

The New York NICHIBEI

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Thursday, October 5, 1978

The Case for Redress—Conclusion

(The following is a continuation of the text of "Japanese American Incarceration: A Case for Redress," a booklet issued by the National Committee for Redress of the JACL.)

REDRESS

By custom and tradition, any American who has been injured by false accusation, arrest or imprisonment is expected to bring the responsible parties into court and obtain a judgement clearing his or her name and collecting damages as redress. Freedom is considered so precious by Americans that even a few days in false imprisonment have been compensated with large monetary sums.

German Jews experienced the horrors of the Nazi death camps. Japanese Americans experienced the agonies of being incarcerated for an indeterminate period. Both were imprisoned in barbed wire compounds with armed guards. Both were prisoners of their own country. Both were there without criminal charges, and were completely innocent of any wrongdoing. Both were there for only one reason—ancestry. German Jews were systematically murdered en masse—that did not happen to Japanese Americans, but the point is that both German Jews and the United States persecuted their own citizens based on ancestry.

West Germany has made a 25 billion dollar restitution payment to Jews and Jewish institutions, and another 10 to 15 billion dollars will be paid. The fact that the victorious Allied Powers initially imposed on Germany the concept of reparations to the victims of the Third Reich does not diminish the righteousness or the justice of the act. The Federal Republic of Germany has stated that it is giving precedence to the payment

of compensatory damages to "those who suffered in mind and body, or had been deprived unjustly of their freedom." In subsequent legislation Germany went far beyond the responsibilities assumed in the earlier agreements.

More recently, the United States government designated an American Jewish organization to negotiate with East Germany on restitutions. The United States has informed the German Democratic Republic that a refusal to acknowledge the necessity for a meaningful restitution would delay the establishment of normal diplomatic relations.

The mass expulsion and incarceration of American citizens without trial did happen here in the United States. As a professed leader in civil and human rights throughout the world, the United States must take meaningful action to correct its own mistakes.

President Gerald R. Ford rescinded the Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1976—exactly 34 years after its promulgation—and stated: "An honest reckoning must include a recognition of our national mistakes as well as our national achievements. Learning from our mistakes is not pleasant, but as a great philosopher once admonished, we must do so if we want to avoid repeating them."

Redress for the injustices of 1942-1946 is not just an isolated Japanese American issue; it is an issue of concern for all Americans. Restitution does not put a price tag on freedom or justice. The issue is not to recover what cannot be recovered. The issue is to acknowledge the mistake by providing proper redress for the victims of the injustice, and thereby make such injustices less likely to recur.

MASS DETENTION CAMPS FOR JAPANESE AMERICANS, 1942-46

Name	Location	Detainees
1. Central Utah (Topaz)	Millard County Northwest of Delta	8,130
2. Colorado River (Poston)	Colorado River Indian Reservation South of Parker	17,814
3. Arizona (Rivers)	Gila River Indian Reservation West of Sacaton	13,348
4. Granada (Amache)	Prowers County Between Koen and Granada	7,318
5. Heart Mountain (Wyoming)	Park County Between Cody and Ralston	10,767
6. Jerome (Denson)	Chicot and Drew Counties Between Hudspeeth and Jerome	8,497
7. Manzanar (California)	Inyo County Between Independence and Lone Pine	10,046
8. Minidoka (Hunt)	Jerome County North of Eden	9,397
9. Rohwer (Arkansas)	Desha County Between Kelso and Rohwer	8,475
10. Tule Lake (Newell)	Modoc County Between Stronghold and Newell	18,789

Additional 26 smaller internment or isolation camps were located in Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Montana, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Utah and Wisconsin.

Students Invited To Attend "College Day"

East Coast Asian American high school students have been invited to the seventh annual "College Day" to be held this year from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. this Saturday, Oct. 7, at the Basement Workshop, 199 Lafayette St.

The East Coast Asian Student Union (ECASU), the sponsoring organization, has asked universities throughout the East coast to send minority student representatives to New York for the day. They will be present during the specified hours to discuss with potential students admissions procedures, financial aid programs, and courses of study.

In the evening, from 7 to 10 o'clock, there will be a cultural program featuring a demonstration of kung fu, a slide show, a poetry reading, music, modern dance and an exhibition of art.

J.A. Ass'n Outing to Lake Minnewaska Park

The foliage-viewing outing annually sponsored by the Japanese American Association of New York will be held on Sunday, Oct. 15. The destination this year will be Lake Minnewaska State Park, N.Y.

Reservations for transportation and lunch must be made before Oct. 12 by calling or writing to the Association, 7 W. 44 St., New York City 10036 (840-6942). The fee of \$20 for adults and \$15 for children under 12 includes bus fare, lunch, admission fee and tips.

One Man's Statement of Conviction

The JACL booklet presenting its "case for redress" touches on the subject of the so-called "loyalty" questionnaire which all 17-year-old and older Japanese in the internment camps (citizens and non-citizens alike) were required to fill out and sign before being permitted to leave, but the case for those who answered "no" to the two key questions and were stigmatized as the "disloyals" has nowhere been given with as much poignancy as in an article which was written for a Michigan newspaper by one of those who came to be known as "no-no boys."

Yuzuru Takeshita was one of those young men who found themselves, in good conscience, unable to answer "yes" to questions 27 and 28 and who were as a consequence removed from their families (in his case, in Topaz) and incarcerated in the Tule Lake Segregation Center. Now a professor of population planning and director of the Center for Population Planning at the University of

\$250,000 to East-West

LOS ANGELES—The East-West Players, founded nearly 15 years ago as the first Asian American repertory theater in the country, has been awarded a grant of \$240,000 from CBS, Inc. The award is one of 12 totaling \$2,158,000 which the corporation presented to cultural organizations in the Los Angeles area.

Five Named Winners of Thomas Hayashi Awards

Susan J. Onuma of Jackson Heights is one of five Sansei students who have been named this year's winners of the Thomas T. Hayashi Memorial Law Scholarships which were established by the Eastern District Council of the JACL to honor the memory of the New York attorney.

Susan Hiroko Kamai of Anaheim, Calif., was awarded the "merit" scholarship of \$500. She will be given two additional grants if she maintains satisfactory grades in her first and second years in law school.

Carol Lynne Izumi of St. Louis, Mo., and Miss Onuma were awarded "need" scholarships of \$500 each for the current academic year. They may apply for additional such grants if they qualify. Bruce Hironaka of Sacramento, Calif., was awarded his second "merit" \$500 scholarship, and Derrick Takeuchi of Washington, was awarded his third "merit" award of \$500.

Susan Onuma, who was accepted by the University of Pennsylvania Law School, graduated cum laude from Barnard College in 1977. She subsequently attended the Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies in Tokyo. Last spring she worked as a legal trainee and translator in the Matsuo Law office in Tokyo. She has also worked as a clerical legal assistant in the New York firm of Miller, Montgomery & Sogi. She is a board member of the New York JACL.

Michigan in Ann Arbor, he wrote the following piece last year after seeing the television film based on the book "Farewell to Manzanar." It is reprinted here to give a wider audience to his statement of conviction about one of the most misunderstood episodes of the internment experience.

NO "FAREWELL TO MANZANAR"

BY YUZURU TAKESHITA

After some 30 years, finally some of the 110,000 Japanese and Americans of Japanese ancestry who were incarcerated in concentration camps for nearly four years during the War in the Pacific could say: "Farewell to Manzanar." For those of us who were victims of President Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066, which authorized the perpetration of what must be counted as one of the most explicit acts of racial discrimination in the history of the U.S. (and only last year publicly rescinded by President Ford on the 34th anniversary of that order), the showing of the movie entitled "Farewell to Manzanar" on NBC Television was a happening of some importance. At long last, the episode could be discussed openly on a national network, not as an impersonal documentary but as a human drama born out of a war (a war that was fought, if you recall, to preserve democracy

(Continued on page 2)

Carter Signs Law Granting Credit To Civil Workers

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Calling it "a bill which represents one more government effort to redress inequities that occurred during World War II," President Jimmy Carter on Sept. 22, signed H.R. 9471, which grants civil service retirement credit to Japanese American civil servants for the time that they spent in internment camps during World War II.

The measure was written by Rep. Norman Y. Mineta (D, Calif.), who was a guest of honor at a reception which was held following the signing by the Committee for Internment Credits. Members of that committee and of the Japanese American Citizens League attended the reception which also honored Rep. Cecil Heftel (D, Hawaii), member of the House Post Office and Civil Service Subcommittee on Compensation and Employee Benefits, and Rep. Jim Leach (R, Iowa), ranking minority member of the subcommittee, which had jurisdiction over the internment credit bill.

President's Statement
Following is the text of the statement which was issued by the President upon signing the measure:

I am very happy to sign H.R. 9471, a bill which represents one more government effort to redress inequities that occurred during World War II.

Three and a half decades ago, our government overreacted to the attack on Pearl Harbor and evacuated and interned approximately 110,000 Japanese Americans who lived in our western states.

Even at the time this action seemed shameful and indefensible to many of us.

The loyalty and devotion of our Japanese American citizens—despite this government action—has been proven many times over. Most of the internees were American citizens, and many subsequently gave their lives in defense of this country.

While we cannot undo or erase the hardships and indignities suffered by these loyal Americans, we can, in some small measure, compensate them.

Three laws have been enacted for this purpose since the end of World War II. Public Laws 82-545 and 86-782 granted special benefits for civil service pay and retirement purposes to Japanese Americans who met certain criteria, and were employed by the Federal Government on July 15, 1952. The third law, Public Law 92-603, granted social security credits for privately employed adults who were confined in World War II internment camps.

All three of these laws were designed as partial compensation to working age Japanese American internees, but they do not help those who entered Federal service after mid-1952. These Federal employees generally do not qualify for social security benefits.

H.R. 9471 will cover that groups by granting civil service retirement

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New York NICHIBEI

Women's Bowling Team Leads League

BY KERRY KUBO

In the second week of the Nisei Bowling League the No. 10 team (who needs a sponsor)—an all-girl team—continues to dominate league play.

Sam Hashimoto led all scorers with a 556 for Takata TV. Gene Kubo placed second with a 226-523, while Clancy Takano rolled an even 500.

Carol Kashiwakura led the women this week with a 154-444 series to aid K and N in a shutout over Niko Niko.

Sept. 26 Results

No. 10 Team 8; Jim's Cleaners 2

No scores from either team, but the women prevailed with a relatively balanced scoring attack.

Takata TV 8; Tokyo Restaurant 2

Sam Hashimoto's 556 and Clancy Takano's 500 proved too much this week as the opposition faced tough lane conditions.

NY Travel 6; No. 8 Team 4

No scores from either team, but the No. 8 team managed two games, despite two absent bowlers. This team also needs a sponsor.

Cherry 8; Park Central 2

Gene Kubo's 226-523 singlehandedly decided the outcome of this match, as all bowlers found much difficulty with the lanes this week.

K and N Assoc. 10; Niko Niko 0

Carol Kashiwakura's 154-444 was high for both teams and gave her K

and N team an easy shutout win.

League Officers

The Nisei Bowling League would like to announce the elected officers for the 1978-1979 season: President, John Huie; Vice President, Alice Hiromura; Treasurer, Jim Shiono; Secretary, Kerry Kubo.

NBL STANDINGS SEPT. 26

No. 10 Team	18
Takata TV	17
New York Travel Service	14
No. 8 Team	14
Park Central Florist	12
K and N Associates	10
Cherry Restaurant	10
Jim's Cleaners	2
Niko Niko Club	2
Tokyo Restaurant	2

They're Semi-Finalists For Merit Scholarships

Among the 15,000 high school seniors who have been named semi-finalists in the 24th annual National Merit Scholarship Program are the following students from East coast states:

CONNECTICUT—George A. Kurose, Fairfield College Preparatory School, Fairfield.

MARYLAND—Joan M. Shimomura, Crossland High School, Camp Springs.

MASSACHUSETTS—Kiye M. Sakai, Amherst-Pelham Regional High School, Amherst.

NEW JERSEY—Michael J. Sowa, East Brunswick High School, East Brunswick; Akiko Shimamura, Wardlaw Country Day School, Edison; Joan Kashiwabara, Fort Lee High School, Fort Lee; Naoya Obayashi, South Brunswick High School, Monmouth Junction; Rei Shinosuka, Ridgewood High School, Ridgewood.

NEW YORK—Shirley S. Sagawa, Brockport High School, Brockport; John H. Shiroma, Francis Lewis High School, Flushing; Richard T. Hara, Sanford H. Calhoun High School, Merrick; Jun Fujimori, Spackenkill High School, Poughkeepsie.

The semi-finalists, who scored the highest among the more than one million students who took preliminary exams, will vie for some 4,100 Merit scholarships next spring.

Carter Signs—

(Continued from page 1)

credit for periods of confinement after age 18 in World War II internment camps to any Japanese American who later entered Federal service.

This bill represents years of unceasing effort by many members of Congress who wished to redress the injustices suffered by this unique group of American citizens. I am pleased to have the opportunity to share in that effort today.

Two Bazaar Dates

The annual bazaar of the New York Buddhist Church will be held this year on Oct. 28 and 29. Shizuo Magome is chairman of the event.

The Japanese American United Church's fall bazaar will be held on Nov. 11. Fujio Saito and Philip Nash have been named co-chairmen.

No "Farewell"—

(Continued from page 1)

against the threat of fascism).

More than anything else, it signified how far in time we had come from that period in history. The victims could for the first time publicly relive the conflicts and emotions of that experience and even look back to it nostalgically without shame or guilt. The audience at large, on the other hand, could even empathize with the victims in human terms without necessarily being put in the uncomfortable position of having to justify (or rationalize) the event in terms of the social, political and economic context of the 1940s.

Unfortunately, however, the time is not yet here for some of us to say, "Farewell to Manzanar"—as much as we would wish to be able to say so. Ironically, this conclusion is forced on me by the way a certain incident was treated in the NBC movie, which is significant to note, was based on a book (Farewell to Manzanar, Bantam Books, 1974), by Jeanne Wakatsuki, who was seven years old when she and her family, along with the rest of us, were ordered into camp in 1942 for the duration of the war. The incident related to the U.S. Government's decision in early 1943 to screen all "inmates" 17 and older for possible induction into the armed forces and/or relocation to various parts of the U.S. (exclusive, of course, of the West Coast from where we were driven out). There were two questions in particular that caused much controversy and soul-searching anguish among us:

Question No. 27: Are you willing to serve in the Armed Forces of the United States on combat duty, wherever ordered? YES... NO...

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Question No. 28: Will you swear unqualified allegiance to the United States of America and faithfully defend the United States from any or all attacks by foreign or domestic forces, and *foreswear* (italics mine) any form of allegiance or obedience to the Japanese emperor, or any other foreign government, power, or organization? YES... NO...

In the NBC movie, those who answered YES-YES to these questions were hailed as having been loyal and those who answered NO-NO denounced as having been un-American and disloyal. (Of course, this was the way the U.S. Government at the time interpreted these answers.)

Birthright Guilt?

Recall, however, the setting in which these questions were being asked.

We were American citizens by birth but deprived of our constitutional rights when we were singled out to be put away behind barbed-wire fences for the duration of the war. Our only "guilt (?) " was the accident of having been born of Japanese parents who had immigrated from the country that was now at war with us in the Pacific.

And yet, Question 28 assumed that we were guilty of having sworn allegiance to a foreign power and asked that we "foreswear" such allegiance. Some of us argued that to answer YES was to accept the accusation of guilt implicit in the question. We answered NO because we had nothing to foreswear.

To answer YES to this question, we believed, was tantamount to affirming the government's reason for incarcerating us in the first place—namely, that we were a threat to the war effort to be allowed continued residence in the western states because our loyalty to the only country we knew from birth could not be trusted.

(The then Attorney General of California, Earl Warren—yes, the same Earl Warren who, on the strength of his later record as Chief Justice of our Supreme Court, is remembered as a great civil libertarian—stated publicly on February 2, 1942: "I want to say that the consensus of opinion among the law-enforcement officers of this State is that there is more potential danger among the group of Japanese who are born in this country than from the alien Japanese who were born in Japan." Presumably to "prove (?) " his point he continued: "So far (in) this great state of ours we have had

no fifth-column activities and no sabotage reported. It looks very much as though it is a studied effort not to have any until the zero hour arrives." These quotations are cited from Allan Bosworth's *America's Concentration Camps*, New York: W.W. Norton and Co., Inc., 1967, p. 73 and Morton Grodzins' *Americans Betrayed*, University of Chicago Press, 1949, p. 94, respectively. They are cited to illustrate not only the absurdity of the argument on which the evacuation was based but also the kinds of people who fell victims to the racial prejudices that prevailed in the U.S. during that period. In the hysteria of war, these prejudices surfaced even among the most liberal of personages such as Walter Lippmann and, of course, Franklin D. Roosevelt. My intention is not necessarily to condemn Earl Warren, for I prefer to judge a person by what he ends up being rather than what he may have been earlier in his life, but to warn us of the ease with which even the better minds of our society could, under some circumstances, be trapped into an argument as absurd as this and be led into compromising even the most fundamental of our historically cherished tenets.)

As for Question 27, we wanted to qualify our answers to say: YES, *gladly* if the government would first restore our constitutional rights, guaranteed every American citizen, by releasing us from camp where we were being detained without just cause. The government did not accept any qualifications in our answers, even though the qualifications were consistent with the principles enunciated in our Bill of Rights.

We even tried to have the government change the wordings of the two questions—to no avail. Having taken my civics and U.S. history lessons seriously, when I reached 17, I felt I had no choice but to answer NO-NO.

Marked "Un-American"

As a result, I was promptly branded "un-American" and "disloyal" and, together with all the others who had answered NO-NO, herded off this time to a Segregation Center in Tule Lake, California, to live out the war as pariahs in our own country, ostracized now even by the majority of our fellow "inmates" who chose to answer YES-YES. (Admittedly, there were some right-wing extremists among the so-called NO-NO group and made us easy targets for scapegoating.)

(To be continued)

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THE GALLERIES

Touchstone Gallery, 118 E. 64 St.—Ryo Tokita; recent paintings. To Oct. 28.

Ronin Gallery, 605 Madison Ave. (57 & 58 Sts)—Landscapes of Hiroshige (1797-1858). Through Oct. 7.

Nippon Museum, 116 E. 38 St.—Woodcut prints by handicapped children. "World Beyond the Rainbow." Sept. 30 to Dec. 18. Admission \$1.50; senior citizens and children under 12, \$1.00.

THE MOVIES

JAPAN HOUSE, 333 E. 47 St. (832-1155)—\$2.00, Japan Society members; \$3.00, general public; screenings at 7:30 p.m.

OCT. 6—"Boxer," written and directed by Shuji Terayama, with Bunta Sugawara, Kentaro Shimizu, Masumi Harukawa.
OCT. 12—"Nanami, Inferno of First Love," directed by Susumu Hani, with Akio Takahashi and Kuniko Ishii.

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