

April 1984

Dear Mary

I thought of you & know you probably have written hundreds of letters - I'm sending this out to 300 of my special friends all over USA believing we may reach some very important person that may make a difference in our dream of attaining something far nobler for our children's future America.

May I intrude into your busy life with some concerns? I have deeply appreciated your friendship and sense of caring for values dear to us. We trust you will want to help.

It is time now to actively pass the word along for more Americans to understand this tragic evacuation story and the problems that resulted from it. It is of such magnitude they are almost beyond comprehension to a great number of citizens in our country. The critical months to contact our Congressmen and Senators in Washington are here. Your letters and resolutions from key organizations are important.

Forty-two (42) years ago *original letter* writing campaign by responsible writing and resolutions supervisors and sheriffs departments local and state, councils, the surprise unprecedented mass removal and confinement of a people.

It will take all that effort and more to win back in 1984 "a portion of the cleansing process for a meaningful gesture from the government that can begin to cast off the stigma of disloyalty" that left deep scars to those persons of Japanese ancestry and a blemish to our constitutional form of government that I am unwilling to bequeath to the 232 million Americans and their children.

Faith and hope in a great nation will be kept alive in our minds and hearts, if even this seemingly impossible task can be won for those who were victims of this grave injustice, so that all future citizens of our land can continue to believe in the firm foundation on which our country stands.

For the way you have used God's gift of life, energy and talent to make this world a better place for many more people, God bless you and thank you.

Lovingly,

Mary

Mary Tsuruko Tsukamoto
Florin JACL Redress Chairperson

I appreciated & enjoyed your communication in January, Thanks!

New York is 12 Co-sponsors & Senators - Good for NY!
But we still have 34 Congressmen from NY to reach. And many in States East of the Rockies & in the deep south & even New England!

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Gary Willis (Universal Press Syndicate) Bee Outrider, Sacramento Bee, August 11, 1981 wrote:

"Failure to make amends in a way that involves some effort will perpetuate a view that racism is unfortunate but tolerable. Is the Bill of Rights an on again, off again thing, depending on the convenience of its enforcement? Can a country at war do anything to its citizenry?

"A NATIONAL ATONEMENT SHOULD BE LEGISLATED TO SERVE AS A WARNING AND PRECEDENT FOR THE FUTURE!"

"We do not owe it simply to the Americans of Japanese ancestry. We owe it to ourselves, to our own sense of honor ... to National Pride. A gentleman pays his debt ... so does an honorable nation."

"If the principles of this nation are to work, they must work for all citizens at all times."

CWRIC RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CONGRESS AND TO THE NATION

The United States Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC) issued its recommendations on June 16, 1983, that the United States should enact a joint resolution, signed by the President, acknowledging a grave injustice was done to a group of people on the basis of ancestry and offering official apologies.

That the United States Congress should establish a commemorative trust fund for humanitarian and educational purposes.

That the sum of \$20,000 be awarded to survivors of such experience as a symbol of this nation's regret that such unjust events occurred and, as a token of honorable efforts, to acknowledge such wrongs to the end that similar aberrations of justice shall never recur.

Pointing out that no amount of money can fully compensate the excluded people for their losses and sufferings, the Commission said, "Three and a half years behind the barbed wire of a relocation camp, branded potentially disloyal because of one's own ethnicity alone ... these injustices cannot be neatly translated into dollars and cents."

Letters and resolutions are now in order.

1. Please feel free to make copies of this communication to circulate among your friends.
2. LEGISLATION IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSION WAS INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE AND SENATE. NOW AWAITING HEARING IN THE SUBCOMMITTEE.

HR 4110, The Civil Liberties Act of 1983, was introduced by House Majority Leader James Wright and 94 co-sponsors.

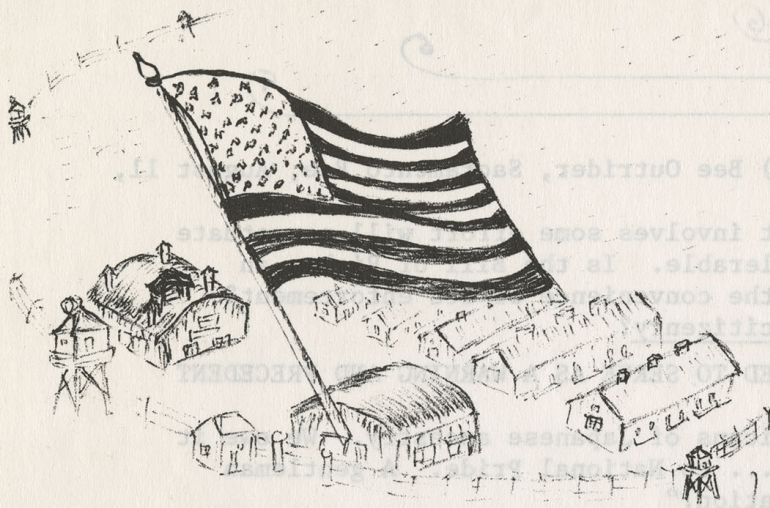
S2116 was introduced in the Senate by Senator Spark Matsunaga, co-sponsored by 15 Senators. *Hearing date confirmed for S2116 June 1st 1984 Los Angeles Veterans Administration 8AM-12PM*

Please write to your Congressman and Senator and urge swift enactment of HR 4110 and S2116 in order to preserve and rectify the honor and integrity of this nation.

3. If you are involved in an organization that can support a resolution asking Congress to favorably act on the Commission's recommendations, please do so.
4. Contact Mary Tsukamoto for any further needed information. Send me a post card of your action. It will all add up to a tremendous voice for justice. Thanks.

6815 Florin-Perkins Road, Sacramento, CA 95828 (916) 383-3906

FLASH



This Episode in American History should never have happened. But it did happen in America.

Perpetrated by respected Americans, Americans of Japanese ancestry were victimized.

And All Americans were betrayed!

When President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 on Feb. 19, 1942, and Congress passed Public Law 77-503 by March 21, 1942, our government legalized the wholesale removal of 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry, the majority of whom were American citizens. Although innocent of any wrong doing, we were accused, forcibly excluded and detained under armed military guard. We were denied due process. Our constitutional rights were suspended solely on the basis of race. We were deprived of our basic human rights by order of the United States Government.

A blue ribbon Congressional Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC) reported on February 26, 1983, after two years of thorough investigation, declaring: "No justification for internment ever existed. Detention was blamed on War hysteria, race discrimination and failure of political leadership."

Although the tarnish on our Constitution can never be completely removed, we must set the record straight.

A fourth generation, yonsei, asked: "I want to know who I am. I am an American Citizen, but my ancestors came from Japan. I want to know more about my roots. Why did the U. S. Government put away all the Japanese living along the West Coast for more than three years? Were my great grand parents guilty of something? Were they spies? Weren't they loyal to America? How come dad was born in an American Concentration Camp?"

It is in your hands and mine to tell the truth about how the single worst wholesale violation of civil rights of American Citizens in our history was perpetrated, and that it must never be repeated. It has been said, "Unless we learn from the mistakes of the past, we are forever doomed to repeat them!"

Your children and grandchildren, as well as ours, must be educated and nurtured to feel unswerving faith and joyous confidence in a good country. They must grow up becoming responsible citizens who are tireless and vigilant. They deserve to understand the reality of our great American dream. They must strive to safeguard and perpetuate the cherished constitutional rights and the Democratic ideals for which this nation stands. They need to learn by our example how to be effective, caring citizens in a nation established as a government of the people, by the people and for the people. They need to learn from the harsh lessons in our tragic history that "Democracy is at once the best but perhaps the most fragile form of government in the world."

Yes, America is like no other country in the world. It has within its make-up exciting possibilities of correcting its own mistakes. But the key is in the hands of Americans moved to action because they are alert and care enough.