

March 8, 1970

A Statement in the Continuing Dialogue of Assumptions, Goals,
Program of the Chicago Liberation Chapter of JACL

It is important for this movement, as it begins to do its own breathing, to think hard about its assumptions, translate these into goals, and translate the goals into concrete programs. This statement is part of a continuing dialogue which will enable the movement to come to know its own mind through a process of criticism, modification, deletion, addition.

ASSUMPTIONS

1. America is basically a racist nation, domestically and internationally.
2. American democracy has a long way to go before becoming democratic.
3. All citizens have an inalienable, not earned, right to the wealth and privileges of this nation.
4. Asians, along with Blacks, Latins, and Whites, have a basic and unique contribution to make to this nation.

GOALS

1. Asian studies, the inclusion of the proper Asian role in national and world history, in universities, the public school systems, and in the institutional church.
2. Asian visibility in the international leadership of America, such as Asian ambassadors to Asia and at the United Nations.
3. An Asian political coalition of diverse Asian interests (Formosa, Japan, China, Philippines, Indonesia, India, etc.) with a vigorous lobby in Washington, supported by a network of local political groups.
4. The promotion of Asian cultural and intellectual contributions, including music, painting, poetry, and Go and Kendo tournaments.
5. The promotion of international conferences, from the grass roots, on Asian-American problems on such topics as Asian communism, liberation movements, economic organization, political organization.

PROGRAM

1. Formation of liberation chapters throughout the nation.
2. Formation of a national liberation caucus at the 1970 national convention.

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3. A statement attacking the JACL.
 - a. renunciation of JACL creed.
 - b. affirmation of the dignity and vision of WWII Nisei who refused to swear unqualified allegiance to the United States government because they had been unjustly imprisoned by that government, degraded by that government by being asked because of their ancestry a series of stupid questions, and stigmatized by that government by receiving a classification of IV-C, or enemy alien.
 - c. denunciation of the silence of JACL on the brutality and horror of our nation's policy in Vietnam, on the continued support of a military dictatorship on Formosa (Taiwan) and the refusal to recognize legitimate claims by native Formosans to the human right to self-determination and self-government, etc.
 - d. etc.
4. A demonstration or series of demonstrations consisting of marches or picketing of the various social hours planned at the national convention.
5. Substantial space, if not control, of the Pacific Citizen press and budget.
6. Reorganization of the Washington office into a full-time political lobby for Asian liberation interests.
7. Reorganization of the national structure of chapters and districts into a political organization which will be responsive to national issues as they occur and will foster local political participation.
8. Reorganization of District offices to perform service functions of mailing, printing, literature libraries, meeting rooms for all Asian political interests, as well as supplemental support to other worthy groups.
9. Development of educational and internship programs to encourage young people to become involved in our Asian style of politics.
10. The conversion of the national convention into a national conference at which the basic agenda shall consist of issues and programs with no pomp, no ceremony, and no damned dances!