

Dear Congressman/Senator _____,

I am writing to express my concern about an issue that affects all Americans today: the unjust detention of Japanese Americans during World War II. While it was only 120,000 members of one ethnic group who were locked behind barbed wire for two and one-half years, the ramifications of this governmental action touch the individual liberties and property rights of every one of us.

As was recently documented by the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians in its fact-finding report, Personal Justice Denied, Japanese Americans were detained without any documented military necessity, and, in fact, the F.B.I., the Office of Naval Intelligence, the Federal Communications Commission and the Department of the Interior had all done intelligence reports showing that all such claims were false.

While the injustice done to Japanese Americans and Alaskan Aleuts during World War II can never be fully repaid, I am in favor of giving redress to every person who suffered, whether surviving or not. For that reason, I support the compensation bills introduced by Rep. Mike Lowry (H.R. 3387) and Senator Alan Cranston (S. 1520), which were conformed to

the recommendations made by the Commission. In addition, I support legislation that will enable a class action lawsuit to proceed.

Please write me and let me know your position on this issue and on the bills which have already been introduced.

Very truly yours,

The author, a sansei attorney who is a member of the Board of Directors of the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund and a regular writer for the New York Nichibei, recently spent several weeks in Washington talking to Congressmen, staff attorneys and legislative aides about redress. The views expressed here are solely his own.

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