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Increase \$50 Million Redress Funding Figure Letter Writing Campaign to Get 10,000 Letters to 4 Senators by Sept. 15

1990 funds recommended by the House Appropriations Committee on July 25 is \$30 million more than the outrageously low figure of \$20 million recommended by a House Subcommittee earlier in the month," said Bert Nakano, Spokesperson of the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations (NCRR) on July 26, "but it is still \$450 million short of the full funding we are after."

NCRR will shift its focus to the Senate now that the full House Appropriations Committee has completed its action on redress funds, said Nakano.

In doing so, NCRR plans to remind Senators that the 1990 Budget Resolution adopted by the Senate and the House earlier this year called for all eligible persons aged 70 and over to be paid by the end of 1990. This would require at least \$320 million.

Nakano praised the efforts of Reps. Robert Matsui and Norman Mineta, who "succeeded in engineering the passage of an amendment in the full Appropriations Committee to add \$30 million to the 1990 funds, an action that some thought would be impossible."

We Can Have an Impact

"But most of all," added Nakano, "this action shows that we in the community can and are having an impact on Washington. If it had not been for the outcry from the community at the slashing of redress funds earlier this

year, we might have been stuck with the ridiculous and unacceptable sum of \$20 million."

"We must continue to speak out and make our concerns heard in Washington loud and clear -- that we are sick and tired of waiting and that we want full funding, meaning \$500 million per year, for redress now, now two years or ten years from now. Our supporters in Congress are doing a great job, but they cannot do everything by themselves -- they need and deserve our full and vocal support," continued Nakano.

Targets of Letter Campaign

Because the next few weeks, in which 1990 funds will be finalized, are crucial, Nakano announced that NCRR is initiating a new letter writing campaign to back the efforts of Senators Spark Matsunaga and Daniel Inouye.

The goal will be to get a total of at least 10,000 letters by Sept. 15 to Senators Robert Byrd, Ernest Hollings and Warren Rudman. Hollings is the Chair and Rudman the ranking Republican on the Subcommittee that will soon make a recommendation on redress funding to the full Appropriations Comm., chaired by Robert Byrd.

NCRR will also collect letters to Senator Inouye, the powerful, second ranking Democrat on the full Appropriations Comm. and a respected senior figure in the Senate.

The aim of the letter writing

will be to win full funding for redress. If the Senate approves a higher figure than the House, the difference will have to be negotiated out in a House-Senate conference committee. Because of this, the \$50 million figure, which is "still far too low, should by no means be seen as final figure, even if passed on the House floor," noted Nakano.

August Redress Events

The new letter writing campaign will be kicked off at the national protest events in August initiated by NCRR. A march and rally will take place at the JACCC Plaza in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles on Sat., Aug. 5, 2-4 pm. In San Jose, a program will take place Thurs., Aug. 10, 7 pm at Wesley Methodist Church.

On Sat., Aug. 12, 2-4 pm, a program will be held at Hinode Towers (Nihonmachi Terrace), 1615 Sutter St. (near Octavia) in San Francisco. Congressman Robert Matsui will be the featured speaker.

At those events, supporters will be encouraged to sign pledges to collect a certain number of signed letters from family or friends, as a means of relying on the community's collective strength. Letter writing packets will be distributed.

For more information, contact: NCRR, 244 So. San Pedro, Rm. 410, Los Angeles, CA 90012 (213) 620-0761; 1911 Bush St., #1-G, San Francisco, CA 94115 (415) 922-1534.

NCRR Leaflet (July 26, 1989)

NCRR Aims to Increase \$50 Million Redress Funding Figure

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