

Japanese American Citizens League

NEWSLETTER

TWIN CITIES CHAPTER

December, 1989

Editor: Sam Honda

REDRESS.....Have we overcome our last hurdle?

Entitlement signed by president Bush!! I don't know what the word entitlement means (someone is entitled to something?) what it means to us is when congress, president or whoever makes up the budget for 1991 must include \$500 million for survivors of the World War II internment camps. In 1992 another \$500 million and in 1993 \$200 million. Payments will be made to the oldest first. My guess is if you are 70 years and older, your payment should come in 1991. Maybe Oct.-Nov.-Dec. of 1990 if you are 90 plus years old. Persons born in camp will have to wait till 1993. Final payments will go out to heirs.

It's hard for me to believe almost 20 years have passed since an active JACLer name Edison Uno proposed reparation. Resolution was passed at the Chicago JACL National Convention in 1970. What took so long? Part of the problem was educating the American people and members of congress, but part of the problem was us (Japanese Americans who were interned). At the beginning not enough support and some opposition. I believe JA's of Seattle and Chicago came on strong for reparations. Mike Lawery, congressman from Washington state introduced a redress bill before the Commission on Wartime relocation and internment of Civilians (CWRIC) was formed. After the hearing by the CWRIC and their recommendation of \$20,000 per internees, the momentum picked up. CWRIC's recommendation was in 1983 and since then redress legislation was proposed in 3 successive sessions of congress.

If you have a question call the Office of Redress Administration (ORA) (202) 653-8360 the toll free 800 number is no longer in operation. If you wish to call the IEC-JACL office in Washington D.C. their number is (202) 223-1240

Good Luck!! Don't spend the money using redress payments as collateral.

Our chapter still has a redress related legislation to pass in the Minnesota House. One, Minnesota income tax exempt on the \$20,000. Second, social services excluding reparation payments from income and resources for determining eligibility for and public assistance programs. I don't know how many, if any, former internees are on social welfare program or live in low income housing, but if there are....I want to be sure social services continue or they are not evicted from low income housing. If anyone knows of former interness on these programs please let me know so I can have some idea when I testify before the committee hearings in both the senate and the house.

House bill No. 1058 and senate bill 859
pertains to social services

House bill 197 and senate bill 750
pertains to tax exempt

Please call, write or visit your state senator and representative and have them support these legislation.

Season's Greetings

from the newsletter staff.....staff of one

Hey! Hey! In 1990, the JACL board promises great things for our newsletter. Every member will submit articles of interest. Since they will be exchanging newsletter with other chapters in the midwest, they surely don't want anyone to know our present editor passed an English course in high school with a C-.

**Japanese
American
Citizens
League**

3935 Lakewood Avenue
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

TWIN CITIES CHAPTER

NON PROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
St. Paul, Minn.
Permit No. 3311