

A CALL FOR REDRESS/REPARATIONS

Since July, 1980, the NCRR, a coalition of organizations and individuals from major Japanese American communities throughout California and the nation, has continued to make a nationwide impact through its work in the Redress/Reparations Movement.

At the first nationwide conference on R/R held in November, 1980, the NCRR adopted 5 principles of unity which have been the basis for which organizations and individuals have joined and endorsed the NCRR. The 5 principles are:

1. R/R means monetary compensation to all individuals or their heirs who suffered evacuation and/or incarceration;
2. R/R means restitution to the Japanese American community in the form of a community fund - the exact use of which is to be determined by the needs of each respective community;
3. R/R means exposing the racism of and overturning the legal basis that has justified the evacuation and the camps;
4. R/R means supporting others who have or are suffering from unjust actions taken by the U.S. Government;
- and 5. R/R means that we seek the education of the American public so that future generations may learn from the mistakes of the past and not knowingly allow them to happen again.

Since the founding of the NCRR, a major part of its work has been devoted to doing community education and promotion of community involvement in the R/R issue. The Japanese American community has taken the initiative in this campaign for justice and will continue its efforts in this struggle through unified strength and determination.

The NCRR's 5 principles of Unity serve as the general framework for the direction of the campaign for R/R. Mobilization to the public hearing of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC) was a major focus of the NCRR during the past 6 months.

Hundreds spoke out, thousands more supported them, and the message has been made clear: The U.S. Government is responsible for making substantial, meaningful redress and reparations to the Japanese American community now. Thus, the NCRR's proposed recommendations to the Commission is to stress the importance of the Commission's accountability and responsibility of addressing the issue of R/R in your final recommendation to Congress.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONGRESSIONAL ACTION

I. Individual Compensation

1. \$25,000 per individuals (minimum).
2. Eligibility:
 - a. Former evacuees.
 - b. Detention center evacuees.
 - c. Persons forced to live in WRA camps.
 - d. Persons jailed for noncompliance with military edicts.
 - e. South American & Central American residents relocated to and imprisoned in the U.S.
 - f. Persons who relocated voluntarily.
 - g. Aleutians and Pribiloff Islanders imprisoned by the U.S.
 - h. Direct heirs of all of the above if principle is deceased.

3. Method of Payment:

- a. Payments to be made directly to eligible individuals in one lump sum, free of administrative costs, and exempt from taxes,
- b. Payments should not affect eligibility of individuals in consideration for social services or other benefits, governmental or private.
- c. Unclaimed payments are to be credited to the Community Fund.

PERSPECTIVE:

The tremendous social, economic, and psychological trauma of the violation of constitutional rights requires meaningful restitution on the part of the U.S. Government in the way of monetary compensation to individuals.

While the NCRR feels that there is no fair amount possible, the figure of \$25,000 represents a symbolic amount and as such, is the minimally acceptable figure.

The U.S. Government is also responsible to further investigate their culpability of those Japanese citizens living in other countries who were directly or indirectly affected during the evacuation period.

III Community Fund

1. Amount: 3 Billion

2. Administrative & Method of Payment:

- a. The Community Fund shall be administered by a Community Trust Fund Board elected by the Nikkei community. Board members shall be elected regionally. Regions shall be divided equitably throughout the United States, including, both urban and non-urban regions. Administrative costs shall be asked for at a rate of 2% in addition to the original amount.
- b. The sum of 3 billion shall be returned to the communities in one lump sum, and further, that priorities for the allocation of the funds shall be decided by each respective community based on their particular needs.

PERSPECTIVE:

The evacuation and the imprisonment of JA's destroyed the cohesion, unity, cultural, social, political and economic life of the community. This is the basis on which we are seeking redress for the community to rebuild and meet the needs of the Japanese American people.

In addition to the INDIVIDUAL PAYMENT and the COMMUNITY FUND, the NCRR calls for the Commission to make the following recommendations:

Addressing the Sovereign Immunity waiver, and the Enabling Legislation, the latter specifically to allow for implementing law suit actions by individuals and/or classes related to the evacuation.