



National Council for Japanese American Redress

1428 West Thorndale, Chicago, Illinois 60660

Dear Friends,

History rarely gives us a second chance.

In 1942, over 110,000 of us were rounded up and expelled from the West Coast and placed into concentration camps -- all with hardly a word of protest. The government's action was clearly a brutal manifestation of racism. It was clearly a massive violation of the Constitution. But instead of resistance and protest, there was co-operation and compliance. For us and for our friends, our silence was a serious mistake then.

But now the redress movement gives us a second chance.

The National Council for Japanese American Redress (NCJAR) has embarked upon the course of seeking redress through the courts. We invite you to join with us.

NCJAR was formed in May, 1979. We initiated and worked towards the passage of the Lowry Redress Bill. That bill was defeated and instead a fact-finding commission was established. Although we were extremely skeptical of such a commission -- what was there to study? -- we co-operated with it by testifying before it in Washington and San Francisco, by organizing the testimony of others, and by sharing our research materials and submitting detailed proposals for the Commission's consideration. We also maintained our own initiative. We have begun legal preparation for the filing of a class action lawsuit against the United States. We have retained the Washington law firm of Landis, Cohen, Singman and Rauh to represent us.

There are no guarantees to the legal approach. It is high risk and fraught with legal obstacles. But it is an initiative which we control and which does provide the leverage of the courts. It is our case. It is our second opportunity.

Around 500 persons have thus far contributed over \$50,000 from all around the nation. Twenty have contributed \$1,000 or more. We urge you to join with us. Our retainer to the law firm is \$75,000. Our costs thus far have been around \$10,000, which have been borne by a dedicated few.

The opportunity is yours. Give it your best shot.

Peace,

William Hohri,
chairperson

Making Your Contribution to the Redress Legal Fund

Please make your check payable to the Redress Legal Fund. The Fund has been established as a program within the United Methodist Church. Your contribution is tax deductible.

We would like you to consider being one of our Forty-seven Ronin. (You may recall the famous story of the forty-seven ronin, masterless samurai, who obtained justice through their self-sacrifice.) We have twenty so far, some who can afford it, some who cannot. A ronin is a person who will make a pledge or contribution of \$1,000 or more.

Please make your check out to:

The Redress Legal Fund
1428 West Thorndale
Chicago, Illinois 60660

check one:

___ \$1,000 as one of the forty-seven ronin.

___ \$500 as a strong supporter of your efforts.

___ \$100 and my hope that hundreds more will do the same.

___ \$_____ and my very best wishes for success.

(Note: all contributors of \$15 or more will receive our newsletter.)

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____