

East Coast Japanese Americans
for Redress
224 East 48th Street
New York, New York 10017

Dr. Arthur S. Flemming
Chairman
U.S. Commission on Civil Rights
1120 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20125

Dear Commissioner Flemming:

We would like to commend you for the dignified manner in which the CWRIC hearings have been conducted thus far. The opportunity for Japanese Americans to testify about the World War II concentration camp incarceration and resulting disillusionment, loss of livelihood, rupture of family life, and extraordinary mental anguish has been an important step forward for our communities.

We are writing to inform you of the development of plans in the New York area for a Commission hearing. It is our understanding that a decision has been made to come to New York in mid-November for a hearing. We understand that the scope of the hearing, date and details have not been formalized. We encourage and invite your attendance at this hearing.

Through the New York hearing, we want to accomplish the following:

1. Educate the Commission on the critical impact of the evacuation on Japanese Americans now residing in the New York/New England area and to formally record our recommendations for redress and reparations;
2. To address the moral and human rights issues of the evacuation;

Edward Brooke
Page Two

3. To convey to the Commission the interest, support and recommendations for redress and reparations from the New York/New England legal, religious, and other minority communities;
4. To utilize New York's vast communications/media resources to inform the American public of the Japanese American concentration camp experience.

To fulfill these objectives, the East Coast Japanese Americans for Redress (ECJAR) was formed. We are an ad hoc group of Japanese American community organizations and individuals whose purpose is to plan and organize the New York hearing. There is formal organizational representation of Concerned Japanese Americans, New York Chapter Japanese American Citizens League, and the 442 Veterans group within the ECJAR. Further outreach to Japanese American churches, and civic groups is underway. Our media, outreach, logistics and program committees are beginning their work, organized by a coordinating committee.

We look forward to your participation in this hearing. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact us at the above address and phone. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Sasha Hohri
Co-Chairperson

Michi Kobi
Co-Chairperson