

March 24, 1988

*Yuri + Bill,*

I heard from Matsunaga's office today that the Senate vote may be early next week. Although we have heard this many times before, his aide, Alma Henderson said the bill was on the Whip notice and in the bulletin of the Democratic Policy Committee as possibly coming up for a vote next week, which I have not heard before. She also said they do have enough votes (60) to stop a filibuster.

If vote does not take place next week, it will be after congressional Easter recess, which is April 1-10.

Note changes and corrections on list of Senate cosponsors and noncosponsors: 1) Sen. David Karnes is no longer a cosponsor; 2) Sen. John Chafee of Rhode Island is a non-cosponsor; 3) Sen. Ernest Hollings of So. Carolina is a non-cosponsor; 4) the second Senator from Mississippi is John Stennis, not John Stevens.

Suggest we try to get letters to Senators outside of California from our core supporters and also from people who may have friends or relatives outside of California. Enclosed are two different form letters, one a thank you letter for co-sponsors, the other letter for non-cosponsors only.

We are not talking about a huge number of letters, but should do what we can. If the vote takes place next week, we won't be able to do much at all, but if it does not take place before Easter, we should try to use the time to get some out. Remember, people in California can also write to Senators in other states. If they are former internees or 442nd vets, they should write that at the bottom of the letter.

*Keep in touch!*  
*John*



NCRR Urges Letter Writing to Senate

By: John Ota

Because some Senate cosponsors of the redress bill, S 1009 (the Civil Liberties Act of 1987) are reportedly receiving more letters opposed to the bill than supporting it, the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations (NCRR) is urging redress supporters to join in a Senate letter writing campaign.

"We remain confident that the Senate bill will pass by a large margin," says Bert Nakano, NCRR National Spokesperson, "but we want to ensure that members of the Senate, both sponsors and non-cosponsors, are aware of the strong support for the bill."

NCRR will be giving highest priority to contacting friends, relatives and organizations outside of California and Hawaii to write to their two Senators. Former internees and World War II veterans are also encouraged to write to Senators in the South, Midwest and East Coast.

Personal letters are more effective, but form letters can also be used. Form letters to Senate sponsors and non-cosponsors are available from NCRR, as are lists of Senate sponsors and non-cosponsors. *Senate address is: U.S. Senate, Wash. DC 20510.*

The Senate bill has 74 out of 100 Senate cosponsors and Senator Spark Matsunaga, the main mover behind the Senate bill, says, "several non-cosponsors will also vote for its passage."

The Senate vote is expected in late March or mid-April. The Senate will not be in session April 1-10 due to Easter recess.

Since the 243-141 approval of the redress bill by the House of Representatives last Sept. 17, the NCRR has mainly focused on writing letters to President Reagan, although letters to various Senators were also encouraged. NCRR members gathered over 10,500 confirmed letters to Reagan by late February.

But on March 16, the JACL Legislative Education Committee (LEC) reported that Sen. David Karnes of Nebraska had removed himself as a cosponsor of S 1009. Karnes followed Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky who had done the same late last year. The JACL-LEC is also organizing letters in support of the Senate bill.

"With 74 cosponsors, we still have an overwhelming margin of support in the Senate," said Nakano, "but we would not like to see any more cosponsors change their minds."

Cosponsors and Non-Cosponsors

Note to Editor: see attached list of cosponsors and non-cosponsors of the Senate bill. Please publish as much of the list as you can, in smaller type if needed. At least publish the names of Senators in your own and nearby states for the benefit of your readers.

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(John Ota is part of the NCRR Coordinating Comm. in San Francisco.)