

Leadership Conference on Civil Rights

UCLA Asian American
Studies Center

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September 15, 1987

Dear Representative:

We write on behalf of the 175 national organizations comprising the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights to strongly urge you to vote for H.R. 442, the bill to implement the recommendations of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians. We further request your vote to keep the \$20,000 individual payment to the 60,000 survivors.

These individuals suffered severe losses --of freedom, dignity, income, property, careers and normal family life-- when they were removed from their homes and were imprisoned for years in their own land, without a charge, indictment or trial. The Americans of Japanese ancestry suffered the personal stigma of suspect disloyalty and removal from the mainstream of American life.

H.R. 442 and the symbolic individual payment acknowledge the injustice of the evacuation, relocation and internment on behalf of the people of the United States. It is our thinking that the 1.25 billion dollars, with the individual payments phased in during five years or more, should help to offer meaningful amends to these loyal Americans who suffered the great injustice.

Passage of H.R. 442 will also honor our Constitution just at the time our nation celebrates the bicentennial of its establishment as the foundation of our great democracy. The rights promised in the Constitution have been defended in battles and we have put out our message to the world that we defend liberty, justice and the rule of law.

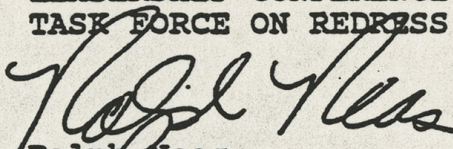
* Deceased

"Equality In a Free, Plural, Democratic Society"

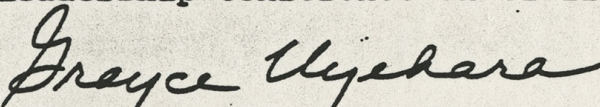
37th ANNUAL MEETING • MAY 4-5, 1987 • WASHINGTON, D.C.

While we as a nation can never erase the suffering imposed upon the Japanese Americans, we must acknowledge our mistakes, remedy what we can, and do our best to ensure that such suspension of liberty and justice will never again occur in our free nation. We, therefore, request your full support to pass H.R. 442 as the bill was reported out by the Judiciary Committee. In addition, we urge you to oppose all amendments.

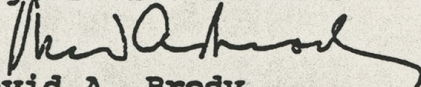
Sincerely,
CO-CHAIRS
LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE ON CIVIL RIGHTS
TASK FORCE ON REDRESS




Ralph Neas
Executive Director
Leadership Conference on Civil Rights



Grayce Uyehara
Executive Director
Japanese American Citizens League
Legislative Education Committee



David A. Brody
Washington Representative
Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith



Wade J. Henderson
Associate Director
American Civil Liberties Union
Washington Office