUES VARY.
Please contact your nearest local chapter or
regional offices for rates.

1000 CLUB MEMBERSHIP**

- ☐ Individual-New/Renewal
- ☐ Fifty (\$50)
- ☐ Century (\$100)
- ☐ Corporate-New/Renewal
- ☐ Silver (\$250)
- ☐ Gold (\$500)
- ☐ Diamond (\$1000)

- ☐ Conversion to 1000 Club from
Regular Membership (\$50)

NOTE: All 1000 Club contributions are tax
deductible.

**All 1000 Club Memberships should be sent
directly to JAACL National Headquarters.

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE

814 N.E. 40TH STREET, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98105 •

(206) 632-0500



8/21

Dear Susan,

Enclosed are the background materials I promised you.

I would be grateful if you would let us know if MHRC decides to endorse Japanese American Redress.

Please keep in touch! Thanks!

Sincerely,

Diane Norossi
Associate Executive
Secretary

P.S. Could you also be sure to share these materials with Greg? I think he'll be interested when he's thinking about things other →

RECEIVED
AUG 25 1981
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMS.

am impending weddings. Please
give him my congratulations!
Thanks again.

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE

814 N.E. 40TH STREET, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98105 • TELEPHONE: (206) 632-0500

JIM HAUSER
CHAIRPERSON

WARREN A. WITTE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

August 5, 1981



RECEIVED
AUG 7 1981
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMS.

Greg Gudger
Metropolitan Human Rights Commission
430 S.W. Morrison
Room 312
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Greg,

As I mentioned by telephone, AFSC has strongly endorsed Japanese American redress and is working with the Oregon Nikkei Coalition for Redress in Portland to solicit oral and written testimonies from organizations who also support redress. The testimonies are for the September 9, 10, and 11 hearings to be held in Seattle by the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians. I would like to thank you on behalf of AFSC and the Oregon Nikkei Coalition for Redress for the MHRC's willingness to consider submitting written and oral testimony to the Commission.

The Commission sent us the following information regarding oral testimony: 1) Each organization will have approximately eight minutes to present testimony; 2) The enclosed summary sheet and a signed and dated copy of the full, written testimony will be required from each witness (individuals submitting written testimony need not fill out a summary sheet); and 3) The Commissioners strongly prefer that witnesses not read from their prepared testimony but instead speak from the heart.

Written testimony should be as concise and specific as possible, typed, and double-spaced. It must be signed and dated, with the name of the witness typed below the signature.

Please contact Joyce Cawthorne of the Oregon Nikkei Coalition for Redress at 284-1908 or me at 206-632-0500 in Seattle if you have any questions about redress or about the hearing and testimony requirements. I have enclosed background information on the internment, redress, and the Commission. Thanks again.

Sincerely,

Diane Narasaki

Diane Narasaki
Associate Executive Secretary

gs

Enclosures

cc: Joyce Cawthorne

PORTLAND AREA PROGRAM OFFICE: 1817 N.E. 17th AVE., PORTLAND, OREGON 97212 • (503) 287-6605

NATIONAL OFFICE: 1501 CHERRY STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19102

AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Aug 26, 1981

Metropolitan Human Relations Commission

Multnomah County • City of Portland

September 25, 1981



U. S. Commission on Wartime Relocation
and Internment of Civilians
New Executive Office Building
726 Jackson Place, N. W.
Suite 2020
Seattle, Washington 20506

Dear Commission Members:

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission endorses the mandate of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians for there is much to be learned in documenting the facts of the imprisonment of Americans of Japanese ancestry and Aleuts. Indeed, many American families were unaware of the forced relocation of 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry and 800 Alaskan Aleuts to internment camps from 1942 to 1945. Surely, by giving the residents of those camps the opportunity to testify, the Commission on Wartime Relocation can avow to the American public the misery and hardships forced on thousands of innocent Americans and Aleuts. Equally important, by documenting the internment experiences of these Americans of Japanese ancestry and Aleuts, the Commission can give substantive recognition to the broad injustices and determine a just compensation for the lost incomes, businesses, properties, pensions; the delays in educations, the unnecessary deaths, mental sufferings, and the three and one-half years in which these Americans and Alaskans were denied freedoms guaranteed by the U. S. Constitution.

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission encourages you to recommend monetary compensation to correct these injustices. Without monetary redress, the apology to the Americans and Aleuts for false imprisonment and racial guilt inveighed upon them will be meaningless.

Sincerely,

Armando Laguardia
Chairperson

AL:gp



Corbett Building, Room 312
430 S.W. Morrison Street
Portland, Oregon 97204 • 248-4187



COMMISSION ON WARTIME RELOCATION
AND INTERNMENT OF CIVILIANS



726 JACKSON PLACE, N.W. □ SUITE 2020 □ WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506 □ 202/395-7390

October 6, 1981

Mr. Armando Laguardia, Chairperson
Metropolitan Human Relations Commission
Corbett Building - Room 312
430 S.W. Morrison Street
Portland, Oregon 97204

Dear Mr. Laguardia:

Thank you for writing to the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians. We appreciate being made aware of the support resolution passed by the members of the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission.

The Commission was called into existence to examine the facts and circumstances surrounding the Executive Order 9066 and the military directives which required the evacuation and internment of the Aleuts and persons of Japanese ancestry. When the Commission concludes its investigation in 1982, it will present its report to Congress. The report will contain not only the findings of the Commission but its suggestions for appropriate remedies.

Again thank you for taking the time and trouble to apprise us of your resolution.

Sincerely,

Angus Macbeth
Special Counsel

AM/tmm

RECEIVED
OCT 13 1981
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMS.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States has passed and the President has signed Public Law 96-317 establishing a commission to study the evacuation from the West Coast of over 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry, many of whom were citizens of the United States, and some 1,000 Aleut civilians and permanent residents of the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands, following the issuance of Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942; and

WHEREAS, there was not a formal charge of wrongdoing or disloyalty lodged against any such persons; and

WHEREAS, the actions taken pursuant to Executive Order 9066 did in fact deny such persons of many constitutional rights including the loss of property and individual liberty without benefit of a hearing or trial; and

WHEREAS, the actions taken pursuant to Executive Order 9066 also disrupted many careers and families and further resulted in psychological and emotional trauma to innocent victims imprisoned in concentration camps for up to three and one-half years; and

WHEREAS, Japanese American men volunteered from within barbed wire concentration camps to join the 442nd Regimental Infantry Combat Team and demonstrated exemplary heroism, courage, and patriotic loyalty as evidenced by the fact that the 442nd Regimental Infantry Combat Team became the most highly decorated unit in the history of the United States Armed Services for its size and length of service, with a disproportionately high casualty rate; and

WHEREAS, other Japanese Americans, after graduating from the Military Intelligence Service Language School, served the United States in the Pacific Asian theatre against the armed forces of Japan. Such actions were reputed to result in the shortening of the Pacific war by several years, the preservation of many American lives, and the saving of millions of dollars of war material; and

WHEREAS, some 6,000 persons of Japanese ancestry chose to return to Oregon following release from the concentration camps and reestablish their lives as law abiding and contributing persons; and

WHEREAS some forty years have passed without official and definitive inquiry into the evacuation and imprisonment of Japanese Americans by the United States Government; and

WHEREAS, the defense of the rights granted in the constitution of the United States and the general principles of democracy guaranteed to all citizens of the United States is a matter of major concern to the members of the Oregon Region of the National Conference of Christians and Jews;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oregon Region of the National Conference of Christians and Jews supports and commends the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians for its official investigation of the events leading up to the issuance of Executive Order 9066 and its consequences upon American citizens and permanent legal residents of Japanese ancestry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Oregon Region of the National Conference of Christians and Jews urges definitive action by the Congress of the United States pursuant to, and after submission of, the final report, to take appropriate action to prevent the recurrence of this kind of racial injustice in our country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to members of the United States Congress and the President of the United States as well as Ms. Joan Bernstein, the chairperson of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians.

Oregon Region- National Conference
of Christians and Jews

Dated: July 9, 1981

By _____
Presiding Co-Chairman

Metropolitan Human Relations Commission

Multnomah County • City of Portland

September 25, 1981



U. S. Commission on Wartime Relocation
and Internment of Civilians
New Executive Office Building
726 Jackson Place, N. W.
Suite 2020
Seattle, Washington 20506

Dear Commission Members:

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission endorses the mandate of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians for there is much to be learned in documenting the facts of the imprisonment of Americans of Japanese ancestry and Aleuts. Indeed, many American families were unaware of the forced relocation of 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry and 800 Alaskan Aleuts to internment camps from 1942 to 1945. Surely, by giving the residents of those camps the opportunity to testify, the Commission on Wartime Relocation can avow to the American public the misery and hardships forced on thousands of innocent Americans and Aleuts. Equally important, by documenting the internment experiences of these Americans of Japanese ancestry and Aleuts, the Commission can give substantive recognition to the broad injustices and determine a just compensation for the lost incomes, businesses, properties, pensions; the delays in educations, the unnecessary deaths, mental sufferings, and the three and one-half years in which these Americans and Alaskans were denied freedoms guaranteed by the U. S. Constitution.

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission encourages you to recommend monetary compensation to correct these injustices. Without monetary redress, the apology to the Americans and Aleuts for false imprisonment and racial guilt inveighed upon them will be meaningless.

Sincerely,

Armando Laguardia
Chairperson

AL:gp



Corbett Building, Room 312
430 S.W. Morrison Street
Portland, Oregon 97204 • 248-4187



COMMISSION ON WARTIME RELOCATION AND INTERNMENT OF CIVILIANS



726 JACKSON PLACE N.W. SUITE 2020 WASHINGTON D.C. 20506 202/395-7390

October 6, 1981

Mr. Armando Laguardia, Chairperson
Metropolitan Human Relations Commission
Corbett Building - Room 312
430 S.W. Morrison Street
Portland, Oregon 97204

Dear Mr. Laguardia:

Thank you for writing to the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians. We appreciate being made aware of the support resolution passed by the members of the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission.

The Commission was called into existence to examine the facts and circumstances surrounding the Executive Order 9066 and the military directives which required the evacuation and internment of the Aleuts and persons of Japanese ancestry. When the Commission concludes its investigation in 1982, it will present its report to Congress. The report will contain not only the findings of the Commission but its suggestions for appropriate remedies.

Again thank you for taking the time and trouble to apprise us of your resolution.

Sincerely,

Angus Macbeth
Special Counsel

AM/tmm

RECEIVED
OCT 13 1981
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMS.

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of Multomah County
Urging Congress to Provide Just
Compensation for Japanese Americans
Who Suffered as a Result of Presidential
Executive Order 9066 in 1942

WHEREAS, pursuant to Executive Order 9066, issued February 19, 1942, 120,313 persons of Japanese ancestry, most of whom were American citizens, were uprooted from their homes in the spring of 1942, were forcibly evicted from their West Coast homes and incarcerated in government detention camps without benefit of trial or hearings; and

WHEREAS, the uprooted people suffered immeasurable human damages, such as the loss of their basic rights of American citizenship, the loss of their individual freedom, the destruction of their personal human dignity, the disruption of their careers, interruption of educational opportunities, being torn away from their homes and their neighborhoods, and the psychological and emotional trauma of having been innocent victims discriminated against and imprisoned for three and one-half years; and

WHEREAS, in addition to their human losses, the innocent victims of this internment suffered irreparable loss and damage to thier property, estimated by the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, in 1942, as \$400,000,000; and

WHEREAS, in 1970, the National Council of Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) voted to embark on a national campaign to seek remedial legislation for those affected by E.O. 9066, and subsequent military orders; and

WHEREAS, on July 31, 1980, President Carter signed Public Law 96-317, establishing the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians to conduct the first official inquiry into the 1942 Evacuation and Incarceration of Americans of Japanese ancestry; and

WHEREAS, in the summer and fall of 1981, the Presidential Commission heard extensive testimonies from many witnesses, including persons of Japanese ancestry whose lives were affected by E. O. 9066; and

WHEREAS, the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians will be completing its investigation and submitting its findings and recommendations to the U.S. Congress in 1982;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Multnomah County, in support of the Japanese American Citizens League, urge the Congress of the United States to provide just compensation for those individuals who suffered the injustices and hardships resulting from the government's action in 1942; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Multnomah County go on record as acknowledging that such past injustices committed against innocent persons by our government must be rectified as recognition of the moral and democratic principles which have made this great nation of ours the leader of humanitarian ideals.

DATED THIS 12th day of August, 1982

Donald E. Clark
County Executive

Caroline Miller
Presiding Officer

Gladys McCoy
Commissioner

Dennis Buchanan
Commissioner

Earl Blumenauer
Commissioner

Gordon Shadburne
Commissioner

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, pursuant to Executive Order 9066, issued February 19, 1942, 120,313 persons of Japanese ancestry, most of whom were American citizens, were uprooted from their homes in the spring of 1942, were forcibly evicted from their West Coast homes and incarcerated in government detention camps without benefit of trial or hearings; and

WHEREAS, the uprooted people suffered immeasurable human damages, such as the loss of their basic rights of American citizenship, the loss of their individual freedom, the destruction of their personal human dignity, the disruption of their careers, interruption of educational opportunities, being torn away from their homes and their neighborhoods, and the psychological and emotional trauma of having been innocent victims discriminated against and imprisoned for three and one-half years; and

WHEREAS, in addition to their human losses, the innocent victims of this internment suffered irreparable loss and damage to their property, estimated by the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, in 1942, as \$400,000,000; and

WHEREAS, in 1970 the National Council of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) voted to embark on a national campaign to seek remedial legislation for those affected by E.O. 9066, and subsequent military orders; and

WHEREAS, on July 31, 1980, President Carter signed Public Law 96-317, establishing the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians to conduct the first official inquiry into the 1942 Evacuation and Incarceration of Americans of Japanese ancestry; and

WHEREAS, in the Summer and Fall of 1981, the Presidential Commission heard extensive testimonies from many witnesses, including persons of Japanese ancestry whose lives were affected by E.O. 9066; and

WHEREAS, the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians will be completing their investigation and submitting their findings and recommendations to the U.S. Congress in 1982;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the City Council of Portland, Oregon, in support of the Japanese American Citizens League, urges the Congress of the United States to provide just compensation for those individuals who suffered the injustices and hardships resulting from the government's actions in 1942; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of Portland, Oregon go on record as acknowledging that such past injustices committed against innocent persons by our government must be rectified as recognition of the moral and democratic principles which have made this great nation of ours the leader of humanitarian ideals.

8/18/82

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

1730 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036
(202) 223-1240

RONALD K. IKEJIRI
WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, JACL
1725 SUTTER STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94115
(415) 621-5225

As of 3/12/84

SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF
THE COMMISSION ON WARTIME RELOCATION AND INTERNMENT OF CIVILIANS

- H.R. 4110--The Civil Liberties Act of 1983
 - Introduced on October 6, 1983, by Majority Leader Jim Wright. Currently 93 co-sponsors.
- S. 2116---To Accept The Findings And To Implement The Recommendations Of The Commission On Wartime, Relocation And Internment Of Civilians
 - Introduced on November 17, 1983, by Senator Spark Matsunaga. Currently 15 co-sponsors.

Congress accepts the findings of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians as accurate and complete. Congress acknowledges the fundamental injustice of the internment, apologizes for it, and seeks to prevent the reoccurrence of any similar event.

As Regards Americans of Japanese Ancestry:

1. On behalf of the Nation, Congress apologizes to those Americans of Japanese ancestry who were interned.
2. The President is requested to offer pardons to those convicted of violating laws during the internment period whose violation was based on a refusal to accept racially discriminatory treatment.
3. When reviewing requests for review of administrative rulings relating to the internment, executive agencies are asked to review such cases with liberality, giving full consideration to the findings of the Commission and Congress.
4. A trust fund of \$1.5 billion is authorized for educational and humanitarian purposes, and a Board of Directors is created to manage the fund.
5. Out of the trust fund, the Attorney General shall pay \$20,000 in compensation to each surviving internee.

As Regards Americans of Aleut Ancestry:

1. A trust fund of \$5 million is authorized for community, educational and cultural programs benefitting the Aleuts. A Board of Directors is created to manage the fund.
- **2. To each of the survivors of the internment of Aleuts, \$5,000 in compensation shall be paid.
3. Churches and community centers destroyed in World War II shall be rebuilt
4. Debris remaining from World War II shall be cleared away from the Aleutian Islands.
5. The island of Attu shall be returned to the native corporation, provided that the Coast Guard will be able to continue its use of the island.

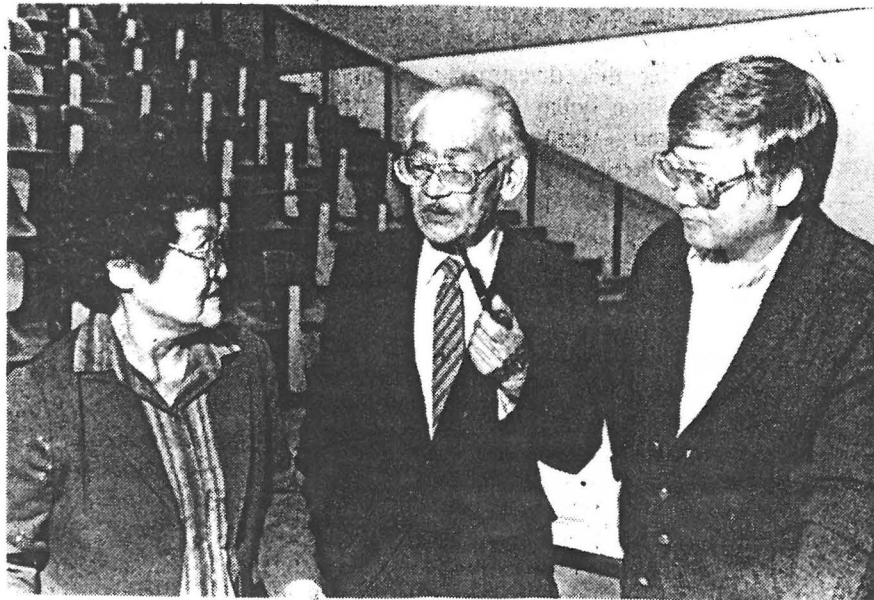
**H.R. 4110 and S.2116 substantively differ only regarding this provision. H.R. 4110 provides for \$5,000 compensation per surviving Aleut whereas S.2116 provides for \$12,000 compensation per surviving Aleut.

attempt at pulmonary resuscitation.
(Photos: Richard J. Brown)

May 16.

Ferry Bailey, the 7-11 clerk who
asked Stevenson to help, said he also

show his identification to the offi-
cers three times.



Minoru Yasui talks to Kikue Kaneyama and her son Bill Sugahiro after he addressed a meeting of the local chapter of the Japanese American Citizen League. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Yasui documents internment

by Robert Lothian

Minoru Yasui was an attorney practicing in Portland in 1942 when the government ordered 120,000 Japanese-Americans living on the West Coast relocated to camps in Idaho, Utah and California.

Yasui, who was "Oregon born and bred," he said, thought the government order was racist and unconstitutional. He decided to resist evacuation, and so did two other men. They were arrested, jailed and eventually sent to the camps.

Yasui is a 1939 graduate of the University of Oregon Law School. Iron-

ically, he had tried to enlist in the U.S. military before the relocation order, but was refused.

Over 40 years later, Yasui is leading a legal fight to overturn the convictions and declare the relocation order and a subsequent Supreme Court decision unconstitutional.

He traveled from Denver, where he practices law, to Portland last week for a court hearing on the issue. While here he addressed a meeting of the local chapter of the Japanese-American Citizens League.

Yasui announced that he and Fred Korematsu had their convictions overturned recently. "It was an out-

standing victory," he said. Gordon Hirabayashi's trial comes up soon in Seattle, he said.

But on his case to have the relocation order overturned and restore rights and privileges to those who

were sent to the camps, Yasui described government foot-dragging.

U.S. District Court Judge Robert Belloni refused to fact finding on the issue, even though Yasui's legal team had amassed 400 pages of documents, he said. "Belloni's comment was, 'What are we here for, I haven't read these papers,'" according to Yasui.

"It almost seems as if they are waiting for us to die," to avoid confronting the issue," said Yasui. "We're going to wash dirty linen in public and it's not going to make certain people (in government) happy," he said.

Thousands of Japanese-Americans are not willing to let the issue die, said Yasui. "We want a statement that says the government was wrong in 1942, and we won't settle for less than that," he said, pounding a table for emphasis.

The government's reason for the relocation was intelligence pointing toward an extensive Japanese spy system in the U.S. But Yasui contends that the intelligence was false, that not one Japanese was convicted as a spy.

Approximately 3,600 Japanese-Americans were relocated from Portland, according to Yasui. Many, in-

cluding Yasui, spent several months in a makeshift camp at the Livestock-Exposition yards in North Portland.

Yasui was jailed for 10 months at Rocky Butte Jail, in solitary confinement, and then he was sent to the

camp at Minedoka, Idaho. He hasn't forgotten the guard towers, the barbed wire and the machine guns.

He compared the experience to America's equivalent of the Holocaust. Racist, anti-Japanese hysteria was evident in newspaper headlines from that time.

After release from the camp, Yasui settled in Denver, where he married, began raising a family and passed the Colorado bar exam. He met with resistance to practicing law. "They said I was a person of bad moral character," he said. Altogether, said Yasui, the relocation experience took four years out of his life.

Portland's Japanese-Americans compared stories after Yasui's talk. Kikue Kaneyama and her family from Gresham "sold everything we had" before being sent to the camp, she said. She described the feeling of despair that permeated the camp.

Upon returning to Gresham, she said, the family had to start over from scratch and faced antagonism from neighbors. "We weren't welcomed, really, not in the restaurants," said Kaneyama.

"It's just like if a person was raped, you never forget it," she said. "It's always with you throughout your lifetime."

Red Observer
5/15/85

Metropolitan Human Relations Commission

Multnomah County • City of Portland

13 March 1986

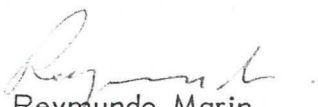
Honorable Les AuCoin
Congressman, 1st District
1220 SW 3rd
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Congressman AuCoin:

I am writing to urge your support for H.R. 442, the Civil Liberties Act of 1985. Japanese Americans did not deserve the treatment they received during World War II, and the survivors of the internment camps, as well as their descendants, are entitled to the redress HR 442 would provide.

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission is a joint Commission of the City of Portland and Multnomah County. Its mandate is to advocate for the civil and human rights of all citizens in the Portland Metropolitan Area. Your support for H.R. 442 would send a positive message to our Japanese-American citizens --the message that, yes, our government does care. In these days of increasing racial and religious intolerance, such a message needs to be heard over and over again.

Sincerely,



Reymundo Marin,
MHRC Executive Director

cc: Vincent A. Deguc, Chair, MHRC
Japanese-American Citizens League



1120 S.W. Fifth Avenue
Room 520
Portland, Oregon 97204-1989 • (503) 796-5136



Metropolitan Human Relations Commission

Multnomah County • City of Portland

13 March 1986

Honorable Robert Smith
Congressman, 2nd District
1150 Crater Lake Ave. Suite K
Medford, OR 97504

Dear Congressman Smith:

I am writing to urge your support for H.R. 442, the Civil Liberties Act of 1985. Japanese Americans did not deserve the treatment they received during World War II, and the survivors of the internment camps, as well as their descendants, are entitled to the redress HR 442 would provide.

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission is a joint Commission of the City of Portland and Multnomah County. Its mandate is to advocate for the civil and human rights of all citizens in the Portland Metropolitan Area. Your support for H.R. 442 would send a positive message to our Japanese-American citizens --the message that, yes, our government does care. In these days of increasing racial and religious intolerance, such a message needs to be heard over and over again.

Sincerely,



Reymundo Marin,
MHRC Executive Director

cc: Vincent A. Deguc, Chair, MHRC
Japanese-American Citizens League



1120 S.W. Fifth Avenue
Room 520
Portland, Oregon 97204-1989 • (503) 796-5136



Metropolitan Human Relations Commission

Multnomah County • City of Portland

13 March 1986

Honorable James Weaver
Congressman, 4th District
Federal Bldg Room 387
211 E. 7th Ave.
Eugene, OR 97401

Dear Congressman Weaver:

I am writing to urge your support for H.R. 442, the Civil Liberties Act of 1985. Japanese Americans did not deserve the treatment they received during World War II, and the survivors of the internment camps, as well as their descendants, are entitled to the redress HR 442 would provide.

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission is a joint Commission of the City of Portland and Multnomah County. Its mandate is to advocate for the civil and human rights of all citizens in the Portland Metropolitan Area. Your support for H.R. 442 would send a positive message to our Japanese-American citizens --the message that, yes, our government does care. In these days of increasing racial and religious intolerance, such a message needs to be heard over and over again.

Sincerely,


Reymundo Marin,
MHRC Executive Director

cc: Vincent A. Deguc, Chair, MHRC
Japanese-American Citizens League



1120 S.W. Fifth Avenue
Room 520
Portland, Oregon 97204-1989 • (503) 796-5136



Metropolitan Human Relations Commission

Multnomah County • City of Portland

13 March 1986

Honorable Mark Hatfield
U.S. Senator
Pioneer Courthouse
701 SW 6th
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Senator Hatfield:

I am writing to urge your support for S. 1053, sponsored by Sen. Spark Matsunaga. Japanese Americans did not deserve the treatment they received during World War II, and the survivors of the internment camps, as well as their descendants, are entitled to the redress S. 1053 would provide.

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission is a joint Commission of the City of Portland and Multnomah County. Its mandate is to advocate for the civil and human rights of all citizens in the Portland Metropolitan Area. Your support for S. 1053 would send a positive message to our Japanese-American citizens --the message that, yes, our government does care. In these days of increasing racial and religious intolerance, such a message needs to be heard over and over again.

Sincerely,


Reymundo Marin,
MHRC Executive Director

cc: Vincent A. Deguc, Chair, MHRC
Japanese-American Citizens League



1120 S.W. Fifth Avenue
Room 520
Portland, Oregon 97204-1989 • (503) 796-5136



Metropolitan Human Relations Commission

Multnomah County • City of Portland

13 March 1986


Honorable Ron Wyden
Congressman, 3rd District
500 NE Multnomah, Suite 250
Portland, OR 97232

Dear Congressman Wyden:

I am writing to urge your support for H.R. 442, the Civil Liberties Act of 1985. Japanese Americans did not deserve the treatment they received during World War II, and the survivors of the internment camps, as well as their descendants, are entitled to the redress HR 442 would provide.

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission is a joint Commission of the City of Portland and Multnomah County. Its mandate is to advocate for the civil and human rights of all citizens in the Portland Metropolitan Area. Your support for H.R. 442 would send a positive message to our Japanese-American citizens --the message that, yes, our government does care. In these days of increasing racial and religious intolerance, such a message needs to be heard over and over again.

Sincerely,


Reymundo Marin,
MHRC Executive Director

cc: Vincent A. Deguc, Chair, MHRC
Japanese-American Citizens League



1120 S.W. Fifth Avenue
Room 520
Portland, Oregon 97204-1989 • (503) 796-5136



MON MARK HATFIELD
US SENATE
WASHINGTON DC 20510 05PM

Western
Union **Mailgram**



1-223277U125007 05/05/86 ICS WA16614
01783 MLTN VA 05/05/86 JN29760

PLTB

REYMUNDO MARIN
MHRC
1120 SW 5TH
PORTLAND, OR 97204

Reymundo

THANK YOU FOR YOUR RECENT LETTER REGARDING THE INTERNEMENT OF JAPANESE-AMERICANS DURING WORLD WAR II. THE DETAINMENT OF MANY INNOCENT AMERICAN CITIZENS DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME IN HISTORY IS A CHAPTER NOT EASILY FORGOTTEN. I AM CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT REPARATIONS WOULD STRAIN AN ALREADY DANGEROUSLY BLOATED FEDERAL BUDGET. YOUR COMMENTS WILL BE KEPT IN MIND SHOULD THIS LEGISLATION REACH THE SENATE FLOOR, AND I WILL GIVE THE PROPOSAL CAREFUL CONSIDERATION.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO CONTACT ME ON THIS MATTER.
KIND REGARDS.
MARK O. HATFIELD, U.S.S.

09134
2139 EST

MGMCOMP MGM

Metropolitan Human Relations Commission

Multnomah County • City of Portland

13 March 1986


Honorable Bob Packwood
U.S. Senator
1220 SW 3rd
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Senator Packwood:

I am writing to urge your support for S. 1053, sponsored by Sen. Spark Matsunaga. Japanese Americans did not deserve the treatment they received during World War II, and the survivors of the internment camps, as well as their descendants, are entitled to the redress S. 1053 would provide.

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission is a joint Commission of the City of Portland and Multnomah County. Its mandate is to advocate for the civil and human rights of all citizens in the Portland Metropolitan Area. Your support for S. 1053 would send a positive message to our Japanese-American citizens --the message that, yes, our government does care. In these days of increasing racial and religious intolerance, such a message needs to be heard over and over again.

Sincerely,


Reymundo Marin,
MHRC Executive Director

cc: Vincent A. Deguc, Chair, MHRC
Japanese-American Citizens League



1120 S.W. Fifth Avenue
Room 520
Portland, Oregon 97204-1989 • (503) 796-5136



Metropolitan Human Relations Commission

Multnomah County • City of Portland

13 March 1986

Honorable Denny Smith
Congressman, 5th District
4035 12th At. NE #20
Salem, OR 97309

Dear Congressman Smith:

I am writing to urge your support for H.R. 442, the Civil Liberties Act of 1985. Japanese Americans did not deserve the treatment they received during World War II, and the survivors of the internment camps, as well as their descendants, are entitled to the redress HR 442 would provide.

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission is a joint Commission of the City of Portland and Multnomah County. Its mandate is to advocate for the civil and human rights of all citizens in the Portland Metropolitan Area. Your support for H.R. 442 would send a positive message to our Japanese-American citizens --the message that, yes, our government does care. In these days of increasing racial and religious intolerance, such a message needs to be heard over and over again.

Sincerely,



Reymundo Marin,
MHRC Executive Director

cc: Vincent A. Deguc, Chair, MHRC
Japanese-American Citizens League



1120 S.W. Fifth Avenue
Room 520
Portland, Oregon 97204-1989 • (503) 796-5136



JIM WEAVER
4TH DISTRICT, OREGON

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

CHAIRMAN:
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
GENERAL OVERSIGHT,
N.W. POWER AND
FOREST MANAGEMENT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6416

DISTRICT OFFICE:
FEDERAL BUILDING
211 EAST 7TH AVENUE
EUGENE, OR 97401
(503) 687-6732

RECEIVED
APR 15 1986

April 2, 1986

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMS.

Reymundo Marin, Executive Director
Metropolitan Human Relations Commission
1120 SW Fifth Ave, Room 520
Portland, OR 97204-1989

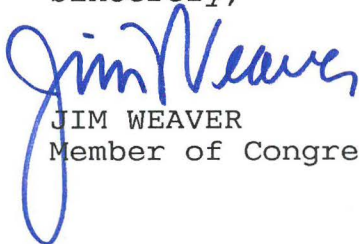
Dear Mr. Marin:

Thank you for contacting my office about the Japanese American internees and HR 442, "The Civil Liberties Act of 1985."

I am very sympathetic to this legislation. During WWII, Japanese Americans were interned in violation of seven articles of the Constitution without charge, trail or any evidence of disloyalty. This sad episode in our history needs to be recognized and efforts should be made to redress the wrongs committed against these people. I look forward to hearings on HR 442.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,


JIM WEAVER
Member of Congress

JW:mcc



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

April 9, 1986

RECEIVED

APR 15 1986

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMS.

Mr. Reymundo Marin
Executive Director
MHRC
1120 SW Fifth Avenue, Rm 520
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Reymundo:

Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 442, to make reparations to Japanese Americans unjustly incarcerated during World War II.

I share your concern about this issue, and support many of the provisions contained in this legislation. I strongly favor instituting an educational fund to provide information about the incarceration and providing a formal apology to Japanese Americans.

Because of current budget constraints, the provisions of the bill providing monetary compensation might have to be altered somewhat. It is my understanding that members of the House Judiciary Committee, which has jurisdiction over this legislation, may suggest some changes.

Particularly in light of the recent Supreme Court decision regarding the WW II incarceration, it is important that Congress act on this legislation quickly. I will continue to closely follow the actions of the Judiciary Committee, and invite you to get in touch with me if I can be of further assistance.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,

LES AuCOIN
Member of Congress

LA/sk

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

April 21, 1986

RECEIVED

APR 22 1986

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMS.

Mr. Reymundo Marin
MHRC Executive Director
1120 S.W. Fifth Avenue
Room 520
Portland, Oregon 97204-1989

Dear Mr. Marin:

Thank you for contacting me about S.1053.

I am always interested in knowing how fellow Oregonians feel about important issues, and I appreciate your taking the time to share your thoughts with me. I find it reassuring that people like you are concerned about the problems facing our country, and that you are interested in actively searching for solutions. It is evident that you have put a great deal of thought into this issue, and I hope you will continue your efforts in the future.

Thanks again for getting in touch with me. I've made note of your position, and I will certainly keep it in mind. Your comments were interesting and thoughtful, and they will be very useful to me.

Sincerely,


BOB PACKWOOD

BP/olf

ROBERT F. (BOB) SMITH

2D DISTRICT, OREGON

COMMITTEE:

AGRICULTURE

SUBCOMMITTEES:

FORESTRY; LIVESTOCK; AND WHEAT

CHAIRMAN:

REPUBLICAN TASK FORCE
ON AGRICULTURE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

118 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
202-225-6730

DISTRICT OFFICES:

TOLL FREE: 1-800-533-3303

1150 CRATER LAKE AVENUE
SUITE K
MEDFORD, OR 97504
503-776-4646

771 PONDEROSA VILLAGE
BURNS, OR 97720

April 22, 1986

RECEIVED
4-28-86

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMS.

Mr. Reymundo Marin
Executive Director
Metropolitan Human Relations Commission
1120 SW Fifth Avenue, Room 520
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Reymundo:

Thank you for contacting me regarding compensation for Japanese Americans interred during the Second World War.

As you may know, H.R. 442 has been introduced to implement the recommendations of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians. This measure has been referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary (Subcommittee on Administrative Law and Governmental Relations); hearings are scheduled for April 28, 1986. Executive comment has been requested from the Department of Defense, Department of Interior and the Department of Justice. This measure would require the Attorney General to pay a maximum of \$20,000 from a fund established for this and other purposes to each surviving internee or their heirs. Please be assured I will review testimony offered in hearings and include your views in my analysis of this legislation when it comes before the full House.

Thanks for taking the time to share your concerns with me. Please continue to keep in touch.

Very truly yours,

ROBERT F. (BOB) SMITH
Member of Congress

RFS/rgt



JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

Portland Chapter

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: CHISAO HATA
284-1908

GOVERNMENT SEEKS TO DISMISS INTERNMENT APPEAL

Government lawyers have filed a motion to dismiss the case of Minoru Yasui, an American citizen who challenged the World War II internment of 110,000 Japanese Americans. In 1983, Yasui had filed a petition to reopen the landmark Supreme Court case which legalized the race-based internment. The Justice Department now claims that the case is moot because of Yasui's death on November 12, 1986.

But Yasui's attorneys and supporters urge that the case be heard by the Federal courts because recently discovered documents submitted in the case demonstrate that Justice Department attorneys lied in 1943 when they told the Supreme Court that the mass racial internment was a "military necessity".

Historians and legal scholars have widely criticized as "civil liberties disasters" the World War II Supreme Court cases legalizing the mass relocation and incarceration of American citizens. Yasui was one of 3 litigants who challenged the military orders leading up to the internment. As a young lawyer in Portland, Oregon, in 1942, he felt that the military orders aimed at one racial group were unconstitutional. He tried to enlist others to violate the law in order to set up court tests, but was unsuccessful. He then decided to be his own test case and defied a race-based curfew ordered. He was arrested and spent 9 months in solitary confinement after which he was sent to an internment camp in Wyoming.

In 1943, the Supreme Court heard his case, and ruled against him, siding with the Justice Department's argument that Japanese Americans as a racial group were prone to disloyalty and suspected of engaging in espionage and sabotage.

But secret documents discovered under the Freedom of Information Act disclosed that government security agencies, including the FBI, Army Intelligence, and Naval Intelligence, conceded that Americans of Japanese ancestry were no more a threat than Italian or German Americans, and that the mass racial internment was unnecessary. Yasui's attorneys charged that the Justice

Department and responsible officials suppressed this information from the Supreme Court in a cover up.

Armed with this new evidence of misconduct, Yasui and 2 other original wartime litigants, Fred Korematsu and Gordon Hirabayashi, filed petitions to reopen their cases in Federal court in 1983. A Federal court in San Francisco ruled in favor of Korematsu, finding government misconduct and that the Supreme Court had been presented a "selected record" by the Justice Department. Likewise, a Federal court in Seattle threw out Hirabayashi's conviction for violating internment orders, finding that the government had suppressed and destroyed key evidence.

Yasui's case is on appeal from a Federal court ruling in Portland throwing out his conviction for violating a race-based curfew order, but making no judicial opinion on whether the government engaged in lies and misconduct. Since he is now dead, the Justice Department claims the issues raised in his petition are moot.

"Min's dying wish was to have this injustice corrected so that it would never happen again to anyone else", said Yasui's attorney Peggy Nagae. "The government should not be allowed to sweep this under the rug as if it never occurred."

"He (Yasui) always maintained that the original court ruling holding the internment was not a Japanese American issue, but an American issue", said Ron Wakabayashi of the Japanese American Citizens League, "affecting all American citizens."

Supporters of Yasui's 40 year fight have characterized his struggle as both heroic and tragic. He was imprisoned as a result of his brash defiance of military orders, and his firm belief that the internment was unconstitutional. The jury in his original case in 1942 took only 20 minutes to convict him, and the judge stripped him of his citizenship. As a result, he lost his license to practice law after the war until his citizenship was restored. When his case was ruled upon by the Supreme Court in 1943, the court did not hear his case directly, but instead summarily declared that it presented the same issues as that of Gordon Hirabayashi, a Seattle citizen. The court ruled against Hirabayashi, and Yasui was virtually a footnote to that landmark decision.

After waiting over 40 years to finally have his day in court, Federal District Court Judge Robert Belloni refused to hear Yasui's evidence of government fraud, but instead summarily granted the Justice Department's motion to dismiss Yasui's petition because the government voluntarily vacated Yasui's criminal conviction. Court observers felt Judge Belloni had not even read Yasui's legal papers. While Yasui wanted his conviction removed, he desperately wanted the court to review the

evidence of misconduct and make findings, according to Attorney Nagae. "Min felt a judicial declaration that there was misconduct was crucial to undercutting the legal precedent and setting the historical record straight."

Dissatisfied with Judge Belloni's refusal to consider the evidence, Yasui appealed to the Federal Court of Appeals. On November 12, 1986, Yasui died from cancer-related complications. "Min was one man fighting against the odds," said Dale Minami, attorney for Fred Korematsu, "but he symbolized all of those interned who wished they could have resisted to a greater degree than they were able to."

The day before Thanksgiving, the Justice Department filed its motion to dismiss the Yasui appeal, citing his death. Attorneys for Yasui pledged to continue his fight. "The government suppressed the truth 40 years ago in which Americans of Japanese ancestry lost their freedom and millions of dollars of property. It would be a terrible injustice if the government were allowed to escape the truth again," concluded Nagae.



JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

Portland Chapter

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: CHISAO HATA
284-1908

A PUBLIC APPEAL

A very special press conference will be held updating the public on the Minoru Yasui writ of error coram nobis case. This historic civil rights case is viewed by many as a case that represents not only one persons personal challenge for justice, but an entire community of people who were unjustly treated and whose civil rights were violated during WWII. The press conference will be held:

Thursday, December 4th, 1986

10:30 a.m.

American Civil Liberties Union

310 SW 4th - 7th floor conference room

Community leaders will make statements regarding the Yasui case and will also share public testimonies relating to the leadership Yasui gave to many communities.

A memorial service will be held for Minoru Yasui on Friday, December 5th, 1986 at the Asbury Methodist Church in Hood River, Oregon. The service will be at 2:00 pm and will be followed by a reception.



JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

Portland Chapter

November 24, 1986

Dear *Mr. Marino*

Minoru Yasui passed away two weeks ago on November 12th, in Denver, Colorado. His death had a significant impact on all of us, because for the past 40 years, Yasui intensely advocated justice for all peoples of this country...Yasui's quest began in 1942, shortly after the outbreak of war against Japan, when the U.S. government imposed a military curfew on all persons of Japanese ancestry. Yasui believed this curfew singled out a group, solely on the basis of their race, and therefore, violated fundamental rights guaranteed by the U.S. constitution. To protest against this unjust treatment, Yasui intentionally violated the curfew and was arrested.

As an attorney, Yasui was convinced that his rights would be vindicated by the courts. Personal justice, however, was not easily obtained, and his personal challenge against the U.S. government became a symbol for all Japanese Americans. Through his vision, he became a fiery speaker who articulated for Japanese Americans, their devastating experience of incarceration during World War II.

Brought to trial in November, 1942, the U.S. Federal District Court in Oregon found Yasui guilty of violating the curfew. While awaiting the appeal of this case, he spent the next nine months in solitary confinement in the Multnomah County Jail. In 1943, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in his case and denied his claim that the military curfew order was unconstitutional.

Over the next four decades, Yasui continued to pursue his unwavering belief that civil rights is the foundation for democracy in America. During his 16-year career as the executive director of the Denver Commission on Community Relations, Yasui paved the way for redressing wrongs experienced by Japanese Americans and other minority groups. Yasui's commitment to justice did not diminish with the passage of time. In 1983, 40 years after the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling against him, Yasui reopened his case. Under the Freedom of Information Act, declassified government documents revealed government misconduct that has adversely affected the outcome of his Supreme Court appeal. This information, which had been suppressed, reaffirmed Yasui's long-held contention that his prior legal challenge had been correct, and the government's actions were unjust. He pursued this belief by filing a petition, a writ of error coram nobis, that requests an evidentiary hearing to publically acknowledge the government's pervasive violation of fundamental rights. In 1984, Yasui's petition was dismissed. This dismissal has been appealed, and is currently before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Sadly, Yasui died before the Appellate Court had rendered its decision. Yasui's death, however, was not in vain, because his vision lives on. Most importantly, the constitutional issues raised by Yasui set legal precedence that have a profound effect on the future of civil rights.

We ask that you join us, and together we can ensure that Yasui's case will be resolved justly. To honor the memory of Minoru Yasui, a special memorial service will be held at 2:00 PM on December 5, 1986 at the Ashbury United Methodist Church, 616 State Street, Hood River, Oregon. Your attendance will pay tribute to his accomplishment and will signal to the world that our commitment to his cause endures.

If you plan to attend, please contact Chisao Hata at 503/284-1908 or Homer Yasui at 234-~~4774~~, by December 2, 1986.
4714

Media coverage and public awareness is imperative to keep Min's case in the forefront. If you or your organizational representative cannot be present, please send a public statement to:

Chisao Hata
2516 N.E. 14th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97212

Mailed statements must be received by December 2, 1986.

Additionally, donations to support the corum nobis case can be sent to:

The Minoru Yasui Memorial Fund
c/o Shirley Daird
United Bank of Denver
P.O. Box 5247
Denver, Colorado 80217

In speaking about his case, Min often quoted the following passage from Ulysses by Lord Tennyson:

"We are not now that strength which in old days
Moved earth and heaven; that which we are, we are;
One equal temper of heroic hearts,
Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will
To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield."

Sincerely,



Homer Yasui



Chisao Hata

HY/CH: cf

Metropolitan Human Relations Commission

Multnomah County • City of Portland
December 4, 1986

MHRC PRESS RELEASE

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission lends its voice of support to an honorable group of people -- the Japanese-American people who must be made whole after a terrible injustice.

As Americans, we must never forget this grave injustice perpetuated against fellow Americans.

Blinded by bigotry and prejudice, fueled by war hysteria, and signaling one group of Americans because of their race, their color, their language, and their national origin must never be tolerated.

MINORU YASUI DID NOT DIE IN VAIN. His example of standing up for his rights is one that all of us must emulate. HIS EXAMPLE OF SEEKING REDRESS DESPITE GREAT AND DIFFICULT ODDS MUST NEVER BE FORGOTTEN.

UNLAWFUL INTERNMENT AGAINST ANYONE REGARDLESS OF RACE, COLOR, CREED, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, OR DISABILITY MUST NEVER BE TOLERATED BY FREEDOM-LOVING AMERICANS.

NEVER MUST "MILITARY NECESSITY" BECOME AN EXCUSE TO DEPRIVE ANY OF US OF OUR FREEDOM.



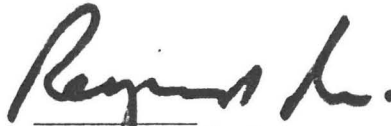
1120 S.W. Fifth Avenue
Room 520
Portland, Oregon 97204-1989 • (503) 796-5136



- 2 -

ONE PERSON CAN AND WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE. TODAY, WE HONOR THE
MEMORY OF MINORU YASUI. MAY HIS EXAMPLE OF STANDING UP FOR ONE'S
RIGHTS LIVE ON FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS AND MINDS.

LET US UNITE IN PETITIONING OUR GOVERNMENT TO REOPEN MINORU YASUI'S
CASE SO THAT HE MAY STILL HAVE HIS DAY IN COURT.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Reymundo Marin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a stylized "M".

Reymundo Marin
Executive Director

Metropolitan Human Relations Commission

Multnomah County • City of Portland

February 21, 1980

The Honorable Bob Packwood
United States Senate
1317 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20510

RECEIVED
FEB 21 1980

METROPOLITAN ARTS COMMISSION

Dear Senator Packwood:

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission writes in support of Senate Bill 1647, the bill that would inform the American public of the true facts of Executive Order 9066 and its impact on civilians. It is our understanding that Senators Daniel Inouye, Spark Matsunaga, S.I. Hayakawa, Alan Cranston, Frank Church, and James McClure have sponsored the bill. We are greatly encouraged by the willingness of these Senators to bring this matter to the public.

It has been nearly forty years since EO 9066 was instituted; and yet, the general public is unaware of its impact on American civilians and resident aliens. The time is long overdue.

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission encourages you to join with other Senator and add your name to the list of sponsors. You will be doing our country a great service by sharing with them the precious nature of our democracy and the fragile nature of our freedom.

Please add your name to the "Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians Act." The MHRC awaits your reply.

Sincerely,

James R. Sitzman
Chairman

JRS:LR:vn

*also send same letter to
Mark O. Hatfield*



Corbett Building, Room 312
430 S.W. Morrison Street
Portland, Oregon 97204 • 248-4187



A legacy of SUCCESS

*Their neighbors turned against them.
They lost their homes and livelihoods.
They were uprooted, imprisoned and
split apart. But nobody could take away
their values. And, in the end, they could
not be denied their piece of the
American dream.*

BY LAUREN KESSLER

Wind rips from the east. Fog hangs in the tall firs. The train snakes up the Gorge and, 65 miles east of Portland, where the Columbia cuts a mile-wide swath, pulls to a stop beside Hood River's small, wooden depot.

Downtown is only six blocks long and two blocks wide. The city streets are still dirt roads, but affluence is in the air. The Hood River Banking and Trust Co. has a new, two-story brick building. Davidson's Fruit Co. has constructed the town's first concrete building. The newly wealthy have built impressive homes on the rise above downtown. Beyond this narrow band of civilization, the densely timbered valley sweeps back to the foot of Mount Hood. Along the valley floor early settlers have carved farms out of the forest.

Masuo Yasui steps down from the train. He is a small, slight, serious young man who has spent the past four years working as a houseboy for a Portland lawyer. He speaks, writes and reads English. He has a small bankroll and big plans. He is 20 years old. The year is 1907.

Like so many immigrants before him, Masuo is pursuing the American dream. And, through the first few decades after he arrives in the fertile Hood River Valley, he begins to catch it. He marries and raises a large family. He becomes a successful businessman, an orchardist who owns or has interest in one-tenth of the Hood River Valley's cultivated land. He becomes a Rotarian and the first Japanese to serve on the board of directors of the Hood River Apple Growers Association. He faces a life of prosperity and good fortune.

But 40 years after settling in Hood River, Masuo Yasui will be a shattered and embittered man who can't bring himself to walk down the main street of town. He no longer will live there. He no longer will own land in the valley. Of all the Yasui family, only Ray, Masuo's oldest son, will remain, struggling to regain a footing in the valley's fruit industry.

Masuo himself will live in Portland. But, when he comes to visit Ray on his farm, the father will make a point of avoiding Hood River. He will refuse to set foot in the town that once claimed him as a leading citizen.

The events of Dec. 7, 1941, inalterably changed the course of life not only for Masuo Yasui, but also for his entire family. Like more than 110,000 Japanese-Americans who lived on the West Coast at the time, they were uprooted from their homes and herded into barbed wire-

LAUREN KESSLER is an associate professor of journalism at the University of Oregon.

6 Sunday, December 7, 1986



NORTHWEST



SUCCESS

translates the same in any language, but for Japanese-Americans the internment years derailed the American dream. That shameful era didn't stop one talented family, the Yasuis of Hood River.

Inside: Paper-Model Magic • Fiction • Kramer on the Sausage Scene

The Oregonian's Sunday Magazine

December 7, 1986

He combed the city's Japanese population for a man who would be the perfect test case: a native-born American of Japanese descent, a World War I veteran, a family man with youngsters who could draw sympathy from a crowd. The person willing to buck curfew would face a year in jail and a \$10,000 fine; so, not surprisingly, volunteers didn't beat down his door.

On March 28, 1942, Min notified the FBI and the U.S. attorney that he intended to violate the curfew. Then, at 8 p.m., Min Yasui — member of the Oregon Bar and second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserves — broke federal law by walking the streets of Portland at night. He walked for three hours, waiting to be arrested. When nothing happened, he asked a friend to call the FBI. Still nothing. The friend called again. Nothing. A third time. Still, no one paid attention to him.

Finally, Min saw a Portland city patrolman, walked over to him and asked to be arrested. "Go home, sonny," said the patrolman. "You'll get yourself in trouble." Min insisted on being arrested. The cop accommodated him.

As a result, Min spent the better part of the next year in solitary confinement — "the object of utmost contempt," he recalled before his death, "a dangerous Jap." Sped through the usually plodding court system, his case was heard almost immediately by the federal district court and, less than nine months later, by the U.S. Supreme Court. Executive Order 9066 and Min's conviction survived the appeal.

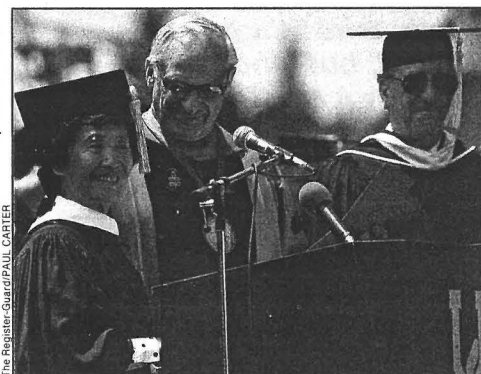
As Min sat in the jail that spring, rumors about evacuation consumed the Japanese community in Hood River Valley. "We had no idea where we were going, when it would be or under what circumstances," Yuka says, "but that's all the adults talked about. I was just 15, and I worried about who would take care of my dog and what would happen to my goldfish. My mother worried about the land and the business and what would happen to everything."

Left alone to fend for her family, Shidzuyo, like the other Japanese property owners, arranged hasty leases with white farmers — haphazard, hurry-up deals that permitted the tenants to farm the land for free, reaping the profits and, supposedly, saving a percentage for the Japanese owners when they returned. Because almost none of those contracts was in writing, many Japanese property owners later said they failed to receive their share.

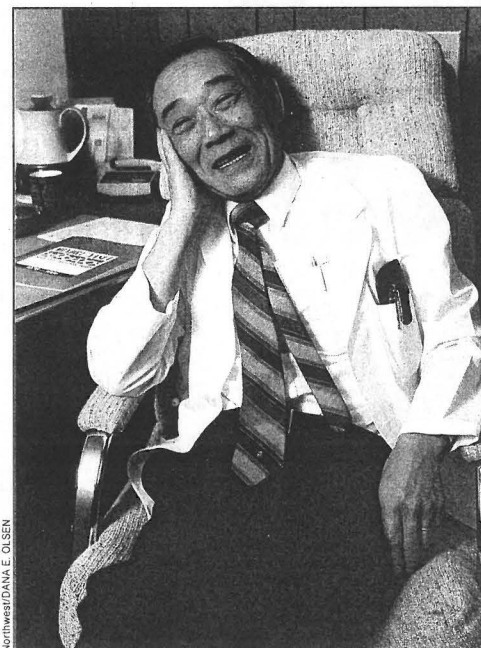
On May 13 virtually all the valley's remaining Japanese-Americans were told to report to the Hood River train depot with whatever they could carry. "We had no idea where we were going," recalls Homer, who was then 17. "We got on the train. They drew the blinds and posted armed guards at either end of the car. And then we just went — and kept on going for what seemed like forever."

Homer and Yuka had no way of knowing it, but as their California-bound train passed through Eugene, their sister, Michi,

Michi Yasui Ando celebrates her commencement ceremony from the University of Oregon in June with university President Paul Olum (center) and Archivist Keith Richard.



The Register-Guard/PAUL CARTER



Northwest/DANA E. OLSEN

Homer Yasui won a release from the Tule Lake internment camp and attended medical school in Denver. He now has a surgical practice in Milwaukee.

a University of Oregon senior, stood next to the railroad tracks north of campus, watching. "I heard that hundreds of people from the Hood River Valley were on that train," she says. "I knew part of my family was on that train. As I watched it pass, I had no idea if I would ever see them again. It was like a nightmare."

With only two weeks to go before graduation, Michi was hanging on, knowing that she and her brother Robert, then a U of O freshman, could be evacuated at any moment. "I just wanted to finish spring quarter," she recalls. "I wanted to be sure I was going to graduate, because I didn't know what the future would be like if I didn't have a degree." Her determination reflected her parents' reverence for education, a value they stressed with sons and daughters alike. Masuo had told all his children that a college degree was a badge of citizenship and a ticket to a better life.

But life on campus grew difficult for Michi after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Most of her friends deserted her. Federal restrictions set her apart: She couldn't own a camera or a radio. She couldn't travel more than five miles from campus. She had to be in her dorm room by 8 every night. "There wasn't open hostility," she says, "just a cool, stand-offish feeling that made you aware people were watching you and probably thinking unkind thoughts. I was just this innocent college girl from a small, rural town, and I was lonely and afraid." She kept to herself, studied and counted the days until graduation.

Her 18-year-old brother also kept a low profile. A pre-med major only one term into his freshman year at the time the United States entered the war, Robert Yasui remembers dividing his time between scrubbing pots in the dorm kitchen and going to classes. "I didn't have a heckuva lot to do except study," he says.

Toward the end of May, Robert realized that if he didn't leave Eugene soon, he would be evacuated and sent to a camp. "And I decided I would have no part of that," he recalls. He went to all his professors and got his final grades. Then, breaking curfew, he walked to the Eugene bus depot late that night and asked for a ticket to Denver, a "free zone" where Japanese were not subject to internment. The ticket agent, apparently ignorant of the travel restrictions on Japanese-Americans, sold it to him. Within a few hours, he was heading east.

When Robert reached Denver, he called Michi immediately. "I got out," he told her. "Come soon or it will be too late." But Michi resisted, hoping that she would be allowed to go through the June graduation ceremony with her class. The hitch in her plans was that the commencement exercises would last until 10 at night, two hours past curfew. And so, despite the university's attempts on her behalf — the dean of students championed her request, and the dean of women volunteered to chaperone her — military authorities said no. She learned of the decision three days after Robert called. She took the next bus to Denver.

By mid-1942, the dissolution of the Yasui family was complete. Michi and Robert were among the less than 2 percent of Japanese-Americans on the West Coast who escaped internment. In Denver Michi worked in restaurant kitchens and served food in return for room and board so that she could continue her schooling. Robert also worked and resumed his college studies.

Meanwhile, Masuo was being shuffled from one federal facility to another across the western two-thirds of the country. Min was sitting in the Multnomah County jail, soon to be shipped to Minidoka, a relocation camp in the arid wastelands 60 miles west of Pocatello, Idaho.

The rest of the Yasuis were living in the barracks at Tule Lake internment camp 35 miles southeast of Klamath Falls. Authorities broke up the extended family, assigning Shidzuyo, Homer and Yuka to one unit, Ray and his pregnant wife to another, and an uncle, aunt and their child to a third.

"We were not in the same barracks or even in the same block," says Homer, who volunteered to work in an orderly in the camp hospital. "I don't understand why they did that. We were a nuclear family."

"But, after Pearl Harbor, we were never really a family again."

For a short time during the war, Denver became the focal point for the Yasui family. Homer wrangled an educational release from Tule Lake in late 1942 and joined Michi and Robert there. Yuka, released from camp a few months later, came east. So did Ray and his family. Finally, their mother was able to join them. With her husband still imprisoned — Masuo was not released until eight months after the war ended — and the family business 2,000 miles away, Shidzuyo began selling off orchard land to finance her children's educations.

There was a lot to finance. Robert studied at the University of Denver, transferred to the University of Wisconsin and, in 1944, began medical school in Philadelphia. Another brother was

enclosed location camps scattered from California to Arkansas. It was a fate the Yasuis shared with virtually all of the 4,000 Japanese-Americans in Oregon, more than a tenth of whom lived in the Hood River Valley.

The once close-knit family unraveled. In the aftermath of Pearl Harbor the Yasuis lost their freedom and most of their fortune. It could have cost them their future. But they didn't let it.

Masuo Yasui was 16 when he left Japan for a new life in the New World. His father and two older brothers already were there, working for \$1 a day as railroad section hands in Eastern Oregon. He came to America to join them.

"But he was just a boy and slightly built, and he couldn't keep up with the other workers," recalled Minoru "Min" Yasui, Masuo's second son. "They made him a water boy, and, well, this hurt his pride. So he left and went to Portland."

Min, who died of cancer last month, told the story with a practiced air. His older brother, Ray, recounts the same story almost verbatim. Family lore is important to the Yasuis.

In Portland Masuo worked as a houseboy, attended evening classes at Couch School and dreamed of becoming a lawyer. But the dream faded when he learned that U.S. law then forbade Asian immigrants from becoming citizens. Without citizenship Masuo could never be admitted to the bar. He swallowed his disappointment and turned his sights elsewhere.

On his many trips to Eastern Oregon to visit his father and brothers, Masuo had passed through and admired Hood River. In 1907 he and one of his older brothers moved there, opening a store that served the small, scattered community of Japanese men who

Despite the harassment of the war years, "somehow we always knew we were not inferior. That knowledge came from our parents — not just what they said, but who they were."



Ray Yasui is the only one of Masuo Yasui's children who returned to the Hood River Valley after internment during World War II. He has a 200-acre apple orchard now, only a fraction of the family holdings prior to the war.

worked as farm laborers in the valley. Almost immediately, by dint of his fluent English and business savvy, he became a leader.

Serving as a liaison between the Japanese and white residents of the valley, Masuo arranged labor contracts between Japanese workers and white landowners. But most important, both to his fortunes and the valley's future, he encouraged Japanese workers to buy land and to settle there. If they lacked money for the down payment, he loaned it to them in exchange for a share of the land they would buy and clear. Land, logged over and left full of stumps and slash, was cheap then.

Masuo bought land of his own and settled down. In 1911 he married Shidzuyo Miyake, a missionary-educated farm girl who was one of the few Japanese women of her day to go to college. In 1915 their first son was born.

"We were the only Japanese-American family who lived in town," remembers Ray, the firstborn. For almost half a century Ray has grown apples, pears and cherries on 200 acres of gently rolling land south of Hood River. Now 71, he is turning over the business, Willow Flat Orchards, to his two sons, the third generation of Yasui orchardists. "In grade school, we were the only Japanese-American kids. But," he says, pausing to think back across several decades, "my growing up was no different than the

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average youngster growing up in a small town. I got into my share of fights, and I had my share of friends.

Homer Yasui, a younger brother, remembers his childhood differently: It was 1931 and Homer, 7, was in third grade. Walking to school one crisp fall day, he passed the old first- and second-grade schoolhouse. Some children out in the school yard, laughing and running, saw Homer and stopped their play. One little boy came over to the fence and started jumping up and down. "Look at the little Jap boy. Look at the little Jap boy," he began chanting. Then the other kids joined in, their high-pitched voices singing, "Look at the little Jap boy. Look at the little Jap boy."

"I didn't realize I was different from the other kids until that moment," says Homer, now 62. "And I've never forgotten it."

Yuka, two years younger than Homer, remembers community reaction to the family moving to a larger home in a better neighborhood. "People said, 'Why do those Japs want to move here?' and sometimes the kids would say, 'What are those little Jap kids doing at our school?'"

"But," says Yuka, "somehow we always knew we were not inferior. That knowledge came from our parents — not just what they said, but who they were."

In those years the Japanese in the Hood River Valley sometimes had to struggle to maintain their pride. Some of their neighbors formed the Anti-Asiatic Association, pledging to "preserve America for Americans" and advocating complete exclusion of the Japanese from the United States. At the same time the state Legislature passed a law — one that was introduced by a representative from Hood River County — that prohibited Japanese ownership of Oregon land.

But the Yasuis were there to stay. And they were moving up. Masuo, by then called "Matt" by his Caucasian neighbors, continued to buy land despite the so-called Alien Land Bill. Like many of the enterprising Japanese in Oregon, he skirted the legislation by putting the deeds in his children's names. He grew apples, pears, cherries, tomatoes, corn, cucumbers and beets. He pioneered the asparagus industry in the valley. With ownership or an interest in about 1,000 acres, he was said to have his stamp on one of every 10 boxes of apples produced in the valley.

In 1933 Masuo's second son, valedictorian of Hood River High School, entered the University of Oregon. Six years later Min Yasui became the first Japanese-American to graduate from the university's law school and the second to be admitted to the Oregon Bar. In 1938 his eldest daughter, Michi, salutatorian of Hood River High, enrolled at the U of O. The Yasuis had carved themselves a niche in Hood River society. They were a prosperous family.

Then came Pearl Harbor.

In Hood River, in the days that followed that calamity, federal agents identified Masuo as a leader in the Japanese community, confined him to his house and boarded up the store he and his brother still operated. "Every day we would hear rumors about how he would be taken," recalls Yuka, then a high school sophomore. "Each day when I would come home from school for lunch, I would feel a terrible sense of panic, wondering if my father had been charged with some serious offense or whether he'd been dragged off."

"And," she says, her voice dropping, "one day when I came home, he wasn't there. He had been taken."

Considered an enemy alien by the government and quickly dubbed a traitor by his erstwhile friends, Masuo spent the next 4½ years behind barbed wire. Federal authorities first locked him up in the county jail in Portland, then shipped him to what was essentially a prisoner-of-war camp in Montana. Later he was shuttled to Oklahoma, Louisiana and, finally, New Mexico. Often his family didn't know where he was. For long stretches of time there was no communication between them.

In mid-February 1942 President Franklin Roosevelt empowered the military to designate certain "military areas" and exclude "any or all" persons from them. Executive Order 9063 meant only one thing: Remove all those of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast, whether American citizens or not. At the time almost two-thirds of the Japanese-Americans living in the three Pacific coastal states had been born, raised and educated in the United States.

On March 24 came yet another blow: The military imposed an 8 p.m. curfew on all persons of Japanese ancestry.

Four days later Min Yasui came to a difficult decision. He knew the curfew law was wrong. He knew it had to be challenged. Because of his lawyer's training, he knew that, unless a person asserted his rights when they were violated, those rights were waived forever. Min conferred with his fellow Portland attorneys.

studying engineering at the University of Michigan. Homer was a pre-med student. Michi, enrolled in a master's degree program, was one of two Japanese-American women studying at the University of Denver. Eventually, the Yasui children would amass 55 years of higher education among them, earning six bachelor's degrees, four master's, two M.D.s, a Ph.D. and a law degree.

"From the time we were very small," says Michi, "we were told that, if you get an education, you have it for the rest of your life, and no one can take it away."

What was being taken away was their home. Back in Hood River the local grange supported efforts to prevent the return of Japanese-Americans to the West Coast. The group endorsed a constitutional amendment that would deny citizenship to descendants of people then banned by law from becoming citizens — even though those descendants were native-born Americans.

Kent Shoemaker, a former Hood River County clerk and local Chamber of Commerce bigwig, ran full-page ads in the valley newspaper that were loaded with yellow-peril paranoia, signing his open letters to the community, "Yours for a Hood River without a Jap." More than 1,500 people — about half the population of the city — signed petitions supporting the permanent exclusion of people of Japanese ancestry from Hood River. Meanwhile, the local American Legion post was making headlines nationwide for purging the county honor roll of 16 Americans of Japanese descent who were serving in the U.S. Army. Three of the men whose names were erased had been wounded in action.

That was the place the Yasuis had called home for more than four decades. And by then there was literally nothing to come home to.

Shidzuyo had sold most of the land to finance the children's education. What little acreage remained was run down from years of neglect and worth very little. But, even if the land remained, Masuo wouldn't have returned. In 1941 he had watched while public opinion transformed him from community leader to reviled traitor. People he thought of as friends turned against him. For him, the rewards from 40 years of building a life had crumbled like fertile soil in his hands.

After Masuo was released from camp in New Mexico, he and his wife were reunited in Denver and came west. They lived in Portland, in retirement for the rest of their lives. They never set foot in Hood River again.

Homer, their youngest son, moved to Portland in 1950 after medical studies in Philadelphia and New York. The beauty of Oregon beckoned him, but he never considered settling in Hood River. "I knew what was going on there," he says. "I knew they were still writing editorials about how they hoped the damned Japs would never come back." Today he practices general surgery in Milwaukie. His older brother Robert, also an East Coast-trained surgeon, settled in Williamsport, Pa.

Min, the son who had fulfilled his

father's dream of becoming a lawyer, stayed in Denver. After earning the highest score ever recorded on the Colorado bar examination, he became executive director of Denver's Commission on Community Relations and the regional director of the Japanese American Citizens League. He was a national leader in the Congressional fight for financial restitution for those interned after Pearl Harbor. The bill he worked for has 140 co-sponsors in the U.S. House of Representatives, where its fate awaits a vote of the House Judiciary Committee. Meanwhile, the U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to review an unrelated lawsuit that also deals with the restitution issue. Min was 70 when he died on Nov. 12.

Michi, now Michi Yasui Ando, also settled in Denver. Armed with a master's degree in education, she went on to become an award-winning first-grade teacher. In June this year, she went through the U of O commencement exercises she was barred from 44 years ago, and the crowd gave her two standing ovations.

Yuka, now Yuka Yasui Fujikura, graduated from the U of O in 1948, earned a master's in nursing from Yale University and, aided by a Fulbright scholarship, earned another master's in public health. She and her family live in Rockville, Md., where she works for Planned Parenthood.

Only Ray, the firstborn, returned to Hood River after the war. In 1946 he, his wife and their two children returned to the 160 acres he still owned in the valley and tried to pick up where they left off. It wasn't easy, but Ray doesn't dwell on the hardships.

His brother Min was more outspoken. "Ray had a terrible time," he said. "It was a real struggle. He had to drive to The Dalles to buy supplies because the merchants of Hood River wouldn't sell to him." In the years following the war the Northwest Produce Dealers Association organized a systematic boycott of returned Japanese growers so effective that the federal government intervened to stop it.

Yuka visited Ray soon after he had settled in. "I can remember the tremendous impact of going back to the home that I loved and seeing signs all over, 'No Japs or dogs wanted here' or 'Get out dirty Japs,'" she says. "But I guess you either grow stronger, or you buckle under. We all grew stronger."

Ray dug in his heels and stayed. Another son was born. His orchards bloomed and bore fruit. He bought a few more acres. He became a volunteer firefighter. He gave his support to all-American causes such as Boy Scouts and baseball. His kids went to college. He served as chairman of the board of Diamond Fruit Co. for 15 years. In the early 1960s he served on the State Board of Higher Education. "I was just a regular citizen," he sums up simply.

"What I wanted to do with my life was this: I wanted to provide for my family and head them down the road in the right direction," Ray says. "I wanted them to be good citizens."

"That was my parents' legacy to me, to all of us, and that's what I wanted to pass on."

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11/11/87 Oregon Court urged to hear detainment order challenge



Associated Press

True Yasui (right) of Denver, accompanied by her daughter, Holly Yasui of Madison, Wis., delivers an emotional plea during a news conference Wednesday in San Francisco, urging the U.S. District court to keep the case of Japanese-American detainment during World War II open. The case was initiated by Minoru Yasui, True Yasui's husband who died two months ago.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A federal appeals court was urged Wednesday to hear a challenge to a World War II Japanese-American detainment order, even though the man who filed the petition died two months ago.

The family of Minoru Yasui, his lawyer and former prisoners of all 10 of the U.S. internment centers during World War II made the emotional request at a news conference.

Yasui died Nov. 12, 1986, at the age of 70, and the government filed a motion with the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco to dismiss the case. However, his lawyer, Peggy Nagae, filed a response, asking the court to deny the government's motion and send the case back to U.S. District Court for a hearing.

"The government has never admitted it was wrong," Nagae said. "Lower courts have said there was government misconduct. The whole thrust of this is to undercut the factual foundation of the precedent set by the (U.S.) Supreme Court (wartime) cases."

Yasui became a symbol for the

110,000 Japanese-Americans imprisoned during the World War II when he challenged his internment 45 years ago and when he again sought to have the case reopened in 1983.

Yasui was a young lawyer when he walked into a Portland police station and demanded to be arrested. He eventually spent nine months in solitary confinement and was stripped of his citizenship during his trial.

In 1942, when the Oregon Supreme Court heard Yasui's case, it ruled against him, citing a Justice Department's claim that Japanese-Americans as a racial group might be disloyal and might engage in espionage and sabotage.

After the war in 1946, he took and passed the Colorado State Bar, but his admission was disallowed because of his criminal record caused by his wartime disobedience.

He eventually appealed his case to the Colorado Supreme Court and was finally admitted. He practiced law in Denver and along with his wife, True, raised three daughters.

Yasui and two other wartime litigators, Fred Korematsu and Gordon

Hirabayashi, filed petitions to reopen their cases in 1983.

The men said secret documents discovered in 1982 under the Freedom of Information Act disclosed that government security agencies, including the FBI, Army Intelligence and the Navy, said Japanese-Americans were no more a threat than Italian-Americans or German-Americans and that internment was unnecessary.

The men claimed that information was never passed to the higher courts.

Yasui's case is on appeal from a federal court in Portland that threw out his conviction for violating a racial curfew order. But that court made no judgment on whether the government engaged in lies and misconduct.

It is important to his family that his case be heard and that the government admit its mistake.

"His goal was to try by every legal means to see that such an unconstitutional event as the evacuation in 1942 of all Americans of Japanese ancestry could never happen again — to any American citizen," said True Yasui.

Yasui eulogized for stand on civil rights

By PHIL MANZANO
of The Oregonian staff

12/6/86

HOOD RIVER — In a quiet, moving memorial service Friday, about 200 family and friends mourned the death of Minoru Yasui, an Oregon native whose civil rights protests during World War II made him a national hero to Japanese-Americans.

Yasui, who was born and raised in Hood River, died Nov. 12 in Denver, Colo., where he had been executive director of the Denver Commission on Community Relations for 16 years. He was 70.

"Min Yasui became a hero to Japanese-Americans by courageously challenging a blatantly discriminatory government order during the early years to the war," a niece, Robin Yasui, said in a eulogy in Asbury United Methodist Church.

"He was a young, 25-year-old lawyer who single-handedly took on the most powerful government in the world for the sake of a sacred principle."

On March 28, 1942, Yasui was arrested in Portland for purposely defying a military curfew order enforced against persons of Japanese ancestry.

Yasui believed the order was unconstitutional because it deprived the rights of a group of people without due process of law. The curfew was followed by mass evacuations of 110,000 Japanese-Americans living on the West Coast to internment centers.

"I think he became the conscience for all of us," said Frances Maeda of Portland, a longtime

family friend, "that we don't take our rights for granted."

In a letter read at the service, Gov. Vic Atiyeh said that although the U.S. was engaged in war, it did not excuse government actions against loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry.

"As one whose parents are born in another country, I have special feelings for Minoru Yasui and others like him who have struggled to maintain a principle that all Americans are entitled to stand proudly and equally under our Constitution."

Cherry Kinoshita, national vice president for the Japanese American Citizens League, called Yasui "one of the nation's outstanding civil rights leaders."

Although the group at first refused to support Yasui, "In 1952 the JACL at long last recognized Min Yasui's courageous stance of defiance against the government and named him 'Nisei of the Biennium,'" Kinoshita said.

Yasui was convicted in federal district court in Portland for his action and the conviction was upheld on appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court citing "military necessity" in 1943.

Yasui's defiance cost him nine months of solitary confinement in the Multnomah County Jail, followed by a transfer to the Minidoka Relocation Center in Idaho.

It also temporarily cost him his U.S. citizenship, his standing in the military, and it almost cost him his livelihood — although he passed the Colorado Bar with one of the highest scores ever

registered. He was admitted to the bar only after appealing to the Colorado Supreme Court.

In 1982, the U.S. Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians found that the curfew and evacuations were not based on military necessity but rather were based on race prejudice, war hysteria and failure of political leadership.

But there remains a final, undone chapter in Yasui's life. Citing military records that were hidden from the 1943 Supreme Court showing the loyalty of Japanese-Americans, Yasui hoped to overturn the Supreme Court decision that upheld his conviction.

It will have to be a fight carried on by others.

Friday, Yasui was returned to a familiar place of apple orchards, a valley straddled by mountains and fed by the Columbia River.

"Min's roots do go deep in this valley," said Rev. Barbara Bellus Upp of Asbury United Methodist Church. "He was born here, and he was baptized in this sanctuary."

She said when Yasui visited Hood River in the summer for a family funeral, he said he wanted to be buried here.

"He looked at the mountain, and he looked around at the valley (and said,) 'When the time comes this is where I want to be. This is my home,'" Upp said.

Yasui was buried during a private family service in Idlewild Cemetery. He is survived by his wife, True, and three daughters, Iris A Moinat, Laurel D. Hawkins and Holly Yasui.

Native son's return particularly poignant

By ALAN K. OTA

HOOD RIVER — Snow dots the dried brown turf of the Idlewild Cemetery in Hood River where a native son of Oregon returned last week after a long hiatus.

Had a vote been taken when Minoru Yasui left here in 1942, he might have been elected the Hood River man least likely ever to return.

Like oil and water, Hood River and Minoru Yasui just did not mix.

During the war, the town would earn a reputation among Japanese-Americans for one of the most virulent strains of "haiseiki" — hatred of Japanese — in the United States. It became a center for activism aimed at denying Japanese-Americans rights to own land and, ultimately, to evict them from the West Coast.

Yasui, for his part, was the acid-tongued and sharp-witted young attorney who risked his future and his reputation to challenge the U.S. government's wartime curfew for Japanese-Americans in 1942.

For Yasui and most of his family — like many Japanese-Americans — the dislocation of World War II would result in scattering to far corners of the United States.

In the case of the Yasuis and others from Hood River, there was a particularly good reason not to return. As author Lauren Kessler noted in a Dec. 7 article in Northwest magazine, the departure of the Japanese-Americans marked the beginning of a new movement among Hood River people to keep them from coming back.

Kent Shoemaker, a former Hood River County clerk, ran full-page newspaper advertisements signed, "Yours for a Hood River without a Jap." More than 1,500 people signed petitions supporting their permanent exclusion.

Now, 40 years later, in Idlewild Cemetery, nothing remains of the hatred and anguish of that time. There is only the blowing of icy wind across the tomb-

stones and the flutter of blackbirds overhead.

Yasui's ashes lie buried beneath a pair of giant cedars, as he had requested, beside the memorial marker for his mother and father. Across the cemetery, not far away, lies the grave of the exclusion advocate, Shoemaker.

Merlin Bergum, the cemetery manager, says wartime memories have long since faded in town. "Time takes care of that. It dwindles out," he said.

With his death Nov. 12, Yasui left one unfinished chapter in his life story.

After leaving Oregon, Yasui went to Colorado, where as a lawyer, and later as executive director of the Denver Commission for Community Relations, he became involved in a succession of civil rights causes.

Then in 1983, 40 years after leaving, Yasui returned to Oregon and to the legal case that had been so central to his life. He filed a petition in U.S. District Court in Portland seeking to overturn his wartime conviction for the curfew violation and obtain a court ruling on the key element in his original case — the constitutionality of wartime restrictions placed on Japanese-Americans.

U.S. District Judge Robert A. Belloni ruled in his favor in 1984 by voiding the conviction, but he dismissed the rest of the case.

Yasui and his attorneys filed an appeal but, now, it may well be that Yasui will be denied this last victory. Nov. 26, two weeks after Yasui's death, the office of U.S. Attorney Charles H. Turner filed a



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In Idlewild Cemetery, nothing remains of the hatred and anguish of that time.

motion seeking dismissal of that case on grounds that it had become moot.

Yasui's daughter, Holly Yasui, said this week that the case had become the important thing in Yasui's life before he died, that he had not been satisfied with his own exoneration but sought a court ruling to prevent future evacuations and curfews aimed at minorities. She said that if Turner's motion succeeds, she will try to carry the case with his lawyer, Peggy Nagae, to the U.S. Supreme Court, as her father would have wanted.

"When I think about my father, I keep reminding myself that it's never too late to do anything," Holly Yasui said. "It's not too late to do things about injustices."

Alan K. Ota is a staff writer for The Oregonian.



Yasui dies — Minoru Yasui, an Oregon native who fought for the rights of Japanese-Americans, has died of cancer. He was 70. **Page D18**

Yasui, who fought WWII curfew, internship, dies

Photo on Page One

By JOHN SNELL
of The Oregonian staff

Minoru Yasui, an Oregon native who pioneered the fight for the rights of Japanese-Americans during World War II, died of cancer Wednesday in a Denver hospital. Yasui, a retired attorney, was 70.

During the war, Yasui spent nine months in solitary confinement in the Multnomah County Jail and more than a year in detention camps after he intentionally wandered the streets of Portland after the 8 p.m. curfew in the hope of being arrested so he might challenge the law.

Yasui spent the remainder of his life appealing his arrest and incarceration. In 1983 he sought in federal court to have his conviction and sentence declared unconstitutional. The conviction and indictment were dismissed, but Yasui appealed to press the issue of constitutional rights. That appeal is pending.

Yasui was interned under what was then known as Public Law 503, which said that anyone who knowingly disobeyed a military order was subject to certain penalties.

"It was not an intelligent thing to do," Yasui

said of his decision to violate the order of the Western Defense Command during the war. "It was a matter of idealism."

Born and raised in Hood River, Yasui attended the University of Oregon and graduated from its law school in 1939.

"Because of racial prejudice, he couldn't get a job around here," recalled Walter Sakai of Portland, a longtime friend. Sakai said Yasui went to Chicago and worked in the Japanese consul's office, and when the war broke out, returned to Portland and tried to enlist. He found that the armed services wouldn't take him.

At one point, Yasui's American citizenship was revoked because of his association with the Japanese consul.

After the war, Yasui moved to Denver. In 1946, he helped found the Urban League of Denver and in 1967, began a 16-year term as executive director of the Denver Commission on Community Relations.

Yasui helped found the Latin American Research and Service Agency in 1965 and three years later helped form the Denver Native Americans United.

In 1964 the U.S. Department of Justice's Com-

munity Relations Service gave him the Award for Public Service. In 1983 he received the E.B. MacNaughton Civil Liberties Award from the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon.

"There are a few great men in our country who are totally unselfish in their commitment to fairness and justice," said Helen Louise White Peterson, the 1987 chairwoman of the Episcopal Church's National Committee on Indian Work and a friend of Yasui's now living in Portland. "He was one. He truly served humanity."

Yasui is survived by his wife, True of Denver; three daughters, Iris Moinat, Laurel Yasui and Holly Yasui, all of Denver; three brothers, Dr. Ray T. Yasui of Hood River, Robert Yasui of Williamsport, Pa., and Homer Yasui of Portland; two sisters, Michi Ando of Denver and Yuka Fujikura of Rockville, Md.; and five grandchildren.

Funeral will be at 2 p.m. Sunday in Fairmont Mortuary in Denver.

The family suggests that remembrances be contributions be given to the Minoru Yasui memorial fund in care of Fairmont Mortuary in Denver.

THE JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

- **Is** a nonprofit, educational, human and civil rights organization representing Americans of Japanese ancestry
- **Works** through a nationwide volunteer network of 111 local chapters across the mainland U.S., in Hawaii, and in Japan
- **Publishes** America's largest Japanese American weekly newspaper, the Pacific Citizen, communicating news and information on important issues
- **Promotes** and **defends** the interests of Japanese Americans and other minority groups through an official lobbyist in Washington, D.C.
- **Leads** the national campaign for Japanese American redress—to bring to the attention of the American public the moral and constitutional issues of the World War II evacuation and incarceration experience and to seek a just compensation from the American government
- **Provides** educational and cultural programs that increase public awareness and understanding of Japanese Americans and enhance U.S.-Japan relations
- **Assists** in legal counselling and litigation cases involving affirmative action programs and employment discrimination
- **Awards** over \$40,000 annually in national and local scholarships to outstanding and deserving students and artists
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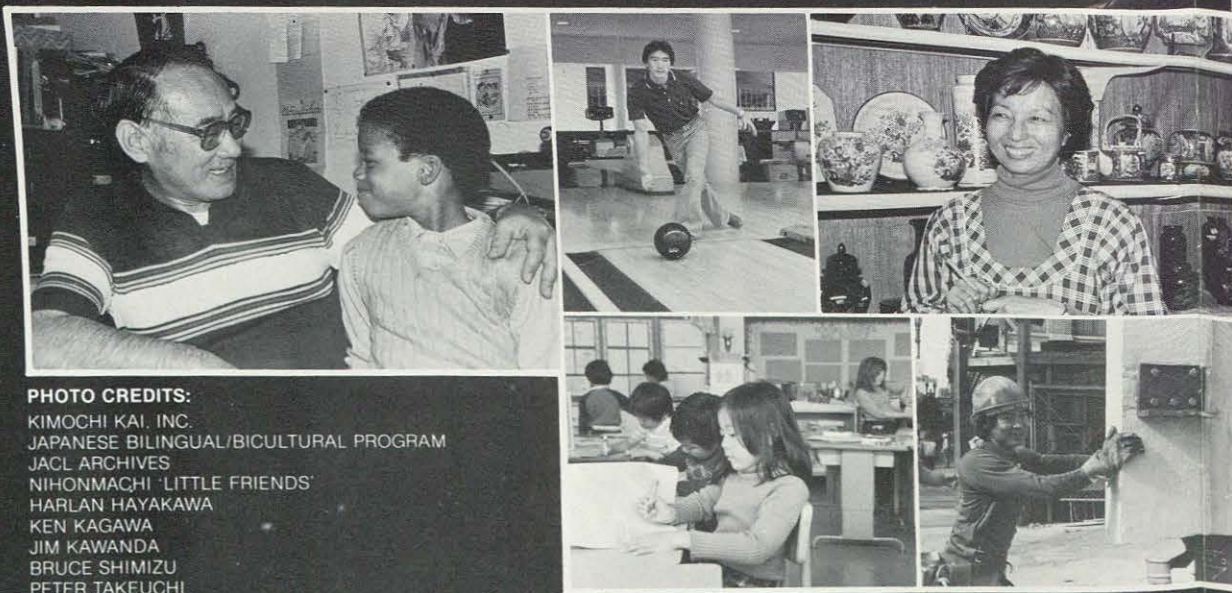


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...because prejudice and discrimination still exist...in the schools where our children are denied their history...in the office where promotions evade us in spite of our labor...in government where our interests and concerns are often overlooked and we are regarded as second-class citizens.

The problems touch us all... and where the efforts of the individual are lost, there is power in group action... we need each other.

JACL is many things. Our history is one of service. JACL has spoken out against injustices against Japanese Americans and in the process has served to protect the rights and liberties of all peoples. In communities across the country, JACL has been active in preserving the rich Japanese American heritage while applying the best of those cultural traditions to the enrichment of American life. JACL is committed to building a positive and productive future for all Americans.

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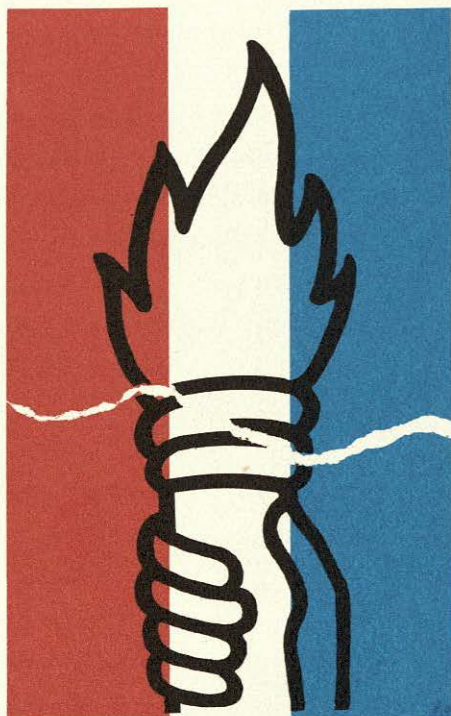
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THE JAPANESE AMERICAN INCARCERATION: A CASE FOR REDRESS



June 1978

The National Committee for Redress
Japanese American Citizens League

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE
PACIFIC NORTHWEST DISTRICT OFFICE
327 N. W. COUCH ST.
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INTRODUCTION

"No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law. The accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation." These protections are guaranteed in the 5th and 6th Amendments to the Constitution of the United States of America.

However, during 1942–46, some 77,000 American citizens of Japanese ancestry and 43,000 Japanese nationals, most of whom were permanent U.S. residents, were summarily deprived of liberty and property without criminal charges, and without trial of any kind. Several persons were also violently deprived of life. All persons of Japanese ancestry on the West Coast were expelled from their homes and confined in inland detention camps. The sole basis for these actions was ancestry—citizenship, age, loyalty, or innocence of wrongdoing did not matter. Japanese Americans were the only ones singled out for mass incarceration. German and Italian nationals, and American citizens of German and Italian ancestries were not imprisoned en masse.

This episode was one of the worst blows to constitutional liberties that the American people have ever sustained. Many Americans find it difficult to understand how such a massive injustice could have occurred in a democratic nation. This booklet will attempt to explain how and why it happened, and what can be done to ameliorate the effects of that mistake. Professor Eugene V. Rostow once wrote: "Until the wrong is acknowledged and made right we shall have failed to meet the responsibility of a democratic society—the obligation of equal justice."

ROOT CAUSES

The seeds of prejudice which resulted in the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II were sown nearly a century earlier when the first immigrants from Asia arrived during the California Gold Rush. California was then a lawless frontier territory. White immigrants from the Eastern United States had just succeeded in wresting control of the territory from Mexico, and had briefly proclaimed an independent Republic of California.

Mexico was forced to cede California to the United States in 1848, and almost simultaneously gold was discovered in the Sierra Nevada foothills. Immigrants from the Eastern states, and from all over the world, rushed to California during 1848–49. There was intense, often violent competition for control of the gold mines, and ultimately for control of the Territory of California.

About 25% of the miners in California during the Gold Rush came from China. The English-speaking newcomers who had previously established dominance over the Native, Spanish, and Mexican Californians were in no mood to tolerate further competition. Using acts of terrorism—mass murder and arson—the white newcomers drove the Chinese out of the mining areas.

When California became a state in 1850, lawless violence against the Chinese was transformed into legal discrimination. Official government prejudice against Asian Americans thus became established. Article 19 of the California State Constitution authorized cities to totally expel or restrict Chinese persons to segregated areas, and prohibited the employment of Chinese persons by public agencies and corporations. Other federal, state or local laws or court decisions at various times prohibited the Chinese from: becoming citizens or voting, testifying in court against a white person, engaging in licensed businesses and professions, attending school with whites, and marrying whites. Chinese persons alone were required to pay special taxes, and a major source of revenue for many cities, counties and the State of California came from these assessments against the Chinese.

Despite such barriers, there were more opportunities in California than in poverty-stricken China, and more Chinese immigrants arrived. But with the much larger influx of white immigrants from Eastern states and Europe, the proportion of Chinese persons in California dropped to 10% of the population.

Big business recruited Chinese workers for menial labor, but white labor unions agitated for the removal of all Chinese persons from California. The rallying cry for white labor leaders became: "The Chinese must go!" White elected officials soon joined the exclusion movement and pressured the federal government to stop immigration from China. In response to the California lobby, Congress passed a series of Chinese Exclusion Acts beginning in 1882. The California pressure groups won their first campaign to exclude an Asian minority.

JAPANESE ARRIVE

As the Chinese population rapidly declined due to the lack of women and the men returning to China, an acute labor shortage developed in the Western states and the Territory of Hawaii in the 1880s. The agricultural industry wanted another group of laborers who would do the menial work at low wages, and looked to Japan as a new source. At that time, however, Japan prohibited laborers from leaving the country. The United States pressured Japan to relax the ban on labor emigration, and Japan consequently allowed laborers to leave in 1884.

The American agricultural industry recruited Japanese laborers to work in the sugar cane fields of Hawaii, and the fruits and vegetable farms of California. From the handful who were here prior to the Chinese Exclusion Act, the Japanese population increased to about 61,000 in Hawaii and 24,000 on the mainland by 1900. The Japanese replaced the Chinese as the largest non-white ethnic group in the West Coast and Hawaii.

As long as the Japanese remained docile, their hard labor was welcomed, but as soon as they showed signs of initiative they were perceived as threats to white dominance. Japanese farm laborers, together with Mexican farm laborers, conducted the first successful agricultural strike in California in 1903. Japanese farm laborers were well organized and engaged in collective bargaining for higher wages: many saved enough money to lease or buy land.

The Japanese farmers reclaimed much of the unwanted land and developed it into rich agricultural areas. In California, Japanese farmers produced 50–90% of some fruits and vegetables despite operating only 4% of the farmlands. Envy led to hate, and the prevailing anti-Asian animosities became focused on the Japanese.

The anti-Japanese campaign began with acts of violence and lawlessness: mob assaults, arson, and forcible expulsion from farming areas became commonplace. Soon these prejudices became institutionized into law. As with the earlier Chinese pioneers, the Japanese were also denied citizenship, prohibited from certain occupations, forced to send their children to segregated schools, and could not marry whites. In addition, some laws were specifically directed against the Japanese, including the denial of the right to own, lease, or give gifts of agricultural land.

Like the Chinese exclusion movement before, California lobbied the federal government to stop all immigration from Japan. As a result of these pressures, Japanese laborers were excluded by executive action in 1907, and all Japanese immigration for permanent residence was prohibited by the Asian Exclusion Act of 1924. Japan considered the Exclusion Act a national insult, particularly since the United States had insisted upon Japanese immigration in the first place. President Theodore Roosevelt once remarked: "The infernal fools in California insult the Japanese recklessly and in the event of war it will be the nation as a whole which will pay the consequences."

To the dismay of the exclusionists, the Japanese population did not quickly decrease as the Chinese population did earlier. There were sufficient numbers of Japanese women pioneers who gave

birth to an American-born generation, and families decided to make the United States their permanent home. As the exclusionists intensified their efforts to get rid of the Japanese, their campaign was enhanced by the development of a powerful new weapon—the mass media.

Newspapers, radio, and motion pictures stereotyped Japanese Americans as untrustworthy and unassimilable. The media did not recognize the fact that a large number of persons of Japanese ancestry living in the United States were American citizens. As Japan became a military power, the media falsely depicted Japanese Americans as agents for Japan. Newspapers inflamed the "Yellow Peril" myths on the West Coast; radio, movies and comic strips spread the disease of prejudice throughout the United States.

Trapped in segregated neighborhoods and with no access to the media, Japanese Americans were unable to counteract the false stereotypes. Even though those born in the United States were culturally American, spoke English fluently, and were well educated, they faced almost insurmountable discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations and social interaction.

OUTBREAK OF WAR

It is difficult to pinpoint exactly when World War II began. Germany and Japan became military powers in the 1930s and began their conquests by annexing neighboring nations by sheer intimidation. Actually military conflicts broke out in Asia when Japan invaded China in 1937, and in Europe when Germany invaded Poland in 1939.

As Germany overran the European continent and drove into Africa and the Soviet Union, and Japan likewise in Asia and South-east Asia, the United States was placed under tremendous pressure to enter the war. In July 1941, the United States together with Britain and the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia) imposed a total em-

bargo on exports to Japan, thus effectively cutting off Japan's oil supply.

The United States had broken Japan's top secret code and was aware of the oil crisis in Japan and the probability of armed conflict. Consequently, the U.S. government undertook certain precautionary measures. In October 1941, the State Department dispatched a special investigator, Curtis B. Munson, to check on the disposition of the Japanese American communities on the West Coast and Hawaii.

In November 1941, Munson submitted a confidential report to the President and the Secretary of State which certified that Japanese Americans possessed an extraordinary degree of loyalty to the United States, and immigrant Japanese were of no danger. Munson's findings were corroborated by years of secret surveillance conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Navy Intelligence. Both the FBI and Navy Intelligence reported there were a few potential extremists identified but almost 100% of the Japanese American population was perfectly trustworthy. High U.S. government and military officials were aware of these intelligence reports, but they kept them secret from the public.

Japan's military forces attacked the U.S. military bases near Honolulu, Territory of Hawaii, and near Manila, Territory of the Philippines, on December 7, 1941 (U.S. Time), and the United States declared war on the following day.

Many people who are unfamiliar with the historical background have assumed that the attack on Hawaii was the cause of, or justification for, the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans on the West Coast. But that assumption is contradicted by one glaring fact: the Japanese Americans in Hawaii were not similarly incarcerated en masse. Such a massive injustice could not have occurred without the prior history of prejudice and legal discrimination. Actually it was the culmination of the movement to eliminate Asians from the West Coast which began nearly 100 years earlier.

The FBI was well prepared for the war and arrested over 2,000 persons of Japanese ancestry throughout the United States and

Territories of Alaska and Hawaii within a few days after the declaration of war. Nearly all of these arrestees were Japanese nationals, but some American citizens were included.

No charge of espionage, sabotage, or any other crime was ever filed against these arrestees. They were apprehended only because they were thought to be "suspicious" persons in the opinion of the FBI. Evidently, anyone who was a community leader was "suspicious" to the FBI because almost all of the arrestees were organization officers, Buddhist or Shinto priests, newspaper editors, language or judo school instructors, or labor organizers. The established leadership of the Japanese American community was wiped out. Inexperienced teen-agers and young adults were suddenly thrust into the position of making crucial decisions affecting the entire Japanese American community.

Men were taken away without notice, and their families were left without a means of livelihood. Most families had no idea of why their men were arrested, where they were taken, or for how long. Some arrestees were released after a few weeks, but most were secretly transported to one of 26 internment or isolation camps scattered in 16 states plus the Territories of Alaska and Hawaii.

Some families did not learn for years what happened to their loved ones. Most internees were eventually re-united with their families, but only within another barbed wire compound—the mass detention camps where their families had been sent in the meantime. Some, however, were confined in these special prison camps for the duration of the war, together with the Central and South American Japanese who were brought in for internment at the insistence of the United States.

Perhaps due to the swift action of the FBI, there was very little public panic, hysteria, or irrationality for the first month of the war. In fact, public opinion was remarkably enlightened: some newspapers even published editorials and letters sympathetic to Japanese Americans, and some elected officials urged the general public not to blame or harm Japanese Americans.

The white economic interests in California, however, were not satisfied with the arrests of individuals, and the fact that domestic security was under firm control. They wanted the entire Japanese American population eliminated from California. The same pressure groups and newspapers that agitated so long for Japanese exclusion organized an intense rumor and hate campaign. Totally false stories were published about spies and saboteurs among the Japanese Americans. The war became the perfect pretext for the anti-Japanese groups to accomplish the goal they had been seeking for almost 50 years.

The truth was that no person of Japanese ancestry living in the United States or Territories of Alaska and Hawaii was ever charged with, or convicted of espionage or sabotage. On the other hand, numerous persons of non-Japanese ancestry were charged and convicted as agents for Japan.

Because of the long background of prejudice and stereotypes, the public found it easy to believe the false stories. High federal officials knew the facts, but they kept silent. By mid-January 1942, public opinion began to turn against the Japanese Americans. Elected officials, city councils, and civic organizations in California, Oregon and Washington demanded the ouster and incarceration of all Japanese Americans.

Earl Warren, then attorney general of California, made the incredible statement that the very absence of fifth column activities by Japanese Americans was confirmation that such actions were planned for the future. Warren also claimed American citizens of Japanese ancestry were more dangerous than nationals of Japan.

There were a few isolated acts of violence committed against Japanese Americans, but there was no reason to believe the entire Japanese American population was in danger. If there were any threats, it was the job of local police and sheriff departments to provide protection. Also many Japanese Americans were perfectly willing to take whatever risk necessary to protect their home and property.

EXPULSION AND DETENTION

Like the immigration exclusion campaigns before, the California lobby pressured the federal government to remove and/or lock up all Japanese Americans. Oregon and Washington supported California's demands, but the rest of the nation was generally unconcerned about the tiny Japanese American minority. There were many important and real war problems needing attention, but the West Coast pressure groups seemed preoccupied with the elimination of Japanese Americans.

President Franklin Roosevelt eventually yielded to the pressures from California and signed Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942. Roosevelt signed the order despite objections from Attorney General Francis Biddle, who felt it was unconstitutional, and FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, who felt it was unnecessary.

Executive Order 9066 broadly authorized any military commander to exclude any person from any area. The presidential order did not mention any specific group, nor did it provide for detention. However, there was an understanding among high officials that the authorization was to be used for the purpose of removing and incarcerating the Japanese Americans. Also due to the lobbying from California, Congress backed the Executive Order by passing Public Law 77-503, which authorized a civil prison term and fine for a civilian convicted of violating a military order.

General John L. DeWitt, military commander of the Western Defense Command, thereupon issued a series of over 100 military orders applying exclusively to civilians of Japanese ancestry living in the West Coast states. The sole basis for DeWitt's orders was ancestry; he was often quoted as stating: "A Jap's a Jap. It makes no difference whether the Jap is a citizen or not." He further masked the issue of citizen rights by using the term "non-alien" to refer to United States citizens in all of his written orders.

It should be noted that martial law was not declared on the West Coast; the writ of habeas corpus was not suspended; the civil courts were in full operation, and anyone charged with espionage or sabotage could have been brought to trial. It also should be

remembered that of the 1,100,000 nationals of enemy nations living in the United States in 1942, less than 4% were Japanese nationals.

DeWitt first announced that all persons of Japanese ancestry must leave the Western half of the West Coast states and the Southern half of Arizona, and urged the affected people to move inland "voluntarily." Approximately 10,000 tried to comply, mostly moving in with relatives in the Eastern half of the West Coast states and interior states. Many, however, were forced to turn back by hostile crowds and armed posses.

American citizens of Japanese ancestry were placed under curfew, included with nationals of Japan, Germany and Italy. American citizens of German and Italian ancestries were not restricted in any way.

DeWitt then announced that all persons of Japanese ancestry would be expelled from the Eastern half of the West Coast states as well and prohibited from any further "voluntary" migration. He ordered them to maintain their residences until ordered to report for detention. Beginning in March 1952, DeWitt ordered all persons of Japanese ancestry in California, plus parts of Arizona, Oregon and Washington to turn themselves in at a temporary detention camp near their homes.

The rationale for these actions on the West Coast was "military necessity," but such a claim was inconsistent with the fact that Japanese Americans in Hawaii were not similarly subjected to wholesale and indiscriminate incarceration. Hawaii was 3,000 miles closer to the enemy, and in far greater danger of invasion and sabotage. The military commander in Hawaii decided that "military necessity" there required the vast majority of Japanese Americans to remain free to help maintain the islands' economy.

Like the initial FBI roundups on the mainland, some Japanese nationals in Hawaii were imprisoned on an individual basis and held in prison camps on the islands or transferred to the mass detention or smaller internment camps on the mainland. Only 1% of the Hawaii Japanese population was incarcerated.

DeWitt's detention orders were ostensibly for the purpose of protecting the West Coast against sabotage and espionage, but babies, orphans, adopted children, the infirm and bedridden elderly were also imprisoned. Children of multiple ancestry were included if they had any Japanese ancestry at all. Colonel Karl Bendetsen, who directly administered the program, stated: "I am determined that if they have one drop of Japanese blood in them, they must go to camp."

Non-Japanese spouses, adoptive parents, and orphanage directors were forced to surrender their children for incarceration or enter the camp themselves. The only exceptions were for those confined in prisons or asylums, and the few adults with 1/32 or less Japanese ancestry who could prove they had no contact whatsoever with other persons of Japanese ancestry.

There were 15 temporary detention camps scattered throughout Arizona, California, Oregon and Washington. They were mostly county fairgrounds, race tracks, and livestock exhibition halls hastily converted into detention camps with barbed wire fences, search lights and guard towers. Each camp held about 5,000 detainees, except for the Santa Anita Race Track near Los Angeles which held over 18,000 and Mayer, Arizona which held only 247. Living quarters consisted of horse stalls, some with manure still inside.

Japanese Americans had to leave their homes with only a few days notice and could take only what they could carry with them. Property had to be hurriedly sold, abandoned, given away, left in insecure storage or unpredictable trusts. Crops were left unharvested. Many lost titles to homes, businesses and farmlands because taxes and mortgage payments became impossible to pay. Bank accounts had already been frozen or confiscated as "enemy assets," and there was little source of income within the camps.

The incarceration of Japanese Americans was accomplished district by district over a five month period. DeWitt methodically issued detention orders almost daily, each applying to a new locale. As the orders progressed through the Eastern half of California, Japanese Americans in the Eastern halves of Oregon and

Washington fully expected their turn would be next. They stripped their possessions down to the bare essentials that they could carry, just as the others had been required to do. They lived day to day unsettled under the constant threat of imminent proscription, but the actual detention orders never came.

Government actions also encouraged private harassment: for example, in one town outside the official expulsion area, the entire Japanese American community was boycotted and forced to leave town.

In June 1942 the U.S. Navy won a decisive victory at the Battle of Midway and the tide of war shifted in favor of the United States. Japan was no longer militarily capable of attacking the West Coast, or even Hawaii. The U.S. government and military were aware of this fact, but they relentlessly went ahead with plans to build permanent mass detention facilities in the interior desert and swamp regions.

At great cost and despite the critical shortage of materials, the government built 10 mass detention camps in the isolated areas of Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Idaho, Utah and Wyoming. The vast majority of Japanese Americans were moved from the temporary detention camps near their hometowns to the permanent camps several hundred miles away after the threat of invasion had vanished. Each of the permanent camps held some 12,000 Japanese Americans, and a total of about 120,000 Japanese Americans were ultimately detained.

The inland camps were located in desolate areas and were surrounded by a high barbed wire fence, sometimes two such fences, sometimes electrified. Guard towers were placed at strategic intervals, and any Japanese American leaving without permission was shot. Dozens of detainees and internees were shot and wounded, and eight were killed by guards (1 at Central Utah, 1 at Gila River, 2 at Manzanar, 1 at Tule Lake, 2 at Lordsburg, 1 at Fort Sill). Living quarters were crowded and there was no privacy. Large extended families or groups of unrelated individuals were squeezed into tiny unpartitioned 16 x 20 feet units.

Japanese Americans were known for their pride in rarely having been on welfare or locked up in prisons, but the camps relegated them into wards of the government guarded by armed soldiers. Fathers were no longer the family breadwinners; parents lost control of their children, and families rarely ate meals together. Many were terrified because of the unpredictable future and the hopelessness of the situation. Many did not expect to come out alive.

Overwhelming despair caused some detainees to commit suicide. Many more died prematurely due to inadequate medical facilities and the harsh environment.

All incoming and outgoing communications were censored, including personal letters and newspapers. All internal communications were strictly controlled by the camp administration. The Japanese language was banned at public meetings, and the Buddhist and Shinto religions were suppressed.

While the Japanese Americans were incarcerated, and unknown to them at the time, some members of Congress and the State Department proposed legislation or executive action to strip all native-born Americans of Japanese ancestry of their citizenship and deport them to Japan after the war. Other elected officials demanded that the imprisoned Japanese Americans be used as reprisal targets for the mistreatment of American prisoners of war. One member of Congress even proposed a mandatory sterilization program. Fortunately, none of these extreme measures was taken.

However, another form of indignity was imposed on the detainees in February 1943. After being imprisoned for nearly a year, all detainees 17 years of age and older were required to answer a questionnaire indicating their loyalty to the United States and their willingness to serve in the U.S. armed forces. It was an audacious act for the government to require such an oath from people already locked up.

Due to the insensitive wording, Japanese nationals were asked, in effect, to renounce the only citizenship they could have (since they were prohibited from becoming U.S. citizens) and render themselves stateless. American citizens were asked to falsely in-

criminate themselves by "foreswearing" an allegiance to Japan—an allegiance they never had. Women and elderly persons were asked to serve on "combat duty whenever ordered."

Despite all the confusion, fear, anger, bitterness and incongruity, the majority of detainees affirmatively signed the oath. This did not mean, however, that the minority who refused to cooperate were any less loyal or patriotic. Some highly principled individuals felt their fundamental constitutional rights should be restored before signing. Under the circumstances of a prison camp environment, the loyalty questionnaire did not measure a person's true loyalty.

The detainees tried to make the dreary camps halfway tolerable by foraging scrap materials to make furniture and room partitions. They used indigenous plants to make gardens, and surplus materials or adobe to build schools and recreation facilities. Detainees also operated their own camp farms, and many camps became self-supporting in food.

Detainees volunteered to relieve the critical farm labor shortage in the Mountain Plains area and were granted seasonal work leaves. Others were given leaves to fill labor shortage in Midwest and East Coast factories, and college students were granted educational leaves. But these leaves were a form of parole: they were not free to go or do anything they wanted, and had to periodically report to government officials. During 1943 and 1944, about 33% of the detainees, mostly young single men and women, were conditionally released on various forms of leaves or for military duty. The other 67% remained in the camps for the duration of the war.

When the United States entered the war in 1941, there were about 5,000 Japanese Americans in the armed forces, but many were summarily discharged as unsuitable for service. Japanese Americans were classified by the Selective Service System as "enemy" nationals (4C) ineligible for service. Thousands of Japanese Americans volunteered for duty but were refused enlistment.

The armed forces, however, soon discovered the need for Japanese language specialists, and started to recruit Japanese Americans for the Military Intelligence Service and Office of Strategic

Services in June 1942. The Selective Service System was bypassed, and the fact that Japanese Americans were serving with the U.S. armed forces in the Pacific Theater was not made public knowledge. Japanese American soldiers in Asia and the Pacific Islands worked primarily as translators, but engaged in combat whenever the need arose. By obtaining crucial military intelligence, the Japanese American soldiers are generally credited with having shortened the Pacific war by two years.

In January 1943, the U.S. War Department announced that Japanese American volunteers would be accepted for combat duty in Europe. Most of the volunteers came from Hawaii, but there were also thousands who volunteered from within the mass detention camps on the mainland. The volunteers were assigned to a segregated Japanese American unit—the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. The 442nd eventually became the most decorated American unit to fight in World War II for its size and length of service.

In January 1944, the Selective Service System started to draft Japanese American men, even though they were still incarcerated in the camps. Some 33,000 Japanese Americans served in the U.S. armed forces during World War II, 6,000 of them in the Pacific Theater. Some Japanese American soldiers in the combat zones were much more concerned about the treatment of their families still incarcerated behind barbed wire fences in the United States than they were about the enemy firepower they faced.

THE SUPREME COURT

While the majority of Japanese Americans complied with the military orders as a means of demonstrating their loyalty to the United States, there were many equally patriotic individuals who decided to challenge the discriminatory orders on constitutional grounds. As a means of testing the orders in the courts, over 100 Japanese

Americans deliberately violated one or more of the orders and invited arrest. But the government was apprehensive about a judicial review and declined to prosecute most of these violators.

Instead, the government carefully selected for prosecution three individuals who did not appear to have the backing of any Japanese American organization. Minoru Yasui was charged with violating the curfew, Gordon Hirabayashi with violating the curfew and refusing to report for detention, and Fred Korematsu for failing to report for detention. All three men were convicted in the federal courts for variously disobeying military orders and sentenced to prison terms under Public Law 77-503. The legal issues were slightly different in each case; the three appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals and their cases were ultimately heard by the Supreme Court.

On the other hand, Mitsuye Endo cooperated with the military orders, but when she found herself detained against her will without charges, she sought a writ of habeas corpus in July 1942. Habeas corpus cases are supposed to be adjudged promptly, but the federal district court took a full year before announcing the decision denying Endo's plea for release. Endo appealed, but again, the Court of Appeals took another year before forwarding her case to the Supreme Court.

All four Japanese American appellants argued that the military orders were unconstitutional when applied to citizen civilians, and the government conceded that the appellants were loyal citizens who had not committed any crimes other than to challenge the military orders.

Regretfully, judges, and even justices of the Supreme Court, were not immune from the prejudices of the times, and the judicial system failed in its constitutional responsibility to protect citizens against abuses by the executive and legislative branches.

In *Hirabayashi and Yasui v. U.S.* (320 US 81, 115), the Supreme Court ruled that a curfew may be imposed against one group of American citizens based solely on ancestry. In *Korematsu v. U.S.* (323 US 215), the Supreme Court further decided that one group of

citizens may be singled out and expelled from their homes and imprisoned for several years without trial, again based solely on ancestry. The Court refused to question military judgment, or the validity of military orders applied to civilians without a declaration of martial law.

The Supreme Court justified these decisions by reiterating the false stereotypes about Japanese Americans which had permeated white American thinking. The justices argued, without any foundation in fact, that Japanese Americans were inherently more dangerous to national security than other people merely because of their ancestry. The Court ignored the constitutional guarantees of due process and equal protection of law, and violated the basic principle of American justice that guilt and punishment must be individual, i.e., the inalienable rights to life, liberty and property cannot be deprived except upon conviction of an individual's own wrongdoing—not the wrongdoing of others, nor of a group. Justice Robert Jackson stated in dissent: "The Court for all time has validated the principle of racial discrimination in criminal procedure."

In the case of *Ex Parte Endo* (323 US 283), the Court granted Endo an unconditional release from confinement. In a very important sense, however, she lost her point. The court specifically stated that the original expulsion from the West Coast and the detention for three years without charges or trial were legitimate exercises of presidential and military power during an emergency. The Court merely ruled that Endo and other admittedly loyal American citizens could not be imprisoned indefinitely.

Refusing to consider the salient constitutional issues begging for resolution, the Court decided the *Endo* case on narrow technical grounds—that Executive Order 9066 did not authorize the indefinite detention of citizens who the government conceded were loyal, nor did it authorize the imposition of parole conditions on citizens once removed from the West Coast.

The *Endo* decision was announced on December 18, 1944. The Western Defense Command (then under General Henry C. Pratt) had rescinded the exclusion and detention orders a day earlier on December 17th. Japanese Americans were free to return to their homes on the West Coast effective January 1945.

RETURNING HOME

The return of Japanese Americans to their homes in California, Oregon and Washington was marked by vigilante violence and the agitation of pressure groups to keep out the Japanese Americans permanently. Homes, farms and businesses left behind were occupied by whites unwilling to return property to rightful owners. Homes were burned and dynamited, and Japanese Americans were targets of terrorist shootings. More acts of violence and terrorism were committed against Japanese Americans at the end of the war than at the beginning.

Despite the well-publicized accomplishments of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the names of Japanese American soldiers were removed from community honor rolls, and the remains of Japanese American soldiers killed in action overseas were refused burial in some hometown cemeteries. Many restaurants, hotels, barbershops, gasoline stations, grocery stores, and other public accommodations refused to serve Japanese Americans. United States Army Captain Daniel K. Inouye (now a U.S. Senator), in full uniform with all his medals on, walked into a San Francisco barbershop, but he was told: "We don't serve Japs here."

When news of the hostility reached those still remaining in the camps, they became reluctant about returning home. The Pacific war ended in August 1945, but the last mass detention camp did not close until October 1946 and the last special internment camp did not close until 1952.

Reconstructing their lives was not easy, and for some it was too late. Elderly pioneers had lost everything they worked for all their lives, and were too old to start anew. Having been expelled from their homes and jobs at the height of their productive years, they were unable to save much for retirement. About 20% of the surviving pioneers were below poverty level by the 1970 Census. Many American-born had their education disrupted and could no longer afford to go to college because family support became their responsibility.

Property losses alone were conservatively estimated by the Federal Reserve Bank in San Francisco to be in excess of 400 million dollars based on 1941 figures. Congress appropriated partial restitution for property losses, but only 8½% of property losses were ever compensated. Nothing was done to compensate for the tremendous increase in land values during the war years, lost income, unnecessary deaths, mental sufferings and loss of freedom.

Not only were direct losses sustained, but long lasting psychological damages resulted. Families disintegrated under the prison-like conditions, and individuals became disoriented and embittered. People lost their sense of self-esteem and could not regain enough self-confidence to compete as well as they could have in American society. Adults could never forget the experience, and children faced the life-long stigma of their birth certificates or school records indicating they spent their childhood in captivity. Most importantly, Japanese Americans suffered the indignity of being falsely imprisoned by their own government.

REDRESS

By custom and tradition, any American who has been injured by false accusation, arrest or imprisonment is expected to bring the responsible parties into court and obtain a judgment clearing his or her name and collecting damages as redress. Freedom is considered so precious by Americans that even a few days in false imprisonment have been compensated with large monetary sums.

German Jews experienced the horrors of the Nazi death camps. Japanese Americans experienced the agonies of being incarcerated for an indeterminate period. Both were imprisoned in barbed wire compounds with armed guards. Both were prisoners of their own country. Both were there without criminal charges, and were completely innocent of any wrongdoing. Both were there for only one reason—ancestry. German Jews were systematically murdered en masse—that did not happen to Japanese Americans, but the point is that both Germany and the United States persecuted their own citizens based on ancestry.

West Germany has made a 25 billion dollar restitution payment to Jews and Jewish institutions, and another 10 to 15 billion dollars will be paid. The fact that the victorious Allied Powers initially imposed on Germany the concept of reparations to the victims of the Third Reich does not diminish the righteousness or the justice of the act. The Federal Republic of Germany has stated that it is giving precedence to the payment of compensatory damages to "those who suffered in mind and body, or had been deprived unjustly of their freedom." In subsequent legislation Germany went far beyond the responsibilities assumed in the earlier agreements.

More recently, the United States government designated an American Jewish organization to negotiate with East Germany on restitutions. The United States has informed the German Democratic Republic that a refusal to acknowledge the necessity for a meaningful restitution would delay the establishment of normal diplomatic relations.

The mass expulsion and incarceration of American citizens without trial did happen here in the United States. As a professed leader in civil and human rights throughout the world, the United States must take meaningful action to correct its own mistakes.

President Gerald R. Ford rescinded the Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1976—exactly 34 years after its promulgation—and stated: “An honest reckoning must include a recognition of our national mistakes as well as our national achievements. Learning from our mistakes is not pleasant, but as a great philosopher once admonished, we must do so if we want to avoid repeating them.”

Redress for the injustices of 1942–1946 is not just an isolated Japanese American issue; it is an issue of concern for all Americans. Restitution does not put a price tag on freedom or justice. The issue is not to recover what cannot be recovered. The issue is to acknowledge the mistake by providing proper redress for the victims of the injustice, and thereby make such injustices less likely to recur.



Mass Detention Camps for Japanese Americans, 1942–46

	NAME	LOCATION	DETAINEES
1.	Central Utah (Topaz) Utah	Millard County Northwest of Delta	8,130
2.	Colorado River (Poston) Arizona	Colorado River Indian Reservation South of Parker	17,814
3.	Gila River (Rivers) Arizona	Gila River Indian Reservation West of Sacaton	13,348
4.	Granada (Amache) Colorado	Prowers County Between Koen and Granada	7,318
5.	Heart Mountain Wyoming	Park County Between Cody and Ralston	10,767
6.	Jerome (Denson) Arkansas	Chicot and Drew Counties Between Hudspeth and Jerome	8,497
7.	Manzanar California	Inyo County Between Independence and Lone Pine	10,046
8.	Minidoka (Hunt) Idaho	Jerome County North of Eden	9,397
9.	Rohwer Arkansas	Desha County Between Kelso and Rohwer	8,475
10.	Tule Lake (Newell) California	Modoc County Between Stronghold and Newell	18,789

Additional 26 smaller internment or isolation camps were located in: Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Montana, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Utah and Wisconsin.

Erratum

Middle of page 13—"Beginning in March 1952..." should read "Beginning in March 1942..."

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