

COMMUNITY FUND:

The proposal for the Community Fund as presented by Little Tokyo People's Rights Organization was for the amount of \$1.8 billion. The amount was calculated at \$15,000 per individual affected by E.O. 9066. However, it was concluded that we should not use the rationale of "per individual" for the Community Fund since it may become confused with the individual monetary compensation demand of \$25,000 per individual.

The evacuation and the imprisonment of JA's destroyed the cohesion, unity, cultural, social, political and economic life of the community. This is the basis on which we are seeking redress for the community to rebuild and meet the needs of the Japanese American people.

The Community Fund is intended to provide for much needed human/social services for JA's, including housing and other needs, which are in the process of being cutback by the government. Administrative costs shall be asked for at a rate of 2% in addition to the original amount.

The five regionals voted to adopt a \$3 billion figure for the community fund. It is NCRR's view that this sum should be returned to the communities in one lump sum, and furthermore that priorities for the allocation of the funds shall be decided by each respective community based on their particular needs. Those designated in each community to coordinate the funds shall be responsible to that community and exercise their decision making powers accordingly.

## OTHER

STRATEGIES TO GET REPARATIONS AND REDRESS1. Seattle Tax Write off Plan - (written by two to three individuals)

A voluntary tax write off by Nikkei and Aleuts with one-sixth or more Japanese blood.

-Those people participating in the plan will indicate the monetary amount in their federal income tax, which will then be put into a pot.

-Individual compensation will be to those participating only and the amount will be based on what monies are available.

-They approximate about \$15,000 plus \$15.00 per day incarcerated.

-Priority of payment will be to the elderly.

-First payment will be made 10 years from the start of the plan.

-Provision for a community fund: a. unclaimed "reparations" monies. b. those who are deceased and therefore cannot collect.

They have submitted this plan to the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment and have given it to Rep. Mike Lowry. However, according to our contacts in Washington D.C., it was reported that Lowry is more supportive of individual monetary compensation than a tax write off plan.

The Seattle group is currently focusing on getting support from non-Nikkei for their proposal.

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It was concluded that NCCR will not be taking up a tax write off plan at this time. Two shortcomings with this proposal were brought up. 1. Many Issei's may not be around 10 years from the time the plan begins. 2. We believe that the government is responsible for the damages and should be made to pay. Not Nikkei people putting our own money into a pot and then paying ourselves 10 years later.

## 2. Class Action Suit - proposed by National Committee for Japanese American Redress

### What is required

One or more persons must be able to represent the whole Nikkei people.

This is so that they can sue the government.

After that a certification hearing will take place, at which time the suit must fit the following criteria:

1. class must be large
2. must be a common grievance
3. must be a typical claim
4. must protect the interest of that class

In order to file the suit, once clear of the hearing, it must be proven that the original "claims act" was in-appropriate.

NCJAR has so far raised \$50,000 but needs another \$75,000 to pay the attorneys investigation fees before filing suit. Then more money after filing. This class action suit only speaks to those directly affected, therefore it would exclude sanseis, yonseis or direct heirs.

In addition a statute of limitations must be lifted before a suit can be filed against the government. The way to do it would be to include enabling legislation into the package.

- The government has "sovereign immunity" from the suit. This just means that the government is immune from the suit because they previously paid the Evacuation Claims Act.

This has to be proven in-adequate.

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NCRR's comments on the Class Action Suit were:

- timewise a court case could take years and a settlement is difficult.
- the government would be put in the position of being the defendant and would have to defend the reasons why they incarcerated JA's, which could bring on a right wing reaction.
- attorneys fees could be overwhelming.

### IN CONCLUSION

The five regionals represented voted to go with the legislative route rather than the Tax Write off Plan or the Class Action Suit.

It was agreed that NCRR must strive to work together with other groups ( Seattle group, NCJAR, JACL, et al) and be open minded and seek as much unity as possible. We are not against the other plans, but we see that a bill for direct monetary payment and community fund as the most realistic approach at this time. As for the JACL, we should seek their support through the grass roots level (chapters).

(Dymally Up-date)- In November Congressman Mervyn Dymally of the 31st Congressional District in California covering Gardena, Torrance and the Hawthorne area, spoke before the commission and urged the group to "actively seek and report the truth" regarding the incarceration of JA's during WW 2.

### STEPS FROM NOW

- continue building our mass base in the community
- seek support and endorsements from other communities and groups
- start fund raisings
- discuss how to get Nisei's and sansei's more actively involved in fighting for redress and reparations.
- take the plans out to the community for discussion, debate, feedback and work to build support for the movement.

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Day of Remembrance -(D.O.R.) - February 19th.

- It was decided that we go with one unifying theme; calling for unity around reparations and redress.
- we should use this event to work together with as many groups as we can, i.e. JACL, Tule Lake Committee, Manzanar Committee and all endorsing organizations.
- LA will be having their program on Feb. 20th, Saturday. LA will be designing the poster and leaflet for that event in general.