

1150 Park Hills Road
Berkeley, California 94708

March 5, 1970

Hiroshi Kanno
Temporary Chairman
Chicago Liberation Chapter of JACL
2740 S. Prairie, #108
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Hiroshi:

Glad to learn that you are forming a new chapter in Chicago! I am sure you know by now that the Yale University Asian Students and the New York Asian Americans for Action are also planning to get themselves chartered as chapters of JACL. I feel a revolution is in the making, and in my excitement, I may sound a little incomprehensible, but let me try to respond to the specific questions you asked in your letter of February 25:

#1. By all means list me personally as a member of the New JACL Caucus. In addition, all members of my Title II Repeal Committee are enthusiastic about the coalition, so you can list the National Committee to Repeal Title II as members of the Caucus.

#2. Yes, it will be good if you could arrange for separate meeting facilities at the national convention. I suspect that the main convention will be held at some fancy hotel, but the New JACL Caucus should preferably meet at a less ostentatious location nearby. Is there a church or office within short walking distance of the convention hotel that can be used by our group? We should maintain a reasonable degree of secrecy, so we should meet away from the main body of delegates.

#3. I note that the convention opens on Tuesday night, July 14, with a silly fashion show/cocktail party. I suggest that members of the New JACL Caucus plan to arrive in Chicago one day early, i.e. on Monday, July 13. On Monday night, we can have our first organizational meeting and plan what needs to be done. Tuesday morning can be allotted to a discussion of tactics, and Tuesday afternoon should be set aside for a work session--drafting statements, duplicating handouts, making signs, etc. (We need a source of rapid duplication machines--zerox, mimeograph) If we are not finished with our work by Tuesday night, we can skip the opening social and continue working into the night. If we finish, we can go to that cocktail party with some dramatic show of strength.

Normally, the National Board starts meeting several days before the official opening of the convention. This means that the national JACL officers will be in Chicago by Monday, and they might be willing to meet with members of the New JACL Caucus. If at least some of the national officers will meet with us, we can begin the educational process early.

#4. Instantaneous dialogue will begin if we let the conservative members of JACL know that a New JACL Caucus is being formed. Unfortunately, if we publicize our intentions too early, it permits the reactionaries time to organize a resistance. Yet, publicity is beneficial in creating interest, promoting discussion, and picking up stray individuals who would otherwise not know of our existence. There is an optimum time when we should break forth with maximum publicity. (And, when this should be done is pretty much intuition)

I do not believe we are anywhere near being prepared to let the general membership know about the Caucus. When we are more solid, and have a better idea of what we want to accomplish, we can then begin the dialogue with the general membership via a release to Pacific Citizen. We should shoot for a target date of preparedness, say, the end of May. Then, we will have all of June to stir up the controversy.

#5. Resolutions which merely state a general position on an issue is relatively useless. For years, the JACL has been passing resolutions supporting civil rights for all Americans, but as we all know, very little has actually been done. The last convention even appropriated \$20,000 per year to carry out the civil rights program, but still nothing happened! Therefore, all resolutions must carry an implementation clause, the more specific, the better. For example, the JACL could easily take a position opposing the Viet Nam war, but that in itself will not lead to any action or programs. Very specific goals must be included in the resolution, like, "A National JACL Viet Nam Peace Committee shall be formed whose function will be to lead an active JACL effort to end the Viet Nam war, via teach-ins, rallies, marches, and other aggressive means which will make the JACL position known to the general public." If you recall, early last year, the JACL took a position supporting the return of Okinawa to Japan, but there was absolutely no program or activity to back up this proclamation.

Normally, resolutions must be submitted by a chapter, and be endorsed by the district council. Thus, work on resolutions must begin immediately if we are to use the normal "channels" to present resolutions. The fact that "normal channels" were used will carry great weight at the convention. (People being such a stickler for procedure) Sometimes, under unusual circumstances, an official delegate is able to present a resolution directly to the convention floor. Unless the issue is overwhelmingly popular, or non-controversial, it will be shot down with motions for "further study", so it is not too productive to rely on this direct approach. (Unless, of course, our only intention is to raise the issue, and go down to flaming defeat--a kamikaze tactic of sorts) In any case, it is extremely important to be a bona-fide official delegate. This is where it is important to complete the formation of new chapters before the convention.

#6. The New JACL Caucus should have a slate of candidates for national office, but right at the moment, I believe it best be kept a secret slate. We do not have the voting power to win the election. What we do have instead, are a few well known individuals who could possibly sneak into national office. Relatively few people have nation-wide reputations, and those that do are the outspoken ones--the radicals. The "Quiet Americans" are lost in obscurity. However, the "Quiet Americans" do out-vote us overwhelmingly, so it is wise not to openly print a slate, for that will be a 100% guarantee for total defeat.

This is confidential information yet, but we know that Raymond Uno of Salt Lake City will run for national president. Raymond Uno is a good man, and the Caucus should unofficially support him. He has an excellent chance of winning so we should not ruin it by listing him on the Caucus Slate. Edison Uno of San Francisco has agreed to run for National Treasurer, and I might give a try at 2nd Vice President for Public Affairs. Right now, we have just begun the process of trying to gain a nomination out of the Northern California District Council, which is the biggest hurdle since our home area is so up-tight about us. I also believe it will be appropriate for Dr. David Miura of Long Beach to run for the

Page 3

office of President Elect. David is the only one with sufficient prestige to stand a chance of getting elected to the office of president-in-waiting. I understand David has not been convinced to run yet, but I will certainly encourage him to do so--for the benefit of the movement. Other people I am thinking about include Don Kazama of Seattle and Don Hayashi of Portland, both in the Pacific Northwest District. In the Midwest District, you, Hiroshi, should run for national office. As we go along, many more good men and women will come to mind. (For personal reasons, Dr. Bob Suzuki cannot run for national office this year, but he promised to be available for duty in the next national elections.)

That's enough for now. I am expanding the distribution of people receiving information, and I will continue to slowly add more and more supporters as time goes by. For everyone's information, the addresses of the new people on the distribution are listed below. I hope to hear from others on this distribution, and let us keep in close touch.

Sincerely,



Ray Okamura

COPIES: Don Hayashi, Lynne Iijima, Harry Yoshikawa, David Miura,
Glenn Omatsu, Bob Suzuki, Edison Uno

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Prof. Isao Fujimoto, 870 Linden Lane, Davis, California 95616

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