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ROUGH DRAFT

10/31/81

Y.L.M.P.

Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission and friends.

My name is Yuriiko Lily Matsuda Porter. I was born in Tacoma, Wash. of Japanese parents. My professional career is cosmetology. I went to American schools in Wash. state and Calif. and enjoyed the freedom that all Americans have in my country of birth. This freedom was taken away as a result of World War II when Pearl Harbor was attacked by the Japanese military power on DEC 7, 1941. Then war hysteria and racial prejudice took over and the lives of all the Japanese Americans living productive lives along the West coast and Alaska changed instantly by Executive Order 9066. We, the 120,000 Japanese Americans became victims of racism and was subsequently transferred from our homes by the US Army to isolated US Concentration Camps. Can you imagine today - being asked by your own Gov't to pack up only your personal belongings and show up at a military point with only what you can carry and stand up in line to board trains to destinations unknown? This happened in our America.
^{would}
What/you do - that is the question. So we, the innocent 120,000 victims went peacefully.

Although we expected the rights and protection guaranteed all Americans, wartime or not, that freedom was denied to us evacuees. My parents, two sisters, a brother and I were incarcerated. We were no longer a family, just a Gov't number. Our family of six were forced to leave Calif. and ended up ⁱⁿ at a concentration camp ~~at~~ Gila River, Arizona. Camp life was suffering the loss of freedom. Our

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family of six endured many hardships, ^{AS A RESULT,} ~~and especially~~ my sister, Merry, ~~who~~ had her first mental breakdown in camp and today is still under medical care and ~~the~~ supervision. I shall not speak further of our family tragedy. Instead, I want to speak on redress ^{for Japanese American} which I favor and want to give my proposal on this subject.

I propose that:

1. Monetary payment ~~be~~ provided to those in need; provide medical ^{especially the elderly, the ~~elderly~~ + ~~the~~ ^{upward} + psychiatric} care to those in need; provide adequate housing to those in need; and any other emergency requirements;
2. the US Gov't provide gratis to the Japanese Americans, who were incarcerated during WWII, some Gov't-owned land earmarked for redress/ reparation payment. A round figure of 120,000 acres commensurate with the evacuation figure;
3. ~~Since the majority of evacuees lived in Calif. at that time, I propose that the site be located there, in a quiet, choice, accessible non-polluted area, and for the Gov't to provide us with at least three available sites for selection and the final selection be made by responsible professionals.~~
4. ~~the site to be in a city or outside the city, say Terminal Island, Oakland, San Diego, or the S.F. area.~~ ^{site considered at a future date, in a}
5. within this 120,000 acre site, I propose that a memorial park be built with the suggested name of Nikkei Liberty Memorial Park or other appropriate name;
6. the park or property to include:
 - a. a shrine honoring our Japanese American 442 -----, a plaque listing the title and location of all the US Gov't concentra-

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tion camps where the Japanese Americans were interned; a museum giving a complete history of our evacuation and the purpose of the park;

b. proper landscaping with water fountains and art work;

c. a lake or two strategically located where swans and ducks abound, picnic areas and seating places where people can enjoy nature and uplift their spirits, an area for music and bon odori space, for instance. A beautiful Japanese teahouse would be delightful.

If possible to insure quality design for the park, a competition open to all professional architects/engineers and landscape architects in collaboration with artists and sculptors be invited to participate. All of the above to be provided under perpetual federal funds and to be maintained at all times and all costs be borne by the US Gov't and the funds to be allocated by said government.

This living memorial will serve as a very elegant eulogy to all of the Nikkeis who were incarcerated during WWII. This would give us and our heirs the proper identity and dignity so long due, and possibly erase that awful traumatic experience which exploded into our lives over 40 years ago. The park must be a reminder of our WWII happening, that freedom and democracy requires constant vigilance, and truly make the American flag a symbol of freedom with, "One nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

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I want to add what has been in my mind for a long time, and it's that I've always been a proud American and equally proud of my Japanese ancestry. ~~And~~ Again for the record, we the 120,000 Japanese American internees didn't commit one act of sabotage to our country. We are truly the cream of the American crop in having met our incarceration with dignity, with a sense of ^{bitter} humor and innate courage, and that we had faced it with pure guts and good common sense.

Thank you.