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# Seattle Post-Intelli

THE VOICE OF THE NORTHWEST SINCE 1863

## Internment: No minor matter

The old war wound still hurts. It has been almost 40 years since President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered the internment of 120,000 Japanese-Americans, most of whom lived on the West Coast. The excuse was national security — World War II had begun with Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor only two months before — but the reasons were war hysteria, blind racism and inexcusable indifference to the constitutional rights of our neighbors and fellow Americans.

In the Seattle area, thousands of Japanese were herded into the Puyallup fairgrounds and then shipped to camps in Idaho. Many lost their homes, businesses and property they had worked for years to obtain. Their family and personal lives were disrupted and, for some, shattered.

This week a federal commission, set up under the Carter administration to gather evidence and decide if reparations should be paid to Japanese who suffered in relocation camps, held its first hearing. The testimony opened the wound but may also serve to cleanse it. Senators Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga of Hawaii (Japanese were not interned in Hawaii) called the relocation centers "American style concentration camps." Former Supreme Court Justice Abe Fortas, an undersecretary in the Interior Department from 1942 to 1946, called the episode "a tragic error."

"I cannot escape the conclusion that racial prejudice was a basic ingredient of the internment," Fortas said. "Even the trauma of war does not excuse irrational and needless assaults upon human beings and senseless violations of our fundamental constitutional principles."

But the most illuminating comment came from James L. Rowe who was a Justice Department official in 1942 and helped implement relocation. Rowe said FDR made his decision to label the Japanese as possible traitors and lock them up in camps "without much thought."

"I don't think he (President Roosevelt) spent much time on it . . . I think it was a minor thing with him," Rowe said.

After its series of hearings, including one this September in Seattle, the commission, we are convinced, will have heard enough to tell the nation that this injustice was not "a minor thing."

After gathering the evidence, commission members are charged with deciding what recompense, if any, should be made to those who were wronged. Money certainly cannot repay the 80,000 surviving internees for what they suffered nor expiate our national guilt. But payment would serve as a tangible symbol of apology to the Japanese and as a reminder to the rest of us that we must not forget nor repeat this "tragic error."

F. Japanese -  
American  
WARTIME  
INTERMENT



# Old Wrong Is Back To Haunt U.S.



By GRACE-MARIE ARNETT

Copley News Service

WASHINGTON — Norman Yoshio Mineta was 11 when his family was uprooted from its comfortable San Jose home and forced to board a train to Santa Anita Park near Pasadena to live in a horse stable.

Now a U.S. representative from San Jose, Mineta is one of thousands of Japanese-Americans who are beginning to discuss their experiences: being evacuated from their homes and incarcerated in camps for years during and immediately after World War II.

"The stables were not adequately cleaned out," Mineta recalled in an interview. "We had minimal furnishings, like steel army cots and mattress covers which we filled with straw for sleeping."

While Mineta says he harbors "no rancor or bitterness," he does want to make sure "that nothing like this ever happens again."

About 120,000 American citizens suffered similar experiences when the U.S. government decided to conduct a mass evacuation of Japanese-Americans from the Pacific Coast states and detain them in relocation camps while this country was at war with Japan.

Many of those incarcerated have since died. Most others have refused to talk about the experience, out of embarrassment. However, the issue is surfacing now, after 40 years, with formal hearings on the episode scheduled to begin this week by a presidentially appointed Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC).

The \$1 million study, scheduled for completion next year, will contain as much information as the nine-member commission can gather on what happened, both from some of the principals involved and from those with access to World War II files. It will recommend what remedy, if any, the federal government should offer to those who were swept up in the internment.

"It could be anything from recommending the Congress vote a certain sum of money to each individual, to a public apology by the U.S. Congress on behalf of the government, to establishing a trust fund to aid Japanese-American senior citizens and students," Mineta said.

U.S. Rep. Robert T. Matsui, D-Sacramento, says he believes it is "unrealistic to expect any monetary compensation" to be paid by the federal government to the victims because of the current anti-spending mood of the Congress.

Matsui, who was incarcerated in the camps until he was 5, says "more creative remedies are needed, such as scholarship for descendants or small business programs" for Japanese-Americans.

"But the main thing I hope the commission does is to get the matter out in the open, discussed, and over once and for all," Matsui said.

He and Mineta say their parents tried to forget "those dark days in American history" and tried to rebuild their lives after the war.

Sunday, July 12, 1981

THE SAN DIEGO UNION



22 Why is the issue surfacing after 40 years? There are two dominant explanations.

First, Mineta said, there is a great curiosity among the children and grandchildren of those incarcerated about that time in history. They see the scars of those years on the lives of their parents, but can't get their parents to discuss it with them.

"It has been called a 'rape syndrome,'" Matsui said. "It happened, but to discuss it brings up shame. It brings up the feelings of 40 years ago that Japanese-Americans were disloyal to their country."

In a 1968 edition of "Prejudice, War and the Constitution," three authors conclude that deep-seated prejudices against Japanese-Americans stirred the emotions that eventually led to their wartime incarceration. The three, Jacobus tenBroek, Edward N. Barnhard and Floyd W. Matson, write:

"There was a widely held belief that coolie labor was thwarting the work of the unions and lowering the American standard of living ... and the Japanese citizens here were characterized by sneakiness, dishonesty, trickery and unfair competition."

Fifty years of racial and economic discrimination converged during World War II, they conclude, to stereotype the Japanese as "enemy aliens."

Second, there is a determination today to make sure it doesn't happen again.

"After the American Embassy was seized in Tehran," Mineta said, "there was a great outcry that we should round up all the Iranians in this country and put them in some sort of camps. When I heard that, I finally understood the emotions behind the country's actions during World War II."

Paul T. Bannai, a former evacuee, recently was named executive director of the CWRIC in Washington. He was a U.S. representative from Gardena until last year.

He and others are concerned because the U.S. Supreme Court upheld President Franklin D. Roosevelt's executive order authorizing the detention. "That ruling giving the order constitutional justification still is on the books," Bannai said.

On Dec. 18, 1944, the Supreme Court ruled in *Korematsu vs. U.S.* that one group of citizens may be singled out and expelled from their homes and imprisoned for several years without trial, based solely on their ancestry, according to a CWRIC document. Americans of Italian and German descent were not incarcerated, even though the United States was equally at war with their mother countries.

In 1976 then-President Gerald Ford rescinded Roosevelt's executive order — but the court ruling is still valid.

First- and second-generation Japanese-Americans were affected by the Roosevelt order. Many were

given only a few days to dispose of all of their belongings and property before being loaded aboard trains for race tracks and fairgrounds where they were kept, often for months, until permanent camps were built.

"We were told to bring only what we could carry, which often was just a few suitcases," Bannai said. He remembers his entire family living in one room in a barracks with a central bathroom and mess hall, and very little furniture.

Bannai, then 23, was released to harvest a sugar crop in Idaho and eventually served in the Army's all Japanese-American 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Ironically, for someone of a population suspected of disloyalty, he eventually was assigned to Military Intelligence school where he learned to speak Japanese — another irony — and participated in the postwar occupation of Japan.

"Many people ask why I would fight for a country that threw me in a concentration camp and denied me my rights as a citizen," Bannai said. "Many people lost their parents and children in those camps, and most lost their property and life savings, so they are very bitter."

"But my family instilled a belief in me when I was very young that America is my country, and I should try to be 100 percent American, the best American," Bannai said. "After the war, my family just picked up the pieces and rebuilt our lives."

Bannai owns the Bannai Realty & Insurance Co. in Gardena, now managed by his son Don. One daughter is a lawyer in private practice in Oakland, and another daughter has a law practice in Seattle. His wife, Dr. Hideo Bannai, holds a Ph.D. in education.

The commission Bannai heads was established by congressional legislation signed into law July 31, 1981, by former President Jimmy Carter. It was formed after several legislators, including Rep. Mike Lowry, D-Wash., sponsored bills to provide direct monetary compensation to the victims.

At first a \$25,000 payment was suggested, but the figure was scaled down to \$15,000. Neither proposal won much support since the full price tag to the federal Treasury was expected to be several billion dollars.

As a compromise, Congress authorized \$1 million for the study commission to determine the true injury to the Japanese-American citizens and decide what remedy is in order.

After the hearings in Washington on Tuesday and Thursday, the commission will convene in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, Anchorage, the Aleutian Islands, Pribilof Islands and Chicago. Aleutian residents also were among those cov-

ered by the evacuation order in 1942.

Commission members are: Joan Zeldes Bernstein, chairman, an attorney who has served in government; Rep. Daniel Lungren, R-Calif.; former Sen. Edward Brooke, D-Mass.; the Rev. Robert Drinan, a Jesuit priest who was a Democratic representative from Massachusetts and is now president of the Americans for Democratic Action; Dr. Arthur S. Flemming, chair-

man of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission;

Also, Arthur J. Goldberg, former associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court and now president of the American Jewish Committee; the Rev. I.V. Gromoff, a Russian Orthodox priest from the Aleutian Islands who was incarcerated; Judge William M. Marutani of the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County, Pa.; and former Sen. Hugh B. Mitchell of Washington.



# Relocation camp hearings: redressing a ghastly wrong

NEARLY FOUR decades after the event, it would be difficult to find anyone who defends the wartime imprisonment of virtually the entire Japanese American population. In the frantic months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States herded 115,000 of them — men, women and children, two-thirds of whom were native-born citizens — into concentration camps. (The others were aliens denied naturalization by law.)

This unprecedented action was justified at the time as military necessity. We know now that it was the product of many factors: Hysteria and race hatred induced by the sneak attack, overreaction by the military caught asleep in Hawaii on Dec. 7, the West Coast's historic hostility toward Orientals, the demagoguery of unscrupulous politicians, and the nation's preoccupation with cranking up the defense machinery which caused it to accept without protest the arbitrary suspension of the rights of a then-unpopular minority.

The press, too, was derelict in its traditional duty of asking hard questions. Many West Coast newspapers campaigned for locking up all "Japs." Those which chose not to fan the hysteria ignored the blatant violation of constitutionally guaranteed freedoms. Even worse, the Supreme Court tortured its logic to find nothing illegal about discriminating against one segment of America on the grounds of its ethnic affinity to an enemy nation.

There was no single villain; there was enough guilt to go around.

One of the 10 hastily constructed federal concentration camps was in Colorado, east of Lamar. Another was in Wyoming, near Cody. The inmates, behind barbed wire and under armed guard, were guilty only of possessing Japanese ancestry. Citizenship, said Lt. Gen. John L. DeWitt, who directed the evacuation, was only a scrap of paper. No similar action was taken against German or Italian aliens.

To Colorado's credit, then-Gov. Ralph Carr was the only Western governor who welcomed these evacuees to make homes in his state after their release. He contended correctly that they had been accused of no crime. Many stayed to become exemplary citizens and contribute substantially to Colorado's progress and prosperity.

Last week in Washington, under Congressional mandate, the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians began hearings. It was formed largely through the efforts of the Japanese American Citizens League, a national civic and patriotic organization. The commission is charged with investigating the circumstances that led to the evacuation, to determine whether a wrong was done and, if so, to recommend appropriate redress.

JACL has three primary objectives in seeking an investigation at this time. It contends that this dark chapter in American history is skimmed over in texts and largely unknown, and the nation must be made aware of what can happen when hysteria prevails.

Second, by digging out the facts, JACL wants to make sure the nation will never subject any other minority to such discrimination.

With these goals, no one can quarrel. They are worthy objectives which we are happy to endorse.

But with JACL's third goal, we have reservations. The organization is seeking monetary compensation for the economic loss and the degradation and humiliation resulting from unjust imprisonment.

That there was damage and indignity cannot be disputed. The Federal Reserve Bank has estimated economic loss at more than \$400 million in 1942 dollars, and this does not include career setbacks and lost earnings. But all Americans, particularly those called into military service, were required to make similar sacrifices.

A more grievous injury was heartache and frustration resulting from the loss of liberty and the sense of being rejected by one's own country on the basis of unfounded suspicions of disloyalty. These are psychic scars; unfortunately, money does little to heal them.

In fact, to put a cash value on the sacrifice imposed on Japanese Americans by their government — which the overwhelming majority made willingly — cheapens a priceless if wrongly demanded contribution to national unity.

How rationally can a price tag be placed on deprivation of Americans' most precious rights? Some Japanese Americans would scorn a cash settlement as an insulting payoff. They are aware that once a debt is marked paid, the nation is likely to shove its memory under the rug and forget about it.

JACL has asked for \$25,000 for each person who was imprisoned. As ridiculously modest as this sum is, it adds up to some \$3 billion. This is a staggering amount in these times when school hot lunches, food stamps, job training courses and other critical social programs are being slashed in the fight to balance the federal budget and curb inflation. The plaintiffs are whistling in the dark if they expect Congress to entertain such a demand. The problem here is not rejection, but a backlash that will negate JACL's worthy efforts.

But, it is argued, cash is the American way to redress a wrong. Well, if the commission determines that some sort of material redress is called for, we recommend not individual payment but appropriation of sufficient funds to establish a Foundation for Universal Human Rights. What would it do?

Let it first assist needy victims of wrongful wartime imprisonment who have exhausted other sources of support. Then let the foundation be charged with carrying out JACL's first two goals of defending the rights of all people through education — through school and lecture programs, support of books and films, fellowships to study the root causes of prejudice and intolerance, and ways to eliminate these social cancers.

Let this foundation be a timeless monument to the unfair sacrifice the nation demanded of its Japanese American minority, and on their part, an additional contribution to the land they have served so loyally and well. There would be no more fitting gesture of remorse and redress for a ghastly wrong.



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**Write Report to Haunt U.S., Inouye Says**

## Wartime Hysteria Blamed for Internment of Japanese

L.A. Times 7.15.81

By DANIEL M. WEINTRAUB, Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—A former Justice Department official said Tuesday that a climate of fear and hysteria after Japan's surprise attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 led to what he called a hasty and misinformed decision to uproot and relocate 120,000 West Coast Japanese-Americans.

James Rowe, who was assistant U.S. attorney general when President Franklin D. Roosevelt decided to confine Japanese-Americans to guarded camps, told a commission investigating the events of almost 40 years ago that intense public pressure forced the Justice Department and Roosevelt to agree to demands of military leaders.

"I don't know how you can be on the run and up against the wall at the same time, but that's how we (Justice Department officials) felt,"

Rowe said. "We were under pressure from the Congress and from the Army. We could have done a hell of a lot better job and we didn't do it. But we were all they had."

The Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, established by Congress last year to determine, among other things, whether any compensation should go to those who were interned or their families, also heard Tuesday from West Coast congressmen and Democratic Sens. Daniel K. Inouye and Spark M. Matsunaga of Hawaii.

Inouye, who lost his right arm while fighting for the United States in Europe, told the commission to "make your report one that will haunt the conscience of this nation—haunt it so that we will never forget that we are capable of such an act."

He said that a budget-conscious Congress may not provide any significant monetary redress but that "no Congress, President or Supreme Court can ever unwrite the words" of the panel's report.

Inouye is of Japanese descent and was living in Hawaii when the war broke out. He was not interned.

Rowe and others involved in the decision to detain the Japanese-Americans answered questions as the nine-member panel began two months of hearings to be conducted across the country, including a se-

ries of meetings in Los Angeles during the first week of August.

Rowe, speaking from memory and four pages of handwritten notes, told the commission that there was a "handful of lawyers in the Justice Department" who thought the evacuation was unconstitutional but "we didn't have any allies."

### Early Hysteria

"I really think what caused all the problems was the early three months of the war, when the United States was beaten all over," Rowe said. "The hysteria started rising, and there was speculation that there wasn't time."

Looking back on the decision after almost 40 years, Rowe said he thinks Roosevelt acted too quickly after being advised by military leaders.

"This is a crude way of putting it, but we had a wartime President, and this was really a minor issue," Rowe said. "Roosevelt was engaged in a war and he said, 'If you have generals pushing for it, I'll go along.'"

"I don't really think he spent much time on it. I think it was a minor thing to him."

In the aftermath of the Dec. 7, 1941, Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Roosevelt signed an order that

resulted in the rounding up and imprisonment of 77,000 American citizens of Japanese descent and 43,000 Japanese nationals.

The internees, who came from California, Arizona, Oregon and Washington and the Pribilof and Aleutian Islands, were sent to 10 camps in California, Utah, Arizona, Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho and Arkansas.

"They were detained without trial, without hearings of any kind," Commission Chairman Joan Z. Bernstein said in her opening statement. "Military necessity was said to require this unprecedented treatment of a national group."

As the first hearing got under way, it was clear that the issue of financial compensation for the internees or their descendants would be central to the panel's discussions over the next two months.

Matsunaga said there were "no doubts in my mind that the commission will conclude . . . that the internees were subjected to grave injustices by governmental action . . . and that the internees, as a consequence, suffered compensable property damages and personal injuries."

Gordon Hirabayashi, who unsuccessfully challenged in the Supreme Court during World War II the use of ancestry as the sole criterion for detaining Japanese-Americans, told the commission the 120,000 persons who were relocated deserve more than \$3 billion in compensation.

"Monetary compensation, no matter how much, can never adequately compensate for the losses suffered," Hirabayashi said. "Any amount would be but a token. In our system of justice, however, that token should be relative to the seriousness of the offense. Therefore, it must be substantial."



11/10/81

Wash Post 7.15.81

# The Japanese-Americans

A JAPANESE-AMERICAN named Fred Korematsu, after being rejected by the Army because of an ulcer, volunteered after Pearl Harbor to serve his country as a welder in a war plant. Instead, he and 120,000 other Japanese-Americans and Japanese resident aliens on the West Coast were driven from their homes and forced under military supervision into distant "relocation" camps, where the majority lived out the war. The would-be welder sued, but the Supreme Court upheld the military in 1944 in *Korematsu v. U.S.*, although dissenting justice Robert H. Jackson described Korematsu's "crime" as solely the act of "being present in the state whereof he is a citizen, near the place where he was born, and where he lived all his life." Today, we recalled the locations of the major internment camps used—Manzanar, Tule Lake, Minidoka, Topaz, Gila River, Poston, Heart Mountain, Granada, Jerome and Rohwer—only as desolate monuments to this nation's lingering sense of shame.

Yesterday, a federal commission began its hearings into the Japanese-American internment experience, the worst instance in modern American history of an entire group being stripped overnight of its civil liberties as a result of calculated government policies. The Commission on War-time Relocation and Internment of Civilians, created by Congress last year, must determine (first) how and why the actions of military and political leaders, both in Washington and on the West Coast, caused the uprooting of the entire Japanese-American community when even the attorney general and the FBI director did not consider most internees a national security threat. Next, the commission has the difficult task of determining what financial compensation, if any, should be recommended for those who suffered internment. But its members recognize also that they must consider what steps might be taken to ensure that—in some future national emergency—another whole group of Americans do not find themselves in collective jeopardy because of their race, ethnic background or national origins.

At the time, the much larger "enemy" communities of German-Americans and Italian-Americans largely escaped harassment, while the Japanese-Americans—clustered on the West Coast—bore the brunt of their fearful neighbors' post-Pearl Harbor mixture of racial antagonism, economic envy and genuine hysteria over a possible Japanese invasion. As for distinguishing between the overwhelming number of loyal citizens

and resident aliens and the small handful who might be working for or willing to work for imperial Japan, officials such as Lt. Gen. John L. DeWitt, West Coast military commander (who urged rounding up and interning the whole community) saw no problem: "A Jap is a Jap. It makes no difference whether the Jap is a citizen or not." In February 1942, President Roosevelt signed the infamous executive order 9066 authorizing internment, and the roundup began.

Of the 120,000 who then lost their homes, farms, businesses and most other worldly possessions, two-thirds led a spartan existence during the war in closely guarded confinement at concentration camps in the western interior. But over 33,000 Japanese-Americans served in the armed forces, including the famous 442nd Regimental Combat Team, reportedly the most highly decorated U.S. fighting unit of the entire war.

The military irrelevance of the detention process soon became obvious. Unlike the wholesale internment that occurred on the mainland, in Hawaii (far closer to the actual theater of war) only about one percent of the Japanese population was detained. In the Aleutian islands, by contrast, about 1,000 Aleut-Americans—whose treatment the commission also intends to study—were placed in squalid camps for the entire war.

Few attempts have been made since World War II to compensate Japanese-Americans financially, and even the most extensive of these—the Japanese Evacuation Claims Act of 1948—led to payments of only 10 cents on the dollar based on 1941 assessments of lost property. Whether Congress should spend billions now in a belated full-scale effort at genuine restitution is considered the most troublesome issue confronting the commission. Some congressmen and Japanese-American spokesmen have argued in favor of "reparations" for all the former internees, with each person receiving a stipend that—in some of the plans—would reach \$25,000. This is extravagant and wrong. Even if across-the-board "reparation" funds were available, it is to cheapen the moral issue and to degrade the victims to suppose there is some kind of monetary buyoff for the affront. A proper approach would involve compensating only for the actual property losses suffered. But whatever the settlement, there is merit alone in the 16 days of public hearings planned by the commission to study that dreadful time when most of us incarcerated some of us solely for reasons of race and national ancestry.



## Keep Internment Interred

In March 1942, three months after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, one month after the surrender of the British at Singapore and right around the flight of Gen. Douglas MacArthur from beleaguered Bataan, Gen. John L. DeWitt, chief of the U.S. Army's Western Command, ordered the expulsion of all people of Japanese ancestry from West Coast military areas. The order led to the roundup and internment in relocation camps of some 120,000 Japanese-Americans, two-thirds of whom were U.S. citizens.

A congressional commission is once again second-guessing this decision, which has been reviewed in numerous forums and upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court as a lawful exercise of wartime powers. The impetus for the current hearings is a proposal for a compensation fund—the kind of thing that would pay \$500 to each of the heirs of the internees and make millionaires of half-a-dozen lawyers. But there seems little chance that these proposals will pass, not least because the family income of Japanese-Americans is more than 30% above the national average. So the commission's hearings have become mostly symbolic, addressing the question, how guilty should we feel?

The congressional hearings are cataloging all the miseries faced by Japanese-Americans during the war, accompanied by news magazine articles describing America's "day of infamy." Loyal citizens were expelled from their homes for almost three years—merely on the basis of their national origin. Many felt forced to sell their farms and other properties at distress prices. There was no similar roundup of the 150,000 people of Japanese origin on Hawaii and no substantial evidence that they were guilty of sabotage or espionage during the course of the war.

However, Congress did pass an Evacuation Claims Act in 1948. Even though the restitution was small it reflected a genuine effort to make amends. It's worth remembering that

things looked very bleak for the United States in early 1942 after the loss of most of its Pacific fleet at Pearl Harbor. Military authorities were not wholly without justification in fearing that some of the Japanese-Americans might be tempted to aid a Japanese attack on the West Coast. The 1944 Supreme Court opinion, written by one of the staunchest civil libertarians in the court's history, Justice Hugo Black, noted that "approximately 5,000 American citizens of Japanese ancestry refused to swear unqualified allegiance to the United States and to renounce allegiance to the Japanese emperor and several thousand evacuees requested repatriation to Japan."

It's also important to remember that World War II was a period of unspeakable atrocities, destruction and slaughter and that Japanese-Americans were not the only U.S. citizens to suffer. Unpleasant as the relocation camps were, the inhabitants were far safer and healthier than GIs in the jungles of New Guinea or on the beach at Iwo Jima. What's more, thousands of Japanese-Americans were allowed to leave the camps for education or jobs outside military areas. Some 33,000 joined the armed forces and as a group compiled a distinguished military record.

Indeed, it is sometimes argued that relocation ironically helped to speed the postwar assimilation of Japanese-Americans into the American mainstream. They now are disproportionately represented in such respected professions as medicine and engineering.

In short, it is not necessary to deny the injustices of 1942 to say that, at this point, nearly 40 years later, it serves very little useful purpose to take this issue around the track once more. It may never be resolved to everyone's satisfaction but then very few things ever are. We can instead be thankful that in those 40 years we have largely buried the hatreds and suspicions that were an understandable complement to total war.



# Commentary

Wisconsin State Journal

Sunday, July 26, 1981, Section 1, Page 11

## Japanese internme

On Dec. 8, 1941, the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the U.S. Army and Federal Bureau of Investigation talked with leaders of Hawaiians of Japanese descent. There was instant cooperation.

No alarm was sounded over the presence of the Issei (first-generation Japanese-Americans) and Nisei (children of Issei).

A few suspects were arrested for questioning. No subsequent charges were filed. Life went on as before.

However, in California, far removed from the sneak attack, there was swift reprisal, led by Gov. Culbert Olson and state Attorney General Earl Warren, one day to be known as a champion of civil rights as chief justice of the United States, against Japanese-Americans.

Working with district attorneys and sheriffs, Olson and Warren ordered Japanese-Americans to be dismissed from civil-service jobs. Their licenses to practice law and medicine were revoked. Those who made their living as commercial fishermen were barred from their boats.

### 1 percent of population

Why? The Issei and Nisei constituted only 1 percent of California's population, and most were naturalized citizens. There was no evidence of treachery, only rumors that gained official status through the Olson-Warren tactics.

Warren was asked why the steps were being taken against the Japanese-Americans, and he said the very absence of sabotage showed how devious they were. He further informed Washington: "Opinion among law enforcement officers in this state is that there is more potential danger among the group of Japanese who were born in this country than from the alien Japanese."

Columnist Westbrook Pegler snarled that every Japanese-American in California should be put under guard "and to hell with habeas corpus until the danger is over."

Correction. Pegler didn't say "Japanese-American." He abbreviated it to "Japanese." Most did in those days. Many abbreviated it further to "Japs."

William Manchester describes the unfounded attack in his book, "The Glory and the Dream," writing: "The sheep followed the shepherds. Insurance companies canceled Issei-Nisei policies. Milkmen refused to deliver their milk. Grocers wouldn't sell them food.

"Warren had frozen their funds



Robert H. Spiegel

Editor

and banks declined to honor their checks . . . The state suggested they move inland (and an estimated 8,000 tried to do so)."

The panic spread.

In Nevada, the state Bar Association resolved that "if Japs are dangerous in Berkeley, Calif., they are likewise dangerous in the state of Nevada."

In Idaho, Gov. Chase Clark said "Japs live like rats, breed like rats, and act like rats."

In Kansas, Gov. Payne Ratner said "Japs are not wanted and not welcome." He ordered the state highway patrol to forbid their cars to use state highways.

Some tried to befriend them. They were welcomed at Drake University in Des Moines amid strenuous condemnation. A farmer in New Jersey hired five Nisei, only to have a vigilante committee set his barn afire and threaten to kill his youngest child.

California wanted federal help, and found an ally in Lt. Gen. John De Witt, commanding general of the Western Defense Command, who said: "A Jap's a Jap! It makes no difference whether he's an American or not." De Witt ordered a plan drawn to evacuate Japanese-Americans from their homes to internment centers.

A preoccupied President Franklin Roosevelt told Secretary of War Henry Stimson to handle it. Manchester writes that Roosevelt asked only that treatment be reasonable and humane.

Also busy with affairs of war, Stimson assigned the job to Assistant Secretary of War John McCloy, who approved the evacuation proposal in principle, saying he had *carte blanche* to act from the president.

### Taft protested

Only one senator — Republican Robert Taft of Ohio — protested the idea from the floor of the Senate. Only one Cabinet member spoke against it — Attorney General Francis Biddle. He was overruled by Stimson.

On Feb. 19, Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 authorizing the War Department to exclude

"any or all persons" from designated military areas. He said the prosecution of the war "requires every possible protection against espionage and against sabotage."

I've tried to remember how I felt about that order as a college student in Iowa on Feb. 19, 1942. For shame, I know I did not actively talk against it, or perhaps even think much about it. I dismissed it as part of war. Too late, I found it had nothing to do with the conduct of war, but was a persecution of people who, when allowed, performed with valor and distinction in World War II military service despite the wrong done them.

De Witt had no trouble with placing a quick, vengeful interpretation on Executive Order 9066.

On March 27, the order went out: People of Japanese ancestry were given 48 hours to dispose of their homes, businesses and furniture so they could be "resettled."

There were no hearings to determine whether anyone was guilty of treachery. No appeals were allowed. It was a class action.

The Japanese-Americans were allowed to take with them as many personal items as they could carry. Manchester cites estimates that the 120,000 interned Japanese-Americans lost \$70 million in farmland and property, \$35 million in fruits and vegetables and nearly \$500,000 in annual income, plus other possessions beyond reckoning.

### Like Nazi Germany?

We've heard of notices being posted on doors in Nazi Germany, ordering eviction of Jews with only that which they could carry. No trials, no hearings, no appeals. But in American? Never.

Except it *did* happen. The notices were posted, toddlers were tagged, truck convoys were used to take the internees to 15 assembly areas — horse stalls at racetracks, the Rose Bowl, breweries. Under Secretary of Interior Abe Fortas and Milton Eisenhower, director of the War Relocation Authority, assured the nation these were only temporary. Better quarters would be provided.

The "better quarters" were 11 internment camps built on desolate federal land. There were watchtowers, with floodlights sweeping the area at night.

Manchester writes that Roosevelt never visited the camps, but once referred to them as "con-



# Government: shame on U.S.

all persons" from designating areas. He said the end of the war "requires possible protection against and against sabotage."

ed to remember how I that order as a college Iowa on Feb. 19, 1942. e, I know I did not act against it, or perhaps k much about it. I disas part of war. Too late, I ad nothing to do with the f war, but was a persecu- ple who, when allowed, d with valor and distinc- rld War II military ser- te the wrong done them.

ti had no trouble with quick, vengeful interpre- Executive Order 9066.

arch 27, the order went le of Japanese ancestry n 48 hours to dispose of es, businesses and furni- y could be "resettled." ere no hearings to whether anyone was treachery. No appeals ved. It was a class action. Japanese-Americans were take with them as many ems as they could carry. er cites estimates that 00 interned Japanese- s lost \$70 million in farm- property, \$35 million in vegetables and nearly a annual income, plus sessions beyond reckon-

zi Germany?

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tration camps." They were not the concentration camps of Nazi Germany — far from it — but they were camps of isolation, provided by the government in branding a class of people as being dangerous to the national security.

In the camps, the average family of six or so lived in an area about 20 by 25 feet, with no running water. There were community latrines, open shower stalls, mess halls.

I've known Japanese-Americans who were herded to these camps. Not once have they raised the subject. Not once have I heard anyone protest. They bore the humiliation and injustice with unbelievable forbearance. They continued to love the United States of America.

Gradually, sentiment built against the internment policy.

On Jan. 28, 1943, Stimson announced — remarkably in light of the Army's record of discrimination against the Japanese-Americans — that Nisei would be accepted as volunteers. More than 1,200 signed up immediately; before the end of the war, more than 17,000 enlisted.

Those old enough to remember,

and those who have read the history of World War II, will not forget the all-Nisei 442nd Infantry in Italy. During the Italian campaign, the 442nd lost three times its original strength while winning 3,000 Purple Hearts with 500 oak leaf clusters.

The Nisei of the 442nd won 47 Distinguished Service Crosses, 342 Silver Stars and 810 Bronze Stars.

They volunteered to prove not only themselves, but to speak for all those behind barbed wires in internment camps. No actions have spoken more loudly for a people.

Finally, and ever so cautiously, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on Dec. 18, 1944 — more than three years after Pearl Harbor — that the mass evacuation had been a proper exercise of the power to wage war. It is hardly a decision to look back upon with pride.

However, the court did rule that there was no justification to further detain American citizens whose loyalty was unquestioned. Detention up to that time apparently had been all right, despite unquestioned loyalty.

The rulings amounted to a bare, belated reprieve.

Gradually, Japanese-Americans began moving back to their California homes. They were met with acts of violence by vigilantes. The

episodes continued even against Nisei returning from battlefield service. Then the violence died away and was forgotten by all but the Japanese-Americans, and they kept their feelings private.

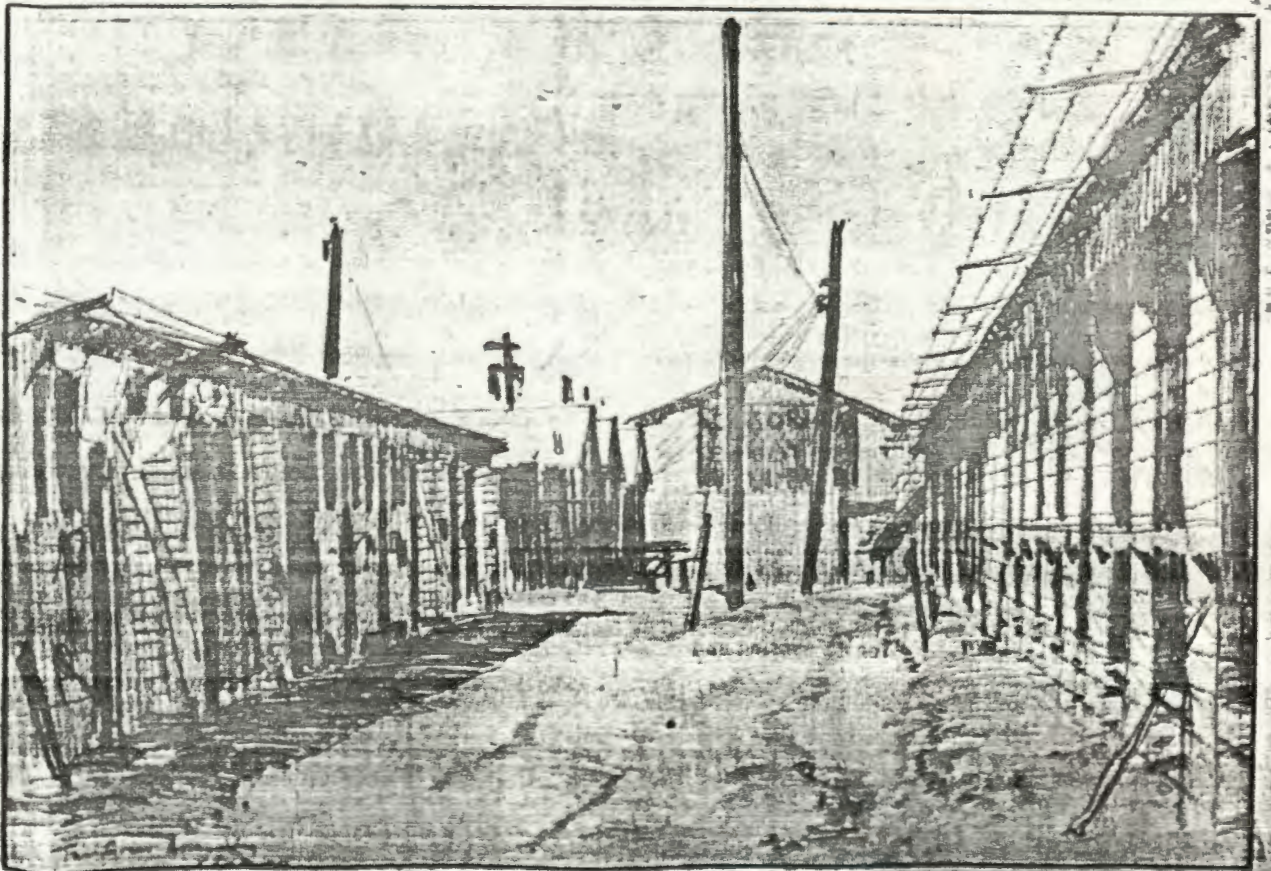
It wasn't until 1980 that President Jimmy Carter, to his lasting credit, called the internment of Japanese-Americans "one of the disappointing and sometimes embarrassing occurrences in the history of the nation."

More accurately, the American Civil Liberties Union has called it "the worst single wholesale violation of civil rights of American citizens in our history."

Carter appointed a commission to inquire into this sickening chapter in American history. Hearings have begun. It has been suggested that internees be given \$25,000 each. No one knows how many internees survive.

The matter of money is far less important than setting the record straight for all Americans. As Ronald Ikejiri, a representative of a Japanese-American group, says:

"It's difficult to put a monetary value on life chances and lost opportunities."



Japanese-Americans were greeted by barbed wire and dingy horse stall at Tanforan — a race track turned into an assembly center in California.



R.R.

## Time To Apologize

Manzanar, Tule Lake, Minidoka, Topaz, Gila River, Poston, Heart Mountain, Granada, Jerome, and Rohwer are meaningless names now for most Americans, who are two generations removed from the significance of these desolate Western places.

But Japanese-Americans ever remember them as locations of the major internment camps where they and Japanese resident aliens on the West Coast, 120,000 in all, were imprisoned during World War II. These ghostly names recall one of the most shameful episodes in American history, when an entire group of U.S. citizens was stripped of civil rights and denied freedom for no other reason than that of race and national ancestry.

Nevertheless, without minimizing this stain upon the nation's history, it is wrong for Americans and the world to judge this mass internment in isolation, outside the context of the terrible time in which it took place. The massive Japanese attack upon Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, was the first such onslaught by a foreign power in American history. Most of the Pacific fleet was destroyed or crippled; it appeared initially that the West Coast lay exposed to invasion or bombardment. Those days were laden with national disaster.

All across the far Pacific, the Japanese were sweeping to victory after victory with U.S. forces

everywhere in retreat. The hysteria that is now so easily derided was actually a matter of genuine fear, worry, and uncertainty. Indeed, Sen. S. I. Hayakawa, himself of Japanese descent, says the relocations were "perfectly understandable."

And so in February 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt followed the advice of military leaders and signed the now infamous Executive Order 9066 authorizing the roundup of Japanese-Americans, who in the process lost their homes, farms, businesses and most of their worldly goods.

Throughout their ordeal, the Japanese-Americans in the camps adopted the attitude of *shikata ga nai* — "so it goes." After the war, most of them returned to California, picked up the pieces and, through dint of ability and hard work, prospered in the U.S. mainstream.

Busy with its postwar building, the country largely forgot the Japanese-American internment. In 1948, Congress got around to enacting the Japanese-American Claims Act that returned only about 10 cents on the dollar of an estimated \$400 million in lost property.

During recent years, some second and third generation Japanese-Americans have become activists agitating to right the internment wrong. As a result of their lobbying, Congress and the Carter administration last year established the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Intern-

ment of Civilians to examine again the circumstances of the relocation; to determine whether there should be financial compensation; and to ensure against another mass internment in some future national emergency. The commission's 16 days of public hearings are scheduled to end this week.

The activists are pressing compensation claims for up to \$25,000 per family ordered to the camps — about \$3 billion in all. This is wrong and unrealistic. Even if the U.S. Treasury were overflowing, there is something degrading in the thought that everything can be set straight with money. Indeed, Senator Hayakawa accuses those Japanese-Americans seeking reparations of pulling a "hustle" on the government, and he says the vast majority of Japanese-American citizens oppose it.

We believe it is irrelevant now to try and set any monetary price on the war-time internment and we trust the commission will not attempt to do so. On the other hand, there should be no argument about U.S. recompense for proven property losses which have never been paid. These should be provided for in full. Beyond this, the most appropriate act of contrition would be an official United States apology to the surviving Japanese-Americans, who might then find in their hearts the grace to forgive the memory of a dark time.



## ... and a case for it

Just as it's impossible to put a price on the suffering endured by the families of Americans who have been held hostage or served in war zones, so no pricing system could put a value on the suffering of the Japanese-Americans who were interned in detention camps during World War II.

The issue of compensation for the Japanese-Americans is being studied by a government commission operating independently of the one that's studying compensation for the Americans who were held in Iran.

A good case can be made for compensating the Japanese-Americans. Their freedom and property were taken away wrongfully by the U.S. government. The former internees or their descendants at least should be compensated adequately for the property they lost. That hasn't been done. It's believed the government compensated them at the rate of 8 cents on the dollar for lost property under the 1948 Japanese American Claims Act.

While Congress might act to recognize the special circumstances of the internment of Japanese-Americans, the country won't necessarily be well served by making them or their descendants rich. It's far more important to keep alive the memory of the internment — and the realization that it was wrong.



## Justice for the Nisei

"Law," said Eugene Rostow, "has no higher duty than to acknowledge its own errors." The year was 1952 and today's head of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, then dean of the Yale Law School, was talking about a Supreme Court decision ruling unconstitutional the statutes preventing Japanese-Americans from owning land in California.

Through Congress and the executive branch as well as the courts, the federal government has acknowledged a good many errors toward Japanese-Americans over the last 35 years. It's still at it.

The wrongs that have so strongly engaged the American conscience have to do with the internment of *nisei*, or first-generation citizens of Japanese extraction, during World War II. In the panic that followed the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Americans in general and Westerners in particular became terrified at the thought of the large numbers of ethnic Japanese living on the Pacific coast. Fear persuaded the wartime government that it was necessary for national security to get Japanese-Americans away from what might become invasion beaches.

More than 100,000 were rounded up and imprisoned behind barbed wire in California and Colorado. They had to leave jobs and homes, often selling valuable property at distress prices. There was no attempt to separate those whose sympathies were with the United States from those on the Axis side.

Even before the war was over, there were Americans who objected. Colorado's Governor Ralph Carr welcomed the evacuees and kept many out of the internment camps. As early as 1948, Oscar Chapman, then undersecretary of interior was calling for compensation for internees.

Later, the government tried to make up for

what most Americans came to see as a mistake, if not a crime. By 1948 26,000 internees had submitted claims for compensation. By 1958, \$38 million had been paid in reparations and citizenship had been restored to 4,000 Japanese-Americans deprived of it in the '40s.

In the years that followed, civil service and social security rights were retroactively granted to those who lost their jobs in the internment program. Those whose bank deposits were seized got their money back.

The demand for further reparations goes on, however, spurred by President Jimmy Carter's 1980 formation of a commission to investigate the internment program, and no one who has seen the sad, betrayed faces in photographs of the camps can resist a desire to make up to the many thoroughly American *nisei* for what they suffered at the hands of their fellow-citizens.

The only trouble is that the groups pressing Japanese-American claims have fallen into patterns typical of our time. They're asking for affirmative action programs for *nisei*, appointments to high office on a quota basis and compensation for people who were around Hiroshima and Nagasaki when the first atomic bombs fell, whether or not their medical problems are directly traceable to the explosions.

Some demands are sufficiently far removed from any actual hardships endured by Japanese-Americans that even Senator Hayakawa has been embarrassed by them. They are less the outcries of wronged people than efforts at political condemnation.

Hindsight would argue with President Gerald Ford that the internment was "a national mistake." Justice would argue the worthwhileness of spending money to undo the ill effects of the error. Nothing argues for a quota approach to the atonement.



# Hayakawa Jeered at Hearing on Internment

Tells Panel in L.A. That Monetary Demands by Japanese-Americans Fill Him With 'Shame'

L A Times 8.5.81

By JUDITH MICHAELSON, Times Staff Writer

Amid jeers from Japanese-Americans, Sen. S. I. Hayakawa told members of a national commission investigating the internment of 120,000 Japanese-Americans during World War II that large demands for monetary redress fill him with "shame and embarrassment."

Hayakawa, 75, a former academic semanticist of Japanese descent who was in Chicago during the war years, also said that referring to the "relocation centers" as "concentration camps," and comparing them to Nazi camps, constitutes "semantic inflation of the worst kind."

Indeed, Hayakawa said, many Japanese-Americans who were relocated to camps throughout the West later found "freedom and useful jobs in the outside world."

"I am sure there are activists among any audience who will be enraged at the suggestion that anyone was happy in a relocation camp," Hayakawa said. "But how else can one account for the fact that for the past many years graduates of the camp high schools"—including Amache in Colorado, Minedoka in Idaho and Poston in Arizona—"have been holding 10th, 20th and 30th anniversary reunions?"

Hayakawa said relocation was a military necessity and reflected the wartime hysteria of the population at large, arguments he has used previously. And he spoke of the "trouble-free and relatively happy lives at all the relocation centers" except Tule Lake in Northern California where dissidents were held.

Hayakawa's remarks enraged the audience, a parade of witnesses, and

former Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg, a member of the commission, challenged Hayakawa.

Goldberg called the American camps "concentration camps," adding that Nazi camps were "death camps."

## Hearings in L.A.

The national Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, which brought its traveling hearings to Los Angeles on Tuesday, has essentially a twofold purpose—to review the facts surrounding the relocation and to "recommend appropriate remedies."

Except for Hayakawa, virtually no one disputed that a wrong was done. Goldberg called it "an enormous, enormous injustice." Dr. Arthur S. Fleming, chairman of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, another panel member, said "most American agree that what happened (the evacuation) was a manifestation of racism."

And Rep. Daniel E. Lungren, (R-Long Beach), commission chairman, who drew fire from witnesses because he has said the mood of the Congress was not for economic redress, said in a prepared, but undelivered statement that "we are intent on learning from our error and avoiding any future such infringement of constitutionally protected liberty."

The nub of controversy is whether to award internees or their heirs. While Hayakawa and others say no amount of money can redress the wrong, others reply that in the

Please see INTERN, Page 8

American legal system a wrong is rectified through compensation.

For most, hearings, which will go on to San Francisco, Seattle, the Aleutian Islands and Chicago, seemed to be having an educational and emotional effect.

Mas Fukai, a city councilman from Gardena and assistant chief deputy to Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, told the panel that "you will hear today hurt, hate, fear, love and even tears in the testimonies . . . but most important . . . the truth."

Fukai told how his, Japanese-born 62 year-old father had just purchased a prize \$750 tractor, when he was ordered to a camp; his father had begun farming "with nothing but a horse, a plow and his bare hands." Fukai told how he himself spent his high school years in the Gila River Concentration Camp in Arizona, living in Block 72, Barrack 12, Unit C for nearly three years, confined behind barbed wire fencing.

He told how this father, a broken man, was unable to work after the war and died in 1955 "feeling he was a failure and a burden on his children."

The audience wept openly.

"One reason that this hearing is important," said Fukai, "is that there has always been and there remains today, in 1981, an undercurrent of discrimination. I was married 30 years ago. At that time my wife and I could not even rent an apartment in Gardena. It was impossible to buy what we wanted and oftentimes what we needed. We would walk down the street and people would spit at us and throw trash at us."

He also attacked the stereotype of Japanese-Americans as one of "success and affluence" suggesting that the effects of internment still linger.

Barbara Marumoto, now a Hawaii state representative, said she was barely 3 when her Los Angeles

family was evacuated to The Tammam Rack Track assembly center, and she remembers being placed in a horse stall. "My memories are quite vague—I was just under 3 years old—but I do remember the smell," she said.

Mayor Tom Bradley said that as a young man, he did not understand and still cannot understand, why relocation had to occur.

The most poignant moments came from citizens like Dr. Mary S. Oda, who had graduated from UCLA in 1941 and hoped to go on to medical school, and Magel T. Ota, who graduated from UCLA in 1939 and went on to become the first Asian school principal in the city.

Her voice low, her face composed, Oda, a general practitioner in the San Fernando Valley, told how her family became "separated by the Evacuation and we never again lived as a family." Her father owned an apricot orchard and a farm; the family of nine lost all.



NY Times 8.4.81

# Apologizing to the Internees

At 2 A.M. a blip on the radar screen alerted anti-aircraft gunners to a "bogey" bearing down on Los Angeles from the ocean. They called for a blackout, then blazed away at the California skies. In the morning, some claimed that as many as five unidentified aircraft had flown in, but others doubted there had been any at all: the radar blip was probably a weather balloon.

Such was the mood after Pearl Harbor, and it fed fears that Japanese-Americans on the West Coast would put ancestry over country, commit sabotage and espionage, and even guide invaders to America. So the United States Government removed 120,000 of them to internment camps, driving them from their property and interrupting their careers. After the war they resumed normal lives, many prospering and gaining political strength in some areas. But understandably, the bitterness persists.

In the 1970's, with activism in vogue, Japanese-American groups pressed new demands for redress. Some set a price: \$25,000 for every former internee. Their lobbying, and the nation's lingering remorse, pushed Congress to create a commission that is finally taking a close look at the 40-year-old affair.

However understandable the internment seemed at the time, historians have judged it a cruel and pointless surrender to panic. Japanese-Americans in Hawaii were not interned, with no adverse results; neither were Italian- or German-Americans in the East. Only racism now seems to explain the rush to mistrust the loyalty of Japanese-Americans.

When finally permitted to enlist in 1943, more than 33,000 of the Nisei generation — the children of

immigrant Japanese — joined the armed forces and served honorably, especially in the celebrated, all-Japanese-American 442d Regimental Combat Team. Yet the internees suffered grievously. One estimate, in 1942, valued their lost property at \$400 million. In the hastily prepared camps, they lived behind barbed wire under armed guard, in rows of squalid tarpaper shacks.

The new commission wants to recommend steps that could avert such internment in the future and also resolve the question of compensation. Both are troublesome issues.

The Supreme Court eventually permitted the internments as justifiable in wartime. Could any peacetime law prevent a recurrence? Former Justice Abe Fortas testified that some thought should be given to limiting the military's power over civilians, especially in times of stress.

As for compensation, a 1948 claims act paid the internees a mere 10 cents for every dollar lost. But who would be recognized for new claims, and how long would new litigation drag on?

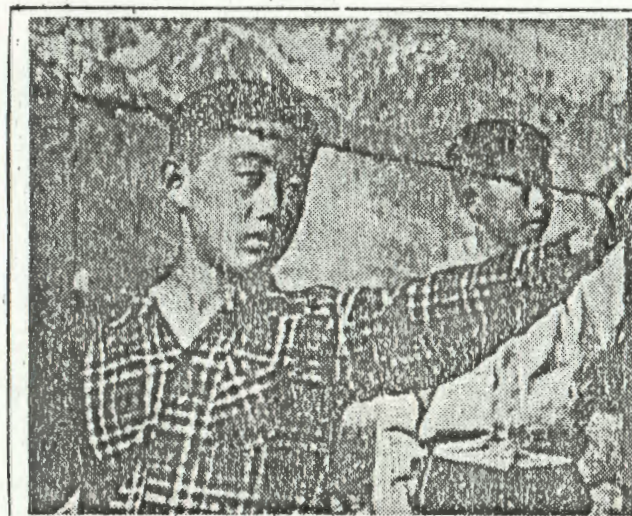
Fortunately, Japanese-Americans as a group have fared well in postwar America. Their lasting resentment is legitimate, but the injustice done them does not compare with that suffered by blacks or American Indians.

A more appropriate response would be a gesture of atonement. Some suggest a national monument to the 442d, but there are livelier possibilities: a Federal fund offering scholarships, support for cultural and community projects, perhaps even prizes for distinguished Japanese-Americans. Those would be feasible and meaningful ways to deliver an apology that is long overdue.



## A hard look / Reliving World War II horror

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By Jon Kawamoto  
Examiner Staff Writer

Lillian Kiyota was 19 when she was uprooted from her Stockton home and sent to a concentration camp in Rohwer, Ark. She says she hated every minute of it.

"The one thing they did to me, my sister and other young women that was very degrading was a forced 'strip and search' — they told us they were checking for VD," said Kiyota, now 58, a resident of San Francisco's Richmond district.

"That was done just to humiliate and intimidate us. I can never forget that. We were treated like criminals."

Mine Kido, 75, who also lives in the Richmond, still remembers the day — Jan. 30, 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt's birthday — when eight angry Japanese Americans broke into the family's barracks and beat her husband. The couple's three children watched helplessly.

—See Back Page, Col. 3



Her husband, the late Saburo Kido, was hospitalized for a month.

"The men were angry that Kido (national president of the Japanese American Citizens League, during World War II helped reinstitute the draft for the Nisei (second-generation, American born)," said the widow. "I don't blame them for being mad. Why should they fight for the United States when they've been kicked out of their homes?"

"I remember that as clearly as if it had happened yesterday. It scarred the children. I don't think they have ever gotten over it. I try not to remember."

Kido and Kiyota have never met, but like thousands of Japanese Americans, they're going through the trauma of recalling events from a part of their lives many of them have tried to forget — the forced evacuation and detention of 110,000 Japanese Americans and 1,000 Aleutian Islanders into concentration camps during World War II by the government.

The victims of now-rescinded Executive Order 9066 — which permitted the forced evacuation — are remembering those sad experiences in light of the government's first official probe of the incident.

Public hearings on the internment are under way now — 39 years after the incident — beginning in Washington last month and moving Tuesday to Los Angeles and to San Francisco the following week. Other sessions will follow in Seattle, Anchorage, the Aleutian Islands, the Pribilof Islands and Chicago.

Purpose of the hearings before the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians is to determine why the internment occurred, whether it was unconstitutional and whether some form of compensation should be awarded the victims.

The commission will make a recommendation to Congress by Jan. 15.

"The issue of redress is the most important and most profound that Japanese Americans have faced in the past 40 years," said John Tateishi, 42, redress coordinator for the Japanese American Citizens League, the 30,000-member organization which pushed for the hearings two years ago.

The 700-member National Coalition for Redress and Reparations is demanding \$25,000 to each victim as restitution, which would total \$3 bil-

lion. The JACL, while also pushing for monetary compensation, hasn't set a figure.

The amount prompted one commission member, U.S. Rep. Dan Lundgren, R-Long Beach, to contend there is no public support for monetary redress.

Others, including Sen. S.I. Hayakawa, R-Calif., contend granting money would only "cheapen" the achievements of Japanese Americans as well as the camp experience.

"The restitution in part would say the internment was wrong," said Tateishi. "The contention that Japanese Americans should not be awarded damages because they are so 'successful' is misleading and blind to the issue."

"The rest of society may have forgotten the internment, but those who lived through it remember it. I don't think it's ever too late to rectify a past wrong. Time doesn't rectify wrongs, only actions do."

According to Tom Takeda, associate director of the commission, another form of compensation could be the establishment of a Japanese American trust fund instead of individual redress. The funds, said Takeda, could be used for housing for the elderly and legal and counseling services.

Tateishi, Bert Nakano, coalition spokesman, and others called that a "political compromise" they find unacceptable.

Tateishi, who spent 3½ years in the Manzanar concentration camp in the Owens Valley, says Japanese Americans are not out to make money.

"But we're out to write an insurance policy for the nation," he said. "In 1942, the whole system of government failed us and we don't want that to happen again."

According to the JACL, the West German government began paying lifelong annuities to former victims of Nazism in 1957. It's estimated the payments will exceed \$35 billion by 1985.

All of the more than one dozen Nisei and Sansei (third-generation Japanese Americans) interviewed by The Examiner agreed the internment was illegal, unnecessary and favored individual monetary compensation.

But they split on whether they, as individuals, would testify at the hearings. Some, like Kido, said the trauma of recalling the camp experiences would be too painful to go through. Others, like Kiyota, were so angry they





**LILLIAN KIYOTA**

**'We were treated like criminals'**

"couldn't wait to testify." Others still haven't decided.

Hisano Taniguchi, 82, also a Richmond District resident, who was sent to the Topaz, Utah camp, said he thinks he will not testify.

"I can't give you an answer as to why. I think the best thing is to forget it. I don't know what my children think about having lived through it. We don't talk about it," he said.

Sue Hayashi, 62, an Alameda native who was sent with her husband, Yukio, to Poston, Ariz., recalls that "the whole camp life was like marking time without knowing what you were marking time for."

The purported crime of the Japanese Americans was their ancestry and alleged ties to Japan, according to Tateishi.

He and others contend the internment was unconstitutional because due process rights were violated; military orders authorizing the internment went beyond the scope of military authority, rights guaranteed under the Bill of Rights were violated, such as freedom from cruel and unusual punishment, and the military judgment of "military necessity" was unfounded.

The U.S. Supreme Court, in two cases, ruled in favor of the Army evacuation, stating a curfew could be imposed on the Nisei because of "the danger of invasion."

The camps were located in barren, desolate regions to isolate the inter-

nees. Sentries stood guard on a 24-hour basis. Barbed wire fences surrounded the camps.

Communal showers, communal toilets, communal eating had to be accepted. Many of the tiny barracks of scrap wood and tar paper didn't have partitions between families. Loyalty oaths were required. An internee could make up to \$19 a month.

There were no acts of sabotage or espionage in the camps — which authorities had feared all along — although there were scattered, brief incidents of skirmishes among frustrated, angered Nisei.

The exclusion orders were revoked two weeks after Japan surrendered. The Supreme Court ruled that loyal Tisei could not be prevented from returning to their homes. The last camp, Tule Lake, closed in May 1946.

Two years later, President Truman signed the Japanese American Exclusion Claims Act. The evacuees filed 23,689 claims asking for a total of \$132 million. In all, \$38 million was paid, amounting to eight cents to each dollar lost. The claims, based on 1942 prices, were only for property losses, which had to be documented. At the time of the forced exodus, property loss was estimated at \$400 million.

More than two decades passed before the JACL passed a resolution seeking redress and an investigation into the issue, but the movement didn't really pick up steam until 1978. President Carter signed the bill creating the commission in July 1980.

"The psychological trauma of the camp experience has plagued the community for years," Tateishi said.

"We as a community reacted to the internment the way a woman would react to a rape. We weren't prepared for it. We felt shamed, and carried a sense of fear, guilt, and a stigma we had no control over. We weren't willing to talk about the assault. Time has eased some of the pain on the psyche."

UC's Takahashi says the civil rights movements of the 1960s, in which minority groups spoke of their injustices, created a social and political climate enabling Japanese Americans to speak out.

Takeda, Tateishi, Nakano and others are optimistic the commission "will hear our story with an open mind" but declined to predict the odds of getting monetary redress.



# Putting a price on justice

All right-thinking Americans must feel sympathy for the 120,000 Japanese-Americans interned during World War II, and outrage that such an injustice could have been perpetrated by the government and courts of a supposedly democratic nation. Apart from the stigma and discomfort of their imprisonment in what amounted to concentration camps, the internees suffered serious economic losses. They were compelled to abandon thriving businesses, homes, and careers. Most had to start again from scratch after the war; it is a tribute to their energy and enterprise that they have succeeded uncommonly well in making up for the years that were stolen from them.

The country assuredly owes them an apology. The country owes them, and itself, an unbreakable guarantee that such a thing shall never happen again.

The country owes that. But it does not owe money. The demands of Japanese-American organizations for the payment of reparations to the former internees and their descendants are unacceptable and must be rejected.

Advocates of reparations are asking for payments of up to \$25,000 to each former internee in a program that would cost about \$3 billion, and a congressional committee is currently holding hearings (including one scheduled for Sept. 22 in Chicago) on the subject.

It is not that \$25,000 is too much; in all probability it is far less than the average economic loss per internee even without adjusting for intervening inflation. And \$25,000 certainly bears no relation to the enormity of the injustice. Who can put a price on freedom?

The problem is that this country — or any other country — simply cannot come up with the cash

to pay reparations for all its past sins against various groups of people. If the Japanese-Americans were economically harmed by the internment, consider some others:

- Black Americans, 25 million descendants of persons brought to this country against their will, held in bondage for two centuries, disenfranchised for another century, and suffering economically to this day.

- Native Americans, one million descendants (or, more accurately, survivors) of massacre and depredation by Europeans who robbed them of an entire continent.

- Female Americans, 110 million women who have suffered from job discrimination and sexual exploitation in a traditionally male-dominated society.

These are but three of the most obvious victims of past (and, sometimes, present) injustice. It would not be difficult to come up with dozens more that would include all but the most wealthy and aristocratic of male white Anglo-Saxon Protestants. Many of these groups would be able to demonstrate a history of deprivation at least as egregious as that of the Japanese-Americans.

It is depressing to look back on such a long and costly history of injustice, and doubly depressing to realize that the injustices were so immense that recompense is impossible. Yet Americans surely have a better record than most, and a greater willingness to right the wrongs of the past. The best we can do now is to acknowledge the wrongs committed against Japanese-Americans, and pledge that they will never recur. The debt must be paid with conscience, not with cash.



# Justice for the Nisei

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Through Congress and the executive branch as well as the courts, the federal government has acknowledged a good many errors toward Japanese-Americans over the last 35 years. It's still at it.

The wrongs that have so strongly engaged the American conscience have to do with the internment of *nisei*, or first-generation citizens of Japanese extraction, during World War II. In the panic that followed the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Americans in general and Westerners in particular became terrified at the thought of the large numbers of ethnic Japanese living on the Pacific coast. Fear persuaded the wartime government that it was necessary for national security to get Japanese-Americans away from what might become invasion beaches.

More than 100,000 were rounded up and imprisoned behind barbed wire in California and Colorado. They had to leave jobs and homes, often selling valuable property at distress prices. There was no attempt to separate those whose sympathies were with the United States from those on the Axis side.

Even before the war was over, there were Americans who objected. Colorado's Governor Ralph Carr welcomed the evacuees and kept many out of the internment camps. As early as 1948, Oscar Chapman, then undersecretary of interior was calling for compensation for internees.

Later, the government tried to make up for

what most Americans came to see as a mistake, if not a crime. By 1948 26,000 internees had submitted claims for compensation. By 1958, \$38 million had been paid in reparations and citizenship had been restored to 4,000 Japanese-Americans deprived of it in the '40s.

In the years that followed, civil service and social security rights were retroactively granted to those who lost their jobs in the internment program. Those whose bank deposits were seized got their money back.

The demand for further reparations goes on, however, spurred by President Jimmy Carter's 1980 formation of a commission to investigate the internment program, and no one who has seen the sad, betrayed faces in photographs of the camps can resist a desire to make up to the many thoroughly American *nisei* for what they suffered at the hands of their fellow-citizens.

The only trouble is that the groups pressing Japanese-American claims have fallen into patterns typical of our time. They're asking for affirmative action programs for *nisei*, appointments to high office on a quota basis and compensation for people who were around Hiroshima and Nagasaki when the first atomic bombs fell, whether or not their medical problems are directly traceable to the explosions.

Some demands are sufficiently far removed from any actual hardships endured by Japanese-Americans that even Senator Hayakawa has been embarrassed by them. They are less the outcries of wronged people than efforts at political condemnation.

Hindsight would argue with President Gerald Ford that the internment was "a national mistake." Justice would argue the worthwhileness of spending money to undo the ill effects of the error. Nothing argues for a quota approach to the atonement.



71 m u e

# Internment of Japanese in War Deplored

8-6-81

By JUDITH MICHAELSON,  
LA Times Staff Writer

Former Supreme Court Justice Arthur J. Goldberg said Wednesday that Japanese-Americans were forced to evacuate their homes and relocate during World War II essentially because "their color was different."

"The Germans, the Italians were not put in camps, except a few shown to be disloyal, but there was no mass evacuation," declared Goldberg, a panel member of the national commission investigating the evacuation of Japanese-Americans and their bid for reparations.

"There was a serious violation of civil rights of loyal (Japanese) Americans, none of whom proved to be disloyal," he told an overflow crowd of mostly Japanese-Americans on the second of three days of hearings in Los Angeles.

Goldberg's remarks came about 30 minutes after two women interrupted the testimony of James Kawaminami, president of the 100th/442nd Veterans Association of Southern California. The women, Lillian Baker of Gardena and Rachel Kawasaki, who lives in the Fresno area, are members of a group

called the Association for Historical Accuracy which opposes use of the term "concentration camp" in describing the camps to which nearly 120,000 Japanese-Americans were sent. After trying to grab some papers from Kawaminami and shouting "communists" they were forcibly evicted by security guards, but were not arrested.

At the same time, an unidentified man, wearing an American flag in his lapel, shouted "When Japs move in whites move out . . . Justice for all." However, he quieted down and stayed for the remainder of the session.

Goldberg said it was not important how the camps were described.

"The fact of the matter is people were put behind barbed wires, sentries were posted and they were put in inadequate barracks, not suitable for human habitation," he said.

Besides monetary compensation which will be determined by Congress after the commission makes its report next January, Goldberg said "our government ought to apologize; Both the Congress and the President recognizes it made this profound mistake and that it shall never happen again."



# How do you put a price on

Balt. Sun  
by Neil A. Grauer  
8.9.81

Congress, with its superb instinct for convening the superfluous to confirm the obvious, has created a commission to study the monumental injustices perpetrated on the Japanese-American community during World War II.

No one seriously contends now that the voluntary evacuation of approximately 70,000 Japanese Americans, some 70,000 of them native-born citizens, from their homes on the West Coast and their relocation in hastily constructed internment camps in the interior was anything but a grievous mistake and a horribly dark episode in American history.

When it issues its report by January 15, 1982, the nine-member Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians dutifully will declare as much. It is something that has been thoroughly—even exhaustively—documented in such hefty tomes as the official U.S. Army history of the war, "Guarding the United States and Its Outposts," and such pensive books as Bill Hosokawa's "Nisei, the Quiet Americans," a chronicle of the American-born children of Japanese immigrants, the Issei.

In retrospect, the wartime hysteria following the attack on Pearl Harbor that led President Franklin D. Roosevelt to sign the executive orders that authorized the exclusion of the Japanese-American from the Pacific coast and their confinement in the internment camps abounded with bonies.

- J. Edgar Hoover, the Federal Bureau of Investigation director, opposed the relocation program, insisting the FBI had the external security situation well in hand and no evacuation was necessary.

- Earl Warren, then the attorney general of California and later a U.S. chief justice whose name became synonymous with civil rights, cried for the swift removal of all Japanese Americans from California. He argued, curiously, that the absence of any sabotage there following the Japanese empire's attack on Pearl Harbor was "the most ominous sign in the whole situation."

"We are just being lulled into a false sense of security," Mr. Warren darkly warned a congressional committee.

- Walter Lippmann, the sober, scholarly newspaper columnist, joined journalistic hands with vitriolic commentator Westbrook Pegler and the legendary sports columnist Damon Runyon (not precisely a deep thinker) to call for the rapid removal from the West "of all those who are technically enemy aliens."

- The opinions of Army and Navy leaders, still smarting over the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, were divided on whether the evacuation was necessary. Gen. Mark Clark told a congressional committee the chances of a Japanese invasion of the West Coast were "nil," and Adm. Harold Stark, chief of naval operations, agreed.

Those who called the evacuation a matter of "military necessity" prevailed, but here never was serious consideration given by any of them to evacuating the considerably larger Japanese-American population in Hawaii, where the surprise attack actually occurred. On the island of Oahu alone, there were about 118,000 Japanese Americans—98,000 of them citizens and 20,000 of them aliens—more than on the entire West Coast.

- While their families remained in the internment camps, many draft-age Nisei men volunteered for military service. The

442d Regimental Combat Team, made up entirely of Japanese Americans, fought valiantly in France and Italy, becoming one of the most decorated units in American military history. However, the Japanese Americans were barred from the Pacific theater of operations.

There are ironies, too, in the convening of the new commission.

- Its creation grew out of a bill introduced by Representative Michael E. Lowry (D, Wash.) during the 96th Congress, a Democratic-controlled body technically under the influence of Jimmy Carter, a human rights champion. The bill was a straightforward proposal to provide monetary compensation for the internees, who suffered much more than just the material losses of shops that were vandalized, farms and orchards that went to seed and once-thriving businesses that withered and died.

But Mr. Lowry's bill languished, given Congress's hesitancy to act as a sort of judge in any kind of hearing that could

Mr. Grauer is a Baltimore writer.

provide compensation," explained Robbie Alm, an aide to Senator Daniel K. Inouye (D, Hawaii), a proponent of the commission.

Now Congress, in a budget-cutting mood, may not be nearly as predisposed toward authorizing compensation for a 40-year-old human rights outrage as it was when the issue first was raised.

- The commission bills itself as the first "official" federal study of President Roosevelt's decision to sign Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942, authorizing the exclusion of "any or all" persons, not just Japanese Americans, from certain designated "military areas" (which the entire West Coast was declared), and Executive Order 9102, signed a month later, creating the War Relocation Authority (WRA) to handle the placement of those evacuated by the military.

Yet the commission has chosen to overlook a possible witness living a little more than 40 miles up the highway in Baltimore who could provide a special perspective to its inquiry: Dr. Milton S. Eisenhower,

president emeritus of the Johns Hopkins University, a man whose government service spanned five decades under eight U.S. presidents and who, for three anguished, exhausting and frustrating months was the first director of the WRA.

Perhaps it is just as well. Dr. Eisenhower, now 81, is not disposed to rehash the details of what he long has called the "terrible tragedy" of the evacuation and internment, and he declines to comment on the key issues of reparations. But in his 1974 book, "The President Is Calling," Dr. Eisenhower left no doubt about his feelings regarding a decision and program he believes were "an inhuman mistake."

In his book, Dr. Eisenhower described "the most difficult and traumatic task of my career," undertaken on the direct orders of President Roosevelt, whom he knew well and admired greatly.

At the time of Pearl Harbor, Dr. Eisenhower was head of the Department of Agriculture's Office of Information and coordinator of the department's Office of Land Use Planning. He also was Mr. Roosevelt's personal troubleshooter in broader organizational areas in the federal government. Following the outbreak of the war, Mr. Roosevelt asked Dr. Eisenhower to make a study of the government's war-related information programs, and he went to work on the report that resulted in the creation of the Office of War Information (OWI).

Engrossed as he was in these duties, as well as a subsequent study of land conservation programs, Dr. Eisenhower says in

his book that he was only faintly aware of the growing xenophobia on the West Coast and was completely unprepared for the assignment he received when the president summoned him to the Oval Office in early March, 1942. There a grim, blood-shot-eyed FDR gave him a blunt order:

"Milton, your war job, starting immediately, is to set up a War Relocation Authority to move the Japanese Americans off the Pacific coast. I have signed an executive order which will give you the necessary legal assistance and the Secretary of War will help you with the physical arrangements.

"And Milton, . . . the greatest possible speed is imperative."

It was the first, and only, time Dr. Eisenhower found himself reluctant to do the president's bidding.

"I was deeply troubled," he wrote. "My instincts told me that the course we were

embarked on was an extreme one. But I must confess that I spent little time pondering the moral implications of the president's decision. We were at war. Our nation had been viciously attacked without warning. We were badly mauled by the Japanese forces and the enemy had been rampaging almost without resistance in the southwest Pacific. . . . President Roosevelt was commander in chief and he had given me my war assignment. I was determined to carry it out as effectively and humanely as possible."

Of course, in time it became appallingly clear that the Japanese Americans on the West Coast had nothing to do with our desperate military situation in the Pacific, but the public outcry against them was furious.

By the time President Roosevelt gave Dr. Eisenhower his marching orders, the process of Japanese-American evacuation already was under way, propelled by the insistence in certain military quarters that it was essential for national security, as well as the almost unanimous urgings of California politicians and the national press that it had to be done immediately.

"As I left the White House on that blustery March day it was clear to me that the question was not whether to evacuate the Japanese Americans . . . but rather how to carry out their relocation to the interior," Dr. Eisenhower wrote.

Already the West Coast, a center of military aircraft production and naval and oil facilities, was in the process of being divided up into 108 strategic areas

from which the Japanese Americans were to be excluded. The Issei, Japanese-born longtime residents who were denied the right to become citizens by archaic immigration laws; Nisei, their American-born children, and Kibei, American-born Japanese who were educated in Japan, already were being uprooted and placed in ramshackle relocation centers set up at race tracks and other thoroughly inadequate facilities.

The reasons behind the evacuation were the fear of sabotage in the event of an invasion, the claim that loyal and disloyal Japanese could not be distinguished ("A Jap is a Jap," was the chillingly succinct contention of Gen. John DeWitt, chief of the Western Defense Command), and the belief the Japanese Americans themselves were endangered if they were not moved inland.

Dr. Eisenhower relates how practically every attempt he made to temper the harshness of the relocation program was

gross injustice?



met with resistance and bigotry. Military and political leaders opposed a plan he offered for just evacuating the men, leaving the women and children in their homes; the governors of 9 out of 10 intermountain states rejected, almost violently, his proposal for establishing small, Civilian Conservation Corps-style camps in their states from which the evacuees could be blended into the private agricultural work force.

2082  
One governor he met with "walked close to me, shook his fist in my face, and growled through clenched teeth: 'If you bring the Japanese into my state, I promise you they will be hanging from every tree!'"

When some 3,500 Japanese-American college students faced an abrupt end to their education because of the evacuation, Dr. Eisenhower tried to set up a committee of leading educators to help relocate the students in colleges and universities throughout the country.

"I must confess that I am still distressed by the excuses I received from the educators I approached," Dr. Eisenhower wrote. "All declined."

Only the tireless work of Clarence Pickett, a prominent Quaker leader contacted by Dr. Eisenhower, led to the formation of the National Student Relocation Council, which succeeded in finding schools where the students could complete their studies.

The evacuation gained an inexorable momentum and the only practical solution for it appeared to be the creation of 10 relocation camps: Manzanar, Poston and Tule Lake in California; Hart Mountain in

Wyoming; Minidoka in Idaho; Topas in Utah; Gila River in Arizona, and Granada, Rohwer and Jerome in Arkansas. These were built on bleak government land scheduled for development projects. There, the evacuees could work and share in the profits, Dr. Eisenhower says. But even his proposal that workers in the camps be paid the prevailing minimum wage was rejected by Congress, which decreed that the internees receive only the meager wage paid inductees in the military.

The camps still were under construction when FDR again called Dr. Eisenhower to his office and asked him to become associate director of the Office of War Information, which he had just created on the strength of Dr. Eisenhower's recommendation four months earlier. Dr. Eisenhower agreed and suggested that Dillon S. Myer, a former colleague of his in the Department of Agriculture, be chosen as his successor at the WRA. Mr. Myer headed the relocation authority for its remaining three years.

On December 18, 1944, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down apparently contradictory decisions in two separate cases regarding the evacuation and internment program. In one it unanimously upheld the president's right to order the Army to exclude the Japanese Americans from specific military areas; it ruled 6-3 in another that a demonstrably loyal Japanese American could not be held in an internment camp against his will and could come and

go as he pleased. By the time the court ruled, only half the 120,000 internees remained in the camps. The others had, in Mr. Hosokawa's phrase, "struck out for freedom," either joining the military or using the WRA's relocation program to find new homes in states ranging from Wisconsin to the Carolinas, abandoning any plans to return to the West.

Just before Dr. Eisenhower left the WRA, the Japanese-American Advisory Committee, which he had established at the beginning of the relocation program, gave him a 50-year-old bonsai, a miniature sculptured pine tree, "to indicate the conviction . . . that I had done all I could in their interest in view of the executive order for evacuation and the hostile attitudes then prevailing in the western half of the country." That expression of appreciation is his only pleasant memory of a ghastly experience.

"The evacuation of the Japanese Americans need not have happened," Dr. Eisenhower wrote. "If public officials had provided strong and positive leadership at the outset they might have calmed the public. If the media had been responsible they could have cooled instead of incited passions. If the military had been more effective, it might have assessed the situation more objectively and, thus, not have pressed for evacuation. . . . If those closest to the president had given him better advice, perhaps he would have decided differently. If the president had asked harder questions, demanded better information, been more skeptical, perhaps he would have overruled those who counseled mass evacuation."

Mr. Roosevelt, preoccupied with the problems of waging a global war, simply did not give much thought to the plight of the Japanese Americans, Dr. Eisenhower says.

The new commission is unlikely to come up with a more concise explanation than Dr. Eisenhower's of the reasons behind the relocation program. However, its advocates contend a thorough, "official" inquiry into what happened is needed in order to prevent any recurrence of such an episode, as well as to address the nettlesome question of what sort of reparations, if any, are due those who suffered.

During his brief period as head of the WRA, Dr. Eisenhower obtained the agreement of the Federal Reserve Bank in California to "do all it could to protect the physical assets of the evacuees."

Compensation for the loss of property is not the issue now. It is payment for the pain and suffering of the relocation, a sum sufficient to confirm the federal government's admission that what it did was wrong and should never be repeated.

Everyone agrees that what happened to the Japanese Americans was a gross miscarriage of justice, and more than 30 years ago the federal government made an effort—albeit extremely inadequate—to make some monetary amends.

The real question that faces the present commission, and ultimately the Congress, is whether there is a statute of limitations on injustice.



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# Japanese-Americans speak out on wartime

By KENNETH REID

They were ordered to leave their homes, pack whatever belongings they could and board trains bound for concentration camps.

Some never returned to the businesses, farms and lifestyles they established before World War II. Some could not regain what they left behind.

Aboard the trains, blinds were closed so they could not see which towns they passed. Armed soldiers stood between cars. And when they arrived at the camps, they saw even more guards standing at watchtowers, guarding the wooden barracks that would become their homes.

But these scenes, which might seem strikingly familiar to Holocaust survivors, were not in Germany, Poland or other parts of Nazi-occupied Europe.

The camps, in this case, were not the death camps of Auschwitz or Treblinka. These centers went by such names as Granada, Manzanar, Minidoka and Tule Lake and they were in the United States.

The people who were concentrated

## Stories chronicle the wreckage of businesses and private lives

in these facilities were Japanese-Americans, many of whom came to the United States in search of a democratic society where they could lead lives without fear of government oppression.

This year, nearly 40 years after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor which led the Roosevelt Administration to relocate 120,000 West Coast residents of Japanese ancestry, several groups, including New Jersey residents who lived in concentration camps, are asking a special commission established by Congress to compensate those who were interned during World War II.

"This is not a Japanese-American issue, but an American issue," said Thomas Kometani of Warren, a member of the board of directors of the New York area chapter of the Japanese-American

Citizens League (JACL). The JACL, whose national headquarters is in San Francisco, pushed hard for the formation of the commission and favors redress.

"The only way I would feel cleared up about this is if there was some monetary restitution," he added.

A chemist at Bell Labs in Murray Hill, Kometani lives in a ranch house on a well-maintained piece of land with his wife, Janet, and four children. Kometani is active in the community, having once served as a Republican committeeman in Somerset County, and he is chairman of the Warren Zoning Board of Adjustment.

But Kometani, 46, contends he and his parents suffered from the camp experience, although he was young at the time.

"The camp made me feel I was not

an American," said the native of Auburn, Wash. "I felt like I was the enemy."

Kometani, who testified before the nine-member commission's initial hearing last month in Washington, D.C., said the question of redress "just didn't happen overnight," noting the JACL and many Japanese-Americans have debated the issue for years.

Relocation came into being on Feb. 19, 1942 when Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, authorizing the internment of second generation Japanese-Americans born in the United States, known as "nissel," and non-citizens, those born in Japan, who immigrated to this country known as "issel."

Japanese-Americans in Hawaii were not interned, as martial law was declared on the islands after Pearl Harbor, and persons of Japanese ancestry living outside of the West Coast were not imprisoned because they were few in number, Kometani said.

In addition, Aleuts living on the Aleutian Islands off of Alaska were relo-

(Continued on next page)



(From preceding page)

cated to camps.

Many contend that Roosevelt, through the Emergency Detention Act which empowered him to order the relocation, yielded to political pressure and the fears of many Westerners who believed the large Japanese population was loyal to Japan's imperial aims.

Cromwell Mukai of Berkeley Heights noted his father, an issei, was placed in a camp in Montana run by the Justice Department "because he was a leader in the Japanese-American community" in Spring Valley, Calif.

But Mukai's mother, though born in Osaka, Japan like her husband, was sent to one of 15 relocation camps run by the Department of the Interior with his brothers and sisters.

Kometani and Mukai note that citizenship was denied by U.S. law to persons born in Japan, explaining why many camp inmates were considered aliens.

Japanese-American citizens were rounded up under the supervision of Lt. Gen. John DeWitt, commander of the Western Defense Command, whose statement, "a Jap's a Jap, it makes no difference whether the Jap is a citizen or not," has been used by the JACL to highlight what it believes to be underlying racism in the relocation effort.

Suspicion leading to a West Coast "yellow scare" also promulgated the FBI to question certain Japanese-Americans believed to be spies or sympathizers with Japan, the JACL claims.

"We had a family book burning session," Kometani recalled. "Rumor had it that the FBI was searching homes and we burned everything — records, papers, anything Japanese."

"All my Japanese dolls were given to a white family," said Mrs. Kometani, 44, who was born and raised in Salinas, Calif.

While the camp experience of Japanese-Americans falls far from the tragic fate of Jews, Poles and other groups who were herded into concentration camps and tortured, and murdered by the Nazis, Kometani claims there were similarities.

"The words used by the Germans to explain the camps were the same words used by the American government," he said. "The common thread is that both

peoples (Japanese-Americans and Jews) were rounded up due to ancestry without any hearing."

Most Japanese-Americans interviewed contend the camps were not bad places to live, despite the community bath houses, straw mattresses, barbed wire fences and armed guards.

But the bad aspects of being confined, Kometani said, only recently have been discussed. The sons and daughters of camp inmates, he said, are taking an interest in the relocation, even so far as taking "pilgrimages to the camps." A poster which the government used ordering Japanese-Americans to relocate has been reprinted and is sold in Asian novelty shops in California, said Kometani's friend, Ron Osajima of Bridgewater.

Mukai, 64, research manager at Printers' Service Inc. in Newark's Ironbound section, believes relocation was not instigated by military necessity but because white farmers and businessmen in the West saw the Japanese entrepreneur as a competitor.

"I've always felt it was economics because the Japanese were very successful farmers," said the father of four who spent a brief period in a camp, but couldn't gain entrance to Ohio University as a student during the war because it was near an air base.

Mukai noted 85 per cent of the truck farmers in California before the war were Japanese. His father, however, had to have the children put the family farm in Spring Valley in their names because issei could not own land by state law.

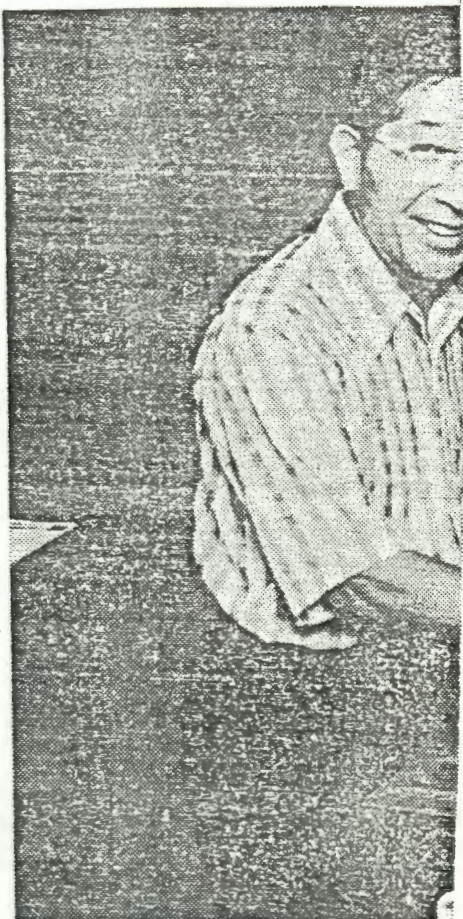
Osajima believes that Americans of Italian and German ancestry were not imprisoned during World War II "because they were white."

"I think it's plain old racism," said the 46-year-old computer software worker at Bell Labs.

Osajima believes his parents probably suffered the most after the war once released from Manzanar camp in Inyo County, Calif. "As a child of six, I didn't find it (camp) so bad," said Osajima, the father of two. "I didn't know what it was like until I was older. Then, I realized my dad was done in."

He explained that his father, Hakara, had a wholesale produce business in Gardena, Calif., a middle class suburb, but sold the firm when the family was

## Camp veterans the only way to



Cromwell D. Mukai of Berkeley Heights in Newark, where he

relocated. Before Hakara Osajima died of a stroke long after the war, he was a peddler "selling fruits and vegetables off the back of a truck," said his son.

Osajima said his mother had to work and the family of five moved after the war to the poor East Los Angeles neighborhood of Boyle Heights. His parents, like Kometani's, kept the interment issue quiet.

Kometani said many families tried to forget the camps, explaining why the redress issue was not voiced earlier.

"It would be considered a 'loss of



## call restitution 'clear this up' <sup>3/3</sup>



Photo by George H. Andrews Jr.

ts works in his lab at Printer's Serv-  
is research manager

face' if you blamed your misfortunes on someone else," he said. "But if you took a poll among the 700,000 Japanese-Americans in the country today, most would want redress."

The Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians is comprised of present and past members of Congress and representatives of the legal community and other professions. Hearings began in Los Angeles last week and will move to San Francisco this week. The committee's final report will be issued to Congress next year, said a spokeswoman.

Ruby Yoshimo Schaar, president of the JACL chapter of New York, noted that most Japanese-Americans "are for monetary compensation, not necessarily individual payments."

Another active group, the National Coalition for Redress and Reparations, has requested the commission to recommend \$25,000 for each former inmate still living, noting many of those interned are in their 50s and 60s and some have died.

"In this country, money talks," said Schaar. "When it hits in the pocketbooks of every citizen, it's going to mean something."

Schaar, who contends she lost out on a singing career due to the war although she was not interned, said, "We'd like every American to know what it's like to live under democratic principles and see it break down."

The denial of due process to Japanese-Americans as well as the loss of property has spurred the redress movement, Kometani said. He noted that the 1943 U.S. Supreme Court upheld the relocation. He added he believes "there has to be some legislation coming out of this (the commission's study) to limit the federal government from locking people up out of fear."

But compensation may be deemed too costly by a Congress which has already approved budget cuts and a tax cut program. "Not all members of Congress feel compensation is feasible," noted Susan Wrenn, a spokeswoman for the internment commission.

"It's not so much feeling against compensation or whether it's appropriate, but whether a monetary value can be placed on what's been lost," she explained.

Sen. S.I. Hayakawa (R-Calif.), a Japanese-American, said at hearings in Los Angeles last week that the demand of \$25,000 a person makes "my flesh crawl with shame and embarrassment."

The senator, who lived in Canada during the war and was not interned, believed the relocation "is easy to understand" considering the strained relations between Japanese-Americans and whites in the West and fears that Japan would attack California.

Kometani believes compensation is not unprecedented, noting West Germany has compensated Jews who survived

the death camps. The JACL also says that the U.S. was ordered recently to pay \$10,000 to each of 1,300 anti-Vietnam demonstrators who were falsely imprisoned for three days in Washington in 1971.

The government, however, compensated several camp inmates in 1952 for the \$400 million in property the Federal Reserve Bank estimates Japanese-Americans lost during the war. But the 8 cents to every dollar lost is not enough according to Charles Nagao of Vineland, who said he lost his drinking supply business in Southern California.

\* \* \*

Nagao was one of 4,000 Japanese-Americans who left the camps after the war to settle in Cumberland County where they were welcomed by Seabrook Farms Frozen Food Co., which needed workers for its packaging plant.

Today, only 500 Japanese-Americans live in Upper Deerfield Township where the Seabrook company, which closed in May, was located. But the JACL chapter in South Jersey, in which Nagao served twice as president, has been active in raising money for the national JACL which is steering the redress campaign.

Nagao doesn't believe Japanese-Americans are just seeking ways of getting money out of the government. "Basically, what we would like to receive from the government is an acknowledgement that they were wrong, violating our constitutional rights by incarcerating us into camps without charges or trial," said Nagao, who has worked for Wheaton Industries in Millville since 1964.

For Osajima, an apology from the government is not enough "if someone puts you in jail for three years just because you are what you are."

But the government has made some concessions to Japanese-Americans. The Emergency Detention Act was repealed in 1971 and former President Gerald Ford rescinded Roosevelt's executive order. But the Kometanis, Osajimas, Mukais and others wonder whether another minority group will be relocated again unless Washington is forced to pay for what they contend were past injustices.

"If you can violate constitutional rights the way it was done in 1942, you can do it again," said Mukai. "And I sure would like some guarantee that this doesn't happen again."



# Reparations Opposed By Hayakawa

From The San Diego Union's News Services

Sen. S.I. Hayakawa, fighting to retain his seat, was heckled yesterday when he was the only Japanese-American appearing in Los Angeles before a federal commission to oppose some form of reparations to those relocated to detention camps during World War II.

Asserting such demands "make my flesh crawl with shame and embarrassment," Hayakawa, who was a Canadian citizen at the time, conceded the internment violated civil rights but insisted it was understandable because of the mood of the times.

"Against a background of almost 100 years of anti-Oriental agitation throughout California," Hayakawa said, "it is easy to understand that the attack on Pearl Harbor aroused in the people of California, as well as elsewhere, all the superstitious, racist fears that had been generated over the years, as well as the normal insanities of wartime."

To scattered jeers from the packed hearing room, Hayakawa suggested the Japanese-Americans had to be put in the camps for their own protection and said the only action he would favor to remedy the wrong would "be a joint resolution of Congress apologizing to them."

Commission member William Marutani, a judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County, Pa., ridiculed Hayakawa's suggestion that an apology would be sufficient.

Marutani, a Japanese-American, asked, "Would you then suggest this same form of redress across the board — whether someone is wronged by an individual or a corporation — simply a piece of paper saying I'm sorry."

"No," Hayakawa stammered, "but that's a different situation."

Hayakawa, being challenged by members of his own party for reelection, raised only \$61,505 for his campaign as of the June 30 finance filing deadline. He had spent \$19,481 leaving a balance of about \$54,657.

Hayakawa's report lists additional fund-raising after the June 30 deadline, however, which lifts the total to \$145,665.

San Diego Mayor Wilson, who may drop out of the gubernatorial race and seek the Republican senatorial nomination, indicated in Washington yesterday that he would campaign gently against the 75-year-old Hayakawa.

At a breakfast meeting with reporters, Wilson said Hayakawa had a "good" record and that he would make a decision on the Senate race within a month.

Wilson said he had a polite telephone conversation with Hayakawa, who thanked him for telling him he might enter the primary field that could include Reps. Barry Goldwater Jr. of Woodland Hills; Paul N. (Pete) McCloskey of Menlo Park; Robert Dornan of Santa Monica, and President Reagan's da-

Wednesday, August 5, 1981

THE SAN DIEGO UNION



# A hard look / Hayakawa cites advantages of internm

**6**  
**9**  
**P** **LOS ANGELES** — Not all Japanese Americans believe their internment during World War II was a bad thing. Possibly the most prominent American of Japanese ancestry says the incident — subject of hearings which open here today — was “perfectly understandable” at the time.

Nor does he favor payment to those taken from their West Coast homes and put in barbed-wire camps in the interior. The thought of reparations makes “my flesh crawl with shame and embarrassment,” he says.

When California Sen. S.I. Hayakawa makes his statement at the hearing today, his comments will likely renew an acrimonious, bitter relationship between himself and a large segment of the Japanese American community over the internment and redress campaign.

“Of course the relocation was unjust, but under the stress of wartime anxiety and hysteria, in the light of the long history of anti-Oriental agitation in California and the West, I find it difficult to imagine what else could have occurred that would not have been many times worse.

“For many older Japanese, the relocation turned out to be a three-year vacation from long years of unrelenting work on farms and vegetable markets and on fishing boats — and they used this leisure to recover and relive the glories of their culture.” Hayakawa said in a statement released by his office yesterday.

Those views, of course, are not acceptable to those who have sought the hearings before the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, which is to report to Congress on why the internment occurred, whether it was unconstitutional and whether some form of compensation should be awarded to the victims. One group, the National Coalition for Redress and Reparations, wants \$25,000 awarded to each person detained.

“In Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, in the cities with sizable Japanese American communities, what you will hear is that the senator does not in any way serve as the spokesman for the Japanese Americans — on this or any other issue,” said John Tateishi, redress coordinator for the Japanese American Citizens League.

“The senator has never embraced the Japanese American community. He has shunned the community. His whole philosophy is to integrate with white society to the point where he denies his ethnic background and does things contrary to the interests of the ethnic community,” said Ray Okamura, a state Health Department chemist who, at the age of 7, was interned at Gila River, Ariz.

The rift between the senator and a large part of the Japanese American community may stem, in part, from the fact that Hayakawa, a native of Canada, never spent a day of his life in a relocation camp.

During the war, he was an English professor at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. Only those persons of Japanese ancestry living on the West Coast were evacuated forcibly and imprisoned in camps by the federal government.

According to Okamura, Hayakawa would have been interned had he stayed in Vancouver, Canada, like the United States, rounded up its tiny Japanese population — 23,000 persons on the West Coast — and sent them to camps in the interior. Canadian Japanese weren’t allowed to return to their communities until 1949, seven years after the evacuation.

In the eyes of the JACL, Hayakawa didn’t exactly endear himself to the community when, in 1942, the already well-known semanticist refused a request by that organization to go on a speaking tour on behalf of the imprisoned Japanese Americans.

“The only incident approaching what we now call ‘racism’ happened with my draft board,” Hayakawa recalled several years ago. “When my number was called, I was classified as an ‘enemy alien’ (as were all persons of Japanese ancestry who weren’t American-born). Being at the time still a

Canadian citizen and proud of it, I protested. The case was appealed, but nothing came of it.”

In the prepared statement released by his office yesterday, Hayakawa lashed out at those who term the relocation centers “concentration camps.” To do so, he said, “is semantic inflation of the most dishonest kind — and an attempt to equate the action of the U.S. government to genocidal actions of Nazis against the Jews during the Hitler regime.”

He went on to warn Japanese Americans who favor “redress” that “we live in a time when American industry is seriously threatened by Japanese competition in automobiles, steel, cameras, television and radio sets, tape recorders and watches. I warn the Japanese Americans who demand about \$3 billion of financial redress for events of 39 years ago, in which nobody is suffering today, that their efforts can only result in a backlash against both Japanese Americans and Japan.”

He urged Japanese Americans and “black Americans and Mexican Americans and all other ethnic political groups” to “stop playing ethnic politics to gain something for our own group at the expense of others.”

Japanese Americans active in the redress campaign insist that the fact that Hayakawa was never held in a camp has a lot to do with his attitude.

“You have to remember that Sen. Hayakawa was an alien during World War II,” said Mike Masaoka, national secretary and field executive of the JACL during the war and now an economic consultant in Washington, D.C.

“The senator’s judgment on the issue is understandable if you’re willing to admit the assumption by Gen. John DeWitt (who authorized the forced evacuation and detention) that ‘a Jap’s a Jap,’ but this premise was all wrong. It’s understandable if you accept the premise of the racists, warmongers and anti-Asians, but not if you look at the facts.”

Added Masaoka: “I’m sorry if I’m sounding a bit emotional, but that burns me up.”

Hayakawa’s oft-repeated contention that the internment camps, “unjust though they were, forced the Japanese American to break out of the West Coast and into the American mainstream” also doesn’t sit well with many members of the Japanese American community.

“If you talk to Japanese Americans

who as a result of the evacuation and incarceration resettled and ask them whether they felt it was for the better, the response would be, ‘No way,’” Tateishi said. “In moving to the Midwest and East Coast, they encountered a new set of problems. I have yet to meet anyone who resettled who felt it was for the good of them. Some of them are very successful — I can see Hayakawa’s point. But I think it’s a misconception of the effects of the evacuation.”

Hayakawa’s two Japanese American colleagues in the U.S. Senate, Sens. Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga, both of Hawaii, declined to comment much about the California senator.

“We have a standing rule in Congress: we don’t make statements on our colleagues,” Inouye said in a telephone interview. “But one can reach his own conclusions.”

In contrast to Hayakawa statements on the subject of reparations, Matsunaga said: “If it (the government) determines that compensatory property damage and injury was inflicted on the citizens, the victims should feel no shame (in receiving restitution). Under the American justice system, they should be compensated if that is the finding.”

Matsunaga said he and Inouye convinced Hayakawa to co-sponsor the bill — with all the other Japanese American congressmen, including Reps. Norman Mineta, San Jose, and Robert Matsui, Sacramento — creating the commission that’s investigating the internment. The bill was signed last year by then-President Jimmy Carter.

“We were surprised, if anything, by his co-sponsorship of the bill,” said Okamura.

The most recent tiff between Hayakawa and the community occurred last year when he introduced a bill that would have permitted the detention of Iranian diplomats in the United States as “enemy aliens” until the hostages were freed.

Hayakawa initially demanded that thousands of Iranians in the United States be penned up in camps like those for Japanese Americans but modified that stand later.

“Needless to say, a mass detainment, although permitted by law, would not be one of the suggested measures,” he said.

“We were all opposed to it and aghast he would make such a proposal,” said Okamura.

The bill died in the Senate Judiciary Committee.



By Jon Kawamoto  
Examiner Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES — Mabel Ota tearfully recalled how the shabby medical facilities may have been responsible for the brain damage her daughter suffered at birth.

Mary Oda noted that one sister, a brother and her father, all healthy before the internment, were dead of illnesses by 1948.

One by one, from the immigrant issei to the third-generation sansei, the victims of the government's incarceration of 110,000 Japanese Americans during World War II came forth yesterday with tales of personal tragedies.

More than 350 persons, predominantly Japanese Americans, packed the state building auditorium and an adjacent room. It marked the first public hearing by a federal commission on the West Coast and in a city with the nation's largest population of Japanese Americans, estimated at more than 250,000. The hearings will move to San Francisco next week.

Nearly 40,000 Japanese Americans in the Los Angeles area were interned during the war.

The Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment, created by Congress last year, is investigating how the forced evacuation and detention occurred and whether any form of restitution should be made to the victims. It will make a recommendation to Congress next year.

Forty-one persons testified yesterday, touching on all facets of the internment, including the losses of property and businesses and discrimination, but the most emotional testimony came from Ota and Oda, who spoke of the health and psychological problems of internment.

Ota, 64, of Los Angeles, in a barely audible voice choked with tears, described the premature birth of daughter Madeline in April 1943 in the Poston, Ariz., camp.

When she checked into the camp hospital, she was told that the one obstetrician in the entire camp of 20,000 had delivered three babies that day and needed a rest, she testified.

After 28 hours of labor, a nurse sent for the doctor, who told her he was going to use forceps to deliver the baby. She said he told her the baby's heartbeat was weak and that the doctor couldn't wait any longer because there was no resuscitating machine to revive the baby if that was necessary.

"I remember many details in the delivery room," she said. "After using the scalpel to cut me, he picked up the forceps. I thought it looked like the ice thongs used by the iceman when he delivered a block of ice — only the ends were long and flat — not curved and pointed. After much pulling he finally got the baby out."

When she finally saw her daughter three days later, she noticed a large scab on the back of her head, which remains a bald spot to this day. Madeline, she said, is mentally retarded and has epilepsy.

"Many, many times I have wished that Madeline could have been born by Caesarean operation," Ota said. "She may then have been a normal, whole person.... We have paid monthly fees for her (special) education for over 30 years."

Ota also testified about how a camp physician misdiagnosed her father, a diabetic, as suffering from melancholia and prescribed shock treatments, which were unnecessary. In 1944, at the age of 64, he died of diabetes.

She said both she and her husband, Fred, feel they've had successful careers.

"However, we are always concerned — what is to become of Madeline when we are gone?" she cried. "She can never live independently."

Oda, 61, a North Hollywood physician, spoke about how the evacuation

separated her family of nine and of the emotional and physical toll it took.

She recounted her family's tragedies: a younger sister who was institutionalized; an older sister who devel-

oped bronchial asthma in camp from dust storms, who died at 26 when the asthma became intractable; an older brother who died of stomach cancer, and her father, who died of nose and

throat cancer.

All three died within seven months of each other, she said.

"Their deaths could be attributed to the stresses of the disruption in their lives, the extremely poor diet, exposure to the terrible winds and dust in camp," she said. "Ten years later, I saw the identical diet given to retarded children in the state hospital for the mentally retarded."

Oda said her most difficult problem as a result of the internment was "the anger and bitterness." She recalled how she burst into tears and couldn't stop crying when she saw an exhibit of camp photos years ago, which prompted a curious exchange between Oda and Commissioner William Marutani.

"I know I was sent to the Pinedale Assembly Center (near Fresno) and

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# Japanese Americans tell of physical, emotional toll of camps



then to Tule Lake, but try as I may, I don't have any recollection of it," said Marutani, a judge for the Court of Common Pleas in Philadelphia County. Said Oda: "It's a mental block. It was the only way to survive — by blocking out the memories."

Meanwhile, Clarence Nishizu, 68, of Fullerton testified how he lost 120 acres because he wasn't able to regain possession of the land after the internment ended. He said the evacuation "meant the loss of 20 years of my life."

"In all the heartbreaking injustices, I shall never lose faith in this country and its capacity to grant the Japanese Americans (a) fair hearing and appropriate remedy," he said.

Most of those who testified argued that some form of restitution, whether financial redress, a community trust fund or other means, should be granted. All agreed the internment was unconstitutional and unjust, the one notable exception being California Sen. S.I. Hayakawa, whose statements in defense of internment prompted loud booing and hissing from the audience. Hayakawa was in Canada during the war and was not interned.

During yesterday's proceedings, the five members of the nine-member commission who appeared for this week's hearings frequently spoke about their feelings on the internment.

Former Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg said, "An enormous injustice was done."

Rep. Dan Lungren, R-Long Beach, the commission vice chairman, sparked a lively exchange with Harry Kawahara when he reiterated his belief that the current mood in Congress wouldn't favor giving \$3 billion in reparations, \$25,000 per victim.

"My answer to you is that if we cannot convince the current Congress, we will go to the next session of Congress, and if we have to, go back again five years from now, 10 years from now, whatever it takes," Kawahara, redress committee chairman of the local district of the Japanese American Citizens League, said.

The other commission members include: Chairwoman Joan Bernstein, former general counsel for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; former Massachusetts Sen. Edward Brooke; former Washington Sen. Hugh Mitchell; Father Robert Drinan, president of Americans for Democratic Action; Father L.V. Gromoff, an Aleutian Islander relocated during World War II, and Arthur Flemming, chairman of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission.



## Few Japanese Americans in Hawaii sent to camps

LOS ANGELES — Although 110,000 Japanese Americans were forcibly evacuated from the West Coast and interned, nearly all of those living in Hawaii escaped that experience.

Bert Nakano and his family were among the unfortunate exceptions.

Nakano, a native of Honolulu, his two brothers and parents were among the 1,037 Japanese Americans transferred to mainland concentration camps, less than 1 percent the ethnic minority's population on the islands.

Two days after the Pearl Harbor bombing, Nakano said, FBI agents picked up his father, Minoru, for interrogation. No charges were filed against Nakano's father, but the family didn't see Minoru until 1½ years later when they were briefly reunited in an internment camp in Jerome, Ark.

Martial law was declared in Hawaii during the war, but nearly all the 150,000 Japanese Americans on the islands didn't suffer the fate of their West Coast brethren although the is-

lands are 2,400 miles closer to Japan.

According to historians, including University of Hawaii Professor Dennis Ogawa, the issei and nisei provided much of the labor market and produced 90 percent of the major goods on the islands.

Those on the West Coast, however, were scattered in diverse communities and their removal would have little impact on the economies of those communities.

Moreover, historians have pointed out that removing the Japanese Americans from the islands would have been impossible; the costs of using ocean liners to transport 150,000 to internment camps on the mainland were prohibitive.

Ogawa said there was talk about turning the island of Molokai into a huge concentration camp. But the plan was quickly abandoned when it was pointed out that the island then would be Japan's first invasion target.

In the islands, as was the case on

the West Coast, the FBI rounded up and interrogated community leaders, Buddhist priests, businessmen and judo instructors perceived as having an allegiance to Japan.

At the time, Hawaii was a U.S. territory.

In Minoru Nakano's case, he was classified as a "community leader" because he owned a building construction firm, was a member of the local

Japanese Chamber of Commerce chapter and had made several trips to Japan after emigrating to Hawaii.

In Hawaii, the "community leaders" deemed potentially dangerous were sent to Sand Island, then to the mainland. Nakano's father was in internment camps in Santa Fe, N.M., and Bismarck, N.D.

— Jon Kawamoto

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# For Japanese-Americans, internment still rankles

By Ronald Yates

Chicago Tribune Press Service

LOS ANGELES — Forty years ago Tokujiro ("Henry") Murakami, a first generation Japanese-American, was a successful fisherman supporting his wife and two children by catching boatloads of tuna, mackerel, and sardines in the waters off Los Angeles Harbor's Terminal Island.

It had been a hard life for Murakami, who was born in Japan's southern Wakayama province. But finally, the years of long hours, self-sacrifice, and hard work were beginning to pay off. He had just purchased a new 1941 Plymouth, he owned \$50,000 worth of fishing nets,

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and he had a houseful of the latest appliances.

The American dream was coming true — at last.

Then came Dec. 7, 1941 — a day that President Franklin D. Roosevelt told a shocked nation would "live in infamy."

For Murakami and more than 120,000 other Japanese-Americans, Roosevelt's words proved keenly prophetic. The day Japanese warplanes swooped down

without warning on Pearl Harbor was the day the American dream turned into a nightmare for Americans of Japanese ancestry.

INDEED, THE LIVES of Murakami and thousands of other Japanese-Americans were torpedoed just as effectively as those American battleships that were sent to the bottom of Hawaii's blue waters.

Murakami, now 81, still vividly recalls the morning of Dec. 8, 1941. There was a knock at the door. Murakami, barefoot and carrying his baby daughter, was greeted by two FBI agents. He barely had time to hand his little girl to his pregnant wife before he was led away, still barefoot.

"I begged them to let me at least get my shoes, but they wouldn't do it," Murakami recalls. Instead, Murakami, along with 3,000 other Japanese-American fishermen on Terminal Island, was shipped immediately to an internment camp near Bismarck, N.D., where with temperatures 30 degrees below zero, he was forced to wrap rags around his feet in lieu of shoes.

The American government feared Japanese-Americans living on the West Coast would assist the Imperial Japanese Army in an invasion of California, Oregon, and Washington, so President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066 giving local military commanders authority to evacuate and incarcerate all Americans of Japanese ancestry.

THE FEAR PROVED to be unfounded. Not one Japanese-American living in the U.S. was ever convicted of espionage or sabotage during the war. In fact, more than 33,000 second-generation Japanese served in the armed forces during the war and the 442d Regimental Combat Team, made up exclusively of Japanese-Americans, suffered 9,486 casualties and won more than 18,000 individual decorations for valor — making it one of the most decorated units in American history.

It was eight months before Murakami and his family were reunited along with 10,000 other Japanese-Americans at the Manzanar Relocation Camp in California's Inyo County. In the meantime, Murakami's wife had given birth to a son, and had been forced to give away everything in the house she could not carry. The fishing nets and the new Plymouth were to have been stored by the government. Murakami has never gotten them back.

Three years later, in 1945, Murakami and thousands of other Japanese-Americans were released from 10 internment camps scattered throughout California, Arizona, Utah, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, and Wyoming.

PENILESS AND in most cases with no place to go, the Japanese-Americans who had worked hard to build lives in America had to start from scratch. Some, like Murakami, never again achieved the kind of success they had in pre-war America.

Most have never forgotten and many have never forgiven the American government for what it did to them.

Now, after years of agitation, petitioning, and lobbying, Japanese-Americans like Murakami are finally getting the opportunity to bring the story of their wartime incarceration to the American public before a special Congressional panel created last year called the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians.

The commission, which began hearings in Los Angeles last week; and will hold hearings in six cities between now and the end of September, has invited Japanese-Americans to testify, as well as native Aleuts from the Aleutian and Pribilof islands of Alaska, who also were forcibly evacuated.

The testimony thus far has been at times poignant, tearful, and controversial.

SOME GROUPS, such as the Japanese-American Citizens League, the National Coalition for Reparations and Redress, and the Chicago-based National Coalition of Japanese-Americans for Redress, are asking for monetary compensation from the government totaling almost \$3 billion.

That would amount to about \$25,000 for every individual detained in a camp (or heirs of those detained). While most Japanese-Americans who testified last week at hearings in Los Angeles feel that no amount of money can compensate for the emotional damage, the loss of self-esteem, and the insult of being interned, the \$25,000 per person at least would be partial payment for the lost opportunities, lost property, and lost security.

"Saying 'I'm sorry' is not enough," Mas Fukai, mayor pro-tem of Gardena, a Los Angeles suburb, told the panel. "The people who were locked up were Americans, not Japanese. Most had been born in this country. The issue before this commission is the treatment and humiliation of Americans of Japanese ancestry, not of people from Japan."

"IT IS IRONIC that from 1945 to 1955 the United States government contributed billions of dollars to rebuild countries such as Germany, Italy, Japan, and other countries which were our enemies during World War II, yet virtually nothing was contributed to those American citizens who were kept as prisoners in their own country," Fukai testified.

"Those years in camps set Americans of Japanese ancestry back at least 20 years," Fukai continued. "Is the government now to turn its back to the plea of these people? Is the government now to penalize these same people for their hard work and inner fortitude by shrugging off the issue of compensation and reparation as unnecessary or belated?"

The urgent pleas for monetary redress that are coming from many of those testifying before the panel appear to be prompted by reports from Capitol Hill that Congress is "cool" to any kind of reparations payment — especially during a time of stringent economic belt-tightening.

THERE ALSO ARE vocal opponents of the redress movement within the Japanese-American community, such as Sen. S.I. Hayakawa (R., Cal.), whose testimony last week generated barrages of catcalls and boos from

the overflow crowd of 500 that packed two rooms of a state office building in downtown Los Angeles.

Sen. Hayakawa, 75, who was born in Canada, concedes that the internment of Japanese-Americans was unjust, but excuses it because of wartime anxieties and hysteria that permeated American society — especially the West Coast — at the time.

Hayakawa also contends that internment was probably the best thing that could have happened to Japanese-Americans during the war.

"WHAT WOULD Americans on the West Coast have done to their Japanese and Japanese-American neighbors as more American fighting men were killed by the Japanese?" Hayakawa asked the panel. "Would they

have beaten their Japanese neighbors in the streets?

"Would they have ostracized or persecuted Japanese-American schoolchildren? Would mobs have descended on Little Tokyo in Los Angeles and Japantown in San Francisco to burn down shops and homes? There was precedent for such behavior in California so that Chinese who were often mistaken for Japanese started wearing lapel buttons saying 'I am Chinese.'"

The controversial senator also takes exceptions to the characterization of the relocation centers as "concentration camps."

"THEY WERE NOT concentration camps," Hayakawa insisted above the shouts and catcalls of his fellow Japanese-Americans. "To call them concentration camps, as is all too commonly done, is semantic infla-



tion of the most dishonest kind — an attempt to equate the actions of the U.S. government with the genocidal actions of Nazis against the Jews during the Hitler regime."

Cash indemnities for Japanese-Americans are also unwarranted, Hayakawa says, and for most "real" Japanese to accept money would be a "disgraceful" act.

Those who side with Hayakawa point out that the order creating the internment camps was issued during a wartime crisis and that it was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court, the military, and Congress.

"JAPANESE-AMERICANS would do well just to write the whole thing off as one of those quirks of history," one member of the hearing audience said. "They should just forget about it."

But for Japanese-Americans like Henry Murakami who lost both property and dignity, forgetting is not easy.

"The way they treated us wasn't right," Murakami says. "It wasn't humane. Some say it's all past and that we're still living, so why fight? Why not forget? Forget? How can I forget something that turned my whole life upside down?"



# Redress argued on civil rights grounds

By Jon Kawamoto

Many of the Japanese Americans who have testified at hearings here and in Los Angeles in the last two weeks have argued for restitution by citing the property losses, physical damage and psychological effects they suffered from incarceration during World War II.

But several attorneys have contended that there are sufficient grounds for restitution based just on the violation of constitutional rights. They have stated, in testimony and in legal briefs before the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, that those violations occurred when 110,000 Japanese Americans and 1,000 Alaskan Aleuts were interned.

According to attorney Dean Ito Taylor of Nihonmachi Legal Outreach, the courts have repeatedly awarded damages in cases involving violations of constitutional rights.

"We were, in 1942, the hapless and innocent victims of a policy of discrimination which, in my view, is unprecedented in the history of this nation," said John Tateishi, redress coordinator of the Japanese American Citizens League. "The whole system of government failed us at that time."

That was the year President Franklin Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, rescinded in 1976, which allowed the mass evacuation of Americans of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast for reasons of "military necessity." The government feared that some Japanese Americans would prove disloyal and aid the Japanese military in the event of an invasion. No Japanese American was found guilty of espionage or sabotage.

The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the evacuation and internment in three cases during the war years: Korematsu, Hirabayashi and Yasui.

- Fred Korematsu, who lived in San Leandro at the time, failed to show up for evacuation. He was found guilty of remaining in a prohibited area, and in 1944 the court upheld this verdict. The Army, the court said, had the right to order Japanese Americans from specific military areas.

- Gordon Hirabayashi, a Quaker, defied the curfew and evacuation orders. He was tried and sentenced to three months imprisonment on each charge. The Supreme Court ruled in 1943 that the Army had a right to order a curfew specifically for the nisei because of "the danger of invasion."

- Min Yasui, who was born and raised in

Oregon, also defied the curfew. A lower court ruled that the military could not issue orders binding on civilians in the absence of martial law. But the Supreme Court said this didn't apply to Yasui because he worked for the Japanese consular service and thus was not an American citizen. He was confined for nine months in Multnomah County Jail in Portland until his case was heard along with Hirabayashi.

Although the evacuation and internment has never been declared unconstitutional, the Supreme Court ruled in December 1944 in the case of Mitsuye Endo that loyal nisei could not be prevented from returning to their homes.

The last camp, at Tule Lake, California, was closed in May 1946.

Yesterday, Oakland attorney Joe Morozumi demanded redress, contending that he was falsely imprisoned when interned.

Attorney James Purcell, who handled the Endo case, also noted that there were legal grounds for restitution. "It is customary for the legislative body where the incarceration occurred to pay for the lost time, the disgrace, the humiliation. When you make an error, you have to pay for the mistake."

According to the legal brief by the Bay Area Attorneys for Redress, the high court's rulings in Korematsu, Yasui, and Hirabayashi were unconstitutional because:

The military orders authorizing the evacuation and detention went beyond military authority; the military's claim of "military necessity" was unfounded because there was no documentation that Japanese Americans were involved in sabotage and espionage, and, the evacuation amounted to illegal discrimination based on race, thereby denying equal protection under the law.

Moreover, the brief states, the relocation violated several rights guaranteed under the Bill of Rights:

- The First Amendment, freedom of speech, was affected since evacuees were required to take a loyalty oath while in concentration camps. Those who did not swear "unqualified allegiance" to the United States were treated as prisoners of war.

- The Fourth Amendment, which provides protection from unreasonable search and seizure unless there is "probable cause" to suspect criminal activity. Thousands of immigrant nisei were taken from their homes by the FBI after

Pearl Harbor because the government suspected many of them as having an allegiance to Japan.

- The Fifth Amendment, which provides due process rights. The evacuees were never tried for their relocation.

- The Sixth Amendment, which guarantees the accused a speedy and public trial by jury and to be informed of the nature and cause of accusation and help of counsel.

- The Eighth Amendment, which protects against cruel and unusual punishment.

Moreover, the brief contends, other fundamental rights were violated, including the right to privacy, right to travel and right to vote.

"Without constitutional guarantees before imprisonment, Japanese Americans were forced into camps on a charge of 'suspicion for potential for sabotage and espionage,' a charge that could never have supported an arrest, much less a conviction or imprisonment," the brief said. "What was done to Japanese Americans was morally wrong without regard to any legal rights violated."

Several persons who testified, including Los Angeles attorney Frank Chuman, have urged the commission to recommend that the Supreme Court review the Hirabayashi, Yasui and Korematsu cases and overturn the decisions.

Former Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg, a commissioner, said those cases, if tried today, would be ruled unconstitutional. But he noted that it is highly unlikely that they will be reviewed. The cases can only be reviewed if there are similar, current cases before the high tribunal, he said.

"A great deal has been made of the fact that the Supreme Court upheld the evacuation, but the Supreme Court has made mistakes in the past, such as the Dred Scott case," Goldberg said. "The essential basis of Korematsu has been overruled, which is that the Fifth Amendment does contain equal protection for citizens and resident aliens in America."

Yesterday's hearing at the Golden Gate University auditorium, which drew more than 600 persons, concluded three days of hearings in The City. More hearings by the commission will be held next month in Seattle, Anchorage, the Aleutian Islands, the Pribilof Islands and Chicago.

The commission, created by Congress last year, is investigating the internment and will decide whether to recommend restitution.



**Write Report to Haunt U.S., Inouye Says**

## Wartime Hysteria Blamed for Internment of Japanese

By DANIEL M. WEINTRAUB, Times Staff Writer

Los Angeles Times  
7/15/81

WASHINGTON—A former Justice Department official said Tuesday that a climate of fear and hysteria after Japan's surprise attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 led to what he called a hasty and misinformed decision to uproot and relocate 120,000 West Coast Japanese-Americans.

James Rowe, who was assistant U.S. attorney general when President Franklin D. Roosevelt decided to confine Japanese-Americans to guarded camps, told a commission investigating the events of almost 40 years ago that intense public pressure forced the Justice Department and Roosevelt to agree to demands of military leaders.

"I don't know how you can be on the run and up against the wall at the same time, but that's how we (Justice Department officials) felt,"

Rowe said. "We were under pressure from the Congress and from the Army. We could have done a hell of a lot better job and we didn't do it. But we were all they had."

The Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, established by Congress last year to determine, among other things, whether any compensation should go to those who were interned or their families, also heard Tuesday from West Coast congressmen and Democratic Sens. Daniel K. Inouye and Spark M. Matsunaga of Hawaii.

Inouye, who lost his right arm while fighting for the United States in Europe, told the commission to "make your report one that will haunt the conscience of this nation — haunt it so that we will never for-

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more =>



# CAMPS: Panel Considers Japanese-American Grievances

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get that we are capable of such an act."

He said that a budget-conscious Congress may not provide any significant monetary redress but that "no Congress, President or Supreme Court can ever unwrite the words" of the panel's report.

Inouye is of Japanese descent and was living in Hawaii when the war broke out. He was not interned.

Rowe and others involved in the decision to detain the Japanese-Americans answered questions as the nine-member panel began two months of hearings to be conducted across the country, including a se-

ries of meetings in Los Angeles during the first week of August.

Rowe, speaking from memory and four pages of handwritten notes, told the commission that there was a "handful of lawyers in the Justice Department" who thought the evacuation was unconstitutional but "we didn't have any allies."

## Early Hysteria

"I really think what caused all the problems was the early three months of the war, when the United States was beaten all over," Rowe said. "The hysteria started rising, and there was speculation that there wasn't time."

Looking back on the decision after almost 40 years, Rowe said he thinks Roosevelt acted too quickly after being advised by military leaders.

"This is a crude way of putting it, but we had a wartime President, and this was really a minor issue," Rowe said. "Roosevelt was engaged in a war and he said, 'If you have generals pushing for it, I'll go along.'"

"I don't really think he spent much time on it. I think it was a minor thing to him."

In the aftermath of the Dec. 7, 1941, Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Roosevelt signed an order that

resulted in the rounding up and imprisonment of 77,000 American citizens of Japanese descent and 43,000 Japanese nationals.

The internees, who came from California, Arizona, Oregon and Washington and the Pribilof and Aleutian Islands, were sent to 10 camps in California, Utah, Arizona, Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho and Arkansas.

"They were detained without trial, without hearings of any kind," Commission Chairman Joan Z. Bernstein said in her opening statement. "Military necessity was said to require this unprecedented treatment of a national group."

As the first hearing got under way, it was clear that the issue of financial compensation for the internees or their descendants would be central to the panel's discussions over the next two months.

Matsunaga said there were "no doubts in my mind that the commission will conclude . . . that the internees were subjected to grave injustices by governmental action . . . and that the internees, as a consequence, suffered compensable property damages and personal injuries."

Gordon Hirabayashi, who unsuccessfully challenged in the Supreme Court during World War II the use of ancestry as the sole criterion for detaining Japanese-Americans, told the commission the 120,000 persons

who were relocated deserve more than \$3 billion in compensation.

"Monetary compensation, no matter how much, can never adequately compensate for the losses suffered," Hirabayashi said. "Any amount would be but a token. In our system of justice, however, that token should be relative to the seriousness of the offense. Therefore, it must be substantial."

END



# Asians Feel the Perils of Racism

## New Organization Formed to Combat It

9/17/81 Los Angeles Times  
By PATRICK LEE

The signs are there, says Fred Fujioka: Anti-Chinese vandalism, rumors of Ku Klux Klan attacks, Oriental ancestry as an issue in recent political campaigns, advertising blaming Japan for America's economic woes.

All represent growing antagonism to Los Angeles' growing Asian population, says the 30-year-old attorney, head of a newly formed group created to combat anti-Asian racism.

"There is a feeling that racism expressed against Asians is somehow more acceptable than that directed at blacks or Jews," says Fuji-



KEN LUBAS / Los Angeles Times

Fred Fujioka is chairman of a group formed to fight racism.

oka. He is interim chairman of the Asian-Pacific American Round Table (A-PART), a loose coalition of Asian community leaders modeled after the Jewish Anti-Defamation League.

At a recent press conference announcing the group's formation, Fujioka said that the bipartisan, multiethnic group will publicly denounce attempts to "slander the Asian-American community," particularly "symptoms of bigotry that Americans fail to see."

"The problem with racism against Asians is that it's not blatant anymore, as it was just after Pearl Harbor," Fujioka says. "Now, it can be as subtle as a joke at which everybody laughs, including ourselves. And we shouldn't. It will creep up on us until we're not laughing anymore."

On the surface, Los Angeles' Asian-American community seems to be doing well. A Times story last year quoted city estimates that the median family income of Asians was \$15,256, only \$2,500 less than that of whites. Further, city figures showed that Asians and Pacific Is-

Please see ASIANS, Page 4

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# ASIANS: Feeling the Perils of Racism

Continued from First Page

landers had the lowest unemployment rate of any L.A. ethnic group, despite the recent influx of Southeast Asian refugees. Asians now make up some 5.5% of the county's population and their numbers are growing.

But Fujioka says that racist threats are real and cautions the Asian community not to grow complacent.

The white population views the Asian community as a monolith, Fujioka maintains, and incidences of racism directed at any one group reflect on all groups. Moreover, he says, despite good economic position, Asians are vulnerable. "The parallel with the Jewish community is obvious," he says. "The Jewish people learned that no matter how well you are doing in society, when the going gets rough, you can become a scapegoat."

"To the extent we are doing well now, we can't forget that a generation ago we were the scapegoats of an entire nation," adds the third-generation Japanese-American, whose family suffered internment in California relocation camps during World War II.

Fujioka points to recent business advertising to illustrate rising anti-Asian feeling. A seemingly innocuous ad in Fortune magazine depicts a scowling Sumo wrestler facing a blond man in red-white-and-blue tights. The copy reads, "Japan is challenging the U.S. for a big new market in computer memory superchips."

## Big Black Guy

The racism is subtle, Fujioka asserts. "If the ad had depicted a big burly black guy facing Capt. America, that would have been taken as clear racism."

A more blatant automobile ad quotes a National Enquirer story headlined, "Japanese Cars Killing Thousands of Americans." The ad continues: "We whipped the Japanese in World War II—but now they're getting even by shipping us millions of dangerous cars."

"Such advertising worries me because feelings directed against Japan parallel feelings in this country against Japanese-Americans," he says.

Examples of more outright hostility to Asian communities can be found in the news, Fujioka notes. He mentions the recent turf war in Texas between white shrimpers and Vietnamese refugees, in which a white man was killed. Locally, A-PART is concerned about vandalism against Chinese-language theaters last year in the West San Gabriel Valley. A-PART alleges that the Klu Klux Klan is involved, although Fujioka admits that his group has not substantiated the klan rumors circulating around Monterey Park, Alhambra and Montebello. These cities all have large Chinese-and Japanese-American populations.

The Monterey Park Progress/Post-Advocate received an unsigned letter in December from a self-styled klan group in Alhambra warning the paper to

cease publication of its Chinese-language edition. The paper responded with editorials and stories critical of racist activities. In March, the paper's offices burned to the ground. Until police determined that teen-agers started the blaze accidentally, authorities feared klan involvement. Since then, except for isolated incidents of anti-Chinese and anti-Semitic vandalism, the police say they have no evidence of organized klan or neo-Nazi activity.

But Fujioka says the klan rumors indicate an awareness that organized racist attacks could happen. "If (klan activity) is not widespread, we should let our people know. If it is true, then we want to deal with it. In any case, we want to look into the rumors, if only to dispel them."

Racism has also encroached into the political arena, A-PART charges. The group's press conference was timed to coincide with City Council inaugurations, including that of Councilwoman Peggy Stevenson. Fujioka asserts that racism accounted for Councilwoman Stevenson's landslide victory over challenger Mike Woo, who is of Chinese descent, in the 13th-District campaign this year.

Councilwoman Stevenson's campaign materials referred to Woo's father as "a wealthy Chinatown banker" and to Woo himself as an "outsider." Woo and his backers charged Stevenson with using innuendo to inject the issue of race into the campaign. Stevenson denied any racist intentions. After the election, news analyses attributed Woo's defeat to his association with Tom Hayden and Jane Fonda and to perceptions of Woo as a "carpetbagger."

A-PART charges that Woo lost because his race was made a campaign issue. "The term 'outsider' was a code word for 'Chinaman,'" Fujioka says. He notes that Stevenson's campaign literature used the term "outsider" on one page while speaking of Woo's Chinatown connections on the next. In addition, Fujioka says, Stevenson included full photographs of Woo in her own brochures.

## Racism That Worked

The campaign rankles Fujioka because, he says, it was an example of racism that worked. Woo's loss was one of the main reasons A-PART was formed. In future elections, Fujioka explains, the group, consisting of equal numbers of Republicans and Democrats, will act as a nonpartisan watchdog to respond when race becomes an issue. (Though he says he had no part in A-PART's inception, Woo has attended the group's organizational meetings. "I have a special interest in the group since race was an issue in my campaign," he explains.)

Fujioka says that A-PART is still defining the issues it will address and has not yet formulated a plan of action. The group has no formal charter, no office, no budget. It has a floating membership of some 70 persons, one-third of whom are Asian women. But Fujioka notes that the membership represents several prominent Asian-American civic organizations as well as the four largest Asian-American ethnic groups: Japanese, Chinese, Korean and Filipino.

The group's immediate goal is to "get the word out," to increase its membership, Fujioka says. The group has

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## Asians Feel Perils of Racism

Los Angeles Times

vague plans for a recruitment drive and fund-raiser in the fall. At the group's last three meetings (held in Chinatown restaurants; the next is Aug. 20), the various ethnic groups have hammered out their differences, many resulting from historical and cultural animosities. "We don't love each other," Fujioka admits, "but we will come to respect each other. A coalition like this is a position of strength.

"But whatever our differences, we are agreed on one thing: Racism against any one Asian ethnic group is bad for all Asians," Fujioka says.

"As far as we have come, we are not fully integrated into society. It's no longer a question of getting our foot in the door. Now we want to kick it open."

*Lee is a View summer intern from USC.*

END





Family awaits internment in 1942.

## 1942-1981: Righting An Old Wrong

It has taken nearly 40 years, but the government is making its first thorough investigation into a sad episode in U.S. history: The incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II.

A nine-member panel formed by Congress—the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians—opened hearings in mid-July into what went wrong in the 1940s and what should be done in the future.

Wartime officials recalled the emotions behind President Franklin Roosevelt's 1942 order that forced nearly 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry to leave their West Coast homes for camps surrounded by barbed wire and guards.

Former Supreme Court Justice Abe Fortas, a Department of the Interior undersecretary during the War, argued that the real reason for the internment was not national security but racial prejudice. Said Fortas: "Even the trauma of war does not excuse irrational and needless assaults upon humanity and senseless violations of our fundamental constitutional principles."

Opinions varied over what now should be done. One Japanese American group called for 3 billion dollars—\$25,000 for each person incarcerated or for their descendants—to help pay for property losses, missed wages, false imprisonment and psychological and emotional suffering.

Several members of Congress cautioned the Japanese Americans not to expect money. Said Representative Dan Lungren (R-Calif.): "There certainly is not a body of support in Congress for financial redress."

But Senator Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii) said one thing might be accomplished in the million-dollar, six-month inquiry. The commission, he said, should strive to produce a report that will "haunt the conscience of this nation... so that we will never again be able to do this to ourselves." □



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James D. Wilson—Newsweek

Yonedas at Manzanar camp in 1942, today with sign of those times: "Saying I'm sorry won't do"

## America's Day of Infamy

7/27/81 Newsweek

As a young American patriot working the docks of San Francisco in 1941, Karl Yoneda refused to load ships bound for his native Japan. When war broke out he volunteered to do whatever he could for the American cause and was assigned to help build Manzanar, a camp in the California desert. One week later President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered the detention of all Japanese-Americans—and overnight Karl Yoneda, his Caucasian wife and his son, Tommy, 3, became prisoners at the very camp he was to help build. Yoneda was lucky: eight months into his stay in a squalid 20-by-25-foot tar-paper shack, he was recruited as a translator for U.S. military intelligence. But his wife and son had to stay behind: Tommy, by then nearly 4 years old, was still regarded by the U.S. Government as a possible threat to national security.

For the Yonedas, now both retired, Manzanar is a reminder of the unjust mass incarceration suffered by 120,000 Japanese-Americans, a flagrant case of a group being stripped of its civil rights solely for reasons of race and national ancestry. Last week, nearly 40 years after the fact, a Federal commission began hearings in Washington to determine how the internment camps could have happened—and whether the U.S. Government should offer financial compensation to those who suffered.\* "It was a terrible thing that happened," says San Francisco dentist Donald Nakahata, who was sent to Topaz Camp in Utah at the age of 12. "I have a grievance and simply saying I'm sorry won't do."

In its first week of hearings, the nine-

\*Besides Manzanar, the government used nine other main camps and 26 smaller facilities to confine the 120,000 people, including Japanese-Americans, Japanese resident aliens and about 1,000 Aleut-Americans.

member Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians concentrated on the period leading up to the internment. James Rowe, a Justice Department official at the time, testified that post-Pearl Harbor hysteria fanned fears of a Japanese invasion and subversion. Signs of the times, for example, included one that read: "Jap Hunting Licenses Issued Here." "We were scared," says Rowe, "and I think it got to everybody"—including President Roosevelt. FDR followed the advice of military leaders like Lt. Gen. John L. DeWitt ("A Jap is a Jap. It makes no difference whether the Jap is a citizen or not.") and signed Executive Order 9066 in February 1942 authorizing the roundup. In 1944, even as Japanese-Americans were signing up for what would become the much-decorated 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the Supreme Court backed up Roosevelt's order.

**'Token':** Although the Emergency Detention Act, which gave FDR the power to intern, was repealed in 1971 and Executive Order 9066 was rescinded in 1975, the Supreme Court ruling still stands. But while many of the Japanese in the camps adopted the attitude of *shikata ga nai*—"so it goes"—many second- and third-generation Japanese-Americans no longer are willing to accept their imprisonment with such fatalism. So in 1979 activists began lobbying Congress, and in 1980 the commission to study the internment episode was created. "We are getting old," says Mike Masaoka, who served with the 442nd. "Maybe the last worthwhile token which we can give is to make it so this won't happen again."

The most troublesome issue facing the commission is the question of compensation. The 1948 Japanese American Claims

Act returned only about 8 cents on every dollar of the estimated \$400 million in lost homes, businesses, farms and possessions. Proposals have been made to grant each displaced family \$25,000—but to provide that amount to all those ordered to the camps would cost more than \$3 billion. Arguments about the expense do not impress some of the victims. "Restitution must be made," insists Denver attorney Minoru Yasui.

Even if the commission recommends restitution, it's unlikely a budget-conscious Congress would go along. Some Japanese-American legislators oppose such plans, agreeing with California Sen. S. I. Hayakawa that the mass relocations were "perfectly understandable"—and that no compensation is in order. Others would be satisfied with symbolic ges-

tures: one idea is to erect a memorial to the 442nd. The important thing, says Hawaii Sen. Daniel Inouye, who lost an arm fighting for the 442nd in Italy, is to "awaken this experience enough to haunt the conscience of this nation"—and to show that America has not always been the land of the free.

MICHAEL REESE with MARY LORD in Washington and RICHARD SANDZA in San Francisco

## The Atlanta Case: Murder Times Two

Ever since 23-year-old Wayne B. Williams was arrested last month and charged with the murder of Nathaniel Cater, the latest victim in the slayings of 28 young Atlanta blacks, anxious city residents had been awaiting a formal indictment. Last week the indictment came—and surprisingly, there were two counts. As expected, a Fulton County grand jury charged Williams with murdering Cater, 28, whose body surfaced in the Chattahoochee River in May, two days after a police stake-out team heard a splash and spotted Williams nearby. But the grand jury also charged Williams with the murder of Jimmy Ray Payne, 21, whose body was found in the river April 27. In both cases, the indictment charged that Williams had asphyxiated the victims "with objects and by means which are to the grand jurors unknown."

Sources said that fibers found on Payne's body were similar to some found on Cater's—and that they matched those taken from Williams's home. But authorities declined to say what evidence they presented to the grand jury—or whether Williams was a suspect in other cases. No trial date has been set. Since Williams was put under surveillance in late May, no other young Atlanta blacks are known to have disappeared.



Wash. Post.  
7/20/81

## Compensating Japanese-Americans

I recently returned from the 63rd annual reunion of the 42nd Infantry (Rainbow) Division. We had a memorial service for our departed fellow soldiers and sang "America the Beautiful." The recent work of our Congress on the internment of U.S. citizens of Japanese ancestry during World War II caused the third line of the second

verse to move me as never before.

Whenever I hear "America the Beautiful" again, I will feel the challenge stated in that line: "America, God mend thine every flaw." For those of our regiment who helped free the prisoners of Dachau, it was easy to see the inhumanity and to condemn Hitler and the Germans. But that others are

worse should not cause us to reduce our efforts to try to prevent *any* inhumanity to our fellow man.

I hope the present administration is of sufficient stature to admit that we have made a few mistakes and that it will take action to try to prevent similar occurrences.

T. C. ALDRIDGE

Alexandria

The article about the relocation of the Japanese during World War II ["Shadows of War," Style, July 14] was presented in a very interesting way. It was certainly not one of our nation's shining hours, but we must remember there was such fear of invasion that the West Coast was blacked out, and that we were "losing the war" at that time. The concept of the "inscrutable Oriental" probably contributed to the decision to move the entire Japanese population inland. The \$12 to \$19 paid to the evacuees sounds inhuman unless it is remembered that a private in the U.S. Army was paid \$21 a month at that time.

MARY B. HOUK

Washington