



January 9, 1989

Dear Friends:

When the Reagan Budget for FY 1989 was unveiled on Monday, January 9th, it did not contain one penny for Japanese American redress. What a slap in the face to the Japanese American community and supporters of justice and redress!

To make matters worse, the Reagan budget only recommends \$20 million for redress payments in FY 1990! This is a mere pittance that would only provide restitution for 1,000 survivors. The glowing words which President Reagan showered on Japanese American camp survivors at the August 10, 1988 Signing Ceremony ring false and hollow today.

The Office of Redress Administration, whose staff has worked at a fast pace in identifying and locating camp survivors, requested a \$6.4 million operating budget for 1989. The Reagan budget slashed their request by two-thirds, recommending an allocation of only \$2.1 million. This will drastically slow down their efficient pace by making huge cuts in their much needed budget.

President George Bush will present his FY 1989 budget in February. This is the budget Congress seriously considers. This means we have three weeks to influence Bush to include the maximum legislated amount of \$500 million for compensation for 25,000 camp survivors.

Attached is a sample letter strongly urging President Bush to hold to his Presidential campaign promises, and include the maximum amount in his budget. Please make copies for your friends and relatives and send your letter out today. Remember, we have only three weeks to lobby Bush towards positive action in his FY 1989 budget. Please send your letters today.

Thank you!

NATIONAL COALITION FOR REDRESS/REPARATIONS

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January 11, 1989

President George Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Bush:

I strongly urge that you include Supplemental Appropriation in the maximum legislated amount of \$500 million in your FY 1989 Budget.

On August 10, 1988 the Japanese American community and thousands of supporters held national celebrations throughout the United States when former President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-383).

Now we find that President Reagan's budget has not appropriated one penny for Japanese American redress. Was the celebrated signing of our bill no more than an empty promise?

More than 60,000 of the 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry who were imprisoned in these camps during WWII have passed away. We are losing hundreds more every month. The Office of Redress Administration has identified our oldest recipients: two 104-year-old gentlemen, one in Seattle and one in Los Angeles. It is for these elders and the many others who suffered throughout these years that we ask the maximum amount of \$500 million to be allocated as Supplemental Appropriations in your FY 1989 Budget.

In the words of President Reagan at the August 10 Signing Ceremony:

"What is most important in this bill has no less to do with property than with honor. For here we admit a wrong. Here we reaffirm our commitment as a nation to equal justice under the law."

As you now embark on your Presidency, your action in this matter will set the tone for the Bush Administration's posture on civil rights. We hope that you honor your pledge to support the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 with positive action in your FY 1989 Budget, and thus send a clear message to all Americans regarding America's commitment to equal justice under the law.

Sincerely,

(Signature)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____