

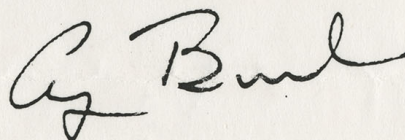
THE WHITE HOUSE

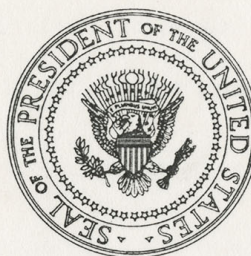
WASHINGTON

A monetary sum and words alone cannot restore lost years or erase painful memories; neither can they fully convey our Nation's resolve to rectify injustice and to uphold the rights of individuals. We can never fully right the wrongs of the past. But we can take a clear stand for justice and recognize that serious injustices were done to Japanese Americans during World War II.

In enacting a law calling for restitution and offering a sincere apology, your fellow Americans have, in a very real sense, renewed their traditional commitment to the ideals of freedom, equality, and justice. You and your family have our best wishes for the future.

Sincerely,





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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "G. Bush".

GEORGE BUSH
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 1990

COVER LETTER FOR OPEN LETTER TO GEORGE BUSH

OPEN LETTER TO THE NIKKEI(J-A) COMMUNITY

Enclosed you will find copies of an open letter to Mr. George Bush, regarding the reparations payoff and the so called, "apology" sent to us during his presidency.

Please note the differences. The one without the presidential seal and status designation was sent to my dad, Mamoru Nishida, who is 83 years old. His letter represents those who received theirs in the first year.

Mine, the one on full size paper, seal and status designation present, represents those received this year or the third year of the payoff. I wonder what the second year letters look like?

Another related "thang" i'd like to question is this. There was an awful lot of press and praising done for some white man that headed up the reparations office who recently "retired".

When i look at these two letters. And the lack of reporting the ethnic composition of their staff and other civil/human rights related stats. Besides the problems faced by a significant number of our people with the reparations office bureaucracy.

Problems such as this. A friend of mine has been denied. The reason given was this. His mom and dad voluntarily left L.A. to go help construct Manzanar. His mom and dad got theirs. He was denied and must go through an appeal process. Because his mom and dad VOLUNTARILY went to Manzanar???

I'd heard of some other cases denied in the first and second year groups, most if not all won their cases after appealing. Most of the reasons given for denial were just as stupid.

My hunch is, that there are a few bozos in the bureaucracy who are giving us a bad time. My question is, "Why aren't/weren't these people exposed and weeded out or punished?" Either the above or state the name of the examiner who denied the request,

the reason for the denial and the reason for over turning the denial or upholding the denial. All of this published in the papers.

Any body who is sharp enough knows that it doesn't cost much to be civil. And is that what all that praise was about? That he was civil?

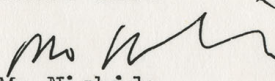
There is a trend that blows strongly in our community that i observe and one that i refuse to be a part of. It seems that we are ready to sing the praise of people who do an adequate job by a corrupted white mans standard. That is, from the view point of the oppressor or "boss", like a mafia capo.

I'd like to remind folks that there are always at least two sides to any story, if you are really interested. Please don't assume that yours is the only view in town.

In fact, for all those "leaders" and "important persons", it would seem wise to poll the folks, in whose name all the deeds are done. In this case, the remaining Issei and older Nisei, then you all may have seen this so called, "apology" and tempered your enthusiasm and applause.

Of course, if you all are saying, "You knew all this". And you still want yourselves and THE REST OF US to follow you and act like boot lickers, then i invite you all to jump out of a plane with a small bandana or better yet, catch a ride on the next Galileo space mission.

Kokoro kara


Mo Nishida
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