

5449 North Clark Street Chicago, Illinois 60640

March 1, 1970

Dear Ray:

I pursued your inquiry concerning the hiring of police and security guards by the National convention with the following individuals: Ross Harano, Jerry Enomoto, Mas Satow, Mike Masaoka, Kumeo Yoshinari, and also present was Hiro Mayeda of the convention planning committee. All assured me that no guards police etc, have been hired and that this would not be done under any circumstances. I made it very plain to them that if police or guards did appear on the convention floor that many of us would not stand for it and we would most certainly respond to this outrage. In any case they have been properly warned of how we, that is how some of us feel about this and I think that they took this caution to heart.

The purpose of this gathering in Chicago was to discuss Title II, HR 14864 and the creation of our new Liberation Chapter in Chicago. On Title II we agreed that Ross would present our testimony and that we must be cautious about the red baiting techniques of HISC. Mike gave us some very interesting insights on how things get done on the Hill and frankly it was depressing, but that's another story. As far as HR 14864 was concerned we agreed that it would be mainly and educational campaign up-to- for our own people and perhaps we will be/bottle able to it up in committee. Mike will check out the long range strategy, etc. in our Senate fight.

The meeting got interesting when we began discussing our new chapter and the general direction of the national JACL and its future. We exchanged views in a very calm and deliberate manner feeling each other out. What got them a little upset was our Liberation chapters suggestion of some kind of caucus on a national level with individuals and chapters like yourselves, Bob Suzuki and some of the people on the East coast. Jerry said that, after a lot of other things went over the board (i.e. after we stopped b.s. each other) that there is an opening for a change and that perhaps if we pursued it in a more conventional manner we may well be able to make something out of this national convention in terms of moving it in a more positive direction if we could get our views organized and presented to them some time before the convention so that they could work it into the initial days of the council debate. In other words if we are going to get something done, besides confrontation peaceful or violent, we will have to gather our thoughts and begin now in organizing ourselves in preparation for the national convention. That in fact is why we in Chicago organized an new Chapter and hope that you and the others will join us in presenting a program and structure which will meaningful move JACL into the present and the future. If we can get together before the convention and air our differences and come out with some concrete proposals then got into the convention as a united body, I feel that we would really have a chance of moving this sluggish beast called the JACL. I think that we should definately begin exchanging views and even more than that we should get together before the



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at least once or twice before the convention to be sure that we are all thinking along the **same** wavelengths.

One of our people, William Hohri, will be out on the coast with his family in the last week in April (spring vacation) and I may be able to fly out there that week and or so. Therefore I would like to suggest that date as a possible time when we could get together for some serious discussion. Before that time I would hope that we will have exchanged enough views to know whether or not this meeting would be meaningful and if so what the topics of discussion would be. I think that anyone would be welcome to participate if they recognize the fact that there is a need for a national organization of Asian Americans to be relevant to the times. I am not leaving out the possibility that the JACL may not be the route to go, but at the present it seems like the most convenient vehicle. I sensed also from talking to the Big Three that if we did it properly we could indeed move the organization. It may not be exactly what we want but if we come in organized with some show of strength and strategy we may well be able to get major concessions. In any case we now feel that the effort may well be worth it.

I would really appreciate your thoughts on this letter and please distribute this letter as you see fit. We are running into a time deadline therefore I would urge all to respond as quickly as possible.

Huishi Kanno  
2740 S. PRAIRIE  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60616  
225-3543

APT. 108