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NOTE TO EDITORS: The appearance of former White House Staff Assistant William H. Marumoto before the Senate Watergate Committee on November 7, 1973 left some haunting and unanswered questions for the Asian American community. Marumoto's public testimony concerned his programs dealing with Spanish-surnamed Americans, so we were unable to learn if "Brown Mafia" tactics were also applied to Asian Americans.

There exists an intriguing chain of events which took place in the Asian American community during Marumoto's tenure at the White House. I do not know for sure if there was a "Yellow Mafia" program, or a "Minor Enemies" list of Asian Americans, but I think it is important for Asian Americans to review and assess the activities of the man who was purported to be the highest ranking Asian American in government, and who claimed to be an advocate of minority interests.

The following survey is by no means complete. Not covered are: appointments to federal courts, commissions, boards, and high-level civil service positions; harassment by the Internal Revenue Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and other federal agencies; major campaign contributions. I hope your own research can add to the information pool. You may use this chronology as I have written it, or you are welcome to extract the facts and write your own article, column, or editorial.

--Raymond Okamura

WILLIAM H. MARUMOTO
White House Staff

Nov. 12, 1970 -- Sept. 2, 1973

November 12, 1970 -- William H. Marumoto was appointed to the White House staff as a "consultant on executive manpower." He became the first Japanese American to serve on the White House staff in an executive capacity. His resume indicated that he was a graduate of Whittier College, and had worked on the administrative staff at UCLA. He worked on Richard Nixon's campaign for governor in 1962 and for president in 1968. (Pacific Citizen, Nov. 20, 1970; Hokubei Mainichi, Nov. 11, 1972)

1969 through 1973 -- The Internal Revenue Service operated a "Special Services Group" at the request of the White House to "receive and analyze all available information on organizations and individuals promoting extremists' views or philosophies." Eventually, a list of some 3,000 organizations and 8,000 individuals, mostly left-leaning, were compiled. (Time, Aug. 13, 1973)

April 6, 1971 -- JACL Washington Representative Mike Masaoka made a request to selected JACL members to compile a list of "names, addresses, and the officers of so-called Asian American or Oriental American organizations or coalitions; together with an estimate of their respective memberships and a summary of their objectives and possible orientation...including the leftist and radical ones." (Pacific Citizen, May 7, 1971)

May 7, 1971 -- After some of the recipients protested the propriety of the above request, Masaoka explained that the list is to be used for a proposed "Cabinet Committee on Asian American Affairs." William Marumoto was reported as a "consultant" to a Washington, D. C. Nisei Ad Hoc Committee working on this project, and Ms. Toyo Biddle was named as one of the committee members. (Pacific Citizen, April 2, May 7, 1971)

Summer, 1971 -- The "Political Enemies Project" was completed by members of the White House staff and placed in the custody of Charles W. Colson. On August 16, 1971, John W. Dean, III, wrote: "This memorandum addresses the matter of how we can maximize the fact of our incumbency in dealing with persons known to be active in the opposition to our administration. Stated more bluntly--how can we use the available federal machinery to screw our political enemies....e.g. grant availability, federal contracts, litigation, procecusion, etc." (Washington Post, June 28, 1973)

Summer, 1971 -- H. R. Haldeman later confirmed the existence of the above project in his testimony before the Senate Watergate Committee: "There was a program of drawing up a list of those, who in prominent public position, were believed to be expressing opposition to administration policies, and who, therefore, should not be receiving courtesies...(such as) invitations to social events and other functions at the White House, appointments to honorary boards and commissions, inclusion on delegations to events." (Washington Post, Aug. 2, 1973)

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August 23-30, 1971 -- Ms. Toyo Biddle, coordinator of Asian American Affairs for the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, visited Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Seattle, making a special effort to meet with anti-establishment type organizations. She solicited nominations for an upcoming White House Conference on Aging. Asian American organizations directly involved in programs for the elderly submitted over 50 nominations, together with extensive resumes.

November 28-December 2, 1971 -- Fifty Asian Americans were invited to the White House Conference on Aging in Washington, D. C. The invitation list was dominated by Republican Party leaders and National JACL officers, but the nominees submitted through the HEW Asian American Affairs Office were conspicuously absent. Attendance at White House functions is by invitation only, and expenses are paid by the White House. A special "Asian Concerns" session was held, with the JACL Washington Office "designated" the coordinators, and JACL Assistant Washington Representative David Ushio "named" chairman. There was no indication whether these selections were made by vote of the delegates, by self-proclamation, or by appointment by the White House. William Marumoto gave the official welcome to the Asian American delegates. (Pacific Citizen, Nov. 26, Dec. 10, Dec. 17, 1971)

April 28-29, 1972 -- The National Institute of Mental Health and the Asian American Social Workers Association co-sponsored the first national Asian American Mental Health Conference in San Francisco. This conference was open to everyone, with delegates paying their own expenses. Over 500 delegates from throughout the country attended. K. Patrick Okura, executive assistant to the director of NIMH, addressed the conference; but when William Marumoto arrived, he was soundly condemned and asked to leave. (Pacific Citizen, Mar. 31, 1972)

September 5, 1972 -- The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare announced grants to Asian American groups totalling \$524,422. Organizations receiving funds were: Special Services to Groups, Inc., Los Angeles, \$249,952; IWCA Demonstration Project for Asian Women's Center, Los Angeles, \$117,000; Japanese Community Pioneer Center, Los Angeles, \$54,038; Kimochi, Inc., San Francisco, \$53,432; Pilipino American South of Market Neighborhood Association, San Francisco, \$50,000. There was no indication if any Asian American facilitated these grants. (Pacific Citizen, Sept. 22, 1972)

October 14, 1972 -- The Japanese American Committee for the Re-election of the President held a wine and cheese tasting party at the estate of Dr. & Mrs. Benjamin Ichinose in Hillsborough, California. William Marumoto was the honored guest, and campaign contributions of \$50 per person or \$100 per couple were solicited. The announcement of those who attended and/or gave financial support read like a who's who of Japanese American Republicans and the National JACL. (Pacific Citizen, Oct. 13, 1972; Hokubei Mainichi, Oct. 18, 1972)

October 18, 1972 -- Fifty Asian Americans were invited to a "White House Briefing for Asian American Leaders" in Washington, D. C. The invitation list was dominated by leading Republicans and National JACL officers. Asian American community organizations were not asked to send their own representatives, but the "leaders" were selected by the White House. William Marumoto gave an official welcome and played host for the event. There was no indication if travel expenses were paid by the taxpayers or the Committee to Re-elect the President, but it was reported that the banquet was co-hosted by the JACL and Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Associations. (Pacific Citizen, Oct. 27, 1972)

November 2, 1972 -- The Department of Commerce Office of Minority Business Enterprise announced the awarding of a contract for \$100,000 to Asian, Inc. of San Francisco to provide business counseling, management assistance, and loan processing. William Marumoto was pictured in the publicity photograph of the contract signing ceremony. (Hokubei Mainichi, Nov. 2, 1972)

January 26, 1973 -- The Department of Commerce Office of Minority Business Enterprise announced the awarding of a contract for an additional \$100,000 to the Asian American National Business Alliance, headquartered in Los Angeles. Marumoto was reported to have been present at the contract signing ceremony. Later in the year, on August 3, 1973, the Asian American National Business Alliance announced that minority businessmen secured loans totalling \$748,000 with the assistance of their office. (Pacific Citizen Jan. 26, Aug. 3, 1973)

January 26, 1973 -- The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare announced a grant of \$65,554 to the National JACL for the purpose of developing an Asian American gerontology program. The National JACL had no prior background in programs for elderly Asians. It was learned four months later that new National JACL Director David Ushio submitted the proposal without consultation with any of the numerous Asian American organizations with on-going programs for the elderly. (Pacific Citizen, Jan. 26, 1973; Hokubei Mainichi, May 24, 1973)

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July 1, 1973 -- The National Institute of Mental Health awarded a \$320,000 grant to the Asian American Drug Abuse Program in Los Angeles. There was no indication if any Asian American facilitated this funding. (Pacific Citizen, Sept. 7, 1973)

September 2, 1973 --William H. Marumoto resigned from the White House staff to become president of Interface Group, Ltd., a marketing and business consulting firm specializing in East-West trade. Marumoto was the last member of a special Spanish-speaking advocacy office to leave. He did not give any specific reason for resigning, except that he was "disappointed that the (Spanish-speaking) advocacy momentum has slowed (and) the whole program has eroded to practically nothing." (Hokubei Mainichi, Sept. 7, 1973; Pacific Citizen, Sept. 14, 1973)

November 7, 1973 -- Marumoto was subpoenaed to appear before the Senate Watergate Committee. In his testimony, Marumoto said that approval from officials in the Committee to Re-elect the President was required last year before federal grants or appointments were made to Spanish-speaking Americans. He stated that he was directed by his superiors to develop a program to ensure grants would be compatible with re-election efforts, and that he wrote weekly reports to Charles W. Colson entitled, "Report for Brown Mafia." Marumoto further testified that when an organization was deemed anti-administration, there was discussion on the possibility that a grant would have a neutralizing effect, so that such groups would not become politically active. (Hokubei Mainichi, Nov. 9, 1973; Pacific Citizen, Nov. 16, 1973)

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