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National Coalition for Redress/Reparations

THE NATIONAL COALITION FOR REDRESS/REPARATIONS

What is the NCRR?

The National Coalition for Redress/Reparations (NCRR) was formed in July 1980 by organizations and individuals committed to bringing about justice for losses and damages suffered by Japanese and others unjustly evacuated and interned during World War II.

Background

This issue stems from the evacuation and internment of over 120,000 Japanese living in the U.S. during the wartime period. Executive Order 9066 legitimized these acts in February 1942, despite the fact that the U.S. government had prior knowledge that the Japanese population living in the United States posed no threat to its security.

The internees were herded into concentration camps located in desolate areas, living under military guard. They were forced to exist in barbaric and subhuman conditions for as long as three years. Due process was never afforded them. No criminal proceedings against a single internee were ever conducted. 120,000 people were imprisoned solely because of their national origin.

This shameful chapter of American history is never mentioned in history textbooks. Consequently, many Americans are not even aware of the internment having happened.

These lessons of the past have drawn the NCRR together to fight for those whose rights were stripped away during World War II. Therefore, the NCRR seeks restitution for the evacuation and incarceration of the Japanese people. We aim to prevent similar occurrences from ever taking place in the future by emphasizing educational and support work.

Partial List of Endorsements: Los Angeles Community Coalition for Redress/Reparations, National Council for Japanese American Redress, Little Tokyo Peoples' Rights Organization, Japanese Community Progressive Alliance (San Francisco), Center for Japanese American Studies (San Francisco), Sacramento Tule Lake Committee, Nihonmachi Outreach Committee (San Jose), Agape Fellowship, Asian Legal Services Outreach, Japanese American Citizens League (Sacramento chapter), Southside Peoples' Art Collective (Sacramento), the Little Tokyo Service Center (Los Angeles), Takenoko (L.A. area community group), UNITY newspaper, Asian State Employees' Association (Sacramento), Japanese American Citizens League (Long Beach chapter), Ad Hoc Committee for Redress/Reparations (San Diego), and individuals from Boston.

Statement of Purpose

The following points are the goals of the NCRR. They form the basis for organizations and individuals joining the coalition.

- * **Monetary Compensation**
A minimum of \$15,000 per person shall be sought for those sent to concentration camps, those who "voluntarily" relocated and all others forced to relocate during World War II. If such person is deceased, the money shall be awarded to their heirs. With respect to the pioneer Issei, we will seek an emergency fund to speed reparations to them. This compensation shall include those forced from their communities in Central and South America, Hawaii, natives of the Aleutian Islands and others.
- * **Community Fund**
Redress/reparations shall include the establishment of a Japanese community fund because of the destruction of the community life due to the evacuation. This fund shall be administered by each respective community.
- * **Repudiate the legal bases which upheld the camps**
We will investigate the legal avenues toward rescinding those cases such as the Korematsu and Yasui decisions which justified the imprisonment of a people without charge or trial; these court decisions stand today.
- * **Support others who have been or are unjustly treated in this country**
We seek mutual understanding and mutual support among all who have suffered injustice at the hands of the government.
- * **Education Work**
We seek the education of the American public so that they learn from the mistakes of the past, such as through revisions in the history books used in classrooms. Our work must emphasize the protection of democratic rights for everyone.

Future Plans

The NCRR plans to work with all groups who can join us in these five goals. We will work to do educational outreach and to mobilize for the upcoming commission hearings on the Japanese internment. The commission hearings are but one aspect of the fight for reparations. Whether the commission recommends reparations or not, the struggle will continue.

Also, a national conference will be held in Los Angeles on November 15-16, 1980, at the campus of the California State University, Los Angeles. The conference will lay down a strategy to link together the movement for winning reparations and will develop concrete proposals for what form reparations should actually take.

Why Should I get Involved?

In part, the struggle is to bring justice to those already wronged; but, through seeking the education and support of the broad public, we also work to prevent such things from happening again. We cannot "leave it to someone else." Nor can we simply forget the past.

Everyone can contribute in many different ways to the efforts of the NCRR. We urge all those interested to join the Coalition and participate in this movement.

Your Donation Will Be Appreciated

Your tax deductible donations will help defray the expenses involved in mailing and telephone costs, developing outreach and educational materials such as slide shows. Please use this portion of the brochure to send in your expressions of support.

Enclosed is my donation in the amount of \$ _____ for the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations.

Send in your check made payable to:
National Coalition for Redress/Reparations
P.O. Box 3142 Terminal Annex
Los Angeles, CA 90051

Become A Member Of NCRR

We welcome all those interested in this issue of justice. Below, please check the appropriate box for membership. You will automatically be put on our mailing list and will be contacted by another NCRR member.

- \$5 Individual Membership
- \$25 Organizational Membership

Name _____ Telephone (____) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____