

TO: THE EDITOR

Head: Mineta, Matsunaga Endorse NCRR Events

2nd: JACL-PSWD and Chapters Also Endorse; Matsui to Speak in San Francisco

By: John Ota (415) 768-7614

Congressman Norman Mineta and Senator Spark Matsunaga have agreed to endorse, along with the JACL Pacific Southwest District, and several JACL chapters, the upcoming redress events initiated by the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations (NCRR). Congressman Robert Matsui will speak at the San Francisco program.

The events will take place in early August in Los Angeles, San Francisco and San Jose. Congress, which will be on recess in August, is currently working on its budget for the 1990 fiscal year which begins in less than 10 weeks, on Oct. 1. NCRR intends the events to add to pressure on Congress and the Bush Administration to approve maximum funding for redress payments to Japanese American former internees and other eligible individuals.

"Money is the final justice and apology. It is not justice without it," explained Tim Nabara, a Nisei and NCRR member in Los Angeles, expressing the views of many former internees.

The events are also timed to mark the passing of one full year since President Reagan signed the redress bill on August 10, 1988 and are dedicated to the estimated 200 former internees a month, or about 2400 total in the past year, who have passed away since the bill was signed.

NCRR recently announced that at the events, it will also launch a new letter writing campaign aimed at sending 10,000 letters by Sept. 15 to four Senators who Congressional sources say will be key to winning a substantially higher level of redress funding than the \$50 million recommended by the House Appropriations Committee on July 25. Since January of this year, NCRR has sent over 22,000 confirmed redress letters to President Bush and members of Congress.

Adding to the urgency of the upcoming events is the fact that there is no guarantee that Congress will eventually provide money to pay all eligible individuals within the ten year time limit set in the bill. Even if they do, explained Alan Nishio, NCRR So. California Co-chair, "we want those who actually went through the internment almost 50 years ago to get the money and get it as soon as possible. Saying that their heirs will get the payments if they pass away is a poor excuse to further delay funding."

However, "we are optimistic about chances for winning a much higher figure in the Senate and in the final budget. We believe that the upcoming events, the new letter writing campaign and the combined efforts of the entire Nikkei community along with our Nikkei legislators, will play a critical role in winning maximum redress funding," said Bert Nakano, NCRR Spokesperson.

Canadian at LA Rally

The largest of the upcoming events will be a Sat., Aug. 5 march and rally in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles. Southern California is home to about 35% of those eligible for redress payments, the single

largest concentration of such individuals.

"No More Broken Promises, Justice Delayed Is Justice Denied," is the theme of the rally. The event will take place from 2-4 pm, at the JACCC Plaza, 244 So. San Pedro. The event is endorsed by the JACL Southwest Pacific District. NCRRC organizers also expect to draw a number of Black, white, and Latino supporters, as well as supporters of other Asian nationalities.

The National Association of Japanese Canadians (NAJC) has agreed to send a representative to speak at the rally. Redress payments of \$21,000 (Canadian dollars) have already started in Canada. Many Japanese Canadians believe that the passage of the U.S. redress bill contributed much to the success of the Canadian redress bill.

Actor Edward Olmos, star of the film, "Stand and Deliver," and the series "Miami Vice" is confirmed as a special guest. An Issei, Mrs. Tsuda, is scheduled to speak and NCRRC speakers will include Jim Matsuoka and Bert Nakano, with Frank Emi and Kay Ochi as MCs.

Matsui in San Francisco

Congressman Robert Matsui will be the featured speaker at the San Francisco program on Sat., Aug. 12, 2-4 pm at Hinode Towers (Nihonmachi Terrace), 1615 Sutter St. (near Octavia), in San Francisco Japantown. Matsui will be joined on the program by local attorney Kaz Maniwa and NCRRC's Tsuyako "Sox" Kitashima. If time allows, a question and answer period will follow Matsui's presentation.

JACL National President Cressey Nakagawa and Cathy Inamasu of NCRRC will co-MC. Issei in the Kimochi Singers will perform. The program is endorsed by the San Francisco JACL, Contra Costa JACL and the Golden Gate JACL.

Korematsu in San Jose

Fred Korematsu, who challenged the Constitutionality of the internment in a landmark Supreme Court case, will speak at the San Jose program on Thurs., Aug. 10, 7 pm at Wesley Methodist Church, 566 No. 5th St., San Jose. An aide from Rep. Mineta's office and a representative of Nihonmachi Outreach Committee (NOC) will also be on the program.

NOC is a member organization in the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations. The West Valley JACL is endorsing the program.

To donate or obtain information, contact: NCRRC, 244 So. San Pedro, Rm. 410, Los Angeles, CA 90012 (213) 620-0761 or 1911 Bush St., #1-G, San Francisco, CA 94115 (415) 922-1534.