

N.C.R.R. STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES, October 4, 1981.

Attendance: S.F., L.A., San Jose, San Diego, Sacramento

Agenda: 1. Regional reports 2. Plans & Strategy 3. Relations w/other groups 4. Staff report 5. Misc.

1. Regional Reports:

San Diego - finishing the written testimonies, starting discussions on the idea of a community bill, trying to get more local Sansei involved and doing a survey on the bill. The survey is a short form with basically four topics: what form of redress, community fund, issei priority for payment and insurance from government on education around the camps. The idea of the survey is to conduct outreach as well as to use the results for our regional conferences.

San Jose - have been discussing the focus for this next period - goals and objectives. NOC is planning their 2nd Anniversary dinner on Oct. 10th. Also planning to have a community program using the video tapes of the hearings and house meetings to discuss the bill idea.

San Francisco - Planning a community program on Oct. 24th focusing on NCCR's future plans. Inviting NCJAR (Lloyd Wake) and a JACL chapter to speak on their plans as well. At the last regional meeting, there was a good discussion on the class action suit avenue. Lynne Ogawa from the State Bar sub-committee spoke on the pros and cons of this approach and will be writing up a short article on it. Will be distributed to the different regionals.

Sacramento - have more Nisei working in the group and trying to do more outreach. Oct. 9-10 weekend there will be a reunion in Sacramento of one of the pre-war Japanese communities - mainly people in JACL. People seem to be coming from all over to it. NCCR will have literature out there and check out the program. The JACL in Sacramento is also stepping up its media work, getting on different t.v. and radio shows. Have also been having some discussions on class action suits vs. direct appropriations bill.

Los Angeles - Having a potluck on Oct. 17th for testifiers and NCCR core people. Have started a letter writing campaign to raise funds for one video tape which would include a historical overview, the commission hearings (using L.A. & S.F. tapes)-- a sort of documentary. Working with V.C. on this project idea. Currently the play, The Truth of the Matter, is running with proceeds going to the JACL & NCCR. Photo exhibit "Japanese American Experience" (Japanese American success story line) covers history from Immigrants showing in LA Oct. 16th and NCCR is invited to give a presentation and bring our own photo display as well. The exhibit was put together by March Fong Eu's ofc. which worked with the JACL to do it. Gardena is moving towards becoming a chapter of the NCCR.

Report from New York - through Sasha at CJA: they've verbally been told from Bernstein & Goldberg that there will be a hearing there but nothing officially has come out in writing. There are also disagreements on what the character of the hearings should be. They also heard the hearing may be in early Nov. They want us to pressure the Commission to come out with a definite date for the hearing. Also, they heard the new Exec. Director of the CWRIC is a person named MacBeth.

Coordination of video tapes between regions - S.F. has a 2-hr. version of the S.F. hearings, LA also has a 2-hr. tape and S.D. has an approx. 2-hr. tape. S.F. and L.A. are both writing grants for funds to do a documentary tape. Estimate is \$1200.00 to do it. Each area should also write up a list of what each of their tapes has on it and we'll put together one master list. For Sac and SJ, the SF tape will be transported to the area needing it.

We should also use the written testimonies as resources (for campus use too). LA will contact UTLA to see if they're interested in putting together the testimonies in some type of book form.

2. Plans.

Draft of proposed recommendations: The draft was discussed and suggestions made for revisions. Basically the goal of the paper is to pressure the Commission to recommend a direct appropriations bill as part of their report. It was also suggested to have an accompanying discussion guideline to go with the draft to help areas discuss, in particular, points 1 & 2 (the individual payment & community trust fund). There are only 4 points in the paper: individual payments, community trust fund, legal basis of camps, and education. The 5th POU dealing with supporting other nationalities in their just struggles did not fit into one of the recommendations but will be put forward as part of our perspective.

LA will revise the 4 points, San Diego will work on a discussion guideline and SJ will add some things to the cover sheet. The revised draft will be out in 2 weeks.

Regional Conferences: After some discussion, we felt that we should change the idea of having two regional conferences in December, to having one expanded Steering Committee meeting in L.A. instead. Realistically, we don't have the time to pull together the mini-conferences and it seems that we would have more participation through having more regional meetings and discussions instead. The expanded Steering Committee Meeting will pull together the feedback from the regional discussions and discuss strategies on how to carry on the campaign. Areas should send as many representatives as possible to the expanded Steering Committee meeting as it will be an important one. This meeting will be held on December 5th, as we are still going on the Commission's original timetable of the final report coming out in January.

Once the draft of the recommendations comes out, the regionals should hold regional meetings, programs and house meetings to gather input and feedback.

Focus for this next period: In this next period of time, up to the time the report from the Commission comes out, the focus of our work should be in putting pressure on the Commission to come out with a recommendation of monetary reparations. Our recommendations (components of a direct appropriations bill) are part of this pressure tactic. It was also suggested we rewrite the petition to update it and reinitiate the petition drive. Sacramento will rewrite the petition and get it out in one week. We should also encourage letter writing to the Commission and phone calling to let the Commission know what the Jpn. community demands from them. Bernstein should be called first, if can't be reached, then call Exec. Dir.

What is our strategy?: This was a question from all the regionals. We felt we need to investigate the various avenues for obtaining r/r, presenting the pros and cons of each, and discussing them in the communities putting forth what we feel is the best approach at this time. Currently there is the idea of the class action suit, the tax write-off plan, and the direct appropriations bill. In order to do this, we will be setting up a Legal/Legislative Committee to investigate and gather the information needed. S.F. will take responsibility for this area and try to work with the State Bar sub-committee people around this.

3. Relations w/other groups

Gordon Hirabayashi - is back in Canada now. He is writing a proposal which is similar to ours except he is asking for \$50,000 per person. We will maintain contact with him and exchange proposal ideas. People in Seattle have worked on the tax-write off plan and are distributing it. It seems that it might be tied in with the Lowrey Bill (may become part of that bill). We decided Bert should go to Seattle to meet with the Seattle group and find out more information on their plans and also present our ideas and basically develop contact with them. Just from our reading of the tax write-off plan, it seems that JAs would basically be paying for their own reparations--but we need to investigate this further.

NCJAR - Frank Chin recently spoke at SF State (Carol Hayashino's class) and basically attacked NCRR saying we had people planted in the audience at the hearings and only applauded for our people. Bill H. also has not been very open to talking with us. S.F. will try to work more with Lloyd Wake and his committee he's started in S.F. and L.A. will talk to Dwight at the Rafu since he has been allowing various articles into the paper which allow a lot of internal attacking among the R/R groups. Overall, this is hurting the movement for R/R.

JACL - San Diego heard through a S.D. JACL person that the NCRR has been physically intimidating Cliff Uyeda, slashing tires and stealing files from the National JACL office. People forced this person to substantiate these claims but then he backed down since he really couldn't say more than that. Seems that JACL is in a very defensive position right now and trying to discredit the NCRR again. Bert will phone up John T. and Clifford to force a written retraction of those lies. We will continue to work on a chapter level with the JACL where possible.

LA is working on an article summing up the conference and will be submitting it to the Rafu. Will also send copies to other regionals for the press. We will also address some of this internal attacking in the BANNER. Our principal target is the U.S. government and it has a negative impact on the R/R movement to digress from that to infighting among R/R groups. We need to stress unity among the various groups.

4. Staff Report

The BANNER will be out this week. Since S.F. will be taking on the Legal/Legislative Committee, it was suggested that LA be responsible for the BANNERS starting with the next issue. The letter to the Commission is finished and will be sent out Monday. Copies were given to regionals to try to get them in their community newspapers.

5. Misc.

New Brochure: we didn't have enough time to discuss this so we will discuss at the next meeting. Areas should review it and bring concrete suggestions for revising.

APAAC: We decided to endorse this group but not join at this time.

Incorporation of NCRR: S.F. will meet with legal people this week to go over more fully the different options we have.

The next Steering Committee meeting is tentatively set for Nov. 14th, 10am at J.C.P.A. in San Francisco