

March 3, 1970

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE
NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO REPEAL THE EMERGENCY DETENTION ACT
c/o 1150 Park Hills Road, Berkeley, California 94708

TO: 1970 CHAPTER PRESIDENTS, DISTRICT GOVERNORS, NATIONAL BOARD, NATIONAL STAFF,
NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL, AND CHAPTER AND DISTRICT TITLE II COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN.

The United States Senate, on December 22, 1969, unanimously passed the Inouye Bill (S.1872) to repeal Title II of the Internal Security Act of 1950 (Emergency Detention Act). The repeal effort now shifts to the House of Representatives, where we have 127 co-sponsors of the Matsunaga-Holifield repeal bills (H.R. 11825, et.al.). The House Internal Security Committee (HISC) has announced public hearings on the Title II repeal bills to begin on March 16, 1970, and the JACL has been scheduled to testify on March 26, 1970, in Washington D.C.

Our two year repeal campaign is rapidly approaching the climax, with the toughest hurdle just ahead--i.e. of persuading the Internal Security Committee to favorably report out the repeal bill. We face such a formidable task that we need an all out effort by the JACL, and all supporting groups, in the next few weeks. Therefore, between now and March 26, 1970, we ask you to do the following:

1. Get each and every member of your Chapter to write at least one personal letter or telegram to Congressman Richard Ichord, Chairman of the House Internal Security Committee. You, as President, should write a letter representing your Chapter. Preferably, letters should be sent to all members of HISC. (See listing attached). We should have 25,000 letters arriving during the HISC hearings.
2. Get as many non-JACL groups and individuals to send letters and telegrams to the Chairman and members of HISC. Many of you have already been successful in getting the support of other groups, (See Box Score in Pacific Citizen) so please contact these organizations again and ask them to follow up on their expression of support. Actually, HISC may be well aware of the JACL's interest, but they are not as cognizant of general public support. Thus, an impressive show of letters from the general public and other organizations must also arrive during the HISC hearings.
3. Get your local Congressman to either make a personal appearance at the hearings, or request to file a statement into the record of the hearings. Congressmen who are co-sponsors of repeal bills (See attach-d list) are good contacts, but other congressmen must be contacted to impress them with the widespread support. The testimony can take one, or both, of these forms:
 - a. A reading of a resolution passed by your local city council, county board board of supervisors, state legislature, other governmental bodies, or public media. Chapters who have spearheaded the passage of these resolutions should now send a copy to their congressman and ask him to read it into the hearing records.
 - b. A special statement prepared by the chapter or district which can be entered as testimony. This need not be overly elaborate or technical, but should be a sincere, grass-roots type appeal. One or two type written pages is sufficient. Such statements have already been prepared by the Southern California District, Midwest District, Intermountain District, Portland Chapter, Twin Cities Chapter, and Sacramento Chapter. We need many more chapters and Districts to do this.

If this is done properly, a constant stream of congressmen making requests to be heard by HISC will be very effective.

4. Get your local public officials to write a letter to HISC or issue a public statement in support of repeal. We now have the endorsement of Governor Ronald Reagan of California and Governor Calvin Rampton of Utah. We need mayors, governors, administration officials, college presidents, and anyone with a "name" or "position".

IMPORTANT IN ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO HISC: Urge that Title II be repealed outright, and that no undesirable amendments be added.

As this campaign has built up to gigantic proportions, our Title II Committee and the JACL Washington Office is sorely understaffed to handle the enormous job of coordinating the final big drive. We simply cannot do it without you. If everyone in JACL will accept their piece of the responsibility, we can do it! We are counting on your help.

--RAY OKAMURA AND EDISON UNO
National Co-Chairmen

March 3, 1970

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SEND ALL COMMUNICATION ADDRESSED IN THIS FASHION:

The Honorable _____
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman _____:

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERNAL SECURITY COMMITTEE

Richard H. Ichord, Chairman (Mo.)
Claude Pepper (Fla.)
Edwin W. Edwards (La.)

Richardson Preyer (N.C.)
Louis Stokes (Ohio)
John M. Ashbrook (Ohio)
Del Clawson (Calif.)

Richard L. Roudebush (Ind.)
Albert W. Watson (S.C.)

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