

April 25, 1986

STATEMENT OF SENATOR DANIEL K. INOUE

H.R. 442

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Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee on Administrative Law and Governmental Relations, I would like to first express my personal thanks for scheduling this hearing.

The wrong that was done American citizens and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry by Executive Order 9066 will never be fully made right. It is, however, our obligation as legislators to do whatever is possible to make it clear to both the victims of internment and the American people that the United States will never ignore a violation of the rights protected by our Constitution. The bill before you today is a step towards the fulfillment of that obligation.

Never before or since in the history of our nation has our government elected to effectively imprison tens of thousands of loyal Americans solely on the basis of race. Never before or since have the three branches of government agreed to the systematic deprivation of liberty and property based on unfounded racial suspicion. It should not have

happened, and we should make certain that it will not happen again.

Mr. Chairman, there can be no doubt that, at very least, the apology and compensation provided for in H.R. 442 are in order. I again thank the committee for taking this important step towards passage.